

1111 Echoes

Fall 2002

A newsletter from the R. I. Reds Heritage Society

Membership Renewal Time for 2002-03

This issue of 1111 Echoes concludes the R. I. Reds Heritage Society's second year in existence. As one of our 332 members, it is time for you to renew for the 2002-2003 hockey season.

Annual dues remain at only \$20 (USA). With your renewal you will continue to receive three, full-color newsletters over the next year and an invitation to attend our third annual reunion.

Please don't let your membership lapse. You can renew easily by completing and mailing in the enclosed membership form.

Now with 332 members—a 17 % increase from our first year—we are the largest historical society to represent a former minor league hockey franchise. Let's continue the R. I. Reds' great heritage by involving our children and friends. That is how we'll continue to grow and complete our goal of building a fine exhibit in the soon-to-be Heritage Harbor Museum in Providence.

Next Reunion Set for 12 Noon July 27, 2003

- Mark that date on your calendar
- Same place: Goddard State Park, Warwick, R. I.
- Former players will be introduced on stage
- Memorabilia will be displayed
- Over 200 expected to attend

For inquiries, please call **Buster Clegg at 401-247-2666.**

2nd Reunion: Memories and Fun, Fun, Fun!

By George Patrick Duffy

In that beautiful circular building, once the home of a carousel at Goddard State Park in Warwick, the ghosts of the old Rhode Island Reds and the Auditorium came alive on Sunday, July 28, the day of the R. I. Reds Heritage Society's second annual reunion.

Memories of the past filled the air and one could hear names uttered fondly: names like Louis A. R. Pieri, his son Lou, Mrs. Rivers, Dan Norton, Nick Carter, Harold Gederman, Lee Herman, Ron and Larry Catone, Eddie Crocker, Red Mallon, Danny Desmond, Chief Stinson, Norm Rosa, Bart and Jack McElroy, George Army and Jack "Cleartone" Cleary. Many more names, seldom mentioned for years, were added as the day passed.

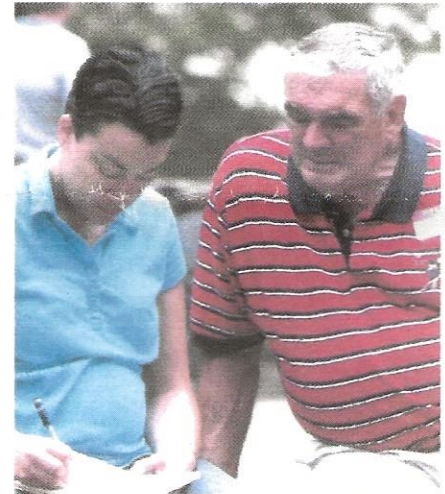
Buster Clegg, whose vision launched the society two years ago, stood with a broad smile near the building's entrance. "Looks like a great day," the former Reds general manager said. It was, for 220 former players, team executives, and young and old-time fans arrived for all the fun, fine food, conversation and nostalgia.

Players and families made the journey from far away Canada: Ray Ross, two of his sons and a daughter-in-law; Aldo and Phyllis Guidolin, the George McAvoy family (five in all), Bob and Rosemary Beckett, and Bob and Margaret Robertson.

Former players who live closer by included Chuck Scherza, Ferny Flaman, Don McKenney, Ray Clearwater, Gil Mayer, Ross Brooks, Stan Baluik, Serge Boudreault, Bobby Leduc and the always-witty Buzz Deschamps.

Buzz emerged as the hero of a "fantasy game broadcast," brought to you by yours truly from the "gondola," high above the carousel's "ice surface." Buzzy pumped home the Reds' winning goal in sudden death overtime in our re-created "dream game."

Later, in a post-game interview with color man Tom McDonough, Buzz, sweat towel around his neck, rolled them in the aisles with his modest description of his game winner and management's generous \$300 bonus for scoring the big one.



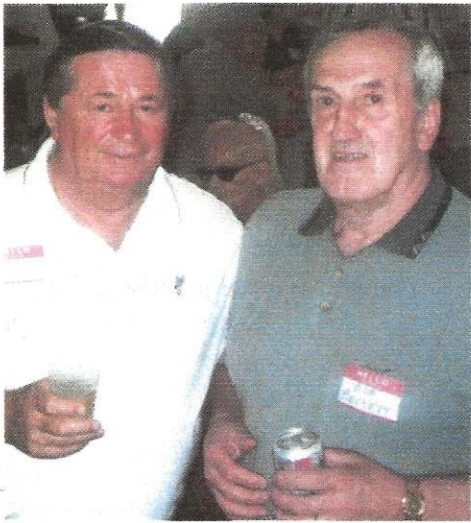
Those were the Days: Former defenseman Bob Robertson being interviewed by Shalize Manza Young, Providence Journal sports writer.



Still a Couple of Kids: Looking young as ever, defenseman Ray Clearwater and his wife Judy.

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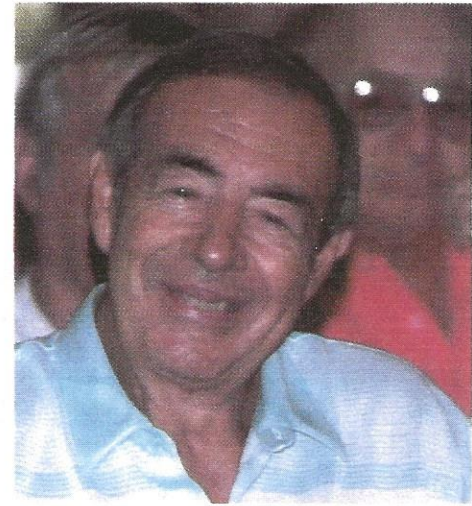
What a Time...



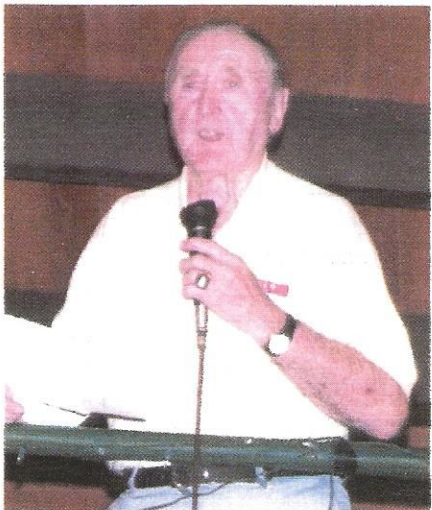
Bruins and Reds Alike: Forwards Stan Baluik (left) and Bob Beckett both played for the Reds as farmhands of the Boston Bruins.



The AHL Speaks: Gordie Anziano, consultant to the president of the AHL, praises the efforts of the R.I. Reds Heritage Society.



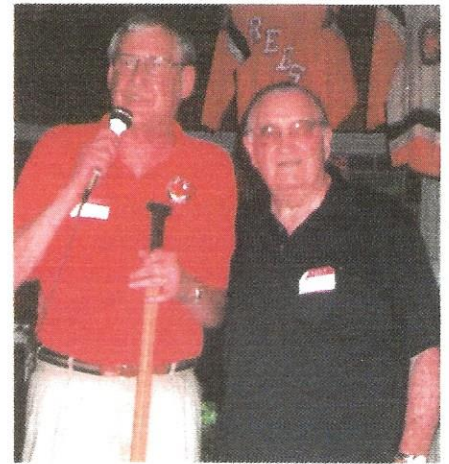
Enjoying the Moment: Former right-winger Ray Ross enjoying his reunion with former teammates from the 1955-56 Calder Cup champion team.



Voice of the Reds: The always-colorful George Patrick Duffy, 82, recreates a fantasy game that included each former player attending the reunion.

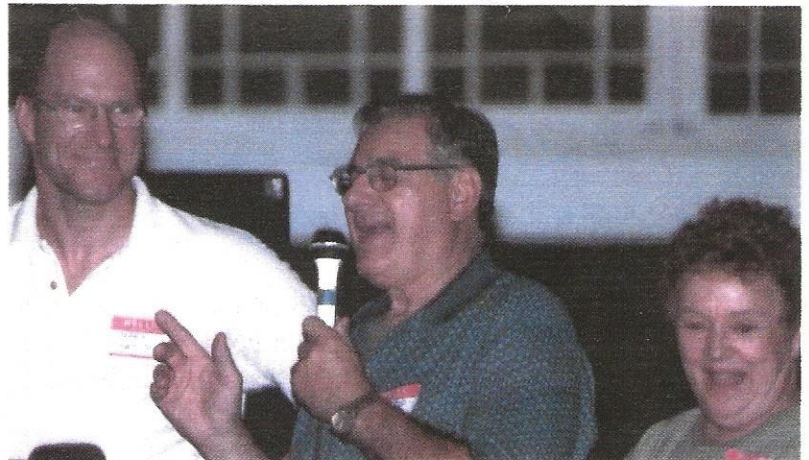
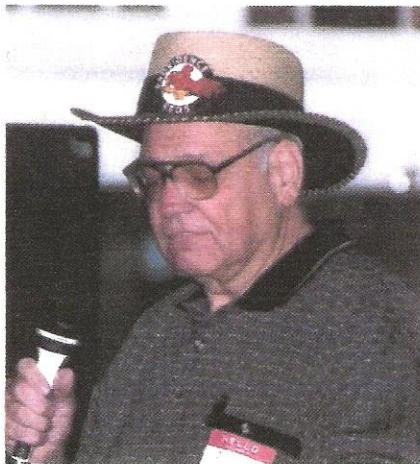


"Yeah. I take it One Game at a Time.": Buzz Deschamps (right), in post-game garb, describes to color commentator Tom McDonough his "dramatic," overtime game-winning goal in Mr. Duffy's broadcast.



Relic Stick: Former great Chuck Scherza (right) makes a gift of his own 1948-49 Calder Cup stick, autographed by every member of that championship team, to Buster Clegg, president of the Society.

Therefore, Let it be Known: Former State Senator Bill Castro reads a proclamation supporting the Reds' role in the soon-to-be Heritage Harbor Museum. It passed unanimously.



Unexpected Reunion: Aldo and Phyllis Guidoiln meet up with Mark Mazur, son of the late Ed "Spider" Mazur and also their godchild, for the first time in many years. Neither expected the other to be attending.

Backchecking and Forechecking

"Backchecking and Forechecking" is a regular feature of *1111 Echoes*. It is intended to bring readers up-to-date on the "whereabouts and goings on" of former R.I. Reds players and associates. This edition features profiles of individuals who took a few minutes to fill out and return the questionnaire contained in previous editions. These updates are published as they are received and as space allows. If you have not already submitted yours, please do so you can be featured in a future newsletter.

Backchecking

Ross Brooks spent thirteen seasons in professional hockey, parts of nine years with the R. I. Reds. Like a fine wine, Ross grew better with age. Joining the Boston Bruins organization in 1970-71, he played with the team's AHL affiliate Boston Braves in 1971-72 and won the league's "best goaltender award" with a 2.38 average. The next season, up with the Bruins, he set an NHL goalie record with a 14-game winning streak.



Ross has two daughters and a grandson. He has been with hockey in different ways since his playing days. Ross served many years as hockey coach at Lincoln High School, was the last coach of the R. I. Reds and later was operations manager for the P-Bruins. He has been a goalie coach for Providence College and is assistant manager at PC's Schneider Arena. *His golf game is like a fine wine. Getting better every year.*

Forechecking

Pete Demers, like Tommy Woodcock of the San Jose Sharks, was a protégé of the Reds great and longtime trainer, George Army. After assisting George for 3 ½ years, he moved to Columbus (IHL) for half a season then spent three years as head trainer of the Springfield Indians. Now in his 30th season with the NHL's Los Angeles Kings, he is regarded as one of the best trainers in the business.



Pete and his wife Marilyn live year-round in Los Angeles. Married 32 years, they have raised a daughter Aimee (30) and son Tom (27). As part of his involvement in hockey training Pete has served as president of the Professional Hockey Athletic Trainers Society. Pete's principal hobby is fishing. And like any real fisherman he has plenty of stories about *"the big ones that got away!"*

Reds Museum Exhibit Plans Move Ahead *By Arnold Bailey*



Al Klyberg, executive director of the Heritage Harbor Museum, speaks at the Reds celebration.

The R.I. Reds Heritage Society has a unique opportunity to preserve and show the old hockey team's legacy in Rhode Island's newest and first statewide museum.

The Society is well into discussions with officials of the Heritage Harbor Museum to organize a special R.I. Reds exhibit at the innovative facility now under construction at the site of the former South Street power station in Providence.

Since the Society was founded in February 2000, its officers and directors have sought the right venue to exhibit and preserve the history of the R.I. Reds. Meanwhile, a consortium of 19 historical and cultural organizations was furthering plans for the creation of Heritage Harbor Museum.

A charitable donation by former R.I. Reds owner George Sage became the impetus for the Society to open discussions with the museum's leadership. In July, Albert T. Klyberg, Heritage Harbor's executive director, attended the Reds' second annual reunion event and, with Society president Buster Clegg, described

plans for a Reds exhibit at the impressive 250,000 square-foot facility which is scheduled for a phased opening starting in late 2003.

Expected to attract 325,000 visitors each year, Heritage Harbor Museum is the only New England affiliate of the prestigious national Smithsonian Institution.

The specific nature of the Reds exhibit and the artifacts to be shown are still to be determined. The Society's officers and directors will continue planning under the guidance of the museum's archivists and exhibition experts.

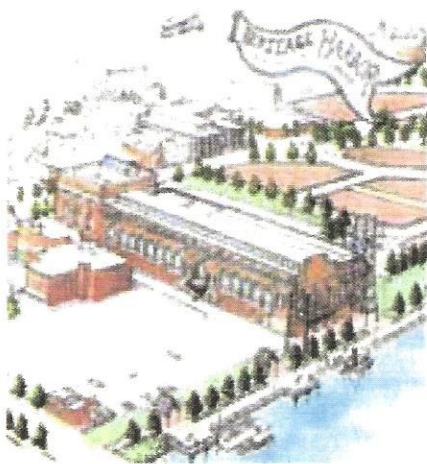
That's where the Society's more than 330 members come in, along with others who care about the history and impact of the franchise that played hockey in Providence as a member of the American Hockey League for 51 years. Your help is greatly needed.

The Society is incorporated as a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization, which means contributions of memorabilia and funds are deductible for tax purposes. It is hoped that additional donors of both money and artifacts can be secured as the planning for the museum exhibit continues.

Klyberg, who has led the Rhode Island Historical Society since 1969, offered some general suggestions to help focus the planning:

(continued next page)

Reds Museum Exhibit



Heritage Harbor Museum:
As it will look.

“The concept of Heritage Harbor Museum is to make history come alive, and that is how the Rhode Island Reds exhibit can be most effective,” he said. “It is still in the imagination stage of planning, but it should appeal to fans and non-fans alike.

“Ideally, it should look well into the future and be planned for that time, years from now, when the Reds name

and history will endure, although no one who was associated with the team - as fans, players, owners and administration - is still around.

“It would be great if the Reds exhibit told the story of not only a hockey team, but also an era and a culture. It should be as exciting as were the games the Reds played, and it would be great if some part of it could be interactive so that visitors to the museum and the exhibit can get a true feel for a little bit of what hockey and the Reds were all about.”

What should a R.I. Reds exhibit include?

- Certainly, a collection of select artifacts to graphically tell the team’s story - memorabilia like uniforms, skates, sticks, pucks and other equipment.
- Remnants of the old, but now demolished, Rhode Island Auditorium, which lent its distinctive character to the team

as its home arena for so long.

- Photographs, newspaper and film accounts of games.
- Oral and/or video histories based on interviews with the key people in the Reds organization during the more than half century that the team existed.
- Official documents from the management side of the team under owners Sage and Louis A.R. Pieri.
- A timeline that shows the lifetime of a hockey team, i.e. descriptions of the team’s unique relationship with its fans in an era when a night of Reds hockey at the Auditorium was a truly special event.
- An interactive component that would allow fans and visitors to shoot a puck or stop an imaginary shot on goal.
- A special focus on the players, coaches and others who are elected to the R.I. Reds’ Hall of Fame.
- Temporary, changing exhibits that commemorate special events or accomplishments in the team’s long history.

That’s where the help of members of the R.I. Reds Heritage Society and other fans of the game of hockey and the team is needed. As planning for this important exhibit continues, the Society’s officers and directors would like hear from you, and receive your ideas and suggestions about the exhibit.

And, the planning would benefit greatly from additional donations to help create and sustain the exhibit.

Your donations—in the form of suggestions, artifacts or funds (contributions of memorabilia and money are both tax-deductible)—should be directed to: Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society, P. O. Box 167, Barrington, RI 02806. Donations of all kinds will be promptly acknowledged and gratefully received.

Editor’s Note: Arnold Bailey is a director of the R. I. Reds Society, Senior Vice President of Development for the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy, and writes a weekly sports collectibles column for The Providence Journal.

Attention Rhode Island Voters!

To help preserve the heritage of the Rhode Island Reds ...

VOTE “YES” on #2

Question #2 on the November 5, 2002 ballot is a \$14-million state bond referendum to fund preservation, recreation, and heritage projects in Rhode Island:

- Heritage Harbor Museum, RI’s Smithsonian-affiliated statewide history museum and cultural center (\$5m). The HHM is the future home of the Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society’s permanent exhibit to preserve the glorious, 51-year history of the R. I. Reds professional ice hockey team (1926-1977).
- The Roger Williams Park Botanical Gardens (\$3m).
- Pawtuxet River Walkway (\$3m).
- The RI Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission to make grants for capital preservation projects at museums and cultural art centers located in historic structures throughout Rhode Island (\$3m).

Why vote “yes” for Question #2 and the Heritage Harbor Museum?

As an affiliate of the Smithsonian, Heritage Harbor Museum will feature loaned artifacts and programs from the Smithsonian Institution, as well as interactive exhibits, original local artifacts, a comprehensive educational program, festivals and other events.

Heritage Harbor is a consortium of 19 historical and cultural institutions working together to create RI’s first statewide history center, which will include a permanent exhibit honoring the Rhode Island Reds hockey team, a sports institution in the state from 1926 through 1977.

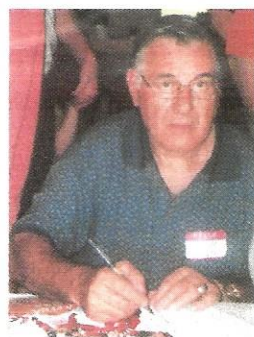
Bond proceeds will help fund construction of the Museum in the former Narragansett Electric South Street Power Plant on the Providence River. Heritage Harbor will be a community resource for sharing and celebrating cultural heritage, as well as a tourist attraction that creates jobs and generates tax revenues.



The Ross, McAvoy and Guidolin Families: Back row, from left, Greg Ross (son of Ray), Phyllis and Aldo Guidolin. In front (l-r), brother Glen Ross, Doreen McAvoy and Cheryl Ross, Greg's wife.



All the Way from Edmonton: Spencer (left) and Taylor McAvoy, grandsons of the late George McAvoy, help out with the Heritage Society's raffle.

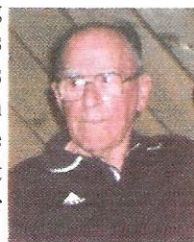


Signing His New Contract: Aldo puts his John Hancock to a new Reds' contract. Bonus incentive? Two cases of Maine blueberries.



Ambling: Ambrose Smith, venerable writer for *The Kent County Daily Times*, is gathering his thoughts for an article about our reunion.

More McAvoy's: Kelley and Patty McAvoy at our reunion, all the way from Edmonton, Alberta, part of their summer vacation for the second straight year.



Your Press Box Credentials? Mike Pappas, still looking out for gate crashers, was a fixture at the old R.I. Auditorium as press box host.



Bob Leduc: Ever seen this former left-winger without a smile on his face?



He's Still Gil: Looking like goaltender as always is Gil Mayer, a former Red, recently named greatest goaltender in Pittsburgh's pro hockey history.



Don McKenney preparing to sign an autograph.

Meet the Mazurs: Mark Mazur, son of Ed "Spider" Mazur, former Reds' standout, pictured with his wife Belinda and two children, Mitchell Edward Joseph (the middle names for his late grandfather) and Mackenzie.



2nd Reunion *(continued from cover)*

Other highlights:

- Ferny Flaman and Eddie Ellsworth received the "Tops 2002 Awards" for their distinguished service with the Reds and in the community.
- A reunion between Mark Mazur, son of the late Ed "Spider" Mazur, and his Godparents, Aldo and Phyllis Guidolin, grew tears and cheers.
- Al Klyberg, director of the Heritage Harbor Museum in Providence, described the soon-to-be historical showcase and how the Reds' exhibit will fit in.
- The 220 guests unanimously passed former State Senator

Bill Castro's proclamation supporting the society's goal to build an exhibit there.

- The event drew new media attention. TV Channels 6 and 10, AM radio 790 "The Score" and *The Providence Journal* and *Kent County Daily Times* all gave wonderful coverage.

In all, this second reunion surpassed the inaugural. A questionnaire passed among guests showed that 73% want a reunion each year. Guess what? You folks got your wish. Put this in big letters on your calendars: **Goddard State Park, Sunday, July 27, 2003.**

Editor's Note: George Patrick Duffy is a director of the R. I. Reds Heritage Society and former radio "Voice of the R. I. Reds."

Flaman and Ellsworth named "Tops 2002 Award" winners

Ferny Flaman and Eddie Ellsworth each were presented with the Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society's "Tops 2002 Award" at the organization's second annual reunion held at Goddard State Park in Warwick on Sunday, July 28.

The award is dedicated in honor of the late Zellio Toppazzini, "Player of the Century" and the R. I. Reds all-time leading scorer. It is the second in a series of annual presentations planned by the society to recognize persons who have contributed outstanding service to the Rhode Island Reds hockey club and to the community.

Flaman, 75, spent parts of 17 seasons with Boston and Toronto in the National Hockey League and is a member of its Hall of Fame. He served five years with the Reds in the 1960s, first as



Ferny Flaman (right) accepts his award from Tom McDonough, the reunion's master of ceremonies.

player-coach, then as general manager. A resident of Westwood, Massachusetts, Flaman later was head coach of Northeastern University's varsity hockey team for 19 years from 1970-71 through 1988-89, mentoring hundreds of young college players.

Ellsworth, now 82, was business manager and comptroller of the Reds for 31 years under two ownerships, the Louis A. R. Pieri family and George Sage. He remains active in community service as treasurer of the Masonic St. John's Lodge in Providence, which provides funds to qualified, needy organizations and individuals. Ellsworth is a resident of Barrington, Rhode Island.

Last year's "Tops Award" winners were Chuck Scherza, fourth highest scorer in team history, and George Patrick Duffy, longtime publicist and radio "Voice of the R. I. Reds."



Eddie Ellsworth expresses his appreciation of recognition.

The Perfect Holiday Gift . . . for only \$10.00



Shown Actual Size

The R. I. Reds Heritage Society is proud to present its second annual commemorative ornament, "The Arena," an amazing, three-dimensional reproduction of R. I. Auditorium, the building that housed the Reds from 1926 through 1972.

Perfect for trimming your holiday tree, "The Arena" is delicately etched in solid brass, finished in sparkling 24kt gold and silk screened with authentic colors replicating the building's red brick exterior.

"The Arena" is a limited edition collectible with inscription: *R.I. Auditorium, 1111 North Main St., Providence, Home of the R. I. Reds 1926-1972*

It is handsomely ribboned and gift-boxed in red, and includes a handy stand that allows you to display and enjoy your ornament on a desk or tabletop year-round.

To order yours, simply fill out the enclosed ornament order form. Note: To ensure Holiday delivery orders must be received by December 1, 2002.

Next Issue

The next issue of *1111 Echoes* will come out in January 2003. It will include info on a R.I. Reds Heritage Society sponsored youth hockey tournament at Brown University in late March-early April; more Backchecking and Forechecking features; progress on our Heritage Harbor museum project; and, hopefully, the completion of our Internet website, rireds.org. Please stay tuned.

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