

1111 Echoes

Spring 2004

A newsletter from the R. I. Reds Heritage Society

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Reds Heritage Society's 4th Annual Reunion

The R. I. Reds Heritage Society has planned a repeat performance of our first three annual summer reunions. Last summer's event was attended by 280 former fans, ex-players, team executives and employees and their family members. Those who came enjoyed a fabulous cookout, music, spirits, raffle prizes and reminiscing with old friends and players. To join the fun this year mark your calendar and mail the enclosed reservation form. The cost is **still only \$25 per person** for a full day of fun; children 6-12 just \$10; under 6 free.

The Date: Sunday, July 25, 2004

Time: 12 noon 'til dusk

Location: Scenic Goddard State Park, Warwick, RI



Some of last year's fun enjoyed (from left) by Eddie Ellsworth, Ray Ross, Bo Elik, Bruce Cline and Ivan Irwin.

Rhode Island, the "Ocean State," is a truly a marvelous vacation destination.

To see for yourself, visit the State's fantastic website: VisitRhodeIsland.com

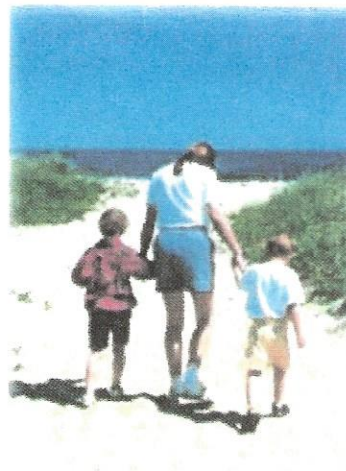
Providence, the "Renaissance City"



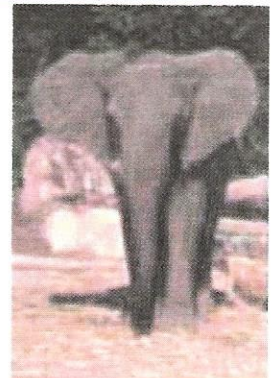
Famous 19th century Newport mansions



Historic lighthouses



Sandy beaches, cliffs, ocean and sailing



And yes, the world renowned Roger Williams Park Zoo

A Snapshot of Last Year's Reunion Group

Former Reds' players and other ex-pros who you might meet at the reunion are listed below. Stars (*) indicate those who have previously attended our reunions. New players added since last year marked in red.



Hail to the 33 formers Reds players who attended last year's party!

Tim Army*
 Bill Army
 Stan Baluik*
 Jimmy Bartlett
 Bob Beckett*
 John Bednarski
 Bill Bennett*
 Curt Bennett
 Harvey Bennett*
 Jim Bennett*
 Al Bentley*
 Dusty Blair
 Serge Boudreault*
 Johnny Bower
 Pierre Brillant
 Ross Brooks*
 Gordon Buttrey
 Ray Clearwater*
 Bruce Cline*

Gary Collins
 Dave Creighton
 Ray Cyr
 Buzzy Deschamps*
 Pat Egan
 Bo Elik*
 Ferny Flaman*
 Emile Francis
 Marty Gateman*
 Eddie Giacomini
 Tony Goegan
 Aldo Guidolin*

Ted Hampson
 Bronco Horvath*
 Dave Hrechkosy
 Ivan Irwin*
 Eddie Kachur
 Pete Kapusta
 George Keeling
 Adam Keller
 Ralph Keller
 Ray LaPlante
 Bob Leduc*
 Randy Legge

Parker MacDonald
 Ed MacQueen
 J. P. Mallette
 Moe Mantha
 Willie Marshall
 Gil Mayer*
 Rod McGarry
 Jack McGeough*
 Don McKenney*
 Howie Menard
 Art Michaluk*
 Rick Middleton

Jim Mikol
 John Muckler
 Wayne Muloin*
 Don O'Donoghue
 Andre Peloffy*
 Harry Pidhirny
 Dan Poliziani*
 Nick Polano*
 Rich Pumple*
 Don Raleigh
 George Ranieri
 Matt Ravlich

Bob Robertson*
 Ray Ross*
 Chuck Scherza*
 Eddie Shack
 Allan Soares
 Allan Stanley
 Ed Stanowski
 Jack Stoddard
 Harry Taylor
 Billy Warwick*
 Alton White

A Salute to Tom "Woody" Woodcock



Within the famous Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, Ontario, is a training area that depicts many aspects of an athletic therapist's work. Exercises, injuries and rehabilitation are all addressed through samples of equipment and videos.

The focal point of this section is the Professional Hockey Athletic Trainers Society's "Wall of Honor," which displays the plaques of the organizations' inductees.

Proudly, we salute Rhode Island native and Heritage Society member, Tom "Woody" Woodcock, the 2003 selection into the organization. Today his plaque is on display at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Tom began his career under the Reds' great trainer, George Army, then moved on to Brown University. In the late 1960s he entered the NHL, first with the St. Louis Blues where spent 16 seasons. He later joined the Hartford Whalers and today is executive trainer for the San Jose Sharks, his 36th season in the NHL. Great work, "Woody!"

Between You, Me and the Bluelines

Field of Dreams: The sports complex at Slater Park in Pawtucket, RI, has been named in honor of George Patrick Duffy, the state's sporting legend, who at age 83 is still active coaching youth baseball and basketball. He is former radio "Voice of the Reds" and today is a director for the R. I. Reds Heritage Society. More on this great story and photos will come in our next newsletter. Congrats, George!

Youth Hockey: One of the Society's favorite organizations is the Greater Providence Youth Hockey Association (GPYHA). The 4th Annual GPYHA Golf Tournament will be held at the Swansea (MA) Country Club on Saturday, May 22. Shotgun starts at 8 AM. Lots of shots, laughs, prizes and dinner are promised, as usual. For more information call Doug Mailhot at 508-726-0991. All proceeds go to GPYHA and its youth hockey development for boys and girls.

Champions: Congratulations to GPYHA's Bantam B team (ages 13-14) for winning the state title. Their record was 20 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie. The team racked up 99 goals (4.5 per game) and gave up only 39 (1.77), posting 5 shutouts in 22 games. Well done, boys! Our own Buster Clegg, president of the Society, was one of the assistant coaches, working mainly with the defensemen and occasionally with the goaltenders.

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.

Backchecking

Ted Hampson launched a brilliant 24-year pro hockey career as a rookie member of the R. I. Reds in 1957-58. His center-ice skills led him quickly to the NHL where he toiled for Toronto, New York, Detroit, Oakland and the Minnesota North Stars, before he switched to the WHA with the Minnesota Fighting Saints and Quebec Nordiques. In 17 seasons in the NHL and WHA, Ted compiled 168 goals, 388 assists and 556 points.



Forechecking

Ted and his wife **Gail** have been married for 44 years. They have 3 children and 7 grandchildren to enjoy. His hockey knowledge has enabled Ted to keep active in the game as a pro hockey coach in the CHL, and then later in the NHL's Central Scouting Bureau. After scouting for the NHL's St. Louis Blues for 20 years, today he serves as the team's Director of Player Evaluation. *Ted, please come east and evaluate our reunion!*

Art Michaluk spent five productive years with the Reds, starting in late '47-48. At 6-feet, 190 pounds, he was a big man for those days. The solid defenseman soon became very popular with Reds fans for his punishing body checks that kept opponents always weary. Art helped the Reds to the '48-49 Calder Cup. Returning to his hometown Calgary, he was part of the Stampeders' championship team in the WHL in '53-54.



Art's hobbies are gardening, reading and fishing. After retiring from hockey, Art served as a police officer in Calgary, Alberta. He and his wife **Josephine** have been married for 17 years. The couple has 6 children, 3 stepchildren, 13 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Art and Josephine attended and had a great time at last year's reunion. *Art, please come back and join us to "police" our next reunion on July 25, 2004.*

Our 3rd Annual Ornament Zellio Toppazzini “Player of the Century.”

- Topper pictured in full color at his best as Reds' all time leading scorer
- Only 25 left in this 250 limited-edition collectible
- Delicately etched brass, finished in sparkling 24kt gold



Actual size 3 1/4"

To order yours, before they are sold out, send in your order today. The price: Only \$12 each, plus \$3 S & H for the first ornament and \$1 each for additional piece. Please make your check payable to: R. I. Reds Heritage Society, and mail to P. O. Box 167, Barrington, RI 02806.

In Memoriam: Carl Liscombe

Carl Liscombe, a two-time American Hockey League Most Valuable Player and the first professional hockey player ever to record 100 points in a season, died February 23 of complications from leukemia. He was 89.

With the R. I. Reds in 1947-48, Carl recorded 50 goals and 118 points in 68 games, setting a pro hockey record for scoring. He was the first recipient of the league's Les Cunningham Award as regular season MVP, winning in both 1948 and 1949. Known for his bullet-like shots, he was part of the famous Reds' line of Liscombe, Harvey Fraser and Roger Bedard. Carl's 118-point season also earned him the first Wally Kilrea Trophy as the league's top scorer. Because he broke Kilrea's AHL scoring record, the award was renamed the Carl Liscombe Trophy in his honor from 1948-55. Liscombe was a First Team AHL All-Star in 1948 and a Second Team selection in 1949, when he led the Reds to the Calder Cup championship after scoring 55 goals in the regular season, an AHL record that would stand for 34 years.



Carl also played nine years in the NHL with the Detroit Red Wings capture the Stanley Cup in 1943. A member of the R. I. Reds Heritage Society, Carl died in Hawaii, where he was living with his daughter, Susan.

“The Chicken Wire”...with “Red Rooster”



Welcome to back to “The Chicken Wire,” the column in your 1111 Echoes newsletter that invites questions and recollections about the old Rhode Island Reds from our members. Please submit your queries or memories and **Red Rooster** will try to fill in some details.

Remember the old chicken wire around the boards at R. I. Auditorium? We hope this column will bring back memories. Fact is, the old **Red Rooster** hates Plexiglas, but is in this 21st century with satellite television and Internet cable “wire” service we have to keep up with the times. So “wire” us.



Harry Taylor (former Reds player), Sidney, British Columbia: Dear folks... Thank you for your letter dated January '04. Please return my greetings to the former players you listed. Irene and I have been residents of Sidney, BC, since relocating from Thunder Bay, Ont., in 1989. We followed our daughter when she was transferred here by the Armed Forces. Keep in touch via the R. I. Reds Heritage Society.

Red Rooster Recalls: Harry Taylor spent only one year with the Reds but it was a big year — 1947-48. That season the clever play-making center played 54 games, scored 24 goals and made 39 assists for 63 points in helping the Reds to an Eastern Division title in the AHL. He played for the Toronto Maple Leafs in the NHL and with Pittsburgh, Cleveland, St. Louis and Buffalo

in the AHL during his 9-year pro career. Harry, we welcome you as a new member of the R. I. Reds Heritage Society.

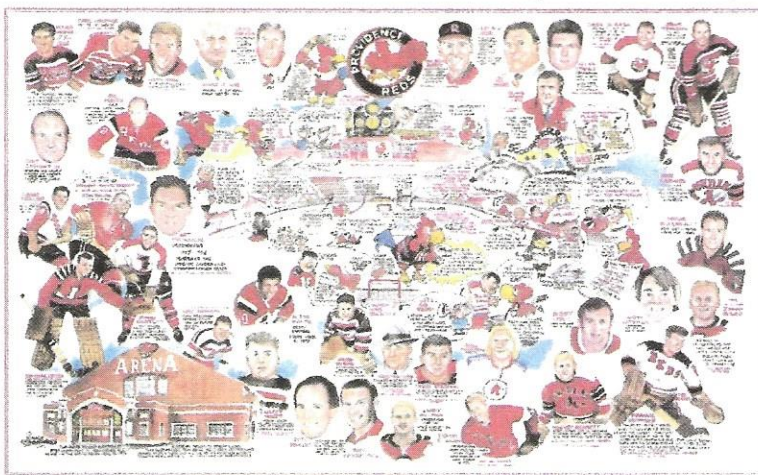
Don Raleigh, (former Reds player), Winnipeg, Manitoba: Thanks for your kind letter regarding the Reds reunion. I see many the players (in the photos) who I used to play with or against 50 years ago. Somehow I can't say that I recognize many of them other than **Chuck Scherza**, who I saw in Winnipeg some years back. I also note **Billy Warwick, Ivan Irwin**, my old pal **Ferny Flaman, Aldo Guidolin**, etc., are members. I also knew Topper very well and regret his early passing. I should also mention when I was with the Rangers, I knew **John Bower, Bronco Horvath** and **Emile Francis**. I wish you all the very best. Please give my regards to Chuck!



Red Rooster Recalls: Don “Bones” Raleigh was a clever center who starred in 10 seasons with the N. Y. Rangers in the NHL. As captain of the Blues he scored 101 career goals along with 219 assists. In the 1949-50 Stanley Cup finals Don scored overtime goals in two consecutive games against the Detroit Red Wings. But sadly, the Wings still took the Cup, four games to three. Towards the end of his career, Don played 13 games for the Reds in 1955-56, netting 4 goals and 20 assists for a remarkable 24 points. Welcome to you, too, Don, as a new member of the Society.

Rhode Island Reds' 2nd Edition Poster Introduced

Sports cartoonist **Frank Galasso** has introduced his 2nd edition rendering honoring the colorful 51-year history of the R. I. Reds. Added to his first and successful illustration presented in 2000 are the following figures of significance in the team's legacy:



The Rhode Island Reds
1926-1977

- Ferny Flaman (NHL Hall of Fame Defenseman)
- Allan Stanley (NHL Hall of Fame Defenseman)
- George Sage (Owner)
- George Patrick Duffy (Broadcaster)
- Dave Creighton (Player-Coach)
- Gil Mayer (Goaltender)
- Larry Hillman (Defenseman)
- Art Michaluk (Defenseman)
- Serge Boudreault (Winger)
- Alton White (Winger)
- Marty Gateman (Defenseman)
- Tommy Woodcock (Trainer)
- Pete Demers (Trainer)

This brilliant, full-color 2nd tribute to the Reds measures 36” wide by 24” deep. It is a limited edition of 500. Each is numbered and personally signed by the artist. To order yours, mail a check or money order in the amount of \$25 (USA), payable to Frank Galasso, 28 Briarwood Road, Cranston, RI 02920. No shipping costs are added.

1951-52: A Season to Remember (Conclusion)

Part One Summary: *The Reds were tied for last place with Syracuse and Buffalo in the AHL's Eastern Division near the end of December 1951. Seemingly doomed for a second straight playoff failure, owner Lou Pieri pulled off one of his most brilliant trades ever. He sent forward Jack Stoddard, the, AHL's second leading scorer, to the N. Y. Rangers for veterans Pat Egan, Jean Paul Denis and a youngster, Zellio Toppazzini. The trade brought new intensity to the Reds, who by season's end finished with a flurry in second place in the East. The problem, from there, was that the locals would have to play the awesome Cleveland Barons in the first round of the Calder Cup playoffs.*

* * *

Cleveland had finished second in the AHL's Western Division with 93 points, just two shy of the first place Pittsburgh Hornets. Their record of 44-21-5 gave them a winning percentage of nearly 70%, as opposed to the Reds season mark 32-33-3 of less than 50%. Furthermore, The Barons had pummeled the Roosters during regular season, posting 6 victories and a tie in their 8-game series. To most observers, the Reds playoff situation was a David versus Goliath or, better yet, a "Mission Impossible."

Game # 1: Thrs., March 20, 1952, at Cleveland, attendance 4,202 — Trailing 3-0 in the third period, the Reds staged a rally, scoring two quick goals by **Chuck Scherza** and **Ray Laplante** within a 30-second span. But the Barons withstood a barrage of shots in the final minutes to preserve a 3-2 opening game victory.

Game #2: Sat., March 22, at Cleveland, attendance 6,876 — Up by one game, the Barons buried the Reds 7-2 to take a 2 game to 0 series lead. The Reds lone scores were by **Pete Kapusta** in the second period and **Paul Gladu** in the third.

Game #3: Sun., March 23, at Providence, attendance 4,589 — The Reds arrived by overnight train in Providence at 3:30 in the afternoon. A tried group of Roosters, facing almost certain elimination to the mighty Barons, came onto the ice flying. Gladu's first period, three-goal "hat trick" in 87 seconds against **Johnny Bower**, Cleveland's great goaltender, sealed the deal. Third period goals by Kapusta and Laplante, plus three assists from player-coach **Terry Reardon**, led the Reds to an unexpected 5-1 victory.

Game #4: Tues., March 25, at Providence, attendance 4,091 — Still down 2 games to 1, the Reds tallied first period goals by the veteran **Pat Egan** and youngster **Zellio Toppazzini**. Behind the brilliant goaltending of **Harvey Bennett**, the Reds nursed a two-goal lead into the third period. It was then that **Ray Powell**, perhaps one of greatest centers in Reds' history, salted away the victory with two goals. The final score? Reds 4, Cleveland 0.

Game #5: Thrs., March 27, at Cleveland, attendance 8,742 — Could the Reds do the impossible against a team that had dominated the entire AHL that season? The underdog Reds broke out quickly in the first period with lightning goals within 50 seconds of each other by Kapusta and **Kenny Smith**. Kapusta scored again in the second period, offsetting a Barons' goal by **Ken Schultz**. That second period was critical. Newspaper reports credited Reds' goaltender Bennett with saving the game in those

20 minutes, turning away shot after shot by the Barons. In the third period the Reds built up a 4-1 lead when their young right-winger, Toppazzini, hit the twines behind Bower. Later, Cleveland's **Ike Hildebrand** made it 4-2, but there's where it ended.

The Reds had accomplished the nearly impossible. Down two games to none, Providence had come back to win three in a row from the mighty Barons and now advanced to the Calder Cup semi-finals against the Cincinnati Mohawks, who had defeated Buffalo 3 games to 0 in their semi-final series. Meanwhile, Pittsburgh had disposed of Hershey, four games to one and awaited the winner of the Reds-Cincinnati five-game series to face off for the Calder Cup. **Mike Thomas**, veteran hockey writer for *The Providence Journal*, termed the Reds miracle "the greatest underdog comeback in team history."

The Cincinnati Mohawks, the New York Rangers' farm team led by goaltender **Emile "The Cat" Francis** and defenseman **Ivan Irwin**, had easily disposed of the Buffalo Bisons, 3 games to 0, and became the Reds next target. Victimized by the Rangers' December trade that sent Egan, Toppazzini and Denis from the Mohawks to Providence, Cincinnati was no match for the Reds sextet, which easily took the series, 3 games to 1. The second round playoff success propelled the locals into the Calder Cup finals against the Pittsburgh Hornets, who had polished off Hershey, 4 games to one.

Pittsburgh, the powerful farm team of the NHL's talent rich Toronto Maple Leafs, was stocked with quality personnel from spectacular goaltending, rock solid defense and three high-scoring forward lines. Try as they might, the Reds fortunes ran out against Pittsburgh, whose great goaltender **Gil Mayer** thwarted them time and time again.

Gallantly fighting a power-laden foe, the Reds finally succumbed to the Hornets, 4 games to 2. The sad part is that with a bounce here and there, the outcome may have been different. You see the Reds were victims of two overtime losses...yes, both at 1111 North Main Street, the place our team called home.

The miracle season of 1951-52 was suddenly over. Over twice in sudden-death overtime!



The Rhode Island Reds of 1951-52 - Front row: Pat Egan, Bobby Perreault, Harvey Bennett, player-coach Terry Reardon, Moe Morris and Kenny Smith. Middle row: Scout Johnny Gagnon, Zellio Toppazzini, Jack McGill, Barry Sullivan, Pete Kapusta, Joe Lund and president Louis A. R. Pieri. Back row: Chuck Scherza, Ray Powell, Art Michaluk, trainer George Army, Ray Laplante, Paul Gladu and Johnny Michaluk. Missing: Jean Paul Denis.

The Bunch at "Lunch and Crunch"

All Smiles from the Event Committee

The R. I. Reds Heritage Society hosted its 1st Annual "Lunch and Crunch" event on Sunday, March 7. First, a large, enthusiastic group of 74 enjoyed a delicious "all you can eat" luncheon at Lancellotta's banquet facility in North Providence. Later, they traveled to the Dunkin' Donuts Center to watch the AHL game between the Providence Bruins and Portland Pirates.

The "Lunch" part of the day was highlighted by guest speakers **Buzz Deschamps**, former Reds' forward, and **Joe McDonald**, hockey writer for the *Providence Journal*.

Listening in attentively were four generations (ages 80 down to 4 years old), both guys and gals, too.

Buzz captivated the audience with his humorous stories and experiences as a pro hockey player in the 1960s that brought hearty laughter from everyone. Joe picked up the tempo and continued to engage the audience, summarizing that of all professional athletes with whom he has dealt, "hockey players are the best."

At the "Crunch," all 74 were seated as a group in section 112 for the game, where new friends enjoyed a very physical, well positioned contest won 2-0 by Portland, whose coach is Rhode Island native, **Tim Army**.

Tim, a Society member, spoke privately with the "Lunch and Crunch" bunch in the pressroom after the game. He covered the challenges of being coach of the top farm team for the NHL's Washington Capitals, with players being called up and sent down by the big team. He also touched on what it means to him, personally, to be part of the R. I. Reds Heritage Society along with his dad, **Tom**, and deceased grandfather, **George Army**, the Reds longtime trainer.

The Society extends its heartiest thanks to Tim taking time to chat with us and for holding up his team bus back to Portland. Special thanks to Buzz Deschamps.



The History of Hockey, Part 1: Buzz Deschamps, guest speaker, kept the audience laughing with his stories of hockey in the 1960s. He promises Part 2 will come next year.

Summary of "Lunch and Crunch": The day flowed with friendship, laughter, nostalgia and good professional hockey. So successful was this 1st event that we intend to have another next season. So, plan on it!



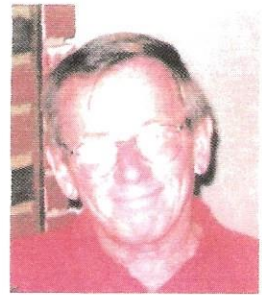
Strategy: Linda Maynard (left) heard saying, "I hate the center ice trap, Dottie, don't you?" Dottie Peckham agrees and offers this helpful solution: "Let's get rid of the two zone pass rule and open up the neutral zone."



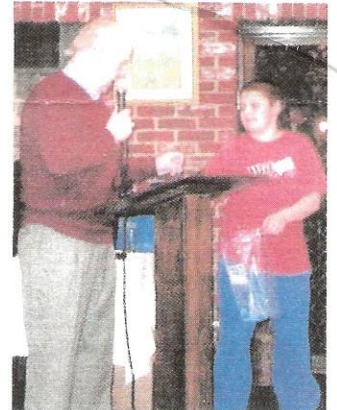
Dick Reniere



Bob Spaziano



Bill O'Connor



All ages: 11-year old Tommy Casanova assists Tom McDonough, our MC, during the drawing of winning tickets for raffle prizes.



Those were the days, my friends: Old Reds' jerseys, called sweaters in Canada, on display.



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Next Issue

The next issue of *1111 Echoes* will come out in late September or early October. It will include a review and photos of our 4th Annual Reunion, a feature on our 2004-05 Tops Award winners, more "Chicken Wire" questions and answers and "Forechecking" and "Backchecking" updates, plus a story on George Patrick Duffy's "Field of Dreams."