



1111 Echoes

Spring 2005

A newsletter from the R. I. Reds Heritage Society

Important Notice for Members

Unpaid members to date: For those who haven't as yet paid their membership dues for 2004/05, enclosed is another renewal flyer. Please renew as soon as possible. As a non-profit group with limited resources, it is expensive and time consuming for your Society to send out past due reminders. Thank you. We value your membership and appreciate your cooperation.

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What's Inside?

- More photos from past reunions (Page 2)
- Who you might see at our 5th reunion (Page 2)
- New profiles: Orland Kurtenbach and Jack McGeough (Page 3)
- "The Chicken Wire" (Page 3)
- Recollections of a "Rink Rat" (Page 4)
- "Who the heck is that guy, anyway?" (Page 5)
- Review of "Lunch & Crunch" (Page 6)

Reds 5th Annual Reunion Set for July 31st

The R. I. Reds Heritage Society has announced plans to hold its 5th Annual Reunion for players and fans at Goddard State Park's Carousel Building in Warwick, RI, on Sunday, July 31, starting at noon and running 'till dusk.

Last year's reunion was attended by a record 285 persons, including a cadre of over 40 former Reds, other ex-pro hockey players, hockey executives and their families.

This year's event once again will include a fabulous all-you-can-eat cookout, lively music, spirits, raffle prizes and, of course, reminiscing with old friends. In addition, the 2005-06 "Tops Awards" will be presented to two former Reds' standouts (soon to be announced) in recognition of their combined hockey and public service contributions.

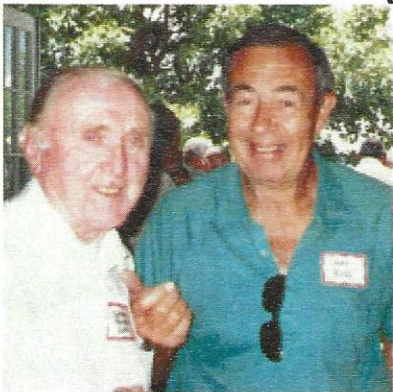
Three Reds' championship teams from the original Canadian-American Hockey League (1926-35) will also be honored with unfurling of banners. The Reds' title teams represent winners of the Fontaine Cup in 1929-30, '31-32 and '33-34.

The great Rene Rancourt will be on hand once again to render the Canadian and American national anthems, and the Society's directors promise several surprises to celebrate the group's 5th year of existence.

To sign up for this fantastic day of fun and nostalgia, just complete and mail in the enclosed reservation form. The price is still only \$25 per person and \$10 for children ages 6 to 12. Under age 6 is free.

Early commitments to attend have come from players Ferny Flaman, Chuck Scherza, Bob Robertson, Ray Ross, Gil Mayer, Eddie MacQueen, Ray Cyr, Jim Wiste, Bo Elik, Ross Brooks, Serge Boudreault, Wayne Muloin, Stan Baluik, Bobby Leduc and Ray Clearwater.

Snap Shots of Past Reunions. Below is Reunion #1 July 29, 2001. Other Reunion Photos on Page 2.



Reminiscing: George Patrick Duffy and Ray Ross



What a line: Ross Brooks, MC Tom McDouough and Ferny Flaman



Just enjoying: Dan and Carol Poliziani

Photos from Reunions Past: 2002, 2003 and 2004

Reunion #2 July 28, 2002



Standing tall: Bo Elik, Wayne Muloin and Buzz Deschamps



Story telling: Stan Baluik and Bob Beckett

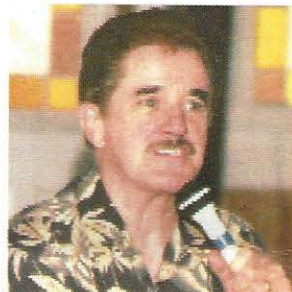


A few laughs: Ray Clearwater and Bobby Leduc

Reunion #3 July 27, 2003



Mr. Duffy broadcasting a mock game



Rene Rancourt singing the national anthems



From Edmonton: Kelly McAvoy and his mom, Doreen

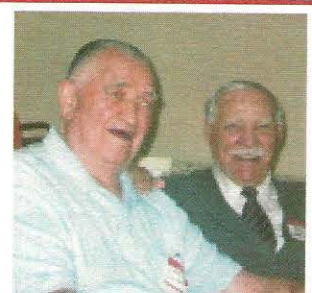
Reunion #4 July 25, 2004



Hall of Famer: Milt Schmidt receives membership #500



Old Bruins pals: Don McKenney and Ferny Flaman



Buddies from the 1940s: Chuck Scherza and Billy Warwick

89 former Reds and other ex-pros you might meet at the reunion:

(Marked in **RED** are players who have attended previous reunions)

Bill Army
Tim Army
Stan Baluik
 Jimmy Bartlett
Bob Beckett
 John Bednarski
Bill Bennett
 Curt Bennett
Jim Bennett
Harvey Bennett, Jr.
Al Bentley
 Dusty Blair
Serge Boudreault
 Johnny Bower
 Pierre Brilliant
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
 Hilliard Graves
Aldo Guidolin
 Ted Hampson
 John Hanna
 Dave Hrechkosy
Ivan Irwin

Eddie Kachur
 Pete Kapusta
 George Keeling
 Adam Keller
 Ralph Keller
 Steven King
 Orland Kurtenbach
 Ray LaPlante
Bob Leduc
 Randy Legge
 Yves Locas
 Parker MacDonald
 Ed MacQueen
 J. P. Mallette
 Moe Mantha
 Willie Marshall
Gil Mayer
 Rod McGarry

Jack McGeough
Don McKenney
Tom Mellor
 Howie Menard
Art Michaluk
Rick Middleton
 Jim Mikol
 John Muckler
Wayne Muloin
 Don O'Donoghue
Andre Peloffy
 Harry Pidhirny
Nick Polano
Dan Poliziani
 Larry Popein
Rich Pumple
 Don Raleigh
George Ranieri

Matt Ravlich
 Curt Ridley
Bob Robertson
Ray Ross
Chuck Scherza
 Eddie Shack
Milt Schmidt
 Allan Soares
 Allan Stanley
 Ed Stanowski
 Paul Stewart
 Jack Stoddard
 Harry Taylor
Billy Warwick
 Alton White
 Gary Williamson
 Jim Wiste

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. In four years we have already published 38 profiles. 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 will be featured in a future newsletter.

Backchecking

Orland Kurtenbach spent only one year of his pro hockey career with the Reds, but it was memorable. In 1962-63, the big, strong center scored only 2 goals in his first 32 games here, but fired 29 in his second 32. His 31 goals helped the Reds make the playoffs. Kurt moved on to a brilliant 13-year NHL career with the Bruins (3), Rangers (5), Maple Leafs (1) and Canucks (4). NHL totals: 658 games, 121 goals, 217 assists, 338 points.



Forechecking

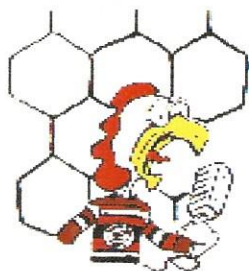
Kurt and his wife Laurel have 6 children and 14 grandkids (expecting two more soon). They live in Vancouver where he finished his career and worked coaching three Canuck farm teams. He has been involved in general insurance and presently works for the British Columbia (Jr.) Hockey League, which helps young players develop both their hockey and academic skills towards achieving college enrollment. *Terrific job, Kurt!*

Jack McGeough was among the very first Rhode Island natives and college players to play pro hockey with the R. I. Reds. A standout defenseman with LaSalle Academy and Providence College, in parts of two seasons here he teamed with Hockey Hall of Famer Ferny Flaman, the team’s player-coach. Jack played an important role in the Reds drive to capture the regular season AHL’s Eastern Division title in 1962-63.



An entrepreneur, Jack left hockey to start his own business in 1964. Today he is owner and president of Newport International in Florida. His company imports seafood from around the world and is marketed to restaurants and sold retail under the name “Jack’s Catch.” Jack and his wife of 15 years, Jeanne, have 5 children and 6 grandkids. His hobbies are tennis, golf, fishing and boating. *Boat up here for our 5th reunion, Jack!*

“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.

Bill Payne, North Providence, RI:

I’ve got to tell you, it’s been a long winter thus far without NHL hockey. It’s great going to a high school or college game. We also have the Providence Bruins, but still no NHL. Bummer! I’m one of the newest members to the R. I. Reds Heritage Society. I played high school hockey at Mt. St. Charles and college hockey in upstate New York at Elmira College. It’s great to be part of this group; after all I grow up on the East Side on Tenth Street and went to all the Reds games as a youth. Those were the good old days at the Arena - all that smoke in the rink and the card games. It was really something. Who can forget the Penalty Box or the First and Last Chance - boy the players used to enjoy themselves there...LOL.

Red Rooster: Tipped a few there myself, Bill. Thanks for the memories.

Larry Popein, (former Reds’ coach), Kamloops, B. C.: Happy to become a new member of the Society. Thanks for the call. Ed Ellsworth (former Reds’ business manager) and I have an annual phone call around Christmas each year. We have a great chuckle about our times together in Providence. It will be great to receive your newsletters and all the information about the Reds.

Reds Rooster: Larry, you had a terrific hockey career in the NHL with the New York Rangers, not to mention your years with Vancouver in the old Western Hockey League. Hope you can come back east and visit with us some time!

Bob Dooley, Coventry, RI: Dear Red, my grandfather – Judge James E. Dooley – owned the Reds from 1926 to 1937. My father, Ted Dooley, was a linesman for the Reds during the 1950s. So I’m proud to carry on the family tradition by becoming a new member of the Society.

Red Rooster: The proud R. I. Reds franchise owes a lot to both your grandfather and father – especially your grandfather who established the Reds. All of hockey in Rhode Island should be grateful to the Reds, who in 1926 became the foundation upon which the sport has been built in this state: youth, high school, college and the pros. Thanks for joining us.

Recollections of a “Rink Rat” *By Don Armstrong*

(Editor’s foreword: Don Armstrong has been involved in Rhode Island hockey his entire life: as a player and then as a coach at all youth levels from mites through midgets. From there he moved on to coach high school and eventually college hockey.)



The author: Seen as captain of LaSalle

I can say this without hesitation or embarrassment: I am a born and bred North Main Street Arena rink rat! I grew up on Second Street in a house that was on the upper edge of the parking lot that was just off to the right of the Arena.

The roar of cheering that radiated from that building kept me awake many times all through my youth. I could tell the score of the game by the sounds that came out of those big fans up over the stands. No one in those days knew about second hand smoke. When I had my bedroom window open to hear the crowd, I could smell it.

I remember wondering when I was very small what went on in that gigantic brick building. And I always knew that I was “home” when we would return from family day trips and I would see the RI Red Rooster on the facade of the building and the oversized letters saying only “Arena”.

As soon as I was old enough to start skating and playing hockey, my mission and that of all of the neighborhood kids was to sneak onto the ice in the Arena and play hockey “just like the pros.” When we were young, most of the time, we had to settle for the pond in the cemetery on the other side of North Main Street. We would walk home through the dark cemetery after playing hockey until sunset every day on cold winter nights, not afraid of ghosts and goblins, but talking about hockey and the Reds.

When the first ice machine arrived at the Auditorium in 1954 we called it “The Monster.” In those days, if you wanted to sneak on the ice when it wasn’t being used, it was a good idea to be polite and ask Mr. Rosa if it was ok. If he wasn’t around, Mr. Stinson, who was in charge of the boiler room, would most times say, “OK, but don’t damage the ice.”

Rosa lived far out in Pascoag and he would leave the Arena for home late afternoon. Stinson lived on Third Street next to the Arena. Before he would leave the rink on a “dead night” to go walking to his house, he opened a few windows in the back of the rink facing his house. We were quiet and skated in the dark and caused no problems. I suppose that the fact that Mr. Stinson’s son, Jack, joined us on some of these occasions was the reason why we never seemed to get in trouble!

Years later, as a junior at LaSalle, playing for the New England High School Hockey Championship on that very ice surface, I thought to myself, “Now I know what home ice advantage really means!” Some players who were on the ice for that tournament

were a bag of nerves. For me I was “home.” We won it that year of ‘61 before a sold out and standing room crowd.

The first time that I went to a hockey game at the Arena was in the early 50’s when the Reds played on a Sunday afternoon against Syracuse. I was seven years old at the time. I can remember that at one point in the third period, the Reds were up 6-3. The fans were all over the Syracuse goalie, Gordie Bell. Yelling, screaming and waving their handkerchiefs. I asked my father what was with the handkerchiefs. He said that the crowd was signaling for Bell to give up. That day, I fell in love with the sport of Ice Hockey!

And I also fell in love with the atmosphere in “The Old Barn.” The Reds were great with all of the local kids and families. They were very generous with complimentary tickets. There weren’t many events held in there that I didn’t get to see. Being on the “free list” because we lived very close the Arena was a nice gift. Looking back, it was like a Christmas present every day when the Auditorium had something going on.

I remember the ‘55 - ‘56 season. I don’t believe that I missed a single Reds home game. What a thrill being at all those games! On my birthday that year, I got my first pair of brand new hockey gloves. My hockey idol at that time was Ivan Irwin. Remember him? He was the great defenseman that wore jersey # 2 for the Reds that had no palms in his gloves so that he might (?) have a better feel for the opposing players’ shirts. Yes, you guessed it! I cut the palms out so that I could get a better feel also. Believe me, my Mom and Dad didn’t appreciate what I did even one little bit!

That same spring, I remember the Reds coming back from Cleveland with the Calder Cup. It was a Sunday morning and there were thousands of fans waiting to greet the Reds as they returned victorious. This was such an exciting moment for all of us neighborhood kids. “Our” team was the best there was in the AHL! As the bus carrying the team approached the Arena, a cheer went up that filled the neighborhood. The bus seemed to acknowledge the crowd’s cheers by honking its horn repeatedly as it came up the hill from Frost Street onto Third and North Main. #7 Jimmy Bartlett was the player honking the bus horn.

I remember the good guys, but I also remember the bad guys. The bad guy of all the teams that played against the Reds from the mid 50s to early 60s was Fred Glover. As kids, we couldn’t figure out why he would come into Providence, start trouble (of course, it was always “them” who started the trouble) and then got himself beat up. It happened all the time! Glover, today, remains as one of the all time point scorers and great players in AHL history.

As I said earlier, I played hockey for LaSalle. High school hockey on Friday and Saturday evenings at the Auditorium was an institution in the state and a right of passage for all high school hockey players. There weren’t that many diversions

(continued on page 5)



Pre-Zamboni: Norm Rosa does it the old fashioned way.

to distract us in those days. Certainly, there were no computers, video games, malls, cable TV, and there was only black and white TV to watch. High School Hockey was another thing at the Arena for most teenagers.

team had its section. The Cranston kids would sit in their spot, the Burrillville kids in theirs, and the Hope kids in theirs. One thing that I liked about the high school games in those days is that fans would come for the first game and stay for all of the games.

Looking back at the whole experience of growing up next to the Auditorium, I can only say that I enjoyed every moment of it. When they tore the place down to make a parking lot for a nearby hospital, I made sure to get a brick to save from that great monument.

Even now, when I drive by the location, I can still imagine and see the Rooster preening in the peak of the facade, crowing proudly that he was a Rhode Island Red and damned proud of it! In the very late '50s, during the warm and sunny summer days I would climb up to that peak.

I thank my parents for moving our family from Pawtucket to a home next to the Arena. I also thank the Rhode Island Reds for being there.

So, on game nights, almost every team in the state would play. There would be four games. Every team had its own section in the stands. And that section never changed. The LaSalle fans always sat in the same place. When we played, we always knew where our crowd was. Our full dressed band would be there a few times. And every other

“The Chicken Wire” (continued from page 3)

Tommy Woodcock (longtime NHL trainer), Glastonbury, CT: Hey, Red. Just a note to tell you that I’ve retired from hockey, what with the NHL situation. I have moved back east from San Jose and intend to make the July 31 reunion where I hope to renew friendships with guys I started my hockey career way back in the 1950s and ‘60s.

Red Rooster: Great to hear from you, Tom. Lots of people here are asking for you. Our 5th Annual Reunion on July 31 should be a blast and a half. Look for you there.

Tom Army (vice president of the Society), East Providence, RI: Remember the 1934 replica Reds’ jersey shown in the last newsletter? On the back it displayed the #4. My research of old programs indicates that in 1934 that #4 uniform was worn by a fellow named Jack (Jackie) Keating, a left wing of note in those days in the old Can-Am League.

Red Rooster: Thanks, Tom. And all this time I thought it was Bobby Orr!

Who the heck is this guy, anyway?



OK, members. It’s test time. This ex-Red was pictured recently at his favorite hobby. Try hard. Your answer appears on Page 6 of this edition of *1111 Echoes*. **No cheating!**

Some special, challenging hints: Kingfisher. What’s up Doc? Tape and tiring travel

Next Issue

The next issue of *1111 Echoes* will come out in October 2005. The newsletter will include a recap and pictures of the 5th annual reunion. Also look forward to more Forechecking and Backchecking, an announcement of the Society’s selection(s) for the “Tops 2005-06” awards and the introduction of our 5th annual commemorative ornament.

Crawford Quips

Johnny Crawford, former hockey great and later an AHL coach, was always ready with quick humorous one-liners.

One night after the team he coached was trounced 9-1, Crawford was asked by a writer what was the turning point of the game. Crawford quipped, “When they played the National Anthem.”

Crawford on Hall of Fame defenseman Doug Harvey, who liked his liquor: “Actually, he drinks only twice a year: When the circus is in town and when it isn’t.”

Crawford looking to make a line change with the Reds: “(Eddie) Shack get out there.”

The player nowhere to be seen, Johnny yelled out, “Where’s Shack?” A teammate answered, “Coach, he’s in the locker room taking a dump!” “Crap,” retorted Johnny.

2nd Annual “Lunch & Crunch” Tops the First

Over 100 members and guests of the Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society gathered at Lancellotta’s Restaurant in North Providence on Sunday, March 13, to celebrate the Society’s 2nd Annual “Lunch & Crunch” event.

Paul Stewart, one of hockey’s most prized after-dinner speakers, thoroughly entertained the large audience with his stories. Included were tales of his days as a player, his experiences as the first American to referee 1,000 NHL games, and his courageous battle to overcome colon cancer. “His presentation was insightful, humorous and inspiring,” said Buster Clegg, president of the Society. “He is the best!”

Honored guests at the event were Hockey Hall of Fame member Ferny Flaman and his wife of 58 years, Jeanne.

From the luncheon the 100-plus group moved on to the Dunkin’ Donuts Center in Providence to watch the Providence Bruins host the Albany River Rats, top farm team for the New Jersey Devils. In a very tough, hard-fought game, the home team Bruins out battled Albany, 3-2.

Following the game the “Lunch & Crunch” bunch was treated to a post-game analysis by Chris Lamoriello, general manager of the River Rats. Chris, a Rhode Island native who today resides in Lincoln, took numerous questions from his audience and answered them with direct, on-the-mark answers. Chris also was gracious in giving of his time and signing autographs for kids.

We thank you, Chris.



Paul Stewart sporting his Reds cap



Guys thoroughly enjoying the day



“Lunch”: Gals all smiles, too

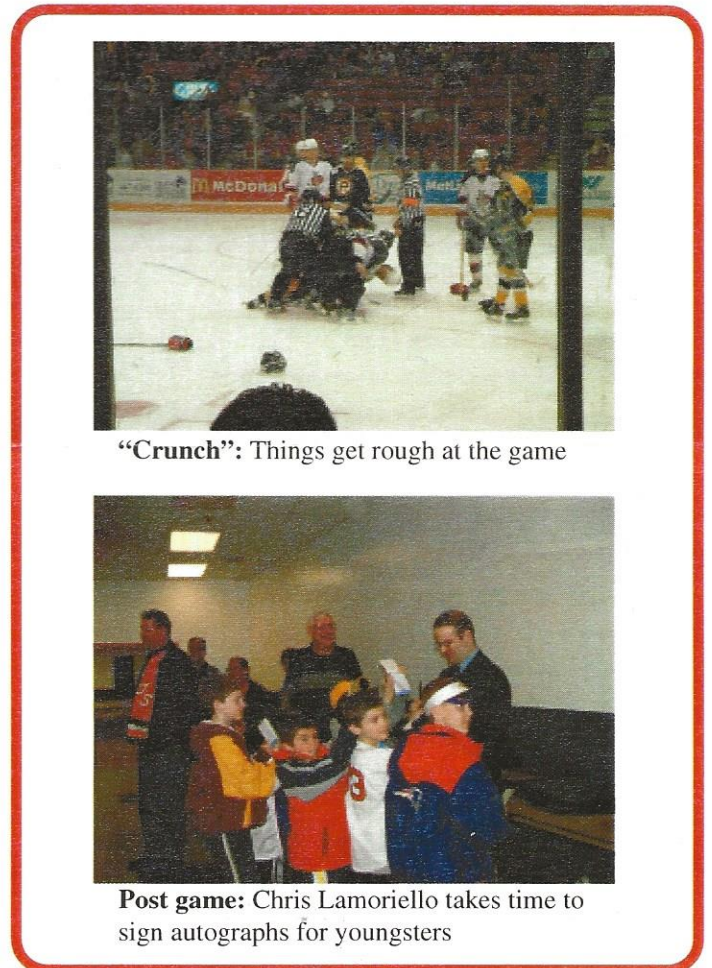


Honored guests: Ferny and Jeanne Flaman

Answer to...

“Who the heck is this guy, anyway?”

Hints: Kingfisher (his –e-mail address) - He’s an avid fisherman and works for the NHL Los Angeles Kings. What’s up Doc? – He often confers with physicians. Tape and tiring travel – he travels all over the country during the hockey season and treats injured players. It’s **Pete Demers**, head trainer of the Kings. A Rhode Island native, he is one of the most respected trainers in the NHL. Pete recently went on a two-week, “long range” deep sea fishing trip from San Diego to a spot several hundred miles off the coast of Mexico. Here, he is shown with his catch of the day—a 200.9 pound Wahoo.



“Crunch”: Things get rough at the game

Post game: Chris Lamoriello takes time to sign autographs for youngsters



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