



1111 Echoes

Fall 2006

A newsletter from the R. I. Reds Heritage Society

It's Membership Renewal Time for 2006/07

Please renew now to help us avoid costly, time-consuming follow-up reminders. We sincerely thank you. This issue of *1111 Echoes* concludes the R. I. Reds Heritage Society's sixth year in existence. As one of our valued 600 members, it is time for you to renew for the 2006-2007 hockey season.

Through our 6 years, we have never raised our annual dues. They remain at only \$20 (USA) — **less than 40 cents a week**. With your renewal you will continue to receive three, informative full-color newsletters over the next year and invitations to attend our 7th Annual Reunion and 4th "Lunch & Crunch" event. **And, most importantly, you are helping us to move ahead with plans to build a lasting museum exhibit for "Our Team."**

Please don't let your membership lapse. You can renew easily by completing and mailing in the enclosed membership form. Upon your renewal you will receive your new membership card. **This year's card will remind you to visit our acclaimed internet Website: www.rireds.org**

* * * * *

Next Reunion set for Sunday, August 5, 2007

- Our 7th annual.
- *Mark your calendar now.*
- *Same place: Scenic Goddard State Park, Warwick, RI.*
- *Same time: 12 noon 'till dusk.*

* * * * *

To view and order photos from our last reunion, visit:

danphoto1.tripod.com

Reds 6th Annual Reunion: "Best ever!"

Folks who attended the 6th Annual Reunion at Goddard State Park in Warwick ran out of superlatives to describe the weekend event that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the R. I. Reds last AHL Calder Cup championship of 1955-56.

"This was the best ever," said Ray Ross, a pivotal forward on that title team. Ray had attended all five previous reunions sponsored by the R. I. Reds Heritage Society and summed up the 6th saying, "What a weekend to remember. My family and I will never forget it!"



Standing Room Only!

Bob Robertson, a defenseman who was an important component of the Reds '55-56 triumph, also made his sixth visit to the annual event. "These reunions get bigger and better each year," he enthused. "I cannot imagine what the Society can do next year to improve. This year was absolutely perfect!"

The two referenced what turned out to be a three-day gala (August 3-5) that unfolded with the following itinerary:

Friday, August 3: Out-of-state players checked into the brand new, sparkling Hilton Garden Inn located near the airport in Warwick. For the next three days they enjoyed being complimentary guests of Society's "Host a Hockey Hero" program, sponsored by generous contributions from local corporations and individuals.

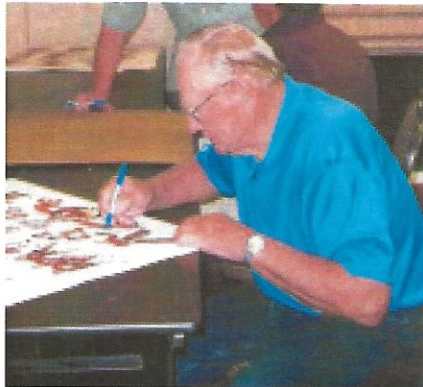
Weary from travel, the players and their families nevertheless attended a low-key, informal reception at the hotel that evening. Players willingly obliged in autographing copies of an original poster created specifically to commemorate the 1955-56 Calder Cup championship team.

Saturday, August 4: Throughout Saturday, many of the players and their families spent time site-seeing and/or shopping. Late in the afternoon, around 5:30 p.m., the "Hotelers" assembled and boarded a chartered bus that would take them to a private VIP reception at the elegant home of Jim and J. J. Bennett, just a few steps from the ocean in Narragansett, R. I. Both the reception and bus transportation were "On the Bennetts." And... what a party!

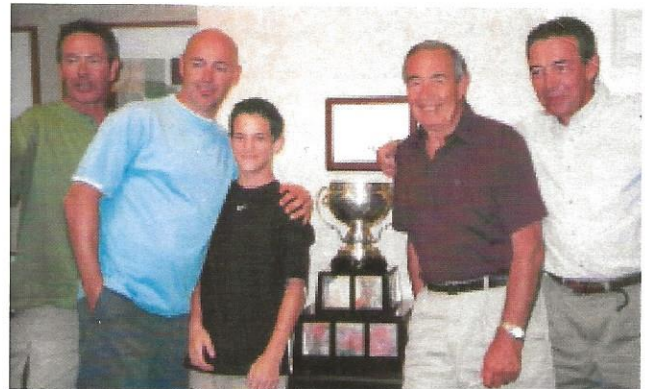
(continued to page 2)



**R. I. Reds Heritage Society
6th Annual Reunion
Hilton Garden Inn
Friday, August 3, 2006**



Hall of Fame goaltender Johnny Bower, signing a reunion poster.



The Ross Family (from left): Sons Glen and Greg, grandson Raymond, grand dad Ray, and son Gary.



Don "Bones" Raleigh (l) and Hall of Fame defenseman Ferny Flaman.



Bruce Cline recalling that great '55-56 season.

Reunion (cont.)

Not only did the hotel guests attend, but also many former Reds who are now residents of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts and Connecticut were on hand along with special local "friends of hockey." Jim and J. J. did themselves proud by providing deliciously catered New England-fare food, spirited liquid cheer and, of course, their own down-home, good-will hospitality. It truly was "Hockey Night in Rhode Island," compliments of J. J. and Jim, who is youngest of five sons of the late Harvey Bennett.

Sunday, August 5: And so came the big day. In the morning, soon after the night's previous party surprise, the "Hotelers" were greeted by complimentary copies of the *Providence Journal*, the state's largest newspaper. As they read, they were astonished. The sport section's front page and two additional inside pages chronicled the glorious 51-year history of the Reds and recapped the heroics of the 1955-56 title season.

Many who rose early and ate breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn carefully read the *Journal* and prepared for the big reunion day. Thanks to an evening-before donation of transportation by Bill Gilbane, president of Gilbane Building Company in Providence, the "Hotelers" boarded yet another comfort bus at 11:30 a.m. and headed for the Society's traditional reunion site, the historic carousel building at Goddard State Park in Warwick. Shortly after their noon arrival, the players and their families were greeted by over 270 admirers, both old time and brand new Reds fans.

To the inspiring organ music of "Roll out the Barrel" (theme song of the Reds at the old R. I. Auditorium), 28 ex-Reds in all marched onto the stage to the deafening applause of their loyal fans, past and present.

Seven players from that '55-56 cup team and eight family members representing the deceased champions were presented with commemorative plaques. The Tops award for 2006/07 and three special service awards were also given out. Telling a better story, photos for each of the three-day event follow.



**R. I. Reds Heritage Society
6th Annual Reunion
Jim and J. J. Bennett's home
Saturday, August 4, 2006**



**"Bones" and Jack Raleigh
greeted by Bill Bennett (r).**



Lounging around the pool.



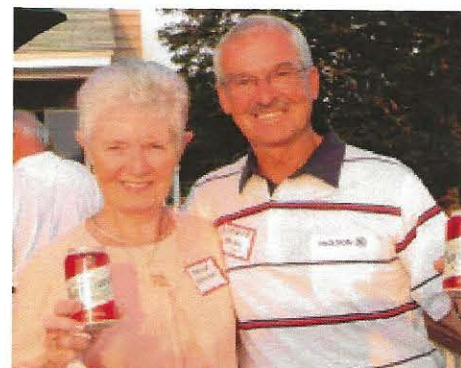
Enjoying the feast at chow time.



**Great goaltenders of the '50s:
Johnny Bower (l) and Gil Mayer.**



**Genial hostess and host:
J. J. and Jim Bennett.**



**Sylvia and George Ranieri
"Have a 'Gansett."**



**Jimmy Bartlett (l) getting advice
from Bob Robertson.**



Mr. Bower showing his pads from '55-56.



Ray Ross (l) with Lance Reardon.



**R. I. Reds Heritage Society
6th Annual Reunion
Goddard State Park
Sunday, August 5, 2006
“Calder Cup Champions, 1955-56”**



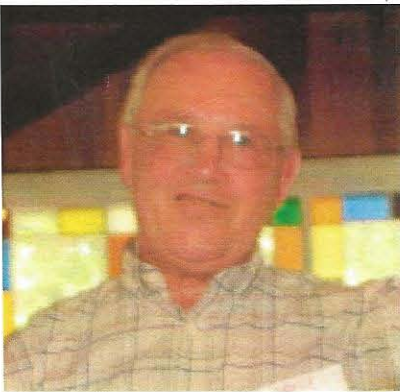
Johnny Bower: AHL MVP and “Hall of Fame” goaltender.



Calder Cup: The prize, loaned to us by the AHL.



Jimmy Bartlett: Still with that drive and personality.



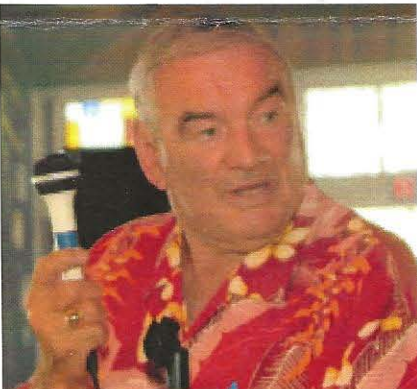
Bruce Cline: The affable AHL “Rookie of the Year.”



Aldo Guidolin: A fine gentleman and our weekend “Bus Captain.”



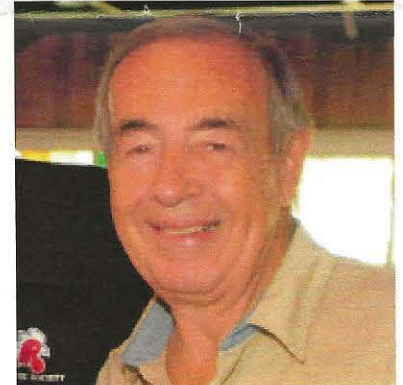
Don “Bones” Raleigh: Attentive during our national anthems.



Bob Robertson: A true loyalist, ever ready to take the mike.



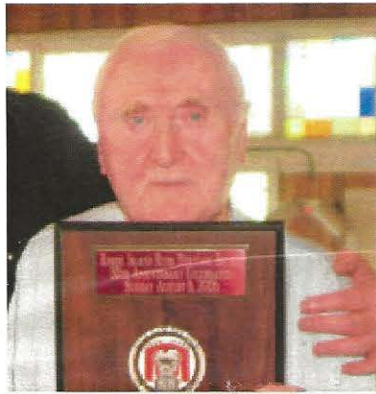
Champions: The reunion’s commemorative logo.



Ray Ross: Enjoying his 6th consecutive reunion, as always.



**R. I. Reds Heritage Society
6th Annual Reunion
August 5, 2006
“More 1955-56 Calder Cup Champions”**



George Patrick Duffy, broadcaster: “He scoooooorrrrrres....”



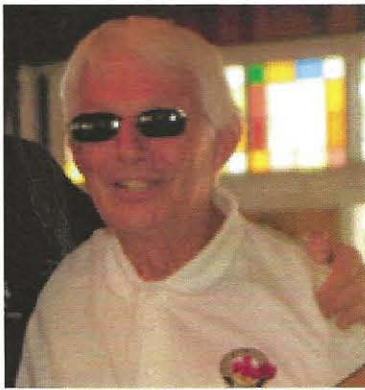
Eddie Ellsworth, business manager: “Meal money?”



Tom Woodcock, asst. trainer, now in the Hall of Fame.



Tom McDonough, stick boy: “You want whose stick?”



Louis A. Pieri, accepting for his late dad and team owner, Lou.



Shirley Toppazzini and grandson Cam, accepting for the late Zellio.



Denise Larivee, accepting for her late husband, Paul.



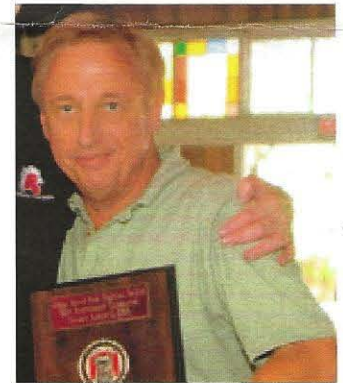
Doreen McAvoy, accepting for her late husband, George.



Tom Army, accepting for his late dad, trainer George Army.



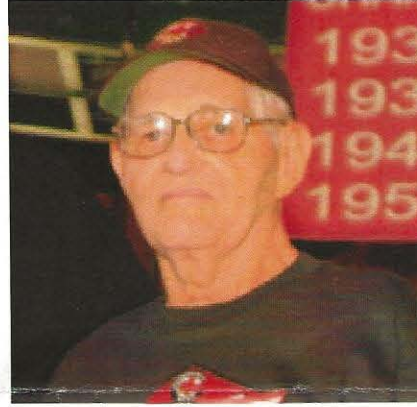
Harvey Bennett, Jr., accepting for his late goaltender dad.



Lance Reardon, accepting for his late father, Terry (GM).



**R. I. Reds Heritage Society
6th Annual Reunion
August 5, 2006
“Special Recognition”**



Exclusive R. I. Reds Heritage Society service awards were presented to three individuals for their longtime dedicated service to the Reds and pro hockey here in Rhode Island. Recipients were Bart McElroy (left), Jack McElroy (center) and Bob Paquette (right).

And special thanks go to...

**Other great ex-Reds and Pros
who attended...**

- Tim Army
- Ian Anderson
- Stan Baluik
- Bill Bennett
- Harvey Bennett, Jr.
- Jim Bennett
- Ross Brooks
- Serge Boudreault
- Ray Clearwater
- Hall of Fame defenseman Ferny Flaman
- Bobby Leduc
- Eddie Lee
- Yves Locas
- Gil Mayer
- Don McKenney
- Don Mellor
- Tom Mellor
- George Ranieri
and
Chuck Scherza

“Host a Hockey Hero” sponsors

Corporations

- Alpha Appraisal
- American Hockey League
- Chemart Company
- Cox Communications
- First Allegiance Financial
- Gilbane Building Company
- Henry Coupe & Associates

- Hilton Garden Inn
- Meridian Printing
- Narragansett Brewery
- New Jersey Devils
- Professional Mortgage Corp.
- Providence Journal Company
- Wendy’s Restaurants

Individuals

- Jim Bennett
- Eddie Ellsworth
- Mal Goldenberg
- John Harwood
- Bobby Leduc
- Tom McDonough

- Don Mellor
- Tom Mellor
- Mark Reid
- Dick Reniere
- George Sage
- Bob Spaziano

RED PROVIDENCE REDS PRIDE

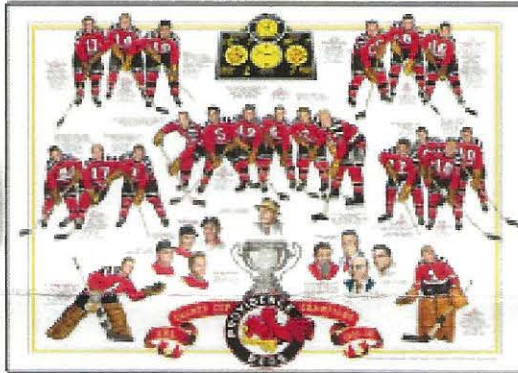
Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society gifts for the holidays and other special occasions

2006/2007 Commemorative Ornament: "50th Anniversary, 1955-56 Calder Cup Champions."

- Delicately etched in solid brass
- 3" wide
- Finished in sparkling palladium
- Silk screened with authentic Reds colors
- Includes stand for year-round display



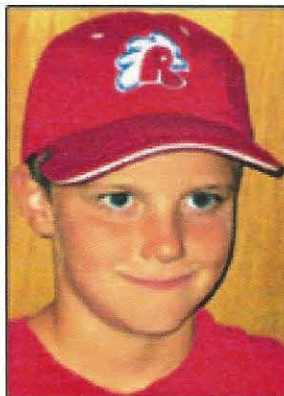
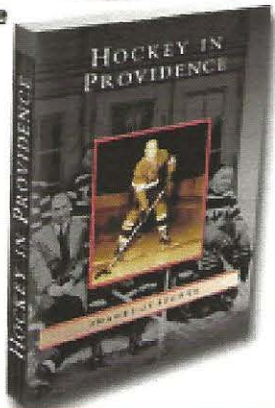
50th Anniversary Calder Cup Poster



- By RI illustrators Chil Mott and Gail Greenwood
- 36" by 24"
- Stars include Johnny Bower, Zelfio Toppazzini, Camille Henry, Paul Laivee and Andy Branigan
- Autographed version has actual signatures of Johnny Bower, Jimmy Bartlett, Bruce Cline, Aldo Guidolin, Don "Bones" Raleigh, Bob Robertson and Ray Ross

Hockey in Providence by Jim Mancuso

- Chronicles Rhode Island's rich tradition of hockey, from the Reds, one of the first professional hockey teams in the United States, through the Providence Bruins.
- Jam-packed with historical notes
- Over 200 photos, past and present
- 128 pages



Reds 1970s Logo Cap and Golf Shirt

- Highlighted by the official Reds logo in red, white and blue
- Cap in red with adjustable head band to fit any size
- Shirt in black, 100 % cotton, machine washable
- Sizes: M, L, XL, 2XL

BEST SELLERS

They're Going Fast
and Won't Be Restocked -
So Order Them While You Can!



Reds Logo
Watch



Inside The Auditorium
Ornament



Zelfio Toppazzini
Ornament

Order Form

Item	Price	Qty/Size	S/H	Item Total
Calder Cup Ornament	\$15	_____	\$3*	_____
Poster (unsigned)	\$20	_____	\$6*	_____
Poster (signed)	\$50	_____	\$6*	_____
Book	\$20	_____	\$5*	_____
Cap	\$15	_____	\$3*	_____
Golf Shirt	\$30	_____	\$3*	_____
Watch	\$25	_____	\$3*	_____
Auditorium Ornament	\$15	_____	\$3*	_____
Toppazzini Ornament	\$15	_____	\$3*	_____

*Add \$1 for each additional item

TOTAL

Shipping Information

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

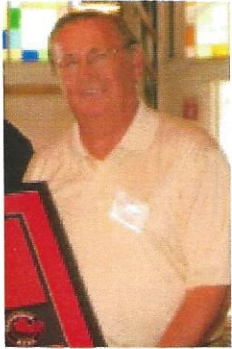
Email _____

Please make checks payable to:

R. I. Reds Heritage Society
P.O. Box 167, Barrington, RI 02806



Stan Baluik Presented with "Tops Award" for 2006-07



Stan Baluik, a standout center with the old Rhode Island Reds, received the Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society's "Tops Award" for 2006-07 at the organization's sixth annual reunion at Goddard State Park in Warwick on August 6.

The society presents the award annually to honor Zellio Toppazzini, Reds' "Player of the Century," and the team's all-time leading scorer. Recipients are selected by

the society based on outstanding contributions to the Rhode Island Reds hockey club and public service as a citizen within the broader community.

Baluik served the Reds for five seasons, starting in 1959-60 when he was named the American Hockey League's "Rookie of the Year." For three seasons he also centered the team's famous prolific "B-line" and consistently set up plays for his high scoring wingers, Jimmy Bartlett and Pierre Brilliant.

With the Reds he played 359 regular season and playoff games, scored 130 goals and added 257 assists for 387 points, an average of 1.08 points per game. His career numbers with the Reds place him ninth in goals scored, fifth in assists and sixth in total points.

Clearly one of the Reds' top players at that time, Baluik surprised the club and took another path in the fall of 1964. As a youngster in Canada, he had fallen in love with the game of golf. He had competed in the Canadian Open at age 15 and turned professional at 19.

So, at age of only 29 and earning only about \$6,000 a year in hockey, Baluik accepted an offer to become head golf professional at the brand new Kirkbrae Country Club in Lincoln. He stayed there 42 years before his retirement in 2005. Through that period his personal accomplishments as a golfer have been numerous, including championship finishes in both the Rhode Island and Vermont Open tournaments

More importantly, though, his work off the course has been an inspiration to young golfers throughout New England. Nearly a dozen of his assistants are now working as head golf pros, carrying forth his credo of work ethic and love of the game. He has also nurtured hundreds of young high school and college golfers.

"The selection of Stan Baluik as this year's 'Tops Award' winner is a hole-in-one for everybody," said Buster Clegg, president of the R. I. Reds Heritage Society. "I've known Stan since 1959 and he is the real thing. He embraces every standard we have set as a worthy recipient of this honor."

Joe Sprague, Jr., executive director of the R. I. Golf Association, also praised the selection of Stan for this year's "Tops" award. "Stan was a good friend of my father, and I had the distinct honor to induct him into the Rhode Island Golf Hall of Fame last summer during the 100th RI State Amateur.

"It's not often in life that a person is able to have such a big impact in two completely different sports arenas in a community. Stan Baluik has done that, which is a tremendous accomplishment."

Stan and his wife Marge live in Cumberland and are parents of three grown children. Like their dad, all three are involved in golf.

Heritage Society Works with AHL "Hall of Fame" Committee

The American Hockey League recently invited the R.I. Reds Heritage Society to participate in suggesting nominations for the league's "Hall of Fame Class of 2007." The Society's recommendations were submitted in advance of the AHL's selection committee's mid-September meeting at which the league was to vote on all nominations, including those from our organization.

The AHL is expected to announce its selections sometime in the new few weeks. Being invited to participate in nomination suggestions is a distinct honor for our Society and we eagerly await the release of selections voted by the AHL.



R. I. Reds Heritage Society

P. O. Box 167
Barrington, RI 02806

(401) 247-2666
E-mail: UNH1959@aol.com

Website: www.rireds.org

Class of 2007 inductees will be honored at the AHL's Annual All-Star Classic in Toronto on January 28-29.

The AHL inaugurated its shrine last season in Winnipeg. Selected as original inductees were former Reds Johnny Bower and Willie Marshall, plus Fred Glover (Cleveland), Frank Mathers (Pittsburgh and Hershey) and Jody Gage (Rochester). Builders were Jack Butterfield (retired AHL president) and Eddie Shore (Springfield owner).

Stay tuned for the AHL's announcement for 2007.

Next Issue

Due to space limitations in this Reunion edition, "Forechecking and Backchecking" and "Red Rooster" were forced take a vacation. They'll be back in the next issue of *1111 Echoes*, scheduled for January 2007. Another special feature, "On the Road Again," will chronicle a recent road trip of Jim Clegg, the Society's official hockey nomad.