



1111

ECHOES

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND REDS HERITAGE SOCIETY

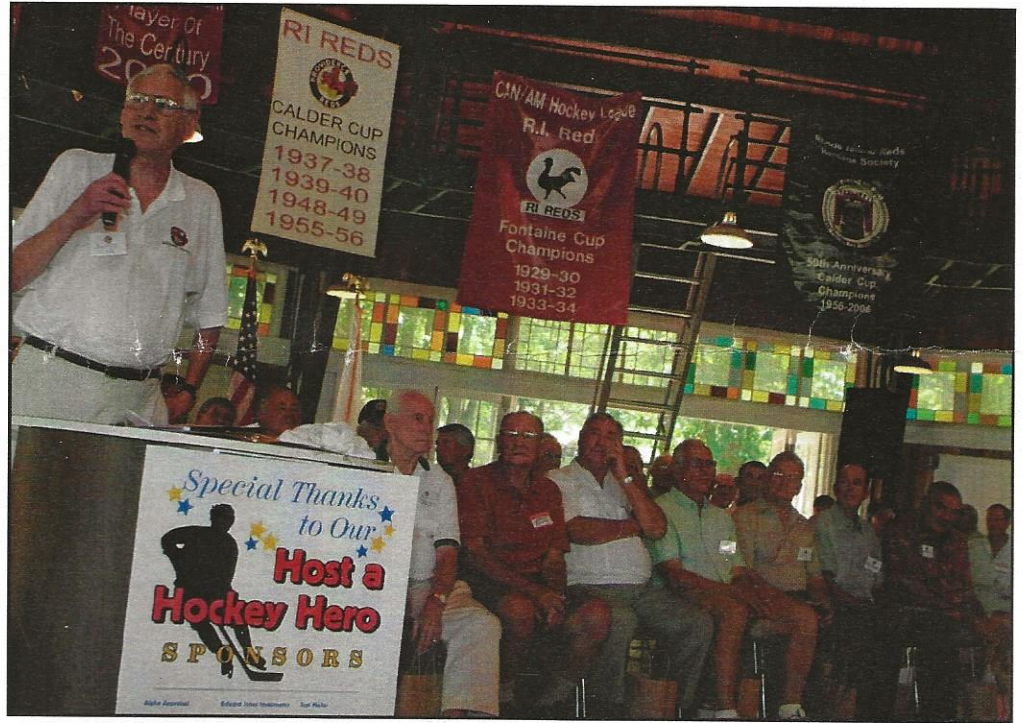
FALL 2007

Membership Renewal Time

This issue of 1111 Echoes marks the conclusion of the Reds Heritage Society's seventh season. We're proud of our phenomenal growth to 650 members. As we enter our eighth year, we're counting on you to help keep our organization strong by renewing your membership for the 2007-08 season. Dues remain at \$20 (USA) -- less than 40 cents a week. You'll continue to receive three newsletters annually, your membership card, plus exclusive invitations to our 8th Annual Reunion, a new "Munch & Crunch" and other special events. Please renew now to help us avoid costly, time-consuming follow-up reminders. We sincerely thank you.

Society Creating Reds History Video

The Heritage Society is in the process of creating a 30-minute video history of the Rhode Island Reds hockey team. The organization recently commissioned Joe Rocco, former Channel 10 sports announcer, to produce the video. Over 20 interviews with former Reds players and officials are "now in the can" and ready to be edited for the piece. More information will be available in your Winter 2007-08 newsletter.



■ Heritage Society President Buster Clegg introduces former Rhode Island Reds stars at the Annual Reunion.

Reds 7th Annual Reunion **A Hall of Fame Tribute**

Four members of the distinguished Hockey Hall of Fame of Toronto and one from the newly established AHL Hall of Fame gathered the weekend of August 3-5 to celebrate the R. I. Reds Heritage Society's 7th Annual Reunion.

Three spectacular events were attended by those special former Reds' honorees, plus about 25 other former Reds and ex-pro hockey players.

THE INSIDE STORY

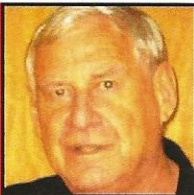
BOWER'S BUS: A bus from Toronto rumbles into Rhode Island, carrying Reds Legends to the reunion. Page 3

ELEGANT EVENING: More than 150 people attend the gala party at the elegant home of Jim and J. J. Bennett. Page 4

TOPPER AWARD: Bobby Leduc honored with the 2007-08 Topper Award. Page 7

THE ROOSTER'S NEST

By Buster Clegg



A Signature Event

We've dedicated this issue of 1111 Echoes to the Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society's signature event: our 7th Annual Reunion Weekend. And though we've just wrapped up this year's event, we're already planning our 8th reunion, for Sunday, Aug. 3, 2008, at Goddard State Park in Warwick, R.I.

In The Next Issue

We plan to reintroduce three features that due to space limitations are missing from this issue. They are "Forechecking & Backchecking," "Red Rooster's Updates," and "On the Road Again." You should be receiving your Winter 2007-08 1111 Echoes sometime in mid-January. Until then, "Roll out the Barrel."



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Munch & Crunch Revamped, Scheduled For Feb. 9th At PC

Remember "Lunch & Crunch?" Well, this season it's going to be "Munch & Crunch" -- all at Providence College.

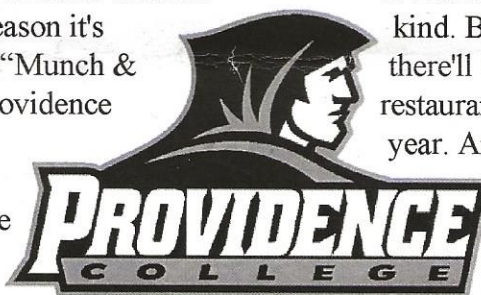
In cooperation with the college, the Society will offer free parking, a delicious pre-game buffet dinner, and a super Hockey East clash featuring the Friars, coached by Tim Army, against a powerful University of Vermont Catamounts.

The place: All at Schneider Arena on the PC campus. The date and time: Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008, starting at 5 p.m.

It will be 5th event of its kind. But unlike the past there'll be no moving from restaurant to the rink this year. And no parking garage costs. You'll park free, then eat, drink and be merry in the private Friars' Room,

and finally walk just a few steps to watch two of the best teams in the Hockey East Conference fight it out. You'll be in by 5PM, out by 10 PM. The cost? Only \$30 per adult and \$15 for kids ages 12 and under.

To reserve your spot, please fill out and mail in the enclosed reservation form with your check.



Reds 7th Annual Reunion

At The Bennetts': What A Party!



■ Thirty-seven passengers made their way from Canada to Rhode Island on "Bower's Bus."

Bower's Bus Rumbles Down from Toronto

As the Reunion Weekend began on Friday, Aug. 3, former Reds checked into the Hampton Inn and Suites in Warwick, R.I., around mid-afternoon and began enjoying a three-day stay at the hotel, compliments of the R. I. Reds Heritage Society through the organization's "Host a Hockey Hero" program and its generous sponsors.

Around 5:30 PM, "Bower's Bus" from Toronto rumbled into the hotel's parking lot, carrying 37 passengers, among them organizers and former Reds' stars Bob Robertson, Ray Ross, Aldo Guidolin and Johnny Bower. After a tiring but lively 11-hour trip from Canada, the four, their families and friends, weary from travel, checked in, showered and joined 50 others for an informal reception at the hotel.

Highlights

Re-acquaintances with old teammates, friends and foes; a showing of rare vintage Reds' film (40s, 50s and 60s) and some very exaggerated stories that seem get better every year these folks meet.



■ Saturday's highlight was a VIP party at the elegant home of Jim and J. J. Bennett in Narragansett, just one block from the ocean. And, what a party the Bennetts threw.



■ Bill Bennett welcomes Eddie Shack to the VIP party.



■ Bill Bennett, Johnny Bower, Curt Bennett and Harvey Bennett Jr.



■ Guests were treated to a selection of tasty foods and beverages.



■ Jim Bennett flanked by Buzz Deschamps and Serge Boudreault

Reds 7th Annual Reunion

At The Bennetts': What A Party!



■ *The chow line*

Throughout Saturday, Aug. 4, players, their families and friends were free to explore the wonder of Rhode Island. Some took "Bower's Bus" to shop and view the historic mansions in Newport on Narragansett Bay. Late in the afternoon, at 5:30 PM, the "Bower's Bus" carried the guest entourage to a private VIP party at the elegant home of Jim and J. J. Bennett in Narragansett, just one block from the ocean. And, what a party the Bennetts threw.

Highlights

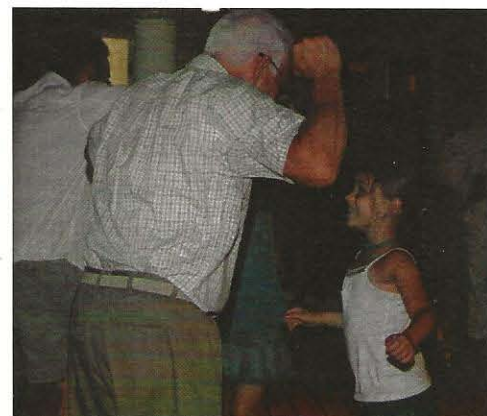
More than 150 people attended the gala party. Representing the society were about 100 guests and sponsors. Another 50 or so belonged to the Bennetts and their vast group of family and close friends. Once again -- for the second straight year -- Jim and J. J. overwhelmed guests with their warm hospitality, deliciously catered New England food, spirited liquid offerings and lively music that encouraged some innovative dance steps later in the evening.



■ *Grandson Raymond Ross, David and Stan Baliuk, Ray Ross and sons Glen, Gary and Greg (behind Stan).*



■ *Bob Robertson and Eddie Giacomini fight for the dance floor.*



■ *Eddie wins and gets a lesson from Kyla Bartlett, Jimmy's granddaughter.*



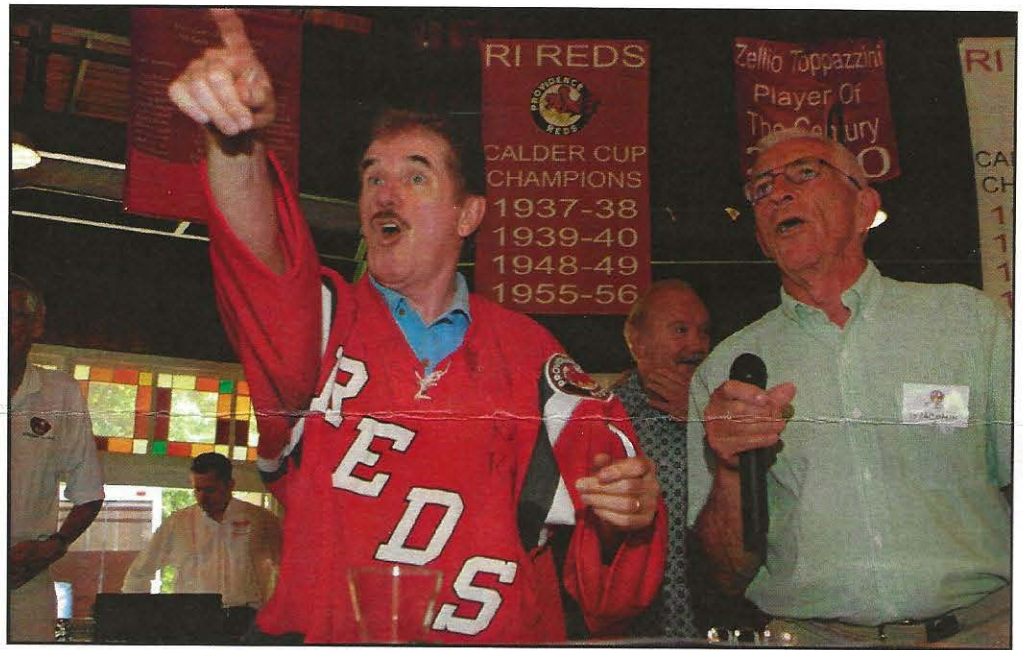
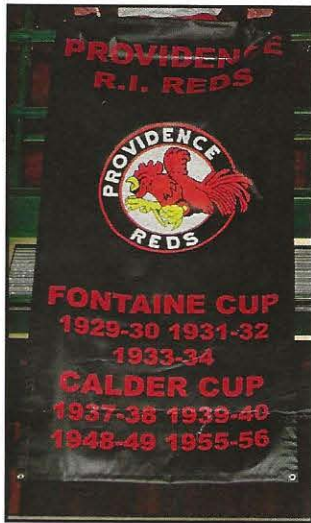
■ *Gerry and Marianne Toppazzini trip the light fantastic.*



■ *Bob "Bongo" Robertson finishes off the evening with a jig of his own.*

Reds 7th Annual Reunion Rolling Out The Barrel

■ The Rhode Island Reds Champion banner is unfurled in the historic carousel building at Goddard State Park.



■ Rene Rancourt and Eddie Giacomini

Finally, the big day arrived. In sunny, 80-degree temperatures with a refreshing breeze coming off the bay, a record 326 people convened at Goddard State Park's historic carousel building at noon Sunday, Aug. 5, to begin the 7th Annual Reunion. Both old and brand new fans applauded the more than 30 former Reds who marched onto center stage to a rousing organ rendition of "Roll out the Barrel," theme song of the Reds at the old R. I. Auditorium. "It seemed like the good old days," said one player, while another admitted, "It gave me goose bumps hearing that old tune."

Highlights

Each player on stage was introduced to the sellout crowd and warmly applauded by fans. Then, special recognition and awards were presented to Hockey Hall of Fame members and ex-Reds Milt Schmidt, Johnny Bower, Ferny Flaman and Ed Giacomini, and to trainer Pete Demers, who will enter the Hall in November. Also recognized for his AHL Hall of Fame inclusion was Gil Mayer.

Former Reds Players Grace Reunion



■ Ian Anderson



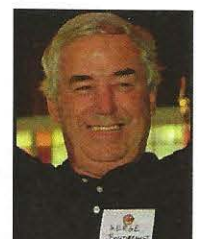
■ Stan Baliuk



■ Jimmy Bartlett



■ Bob Beckett



■ Serge Boudreault



■ Ross Brooks



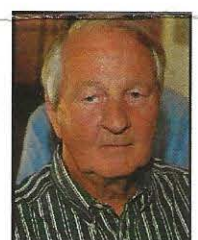
■ Bruce Cline



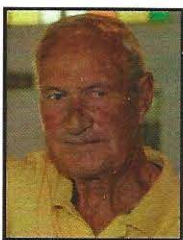
■ Buzz Deschamps



■ Yves Locas



■ Don McKenney



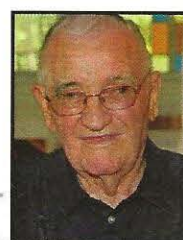
■ Eddie MacQueen



■ Wayne Miloin



■ George Ranieri



■ Chuck Scherza

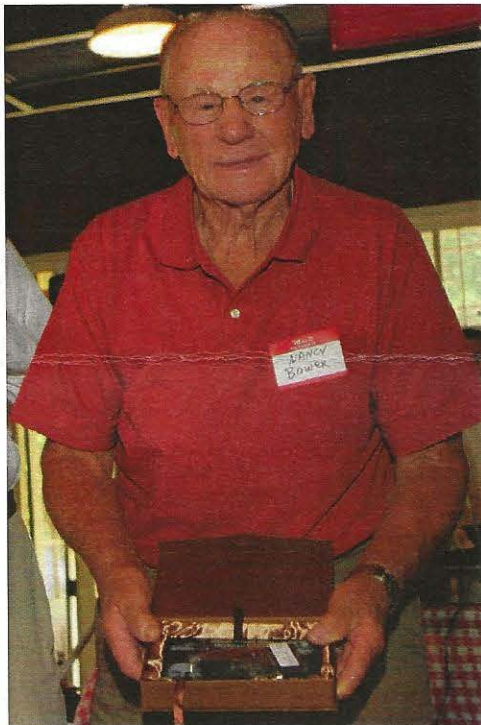


■ Eddie Shack

Reds 7th Annual Reunion **A Salute to Hall of Famers**



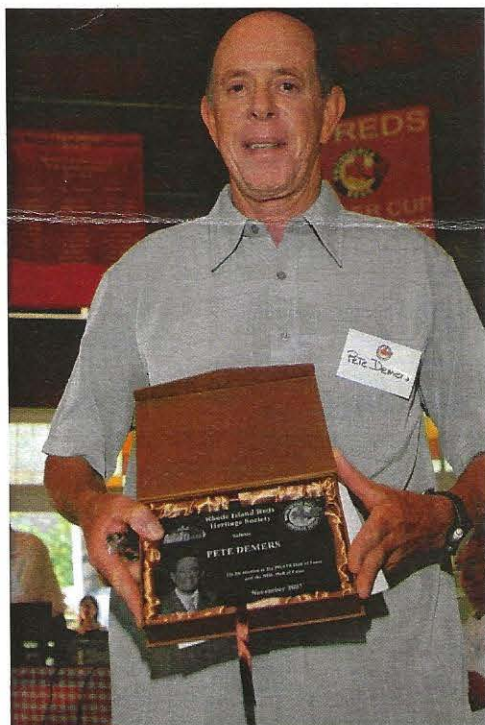
■ Milt Schmidt, right, receives his award from Society President Buster Clegg.



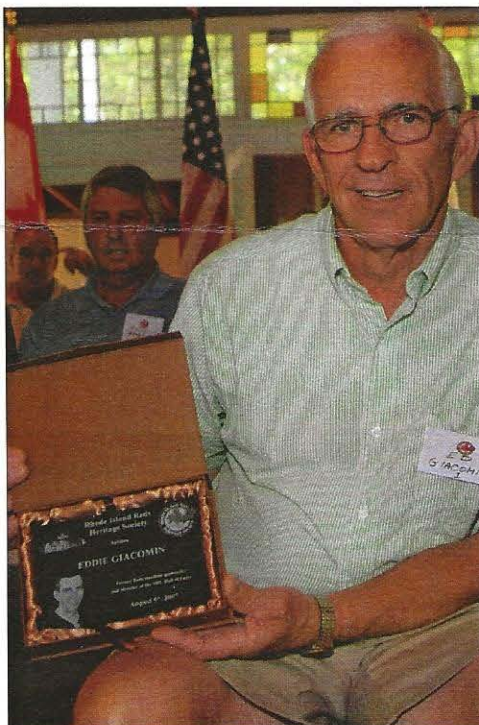
■ Johnny Bower shows the plaque recognizing his place in the Hall of Fame.



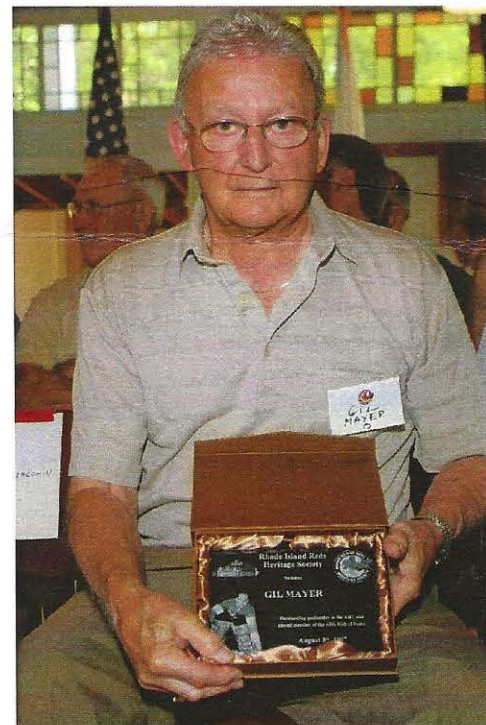
■ Ferry Flaman.



■ Pete Demers



■ Eddie Giacomini



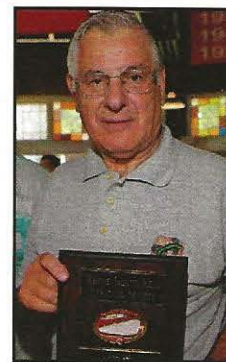
■ Gil Mayer



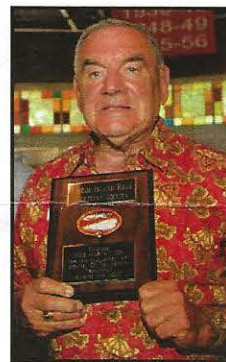
■ Bobby Leduc, right, receiving Tops award from Gerry Toppazzini, center, and Heritage Society Board of Directors member Tom McDonough.



■ Johnny Bower



■ Aldo Guidolin



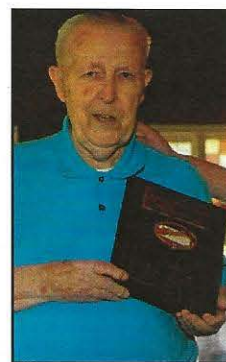
■ Bob Robertson



■ Margaret Robertson



■ Ray Ross



■ Bill Carey

THE 2007-08 TOPS AWARD

Leduc Honored for Achievement On and Off the Ice

Bobby Leduc, a standout forward with the R.I. Reds for eight seasons, received the R. I. Reds Heritage Society's "Tops Award" for 2007-08 at the 7th Annual Reunion at Goddard State Park in Warwick on Sunday, Aug. 5.

The award is given annually by the Society to honor the late Zello Toppazzini, Reds "Player of the Century." Appropriately, his brother Gerry Toppazzini, a former star with the Boston Bruins, made the presentation to Leduc. The award is given by the Society to recognize outstanding contributions to the Rhode Island Reds hockey club and for public service within the community.

Leduc broke into pro hockey with the Reds in 1964-65. For eight seasons he played mostly at left wing for the team and scored 129 goals and had 185 assists for a career total of 314 points in a Providence uniform. His best season with the Reds came in 1969-70, when he went 32-33-65.

In 1972 he joined the Ottawa Nationals in the fledgling World Hockey Association where he scored

22 goals and had 29 assists. The next two seasons he toiled for the Toronto Toros and was playing coach there in 1974-75, leading them to the WHA playoffs. Leduc finished his career in 1975-76 as player-coach of the Maine Nordiques in the North American Hockey League, also guiding his team into playoff action.

Bob settled in Rhode Island and today runs a large business complex in North Smithfield, RI, with his daughter, Michelle. Another daughter, Natalie, teaches school. The company -- Leeway True Value -- includes a hardware store, lawn and garden center, plus a beautiful gift boutique.

Leduc is also involved in the government of Town of North Smithfield. He currently serves on a zoning board committee for the improvement of a village within the town. He also is a member of the Heritage Society Board of Directors.

His hobbies include playing golf and enjoying his three grandchildren. And at age 63, he still plays senior hockey but admits, "I don't do much back checking anymore."

Society Recognizes Six for Special Service

The Annual Reunion also saw the R.I. Reds Heritage Society give special Service Awards to the originators of the "Bower's Bus" from Toronto: Johnny Bower, Aldo Guidolin, Ray Ross and to its front-line organizers, Bob and Margaret Robertson.

In addition, Bill Carey, longtime head usher at the Auditorium and later at the Providence Civic Center, was honored for his 32 years of dedicated service to the Reds that began in 1946.



RED PRIDE

Rhode Island Reds Heritage Society gifts for special occasions

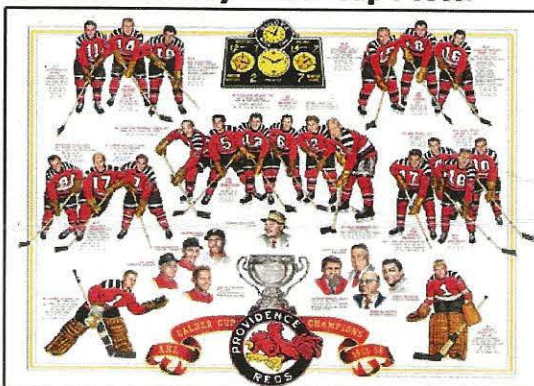
2007/2008 Commemorative Ornament:

"CAN-AM LEAGUE CHAMPS Uniform"

- Delicately etched in solid brass
- 3" high
- Finished in sparkling 24 kt gold
- Silk screened with authentic Reds colors
- Includes stand for year-round display



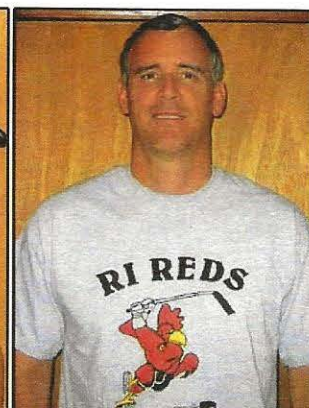
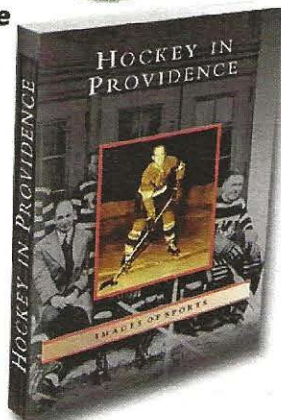
50th Anniversary Calder Cup Poster



- By RI illustrators Chil Mott and Gail Greenwood
- 36" by 24"
- Stars include Johnny Bower, Zello 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

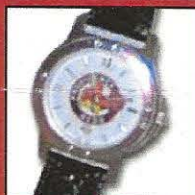


"Slapshot Rooster" Cap and T-Shirt

- Highlighted by the "Slapshot Rooster" emblem
- Cap in white or black with adjustable headband to fit any size
- Shirt in gray, 100% cotton, machine washable
- Sizes: M, L, XL, 2XL

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Reds Logo Watch



Calder Cup Champs Ornament



Zello Toppazzini Ornament

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CAN AM Ornament	\$15	_____	\$3*	_____	_____
Poster (unsigned)	\$12	_____	\$3*	_____	_____
Poster (signed)	\$50	_____	\$3*	_____	_____
Book	\$20	_____	\$5*	_____	_____
Rooster Cap (B or W)	\$18	_____	\$3*	_____	na
Rooster T-Shirt	\$15	_____	\$3*	_____	na
Watch	\$25	_____	\$3*	_____	_____
Calder Cup Ornament	\$15	_____	\$3*	_____	_____
Toppazzini Ornament	\$12	_____	\$3*	_____	_____

*Add \$1 for each additional item

**Quantity times Price plus S/H

***Rhode Island residents add 7% sales tax (Item Total multiplied by .07)

TOTAL _____ + _____ = _____

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