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ECHOES

NEWSLETTER OF THE RHODE ISLAND REDS HERITAGE SOCIETY

FALL 2025

Red Centennial

Celebrate the Reds' 100th Birthday

The R.I. Reds Heritage Society celebrated its 25th anniversary earlier this year, and we expect 2026 will be just as – if not more – memorable than 2025. December 2026 will mark the 100th anniversary of the Reds first game against the Springfield Indians at the R.I. Auditorium. We are in the process of formulating a series of events to commemorate this historic occasion, but – sorry, folks – there is no spoiler alert yet.

In the meantime, we do need your help to preserve the memory and legacy of the Reds for current and future generations. To that end, for a donation of \$50 or more,

we will send you this beautiful new 18-by-24-in. poster illustrating the colorful jerseys worn by the Reds over their 51-year history. The durable paper stock is suitable for framing, and the poster is sure to be a treasured keepsake to remind you and yours of the Reds' storied legacy.

To make a donation, use the coupon below. To donate online, visit www.rireds.org/donate/

Thank you in advance for your much needed support. Please know how much it is appreciated and valued.

Thank You Sincerely,
Wayne Forrest
Heritage Society President



Please Accept my 2025 Contribution to Support the Work & Mission of the RI Reds Heritage Society

() \$25 () **\$50*** () \$75* () \$100* () Other \$ _____

NAME _____

STREET _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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(*) A donation of this amount will ensure the delivery of your Reds' logo poster.

Please clip and return with check addressed to:

RI Reds Heritage Society, P.O. Box 190, Greenville RI 02828

or go to the DONATE Page on the Heritage Society website to contribute electronically via PayPal.

The Last Chants of 'Eddie! Eddie!'

By Bill O'Connor
Heritage Society Board

Sadly, the great Rhode Island Reds goaltender, Eddie Giacomini, passed away on Sept. 14, 2025, in Birmingham, Mich., at age 86. Reds fans came to know him as a wonderful person and a fun-loving guy.

Eddie was born in Sudbury, Ontario on June 6, 1939. Early in his career, he spent parts of three seasons in the Eastern League from 1959 to 1961 with the Washington Presidents, Clinton Comets, New York Rovers, and Montreal Royals.

Eddie's first appearance with the Reds was in the final game of the 1959-60 season. The 21-year-old goaltender impressed the local fans with 37 saves in a 5-4 overtime win over the Buffalo Bisons. After a brief stint with the Rovers in the following season, he was called up to Providence in December 1960 to share goaltending duties with veteran netminder Don Simmons. He took over full-time duties in net when the Reds released Simmons in January 1961. Eddie went on to play in 43 games and registered a goals against average (GAA) of 4.37.

He quickly became a fan favorite in Providence. He was rock solid in net and showed that he was not a "stay at home goalie" all the time. He would often leave his crease and skate toward the blue line to get the puck. He got caught only once or twice and fans would always pray that he got there first.

He steadily improved over the next four seasons and lowered his GAA to 2.68 with four shutouts in the 1962-63 campaign. He cemented his place in the crease in the next season with 4,140 minutes in goal – tops in the



Former Reds goalies Ross Brooks and Ed Giacomini meet on the ice at Boston Garden in the 1970s. Brooks served as Giacomini's backup in Providence during the 1963-64 season.

American Hockey League that year – and led the league with six shutouts.

Then came "THE TRADE." On May 17, 1965, Reds owner Lou Pieri pulled off a blockbuster deal to send Eddie to the New York Rangers for goalie Marcel Paille, defenseman Aldo Guidolin, and left winger Jim Mikol. Eddie finished his time in Providence having played in the fourth-most games (251), with the third-highest number of wins (109), and fourth-highest number of minutes played (14,930) in team history.

"Fast Eddie" became a legend in New York, where he spent 11 years. He won the Vezina Trophy with Gilles Villemure in the 1970-71 season and still holds the Rangers goalie record with 267 wins and 49 shutouts. Then, from out of the blue, Eddie was traded to the Detroit Red Wings in 1975. The Ranger fans were in shock. He played

in Detroit until 1978. Each time he returned to New York he was wildly cheered. Eddie was a six-time NHL All-Star and was inducted into the NHL Hall of Fame in 1987. His #1 became the second number that the Rangers retired.

Eddie kept busy in retirement as a broadcaster and assistant coach with the Red Wings, Rangers, and New York Islanders.

The last time Ed was in the company of Reds fans was the weekend of Aug. 5, 2007, at the Heritage Society's seventh annual reunion. He was cordial and funny. At Bill Bennett's Saturday night party in Narragansett, Eddie would not leave the dance floor as the Barleyhoppers entertained. At Goddard Park the next day, he had a wonderful time and was very appreciative of the Heritage Society and the fans.

Remembering Ken Dryden

Larger than Life

The passing of Montréal Canadiens and NHL Hall of Fame goaltender Ken Dryden on Sept. 6 at age 78 rekindled memories of his first and only appearance at the R.I. Auditorium.

Ken was a towering figure in goal – 6 ft. 4 in. not counting his skates – on Feb. 28, 1971, as a rookie with the Montréal Voyageurs.

His height alone was a novelty, given that goalies of the time did not stand anywhere near 6 feet tall and his counterpart at the other end of the ice, Marcel Paille, was 8 inches shorter.

The appearance of this Bunyanesque 23-year-old graduate of Cornell University drew 5,850 to the Arena that Sunday night.

The back-and-forth tussle reached an exhilarating climax with 12 seconds to go in the game when right

wing Guy Dufour beat Ken with a 15-foot slapshot to end the game in a 5-5 tie. The high-rise netminder still proved his worth with 40 saves against the Reds.

Ken got the call up to the parent club in Montréal five days later and made his NHL debut with a 5-1 win over the Pittsburgh Penguins the following week.

As Bruins fans still lament, Ken went on to lead the Canadiens to an improbable seven-game playoff upset win over Boston. With the Canadiens' Stanley Cup win that season – the first of six Cups in eight years for Dryden – Ken earned the Conn Smythe Trophy as the playoffs' most valuable player. And in a strange quirk of timing and having played so few NHL games, he was named the Rookie of the Year the following season.

Two of the all-time greats: The Red Wings' Eddie Giacomin chats with Canadiens' Ken Dryden.



Above, Ken Dryden strikes his classic pose, resting on his goalie stick.



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THE PLAYER-COACH BONUS

Billy Coutu was the First to Do Double Duty

By Vin Cimini
Heritage Society Vice President

It would surprise many that the Reds were led by a player-coach in 27 of their 51 seasons, beginning as far back as 1933 when head coach Billy Coutu laced up for the team on defense. The following season, he even donned pads to fill in in goal. Billy would then lead the Reds to the Fontaine Cup championship in that 1934 season.

In addition to Coutu, the Reds were led by eight more player-coaches over their storied history, including Albert "Battleship" Leduc, Art Lesieur, Bun Cook, Yank Boyd, Terry Reardon, Pat Egan, Fernie Flaman, and Dave Creighton.

In total, they accounted for four league championships.

The reasons why the Reds favored player-coaches were several. All were outstanding players, although several were obviously well past their prime and saw only spot duty.

But, in most cases, they were still highly productive players. Indeed, Dave captured the AHL's Les Cunningham Trophy in 1968 as the league MVP while also behind the Reds bench.

Perhaps the main reason, however, was the fact that ownership got "2 for 1" — one paycheck for both a coach and a talented player — a smart move when team rosters were trim and

budgets tight.

Among the most successful and productive Reds player-coaches were Bun Cook and Terry Reardon.

Bun served as player-coach in all six of his years with the Reds, capturing the 1938 and 1940 Cups, the latter with co-coach and team All-Star, Art Lesieur.

Like Bun, Terry also served as player and coach over six seasons, capturing the Calder Cup in 1940.

After he retired as a player, Terry took over the GM reins of the team for eight more seasons, 1954 through 1962. His work in assembling the Reds' famous Calder Cup-winning 1956 team featured multiple future Hall of Famers.

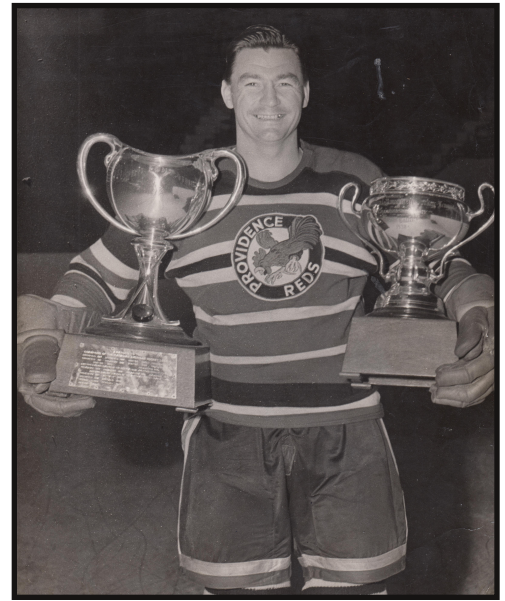
Fernie Flaman joined the Reds as player-coach in 1962 and served in that capacity for a total of three seasons.

In 1964, owner Lou Pieri added a third title to Fernie's resume by also naming him general manager.

After arriving in Providence at the start of the 1966 season and leading the team in points, Dave Creighton became the ninth player-coach in team history the following season.

In 1969, Dave repeated Fernie's "hat trick" of duties when Buster Clegg retired as GM. Dave was tabbed to replace him.

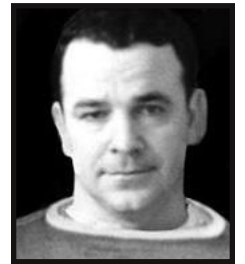
For a more comprehensive look at success with player-coaches, log on to: www.rireds.org/legends-and-lore/



Terry Reardon



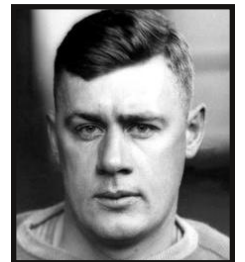
Billy Coutu



Battleship Leduc



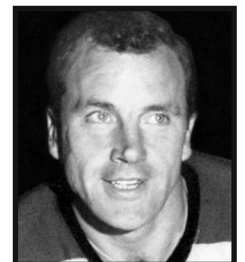
Art Lesieur



Bun Cook



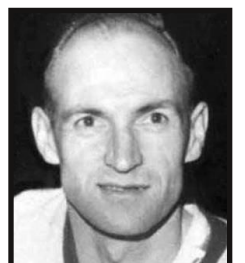
Yank Boyd



Pat Egan



Fernie Flaman



Dave Creighton

One of a Kind

Colorful Nicknames Helped Build Legends

By Vin Cimini
Heritage Society Vice President

Nicknames have always been a big part of hockey. As long as there have been teammates, there have been nicknames. Some are simple, some more colorful, but all are a way to make players seem more familiar and make us feel closer to them. Some of the best nicknames belonged to players who are very obscure.

I love original nicknames. But just calling Zellio Toppazzini "Topper" or Ross Brooks "Brooksie" is not going to cut it here, and neither is calling a left-handed player "Lefty" or one with red hair "Red" (we had a lot of those).

On the other hand, there were many that were only known to teammates in the clubhouse.

Nicknames were more original in years past versus today.

That was mostly because clever PR men and old-time newspaper scribes and beat writers needed to be more creative to write colorful stories about players, their habits and quirks, their sometimes crazy antics, and what made them tick.

Here are some of my favorite Reds nicknames:

Ed "Fast Eddy" Giacomini
Joe "Gypsy Joe" Hardy
Mike "Iron Mike" Karakas
Bert "Belting Bert" Wilson
Jimmy "Black Bart" Bartlett
Johnny "The China Wall" Bower
Sherwood "Gabby" Crossley
Ken "Buck" Davies
Ed "Moe" Bartoli
Art "Nosey" Gauthier
George "Dusty" Blair
Hector "Toe" Blake
Jules "Choo Choo" Bouchard
Emile "Butch" Bouchard
Irwin "Yank" Boyd
Pierre "Rimouski Rifle" Brillant
Frank "Mr. Zero" Brimsek



Connie "Mad Dog" Madigan



Harry "Apple Cheeks" Lumley

Norm "Bones" Calladine
Frederick "Bun" Cook
Wilfred "Sky" Desy
Woodrow "Porky" Dumart
Andre "Moose" Dupont
Johnny "Black Cat" Gagnon
Ildege "Porky" Gervais
Leland "Hago" Harrington
Harold "Gizzy" Hart
Charles "Knucker" Irvine
Camille "The Eel" Henry
Bob "Battleship" Kelly
Gordon "Doggy" Kuhn
Édouard "Newsy" Lalonde
Harry "Apple Cheeks" Lumley
Dennis "Diesel" Macks
Connie "Mad Dog" Madigan
John "Maroosh" Mariucci
Willie "The Whip" Marshall
Gil "The Needle" Mayer
Eddie "Spider" Mazur
George "Babe" McAvoy
Don "Skip" McKenney
Dick "Hoss" Meissner
Rick "Nifty" Middleton
Clarence "Brick" Morrison
Andre "Peelo" Peloffy
Ed "Whitey" Prokop
Earl "Dutch" Reibel
Eddie "The Nose" Shack
Doug "Soapie" Soetaert
Allan "Snowshoes" Stanley
Bill "Playmaker" Thayer
Melville "Sparky" Vail
Eddie "Shadow" Westfall
Lorne "Gump" Worsley
Ken "The Hustler" Yackel
Joe "Crazy Legs" Zanussi

These faves were not Reds, but their nicknames stand out in AHL and NHL history:

Frank "Never" "Seldom" Beaton
Morris "Apple Juice" Mott
Johnny "Pie" McKenzie
Bernie "Boom Boom" Geoffrion
Yvon "The Roadrunner" Cournoyer
Gary "Suitcase" Smith
Guy "The Flower" Lafleur
Maurice "Rocket" Richard
Henri "Pocket Rocket" Richard

Cartoon Memories:

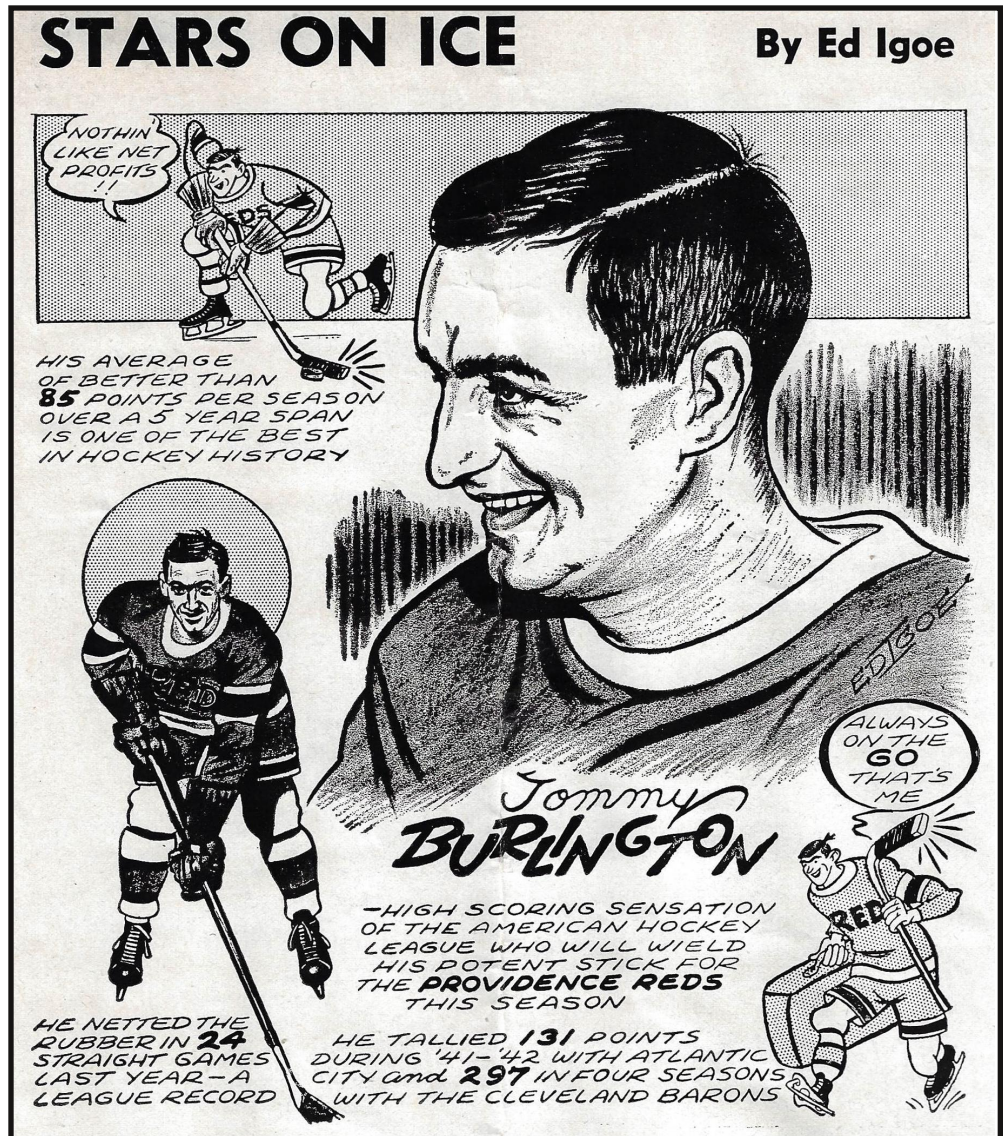
When the Reds Rolled into Town

Through the mid-20th century, cartoonists were a staple of local sports pages. Over the early history of the AHL, a player could be skating for one team one year and with a rival the next, moving from team to team over their sometimes long and glorious careers with no opportunities in the NHL.

It was common that a city looked forward to the return of a past hero or the appearance of a star or hated nemesis at an upcoming game...and the local sports cartoonist fueled the hype.

Such was the case in October 1946, when Tommy Burlington returned to Cleveland in a Reds uniform for the first time since being traded to them the season before. According to many of the players of his era, Burlington was the "Wayne Gretzky" of his time.

He was a beloved scoring machine and perennial All-Star over four seasons with the Barons, leading the AHL at times for points and assists, and setting league records with a point in 24 consecutive games and hat tricks (3) in consecutive games. He did it all while playing with a surprising handicap, having been blinded as a youth in one eye and declared ineligible to play in the NHL by league rule.



HOF Inducts Four Members of Reds Family

Four more members of the Reds family have been enshrined into the Rhode Island Hockey Hall of Fame.

Bill Army, Ross Brooks, Buster Clegg and Tom Woodcock were honored at the Hall's annual Enshrinement Celebration & Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 23, at Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston.

The ceremony brought to 18 the number of players, team officials, and family members related to the legendary team who are now

enshrined in the Hall of Fame.

Bill Army, a former NCAA All-American and American College Player-of-the-Year at Boston College, is the fourth member of the Army family to be inducted. Bill also gave back to the game as a mentor and coach of future generations.

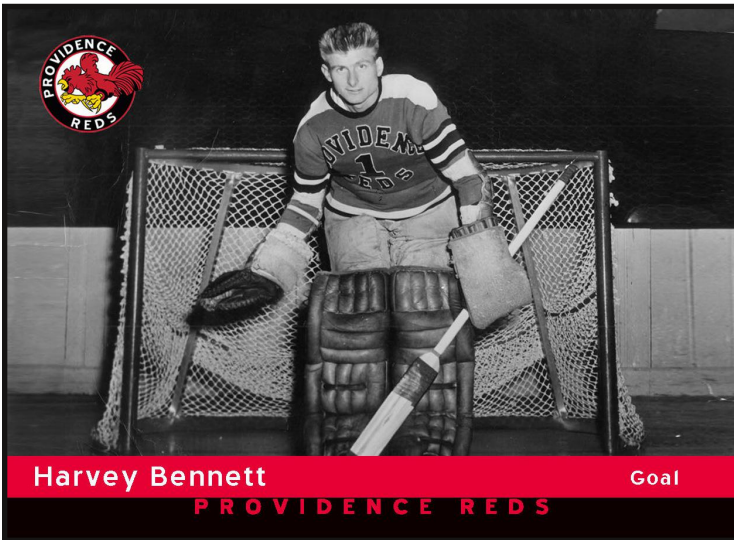
Ross Brooks played seven seasons with the Reds and three seasons with the Boston Bruins during his 23-year playing career. He followed up with several decades of coaching and executive positions at the youth, high

school, college, and professional levels.

Buster Clegg, founder of the R.I. Reds Heritage Society, was previously honored by the HOF with the Malcolm Greene Chace Trophy for "Lifetime Contributions to the Game of Ice Hockey."

Tom Woodcock, a protégé of the legendary trainer George Army, spent 40 years caring for the injuries, ailments, and the rehabilitation of NHLers in St Louis, Hartford, and San Jose.

Did You Know?



Harvey Bennett

Goal

PROVIDENCE REDS

Harvey Bennett Sr. Had to wait for His Card

Harvey Bennett Sr. did not appear on any national hockey collector cards over his playing career. While his sons, Curt, Harvey Jr., Bill and grandson, Mac, were memorialized with their own collector cards, senior never was so honored. His NHL playing days were over before Topps or other companies produced hockey cards. Beehive produced postcard-type cards in 1945 but did not give one to Harvey Sr. Harvey is part of the R.I. Reds Heritage Society's card set commemorating the team's legendary 1955-56 Calder Cup season. Also featured among the players in the card set are Hall of Famer Johnny Bower, the AHL's most-valuable player that season; Bruce Cline, the league's rookie of the year; Zellio Toppazzini, the league's scoring champion; and Camille Henry, who won the NHL's top rookie award the following year with the NY Rangers. The set is available at: <https://ri-reds-heritage-society-store.myshopify.com>.

Reardon: From the Ice to the Battlefield

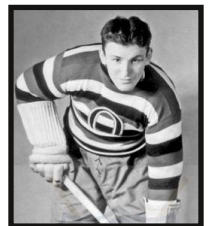
In December 1942, immediately after a game with the Montreal Canadiens and Toronto Maple Leafs, Terry Reardon enlisted in the Canadian Army with his brother, Ken. He survived being shot in the back, just above the heart, by a sniper on the battlefield in Normandy, France, with the 1st Canadian Army during WWII. The effects of the wound hampered his hockey ability. Although he never fully regained his pre-war form when Terry returned from war, he remained a talented center serving as player-coach of the Reds for six years, from the 1948 thru 1953 seasons.



Comrades in arms (and NHLers all), Captain Gordon Poirier (Montreal Canadiens), Lieutenant Gordie Bruce (Boston Bruins), Lieutenant Terry Reardon (Montreal and Boston), and Terry's brother, Corporal Ken Reardon (Montreal), headed overseas with the Canadian Army in February of 1944.

Reds Made Penalty Shot Firsts

In 1934, while playing with the Montreal Canadiens, former Reds' star Armand Mondou became the first player in National Hockey League history to take a penalty shot, and the Leafs' George Hainsworth became the first goalie to face a penalty shot. He also became the first to save a penalty shot. Three days later, another former Reds star, forward Ralph "Scotty" Bowman, playing for the long since defunct St. Louis Eagles, scored the very first penalty shot goal in NHL history vs Alex Connell of the Montreal Maroons. The rule was new as of the 1934/35 season.



Scotty Bowman



Armand Mondou

LA

Position

Goal

Shoots/Catches

Right

Height

6'0"

Weight

180 lbs

Hometown

Edington,
Saskatchewan

Born

July 23, 1925

PROVIDENCE REDS

Harvey Bennett

An AHL Hall of Famer, Bennett tended the Reds' goal for a dozen seasons and led his team to the 1948-49 Calder Cup championship. Later he would have a role in his team's '55-'56 Calder Cup year as his long career was winding down. He had played in the NHL during his first pro season at age 20. He and his family remained in R.I. after his playing career ended and the Bennett name became synonymous with youth hockey in the state. Five of his sons played pro hockey.

RECORD (1955-56 REDS)

Regular Season	Games 3	Won 0	Lost 3	Tie 0	ShO 0	Avg 5.67
Playoffs	Games	Won	Lost	Tie	ShO	Avg
	--	--	--	--	--	--

RI Red Adorns New Ale

The Narragansett Brewing Co. honored the memory of the Rhode Island Reds this fall with its new concoction -- Rhode Island Red Apple Ale.

A hockey stick-swinging, apple-slapping rooster graces the colorful red, white, and blue can for an eye-catching attraction to the new beverage. The brewmasters described it as a "beautifully balanced ale highlighted by crisp apple character and a subtle touch of honey malt. Light on the palate yet flavorful, ... [and] offers a gentle interplay of sweetness and tartness, finishing clean and refreshing." Ale aficionados apparently agreed.

"The beer has been doing great. We sold out of our four-packs in two weeks," Patrick Maguire, Narragansett Brewing's marketing director, touted. "We will definitely brew this again for next fall."

If you want to sample Rhode Island Red Apple Ale now, it is still available, but only on tap at the brewery at 271 Tockwotton St., Providence.



In Memory of Bert Bourassa A Hit from the Start

The Rhode Island Reds family lost its oldest living former player on April 24 when Bert Bourassa passed away at age 95.

Bert was an immediate hit with the Reds in October 1952 when team owner Lou Pieri signed the 22-year-old defenseman to a contract after three seasons with the Valleyfield Braves of the Ontario Major Junior Hockey League.

Bert quickly impressed both Pieri and his coach, Terry Reardon, in his first pro training camp with the Reds in Grand Mere, Quebec.

Reardon told the Providence Journal in an article published on Nov. 9, 1952, that Bert "turned out better than we expected. He's unusual for rookies in that he has made few blunders. You usually have to sweat it out with first-year men for a while at least. But this kid has been no source of woe. He's a real competitor with a temperament ideally suited for his job."

Bourassa's teammates also took note of the rookie's skills and determination despite being only 5-foot-9 and tipping the scale at only 150 lbs. in his rookie season.

"If he were 15 pounds heavier, he would be up in the big league in jig time," extolled veteran Reds defenseman Moe Morris.

The Sherbrooke, Quebec, native was paired for much of the season with veteran blueliner Pat Egan and played in 62 of the Reds' 64 games. Bert notched two goals and six points while keeping opponents on alert with 78 penalty minutes.

He followed up with three goals and



Bert Bourassa

eight points in 35 games in the 1953-1954 season before moving on to play for one season each with the Springfield Indians and Cleveland Barons.

With Bert's passing, it looks like former Bruins head coach, general manager, and team president Harry Sinden, who turned 93 years old last month, takes the top spot as the oldest living former Reds player.

Harry skated in just one game for the Reds in the 1962-63 season,