

# PUNCHING WITH PEMBERTON

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## "As We Remember Johnny"

A Dedication to the Memory of the late Johnny Read

By J. EARLE PEMBERTON

The 1955-56 Junior Hockey Play-off series went down in the record books as the most sensational ever played in Cape Breton. At the end of the regular schedule things looked pretty grim for the Glace Bay Junior Miners, and unless some party came forward and offered financial support the team was doomed to be forced out of the play-offs. The whole trouble stemmed from the fact that the teams reg-

ular backers finding themselves in dire financial circumstances were compelled to withdraw their support.

### Came To The Rescue

Feeling that it would be a moral let-down to the team and a disappointment to their legion of followers a few of the Bay's leading sport personalities decided to do something to keep the boys in the running. Johnny Read, Ernie Beaton, Howard Wadden, Leo Mac-

Intyre, Bill Sidney, Wm. Hines, Angus MacDougall, Manning MacIntyre and Gordon Grant went into a huddle and decided to shoulder the burden.

Johnny Read was named treasurer and was the guiding spirit of the team when leadership was most needed. With the feeling of financial security the Junior Miners hit the ice with renewed vigor and enthusiasm in an all out effort to bring home the bacon.

### Eliminated Northside

Eliminating the North Sydney Victorias, the Junior Miners then played off with their old rivals, the Sydney Millionaires. The nine-game series with Sydney was the most rip bang, exciting hockey, ever played in the Sydney Forum. The management of Sydney Forum had to close the doors long before the ninth and final games was scheduled to start. The building was filled to the rafters with hundreds left standing outside. The shouting, impatient, enthusiastic fans finally crashing the gate to gain admittance.

### Start Game

The game finally got underway and going into the dying minutes of the final period Glace Bay was leading 2-1. With only 22 seconds left to play Sydney scored to tie it up at 2-2. Both teams agreed to play 10-minute overtime periods and at the 4-minute mark Glace Bay scored to put them ahead 3-2. At the 8-minute mark the Bay boys scored again to make it 4-2 to win the series. Angus MacDougall scoring the second goal.

It was a tough series to lose and a hard one for the Sydney coach,



Teresa MacCormack, of Bridgeport, presents Johnny Read with Bush League Bowling Trophy, awarded for highest three-string total for year 1954.

Stan MacDougall, to swallow. Not only due to the fact that Stan and Angus MacDougall are brothers, but also the fact that Angus was picked up by the Glace Bay club after Sydney let him out. It was rumored at that time that Stan stated that his brother Angus "couldn't shoot a puck into Sydney Harbour".

### Defeated Halifax

Glace Bay defeated Halifax for the Provincial Title and then went on to playoff with St. John's Quebec for the Eastern Canada Crown.

### Quebec Series

The series with the St. John's Quebec team was not only close but the best ever played at the Glace Bay Miners Forum. It will be interesting to note that the St. John's team led three Maritimers for the series: Ches Melski, Sydney; Art MacIntyre, Glace Bay; and Angie Carroll, Charlottetown. P.E.I. Bobby Rousseau, who won the Rookie-of-the-Year Award with Montreal Canadians, also played on the St. John's team. The series went the full five games. St. John's won the first. Junior Miners won the second. St. John's won the third. The Miners copped the fourth and the Quebec team won the fifth and final game to take the series 3-2.

### Riding High

The Junior Miners were riding high going into the series with St. John's and there is little doubt that the Bay boys would have defeated St. John's had they been at full strength throughout the series. In the second last game Freddie Courtney was carried off the ice with a severe knee injury after he collided with Bobby Rousseau of St. John's. In the final game Red Angus MacNeil suffered a leg injury and was sidelined. With these two stars lost to the team the Miners played under a serious handicap.

(continued on page 2)

## COLLIERY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1907-1908



### RESERVE MINES HOCKEY TEAM

In front left to right—Adam Lind played point. Adam was a mine overman in the Old East Slope, Reserve Mines. Victor Bert who played right wing was born in France. Victor served on the Dominion Coal Co. Police Force and later went into the automotive

business. He also held the position of Water Superintendent at Reserve Mines. "Willie George" Lewis, team manager, was born at Reserve Mines 84 years ago and was one of the Maritimes best known light-harness racing personalities. He headed a family of owners, drivers

and trainers of standard-bred horses who became known around tracks of the Eastern Seaboard. "Willie George" was New Waterford's first Police Chief. On retirement in 1946, he was a Dominion Coal Co. Mine Deputy. When a

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## JOHNNY READ'S JUNIOR MINERS — THE "CINDERELLA KIDS"

Maritime Junior Champions 1955-1956



Front Row: Cecil LeBlanc, trainer; Ronnie Donovan; Bobby Andrea; Angus MacDougall, Mgr.; Manning MacIntyre, coach; Murray Matheson; Timmy Hines. Second Row: Albie MacPherson; Fran Finlayson; Bud Sullivan; Jackie Scott; Bob MacKenzie; Slim MacKinnon; Porky MacMullan; Boole Andrews; Red Angus MacNeil; Leo MacIntyre. Back Row: Bill Sidney; Ernie Beaton; Howard Wadden; Jimmie MacLeod; Angus MacDougall; Sid Gillard; Gordon Grant; Fred Courtney, Mascot and stick boy; George Murphy, Ernie Beaton, president; Leo MacIntyre, secretary; John Read, treasurer; Angus MacDougall, team manager; Manning MacIntyre, coach; Executives, Wm. Hines, Wm. Sidney, Gordon Grant, Howard Wadden. (Photo by Sheddin)

## As We Remember

(continued from page 1)

Had Courtney and MacNeil been in there at the finish it certainly would have been a different story.

### Junior Miners Dubbed "Cinderella Kids"

The 1955-56 junior series saw brilliant hockey. A series in which the Glace Bay Junior Miners were dubbed the "Cinderella Kids" of Maritime junior hockey.

### Driving Force

Although he was a very sick man Johnny Read was the main driving force behind the Junior Miners. When Johnny was too ill to be with the team coach Manning MacIntyre tells how he would muster the boys together and have them call Johnnie by phone to say hello and brief him

on the highlights of that nights game. How Johnny struggled through that series we may never know. Those many walks from the dressing room to the players box, to the Forum office and return must have seemed miles to Johnny in his declining days. You see, no one ever realized that cancer, insidious, cruel and deadly was wasting the body of the once fine athlete. On February 13, 1957, following an extended illness, Johnny Read passed away.

I have lost countless friends—so many of them very close—to such diseases as cancer and tuberculosis. When the ticket comes for me or a friend I'd rather it be in some quick form rather than an incurable, wasting malady.

### Johnny Loved Sports

Johnny's interests branched in many fields of sports. He was active in baseball, football, basketball and bowling. Johnny managed the Antonians ball club of a few years ago that went along to the Maritime Juvenile ball finals. He was intimately identified with the Antonian Juniors in the years that Passchendaele club dominated the junior ball scene in the Maritimes. For years he was Director of Minor Baseball for the Nova Scotia Amateur Baseball Association.

Johnny Read was born December 14, 1908, in Wigan, England, and came to Glace Bay with his parents when an infant. On December 3, 1923, Johnny started work as a grocery clerk in Branch No. 4 store of the British Canadian Co-operative Society in Glace Bay. Looking for a change of employment, in 1937 he transferred to the delivery end of the business and took over the duties of teamster for Branch No. 5 store in the Town of Dominion. Here he did a wonderful job and was instrumental in

building up the sales of this branch, through service to his customers, away and beyond the expected call of duty. In 1940 he was transferred to the position of warehouseman.

### Off To War

In November 1943, after receiving his training in Canada, Johnny proceeded overseas where he joined the ranks of the famous Cape Breton Highlanders. He served with distinction in the Italian and North Western European campaigns. Honorably discharged in January 1946, Johnny again resumed work with the Society as grocery department foreman, a position he held, and discharged his duties in a very creditable manner. Despite repeated tempting offers for his services,

outside of the co-operative movement, his belief in this working man's institution, and what it stands for, kept him on the staff, ever loyal, ever courteous, ever obliging and enthusiastic.

### Not Lost To Us

To believe that such a life is ended is to say that life itself is meaningless and the universe a vastly joke. No one of us believes that. Johnny is not lost to us. Let us hope that we are all going to heaven, and Johnny is there now—telling his wisdom, cracking his jokes, and we may be sure, encouraging play. Already they have learned to love him, and he is waiting for us—still with his joy in living and his eternal friendliness.

## In Memoriam

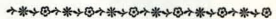
There's a shadow on the sporting world, the blue has left the sky; It was February 13th six years ago that Johnny said good-bye, And the gold of all the sunshine in sport has turned to gray But the roses and the violets shall hide his face away.

All his friends are lonesome as they shed a silent tear; For they know that they will miss him when the roll is called each year;

A cloud of gloom hangs o'er them with their best friend gone away; But the softest winds in St. Mary's at his heart will kneel to pray.

All athletes will miss him whatever creed or clan, amateur, professional, and loyal-hearted fan; But the rose that sways above him in his blossom-tented tomb Shall turn its crimson lips of love to kiss away the gloom.

The shadow on the sporting world; the light he left in the sky; Farewell "Cinderella Kids" was his message of good-bye; And the gold of all the sunshine in sport has turned to gray; But our fondest memories of Johnny Read will never fade away.



### GLACE BAY

## MINERS FORUM

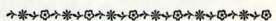
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"Skippy"

Johnny's dog and constant companion. Skippy died in June 1962, age 13 years. Johnny was very fond of dogs and birds. As a part-time hobby he bred and raised canaries.



Johnny Read

Passport Picture to England 1937. No caption needed here. They'll come no finer than Johnny, ever.



## PRESENTATION TO ROTARY LEAGUE CHAMPIONS



Close to the Heart

Close to the heart is the best way to define the wording on this photograph which Johnny Read received from Tom MacNeil the year that Tom graduated from St. F. X. College with a Bachelor of Commerce Degree:

John—

Words cannot convey my feeling or my gratitude for all the many ways you have helped me obtain my goal. I only hope some of your kindness, your wisdom and your loyalty have rubbed off on me.

It's your friendship I cherish most.

Tom

Tom played defence for Glace Bay Junior Miners and was also catcher and outfielder for No. 11 Antionions. At present Tom is Audit Consultant with Canadian Iron in Montreal.

## Reserve Hockey

(continued from page 1)

young man "Willie George" Lewis took a keen interest in all branches of athletics. Being a boxer of the old school he was especially fond of the game and many the boxing aspirant of that period received his early tuition from "Willie George". When the great Mickey MacIntyre handed him in some of his most important bouts. The death of W. G. Lewis on June 13, 1962, dropped the curtain on one of the remaining few to first pull the ribbons up behind a harness horse on a Cape Breton track.

Edward Clarke, the goalie, was a miner in old French slope, Reserve. Porter Stubbett, who played center, was a clerk in Reserve Colliery Office. Mr. Stubbett resides on Plummer Avenue, New Waterford.

Roddie MacIntyre was rover. Roddie was a man who worked his way in the mines from trapper boy to mine manager. In his younger days Roddie was a star athlete and in later year he was one of the leading umpires in Colliery and Reserve Mines, better known as Mr. Baseball himself, likes to tell how Roddie learned to drive a pit pony in the old Reserve French Slope Mine in 1911. The last posit-

ion that Roddie held was as manager of Glace Bay's No. 20 Colliery. Roddie passed to his eternal reward in 1956. He was in retirement at the time of his death.

Murray Andrews who played cover point was a miner in Reserve Mines. Mr. Andrews makes his home in North Sydney. Colin MacGillivray who played left wing was a clerk in Reserve Colliery Office. Mr. MacGillivray is in retirement and resides on Sydney Road, Reserve Mines.

George Lewis the mascot of the team and a son of the late "Willie George" Lewis is the man you frequently see standing on the back of the mobile starting gate at the Cape Breton Sport Center Race Track, keeping the horses in position for a start. A few years back George was the leading driver in the Maritimes.

Here is a summary of the players in this photo—Left to right in front: Adam Lind, point, deceased; Victor Bert, right wing, deceased; W. G. Lewis, manager, deceased; Edward Clarke, goal, deceased; Porter Stubbett, center, living. Back row: Roddie MacIntyre, rover, deceased; Murray Andrews, cover point, living; Colin MacGillivray, left wing, living; George Lewis, mascot, living.

Hockey trophy was donated by the late Stuart McCawley of Glace Bay, N. S.

Picture of Reserve Mines Hockey Team courtesy of Cotter Bert and the Reserve Mines Fire Department.



Linda Read, daughter of Grace and the late John Read, presents the John Read Memorial Trophy to Captain Matt Billard of Glace Bay Central School who won the Rotary Common School Bantam Hockey League Season 1958-1959. This was the first time that the Trophy was presented for annual competition. The presentation was made at the Glace Bay Miners Forum in March 1959. The Read Memorial Trophy was made possible through Glace Bay Miners Forum Management, Glace Bay Rotary Club and other groups. Shown are left to right: Mrs. H. Grant; Robert MacIsaac, coach; Linda Read; Ronald "Lefty" MacPherson, assistant coach; Matt Billard, team captain; Jimmy Allen, assistant team captain; Ernie Beaton, Rotary Committee, and Bob MacDonald, Chairman of the Committee of Rotary sponsored Common School Hockey League. (Photo by Abbass)

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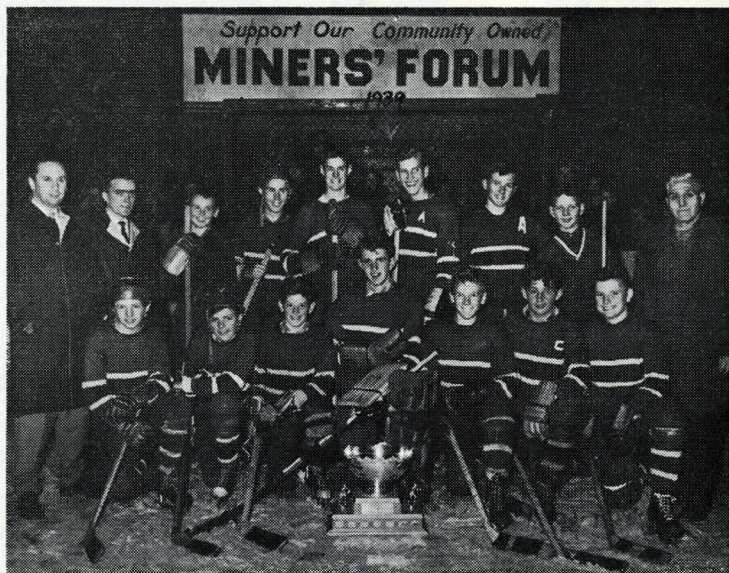
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## NEW ABERDEEN SCHOOL BANTAM LEAGUE HOCKEY TEAM

Cape Breton Champions 1961-1962 Season



Lost out to Halifax by a score of 4-2 in sudden-death game at the Glace Bay Miners Forum. Front Row: Jimmy Dillon; Billie Strong; Jerry Vokey; Tommy Ralph; Allan MacDougall; Sheldon Mitchell, captain; Donnie Locke. Second Row: George Jones, coach; George Pyke, manager; Bobby Gardiner; Greg Stewart; John Whitfield; Paul MacCormick, assistant captain; David Rae, assistant captain; Sheldon MacEwan; Enis Peterson, trainer, Harold MacNeil missing when picture was taken. (Photo by Shedden)

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