



MANITOBA HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2010



Pilot Mound Names Arena for Black Jack Stewart

On April 24 in Pilot Mound, the community held a grand opening ceremony for the Millennium Recreational Complex and the naming of the arena portion of the facility as the John 'Black Jack' Stewart Arena. Stewart, who was known as Johnny in the community, played his minor hockey there. After two years junior with Portage Terriers, he embarked on a pro career that earned him a spot in the Hockey Hall of Fame and the Manitoba Sports and Hockey shrines.

Former mayor Gord Arbuckle told the crowd, which included more than 25 members of the Stewart family, how the idea of the complex started with a dream a decade earlier and how the community and its spirit and hard work made it happen. The guts of the complex came from a temporary arena that Manitoba Hydro had built for its Limestone dam workers in Sundance. Pilot Mound bought it at auction for \$25,000 and volunteers took the building down and hauled it south to the community of around 1,000. Volunteers did most of the work and raised most of the money in order to make the dream a reality. Arbuckle said that almost everybody's fingerprints are on the complex. Youngsters Jameason Currie and Graham Dobson represented the "Faces of the Future." They along with Arbuckle presented a large metal ceremonial key to Pat Sutherland, chair of the Recreational Complex board.



Barclay Stewart unveils Black Jack

President Gary Cribbs and directors Jerry Kruk, Laurie Langrell, Frank McKinnon and Walter Mueller represented the HOF at the dedication. Cribbs announced that the HOF would be providing shadow boxes for the Stewart sweater and photo that will hang in the arena. The large photo of Stewart in his Chicago Black Hawks uniform had hung in the Pilot Mound Hotel for many years before it was damaged in a fire. The Stewart family had the photo restored and Black Jack's son Barclay returned it to the community that evening. After playing on two Stanley Cup winning teams during 10 seasons with the Detroit Red Wings, Stewart served as captain of the Hawks from 1950 to 1952. While with Detroit, the defenceman made the NHL first all-star team four times and the second team twice. He died in 1983. In 2000 at a celebration of hockey excellence in our province, Stewart was named to the 20th Century's first all-star team.

Note: information and photo courtesy of The Sentinel Courier, May 4, 2010.

Hall of Fame Commemorative Ring Program for Members

The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame is introducing a commemorative ring program for honoured members and members of teams that have been honoured. Only one ring will be available for purchase by the member or family. The gold or silver rings have been exclusively designed by Jostens and will be a one-of-a-kind keepsake. The ring will include the member's name, year, team and number (if so desired). Board member Perry Miller (HOF2007) brought the idea to the board and assumed responsibility for development of the project to its final stage.

Detailed information on the rings and the ordering process will be mailed in the near future to Hall of Fame members or their family contact. A ring must be ordered through the Hall of Fame, which will confirm that the honouree qualifies before the order is placed with the manufacturer. If you qualify and do not receive the informational letter, contact President Gary Cribbs at 837-4159 or e-mail steele5@mts.net.



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Mission Statement

The Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame is an incorporated, non-profit organization dedicated to Manitoba's hockey heritage, past, present and future.

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Submissions should be sent via e-mail to tkmorgan@mts.net, by fax to (204)-489-6641 or mailed to the above address.

Hockey Hall of Fame News

A Message from President Gary Cribbs

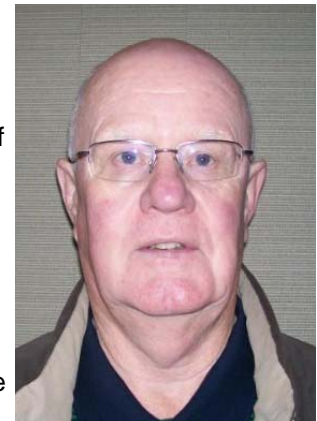


Pat McKinnon

Pat McKinnon Retires
 Pat McKinnon resigned after ten years as Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame Secretary/Treasurer at the end of 2009. Pat not only handled our meeting minutes but also did yeoman work on our accounting side. She joined the organization while the late George Depres was president and continued during the Gary Cribbs administration. Pat could always be counted on for the latest information regarding all

matters within the HOF and its board. We are truly going to miss Pat, and we wish her good health and good times in the years ahead. Thanks so much, Pat.

Donald Steele has agreed to join the Hockey Hall of Fame as our Secretary/Treasurer. Don operated his own Chartered Accountancy firm for a number of years prior to his retirement from practice. He has served on the board of the Manitoba Senior Golf Association, the Assiniboine Memorial Curling Club and numerous other organizations. We appreciate Don joining us and his background will serve the board well.



Don Steele

Bon Voyage, Pat and welcome aboard Don.

On July 12, the 2010-11 board members were recognized in the Manitoba Movers column of the *Winnipeg Free Press*. Jeep Woolley is once again in charge of the HOF Grey Cup pool. Tickets are now available from directors and other sellers who help out every year.

Watch for the Wall of Champions that will be added to the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame in the MTS Centre this season. The main feature of the Wall will be plaques with photos of Olympic Games, international, national and professional league championship teams. A second section will recognize other teams that have been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Hockey Hall of Fame News

Len Morrow is heading a campaign to find new patrons and to get people who supported the Hall of Fame on an annual basis to become lifetime patrons. The campaign will include a mailing to persons who have attended induction banquets. The one-time fee to become a lifetime patron is \$100. A charitable tax receipt will be issued. Len and his committee of Bob Chrystal (HOF1995) and Bryan Derrett have asked board members to provide the names and addresses of three-to-five potential patrons. They also are asking current patrons who receive this newsletter to do the same. Think not only of hockey people who support our mandate, but also family members and friends who have an interest in hockey heritage. Patron membership also would be a nice gift for that hockey person who has everything. Len can be reached by phone at 261-5366 or even better send the information via e-mail to steele5@mts.net or the address shown on page 2.

Dinner chairman Jerry Kruk reminds you to mark October 1, 2011 in your calendar. That's the date of the next Hall of Fame induction dinner at the Canad Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg. In order for an individual or team to be considered for induction, the nomination must be received by December 31 of this year. The nomination form can be found on our website, www.mbhockeyhalloffame.ca. Early in the new year, the independent selection committee headed by Frank McKinnon (1992) will begin the selection process. Nominations on file from previous years as well as the new ones are given consideration.

Jennifer Bell from Sanford Collegiate and Samantha Hink from Miami School are this year's winners of the \$1,000 Ken "Friar" Nicolson (1990) and Sami Jo Small Awards sponsored by the HOF. Jan Brown is the new chair of the awards committee replacing Laurie Langrell, who stepped down after doing an excellent job for several years.

Communication With Our Patrons

The various methods of technology available to us combined with annual increasing postal costs has the board looking at how best to communicate with you as well as how to best utilize our financial and volunteer resources. In the past, the majority of communication has been through the mail. Our newsletter has been the main vehicle used to provide you with information on Hall of Fame activities. In recent years, the website, mbhockeyhalloffame.ca, increasingly has been used to bring you up-to-date news as well as stories and photos related to Manitoba hockey. The newsletter is posted on the website after a hard copy has been mailed to patrons and to the media. Communication via e-mail is clearly the fastest and most efficient method of communication with you. While many of you have provided us with an e-mail address in the past, we want to update our distribution list. **Therefore, we would ask that those of you on e-mail to advise secretary Don Steele at steele5@mts.net of your current e-mail address.**

When you reply, we also ask that you provide one answer to the following brief survey related to possible newsletter distribution in the future:

- A. I want to continue to receive a hard copy of the newsletter by mail.
- B. I would prefer to receive an electronic version of the newsletter via e-mail.
- C. I will read the newsletter on the HOF website so it is not necessary to send me a copy.

Got any Photos, Scrapbooks or Programs?

Do you have any photos that pertain to Manitoba hockey? Our website committee and the new research committee are seeking photos that could be scanned and added to our website, e.g., photos of community club and minor teams that may have won championships, junior, intermediate and senior teams from across the province, rinks, league executives and officials and action shots. Please don't assume that what you have might not interest us; let us decide. Also if you have scrapbooks, programs and other historical material or anything on video, we would like to hear about it. Volunteers also are needed to do newspaper research, conduct oral interviews and coordinate with leagues and associations. Contact research committee chair Kent Morgan at 489-6641 or e-mail tkmorgan@mts.net if you have material or would like to help with this project.

Name Dropping by Toast and Coffee

Editors Ted (Toast) and Kent (Coffee) write a sports column titled *Toast and Coffee* on a bi-weekly basis for the Canstar community newspapers (*Herald, Lance, Metro, Sou'Wester, Times*) in Winnipeg. In alternate weeks, they write the *Sporting Life* column for the *Prime Times* newspaper.

The City of Brandon hosted two major hockey events in May. The work of the local host committee combined with the professional organizational job of the Canadian Hockey League ensured that the Memorial Cup, May 13-23, was a successful event. On the ice, the Windsor Spitfires of the OHL had little trouble retaining their national title beating the Wheat Kings in the final. In 1959 when a Manitoba team last won the Memorial Cup, it happened in Brandon. The Winnipeg Braves did it with a game-five win over the Peterborough Petes. The organizers invited the Braves back to the Wheat City to be introduced before a round-robin game between Windsor and Moncton. Seven Braves made it including HOF member **Bobby Leiter** (1986), board members **Jerry Kruk** and **Laurie Langrell**, **Pat Angers**, **Al Baty**, **Lew Mueller**, **Scotty Wales** and **Al LeBlanc**, who came from Calgary. **John Perrin**, the son of team owner **Jack Perrin** (1990), also attended...Langrell, **Tom Rokey** of the 1946 Monarchs, **Bob Chrystal** of the 1949 Wheaties and **Ted Hampson** (1986) provided T&C with their Memorial Cup memories for a May 13 *Prime Times* column. Hampson sent an e-mail from Belarus where he was scouting for the Vancouver Canucks at the World U-18 Championship. The Flin Flon Bombers captain called the 1957 Memorial Cup win over Ottawa Canadiens "the most satisfying part of my hockey career and I wouldn't



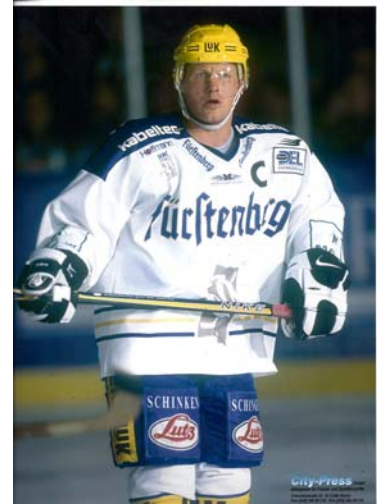
Robert Kirk with Morris Mott in his Golden Seals jacket

trade it for anything in hockey."... On May 14&15 at Brandon University, **Morris Mott** (2007) and **Robert Kirk** hosted the first annual meeting of the Society for International Hockey Research ever held in Western Canada. Members came from the east and west and the US to make presentations on subjects such as Hockey Hall of Fame and Manitoba HOF1985 member **Frank Fredrickson** (who else but presenter **Bill Sproule** from Michigan Tech knew that the Winnipeg Falcons captain had played the violin with **Albert Einstein** while coaching at Princeton), a hockey stick possibly from the mid-19th Century found in a New Brunswick barber shop, and minor league hockey's greatest seasons. The visitors also enjoyed board member **Don Raleigh** (1985) discussing his career with the New York Rangers. It seemed appropriate that Morris invited Bones to speak as he had played junior, university and pro hockey in the Wheat City and supports the University with two annual scholarships. Several members expressed disappointment that their former VP for Western Canada, **Ed Sweeney** (2005), was unable to attend due to health reasons. Kirk presented Mott with a California Golden Seals jacket to thank him for his work in organizing the meeting ...In mid-July Raleigh relocated to Kingston, Ont. where his son Jack is a doctor...Hockey Manitoba referee-in-chief **Ian Heather** received the Officiating Award for his contributions at the Hockey Canada meeting in Montreal, May 28. **Sheldon Lanchbery** from Deloraine was presented with the Hockey Canada Order of Merit for the West for his work with amateur hockey. He's served as the head knock for Deloraine minor hockey, Hockey Manitoba and the national body...**Daniel Fainman** from St. Paul's High School is a co-winner of this year's Jewish Athlete of the Year Award. Fainman was a top scorer in the Winnipeg High School Hockey League and a city and provincial all-star. He shared the honour with soccer player **Lauren Sera**...**Amanda Morrison** from Shaftesbury High School and **Dylan Kutcheravy** from Oak Park are this year's winners of \$350 scholarships from the Charleswood Men's Hockey Association. The oldtimers league has established a trust with the Winnipeg Foundation in order to provide scholarships on an annual basis. Treasurer **Bob Mauthe** says that any player playing the sport at the community club, Winnipeg minor or high school level is eligible for the award...

Name Dropping (cont.)

During a visit to Las Vegas in late June, director **Ralph Borger** (2005) had a nice surprise when **Mark Mackay** spotted him. Mackay, who was born in Brandon, started playing for Borger's Saints organization at age 10. After junior with the Saints, Mackay joined the U of M Bisons where his teammates included **Mike Ridley** (1999), Nashville Thrashers coach **Barry Trotz** and future Olympian and Montreal Canadiens scout **Vaughn Karpan**. He then played the 1984-85 season for the Moose Jaw Warriors of the WHL with **Mike Keane** and **Theo Fleury**. His 66 goals and 74 assists earned him rookie-of-the-year honours as a 20-year-old. His hockey odyssey next took him to Germany. During his 17 seasons in Europe, Mackay played for Germany in six world championships and the Olympics in 1998 and 2002. Today Mackay works as a player agent based in Calgary for CAA, the agency that handles **Sidney Crosby** and **Evgeni Malkin**. His son Matt was traded to the Vancouver Giants in June after playing the past two seasons in the WHL with Moose Jaw and Medicine Hat...You have to think the Winkler Flyers of the MJHL scored a coup when they inked **John Marks** (1987) as their new head coach and director of hockey operations. Marks, who played his minor hockey in Winnipeg's West End, played and coached at UND and played more than 700 regular-season and playoff games with the Chicago Blackhawks. As a coach, he has won championships in the ECHL and the Southern Pro League...With the Winnipeg Saints being forced out of the Dakota Community Club and playing this season in St. Adolphe, no MJHL team will call a rink inside the city limits home. Back in April, word got out that the Winnipeg South Blues would be leaving Century Arena for the new four-rink Moose complex just off Portage Ave. west of the Perimeter. The (Headingley) Blues will play in a rink that can seat 1,500, which is larger than Century. You have to wonder if the team will retain its fan support from Fort Garry and environs that goes back to the days of the Fort Garry Blues. **Rick Bochinski**, who served as executive director of Roller Sports Manitoba and then Tennis Manitoba, is the general manager of the complex, which has already been rebranded as the MTS IcePlex. Former Charleswood Hawk **Dean Court** is in charge of programming... Re-elected Manitoba Women's Junior Hockey League president **Kirk Koppers** advises that the league also will play at the IcePlex this season. In the spring the league put up for play a new trophy in memory of VP **Chris Benson**. The conference champion A&W Silvertips won it. **Grant Heather** has taken over from Benson as the VP responsible for finance and will continue as the director of officiating...The Balmoral Hall female varsity and junior varsity teams will play their home games at the IcePlex. According to **Steven MacDonald**, Director of Hockey for Balmoral Hall School, the spring and summer programs also will be moved there...Over at The Rink Training Facility off Kenaston Blvd, **Bryan Metcalfe** is the new general manager and **Carey Wilson** (1999) now heads the coaching staff that includes instructors **Ryan Smith** and **Mark Olafson**...Former Winnipeg junior Clubs executive and MJHL cable-TV voice **Gary Whyte** sent a note from B.C. about another life being saved by an automated external defibrillator (AED). On April 9, a player in a senior scrub program in Nanaimo collapsed on the bench, but was resuscitated by some firefighter players with the help of an AED. On Dec. 21, a 52-year-old man suffered a heart attack, but was saved by a unit in the Nanaimo Ice Centre. Eight units were placed in Nanaimo recreation centres in 2008. In January of this year, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba reported that around 400 units were in place throughout the province. The previous year only 80 units were registered with HSFM. The HOF board took a leadership role in 2008 to promote the need for AED units in hockey rinks and other recreational facilities...Check out **Frank McKinnon**'s right hand the next time you run into the busy "man all over town." He might be wearing the 2010 Olympics ring presented by Hockey Canada to its life members at the annual meeting in May. One side of the ring has double gold medals in recognition of Canada's men's and women's teams...The Hot Line of **Bobby Hull**, **Anders Hedberg** and **Ulf Nilsson**, who are in the HOF in the special Jets category, will be at 4Play Sportsbar on Portage Ave., Aug. 20. The occasion is the world premiere of the video, WHA Legends: Remembering the Winnipeg Jets. The event supports the Amadeus Steen Foundation and tickets cost \$100.

(Name Dropping continued page 7)



Mark Mackay in Germany

The Final Faceoff

Since the Winter 2009-2010 newsletter, the hockey community has lost a number of Manitobans and others with a connection to the sport in our province. Information below has been compiled from newspaper obituaries and other sources such as the Internet and the Society for International Hockey Research. Individual members of the Manitoba Hockey Hall of Fame are noted with an asterisk*.



Mitch Pechet

Sept. 30, 2009 in Victoria B.C. - ***Mitch Pechet, 91** - Played for the Brandon Wheat Kings and then pro and senior from 1937-38 to 1951-52. Also played with service teams during World War II. Inducted into the HOF in 1985.

Dec. 15, 2009 in Winnipeg - **Joe Baron, 79** - Played junior for the Winnipeg Canadiens and Black Hawks. Member of the Manitoba Baseball HOF.

Jan. 9, 2010 in Portage la Prairie - **Peter Dewis, 83** - Goaltender for the the1956-57 Poplar Point Memorials team that was inducted into the HOF in October 2009. Member of the Manitoba Softball HOF.

Feb. 10 in Winnipeg - ***John (Red) Bownass, 79** - Played junior with the Winnipeg Black Hawks followed by a 14-year pro career that included NHL stints with the New York Rangers and Montreal Canadiens. Inducted into the HOF as a player in 1999 and again in 2009 as a member of the 1965-69 Canada's National Team.

Feb. 14 in Port Moody, B.C. - **Paul Martel, 74** - Played junior for the Winnipeg Barons and in England with the Nottingham Panthers.

Feb. 15 in Winnipeg - **Dewar Thomson, 81**- Played junior for the Winnipeg Monarchs followed by several seasons of senior in Quebec and the Maritimes.

Member of the 1956-57 Pine Falls Paper Kings team inducted into the HOF in October.

Feb. 22 in Winnipeg - **Telly Mercury, 75** - Served as general counsel for the Winnipeg Jets and the WHA and was involved in the million dollar deal that brought Bobby Hull to the Jets.

Feb. 24 in Winnipeg - ***Ray Brunel, 73**—Two-time MJHL scoring champion whose pro career from 1956 to 1970 included three seasons with the Winnipeg Warriors of the WHL. Inducted into the HOF in 1997.

March 21 in Winnipeg - **Chris Benson, 65** - VP of Finance for the Manitoba Women's Junior Hockey League, who also handled the league's annual draft..

March 21 in Winnipeg - **Andre Dion, 26** - St. Claude native who played for the Notre Dame Hawks.

March 28 near Minnedosa - **Brock Pullock, 13** - Captain of the peewee Great Plains Hawks, who died in a car accident en route to a hockey game.

March 29 in Ashern - **Kristjan Vigfusson, 85** - Spent many years playing in the Interlake.

April 24 in Edmonton - **Lloyd Orris, 73** - played junior with the Winnipeg Monarchs, in England with the Brighton Tigers and senior with the Winnipeg Maroons.

April 29 in Winnipeg - **Carl Kaiser, 83** - Played junior for Brandon Elks, then pro from 1947-48 to 1962-63 primarily in the WHL.

May 3 in Winnipeg - **Bill Clement, 61** - Winnipeg city councillor who played juvenile at River Heights, junior for the Monarchs and served on the board of Winnipeg Enterprises for many years.

May 5 in Winnipeg - **Brian Cruickshank, 64** - Played junior for the Winnipeg Rangers followed by two years with the Spokane Comets.

May 5 in Victoria, B.C. - **Ed Crowder, 91** - Member of the 1937-40 U of Alberta Dinos and the Trail Smoke Eaters from 1944-49: his engineering career took him to Brandon where he was CEO of Simplot from 1967 to 1983.

May 19 in Winnipeg - **Roy Pedrick, 83** - Coach and power skating instructor who conducted clinics across Canada and volunteered for the St. Boniface Saints and at the Norberry Community Club and St. Vital Arena.

June 2 in Kelowna, B.C. - **Ken Shalley, 67** - Played two years of junior with the Winnipeg Monarchs.



Carl Kaiser

June 3 in Portage la Prairie - **George Little, 91** - Played, coached and managed in the Poplar Point area and served as trainer of the 1956-57 Memorials team that was inducted into the HOF in October.

June 9 in Livonia, Mich. - **Bobby Kromm, 82** - WHA coach of the year in 1975-76 when he led Winnipeg Jets to the Avco Cup and was NHL coach of the year with Detroit in 1977-78. Coached Trail Smoke Eaters to the World Championship in 1961.

June 19 in Birds Hill - **Bob Sullivan, 69** - Played in Gypsumville and with CFB Winnipeg and latterly with the 55+ oldtimers at Keith Bodley Arena.

June 22 in Madison, Wisc. - ***Wayne Stephenson, 64** - Goaltender who played junior for the Winnipeg Braves, followed by several seasons with Canada's National Team. Played in the NHL with St. Louis, Philadelphia where he won a Stanley Cup in 1974-75 and Washington Capitals. Inducted into the HOF in 1986 and with the Nats last October.

July 3 in The Points West Bay, N.S.- **Barry Crawford, 65** - Port Elgin, Ont. native, who played hockey in eastern Canada before his career with the RCMP. Played for the RCMP and the Red River Wings of the Inner City Oldtimers League and with The Max 55+ oldtimers at Keith Bodley Arena.

July 5 in Winnipeg - **Andre Meyer, 79** - Served as president of the minor hockey association in Notre Dame de Lourdes.

July 13 in Winnipeg - **Bob Convey, 84** - Played for the St. Boniface Athletics of the MJHL and St. Ignatius in the Catholic Hockey League.

July 14 in Grand Forks, ND - **Perry Nakonechny, 47** - Played for Dauphin Kings of the MJHL followed by four seasons with the UND Fighting Sioux including 1987 when the team won the NCAA championship. Later coached high school hockey in Grand Forks.



Wayne Stephenson

Name Dropping (cont.)



Bob Lindsay, Harry Bueckert, Tom Gill, Geoff Ball and Barry Solness

The Tom Gill Classic golf tournament in Mesa, Ariz., March 3, attracted the usual large number of former hockey players. Gill told T&C that **Bob Lindsay** was this year's surprise guest from Vancouver Island. He played junior with the Winnipeg Rangers from 1958 to 1961 so Gill placed him in a group with **Harry Bueckert** and **Geoff Ball**. The trio were teammates when Rangers won the MJHL championship in 1960-61. Former St. Boniface Canadian

Barry Solness completed the foursome. Lindsay also skated for three seasons at the University of Denver where he played with two more golfers, **Andy Herrebout** and **Marshall Johnston**. **Jerry Kruk** made his first appearance in the Classic and described the outing as "a great day of remembering our youth." Former Canadiens **Kenny Saunders** and **Sid White** and ex-Wheat King **Chips Adams** were his golf partners. No report on Kruk's score, but he and HOF president **Gary Cribbs** had worked on their game earlier in the winter in Florida.

Skating Down Memory Lane With Ted Holland

Skating Down Memory Lane is designed to present historical glimpses of Manitoba individuals and teams. This segment deals for the most part with Sid Finney, a star centreman in the WHL pro league.



Sid Finney

Was he born in Manitoba? No, he wasn't even born in Canada, he is from Bainbridge, Ireland. Did Finney play junior, senior or professional hockey in Winnipeg? No, he played at all those levels in Calgary. Yet, Finney has a Winnipeg connection or two.

While he was probably the number two centre in the WHL behind the great Guyle Fielder, Finney admits he didn't have the speed for the NHL at least not in the old six-team league. His playmaking, however, resulted in sportswriters calling him "slippery" or "slick." He did play 59 games for the Chicago Black Hawks and scored ten goals.

The night of March 23, 1952 is often mentioned in hockey history. That was the night Winnipeg's Bill Mosienko (1985) scored three goals in 21 seconds against the New York Rangers. What is rarely mentioned is that despite Mosienko's feat, Chicago would have lost the game were it not for two late goals by Sid Finney. He scored the tying and winning goals to give Chicago a 7-6 win.

Winnipeg reference number two is the fact that Finney participated in the first professional hockey game played in the spanking new Winnipeg Arena in 1955. Before a record WHL crowd of 9,671, the Calgary Stampeders downed the Winnipeg Warriors 5-2. Finney only chalked up a single assist in the game, but *Winnipeg Free Press* sportswriter Bert Greer wrote that his pass to Gerry (Doc) Couture resulted in "the prettiest goal of the game."

A number of Manitobans did get on the score sheet in that first Winnipeg Arena contest. Carman's Jim McFadden (1985), who also was born in Ireland, had a goal and two assists for Calgary and former Winnipeg Black Hawk junior Steve Witiuk (1997) had two helpers for the Stampeders. For the Warriors, Eddie Mazur (1985) scored a goal while captain Fred Shero (1985) had two assists and Gary (Boomer) Blaine added one. "Bashing Bill" Burega was called for the first penalty in the new rink.

A third Finney-Winnipeg connection occurred during that same first season. Most pro hockey players used Northland Pro sticks in those days. They could be purchased for \$2.50 in the Twin Cities, but the price was four to five dollars in Canada. Local Winnipeg character and hockey coach Bob (Armo) Armstrong thought he would make a killing by bringing in a boxcar of the fancy sticks.

Armo got a call saying that a boxcar was being held at the border until the custom and excise tax was paid. After he found the money to get the sticks released, Armo rented a garage to store them. It was a pretty warm summer and the sticks were in a lot of heat. His friend Barrie Plews picks up the story from there saying that Armo wanted a hand with some hockey sticks. "We each had a box containing a dozen sticks and we walked right into the arena saying that we had sticks for Sid Finney," Plews said. "Armo thought that if Finney used them it would help his sales."

Then we banged on the dressing room door and Armo handed the sticks to the trainer saying they were Sid Finney's sticks and tape them up. "Now, Plewsie," Armo said. "We go up top and watch the game."

"Finney used the Northlands but early in the game his right winger Couture fired a hard pass over to him and the puck and his stick blade both went straight into the corner," Plews said. "He grabbed another one and from then on whether Finney took a pass, made a pass or banged on the ice for a pass, the sticks kept breaking."

Plews thinks Finney broke a dozen but that number might be slightly inflated. The story has almost become an urban legend. Armo had said they would go and see Finney after the game so Plews asked him, "What are we going to do now?" "Nothing," he replied, "we just go home."