

FROM 10 YEARS AGO

The King (Clancy) and I

by Ulm Emmerson, Toronto Telegram,
an original Little NHL'er in Georgetown

Thirty years. Where have they gone? They've gone all right. No doubt about it. My birth certificate' bathroom scales and bad back all confirm it.

And with them has gone the dream. The dream of making the N.H.L. as a big league hockey star.

At 14 you can dream. You can stuff your stockings with Eaton's and Simpson's

catalogues as shin pads. You can nail and wire together broken sticks scavenged from the intermediate games at the arena. You can batter a tin can up and down the road after school and you can dream.

You can dream some day you'll get the goal that wins the Stanley Cup for the Leafs in the last seconds of play. And the Prime Minister insists that you skate over to shake his

hand in the red seat section.

At 14 that dream's a long way off but Gord Alcott brought a little bit of it right down to earth. Right into our 'rickety rink among Georgetown's 2,400 people. He called it the Midget N.H.L. and he put us in sweaters ablazoned with the names of hockey heroes of the day.

There were Conacher, Weiland, Hainsworth, Primeau, Schriener...sort of the Hull, Howe, Bower Belevieu of their day.

Is there anyone who took to the ice in one of those sweaters who has known a bigger thrill to this day? I doubt it.

My own career was unique. My fans said there was little doubt I was the best man on ice. If ever I learned to stand up, they added, I might even be able to play hockey.

Con Smythe once wanted to sign me for his farm system. Said something about me "really cleaning up." But I had to refuse. I was allergic to horses.

Some of the top stars of the day used to come to referee our games. Which reminds me. We're just reminiscing here among old friends, aren't we? If any of my city friends ask, no need to tell them these super stars of the past were merely refereeing.

You wouldn't deprive an old fellow of his dreams, would you? After all, I might not be in the Hockey Hall of Fame (not yet), but I've had my moments of glory.

Like the time I started out of my own end and there -- big as a barn right in front of me -- Charlie Conacher! Well, sir, I just went around him -- ZIP like that...Then there was this other time -- King Clancy was speeding toward me and....



FACING-OFF WITH THE STANLEY CUP

Five Little NHL team captains face-off in front of the National Hockey League's coveted Stanley Cup. They are from left: "Ike" Bullivant, Chicago Black Hawks; Everett Wilson, Boston Bruins; Abby Kemshead, Montreal Canadiens; Del Beaumont, New York Americans; and Doug Sargent, Toronto Maple Leafs.



KING CLANCY AND FRIENDS

King Clancy poses with two Georgetown Little NHL'ers Keith Huffman and Don Early (rear) during one of the first Little NHL games played here.

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