**EDWARD "BEN" HAYS: Newspaper Obituary and Death Notice**

**Providence Journal (RI) - Saturday, April 27, 2002**

**Deceased Name: EDWARD "BEN" HAYS**

EDWARD "BEN" HAYS, 69, of Budlong Farm Road, a former coach and scout for professional hockey and baseball teams, and a former professional baseball player, died Thursday at home.

Born in Providence, the son of the late Edward F. and Mildred (Martin) Hays, he had lived in Providence before moving to Warwick 20 years ago. Mr. Hays played professional baseball for the Pittsburgh Pirates, and hit a grand slam in his first at-bat in Salisbury, N.C.

A year later, he became a player-manager for Pittsburgh, assigned to the Kansas-Oklahoma Missouri League. At that time, he was the youngest manager in the history of professional baseball.

He played American Legion baseball for five years, and at age 13 was the catcher on the 1946 Rochambeau Post team, the first Rhode Island championship team. Ten players from that team went on to play professional ball.

After leaving baseball, he coached hockey at La Salle Academy, and baseball and hockey at Hope High School, both in Providence. He then was head hockey and baseball coach at Cape Cod Community College for 10 years. He also coached in the Cape Cod Collegiate Baseball League; two of his players were Buck Showalter, former manager of the Arizona Diamondbacks, and Jim Riggleman, former manager of the Chicago Cubs.

After retiring, he became a scout. He was with the Chicago White Sox for 5 years, the Calgary Flames for 10 years, and the San Jose Sharks for 4 years. He retired in 1995.

He was a graduate of Hope High School and Providence College. At Hope, he was an All-State catcher in baseball, and a goalie in hockey.

He leaves two aunts, Agnes Martin of Warwick and Agnes Watson in Florida, and three uncles, Joseph and William Martin, both of Warwick, and Clarence Martin of Cranston.

The funeral will be held Monday at 9 a.m. from Monahan-Kelly Drabble Sherman Funeral Home, 230 Waterman St., Providence, with a Mass of Christina Burial at 10 in St. Joseph Church, Hope Street, Providence. Burial will be in St. Francis Cemetery, Pawtucket.

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