

For release, January 2009

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Seahawk

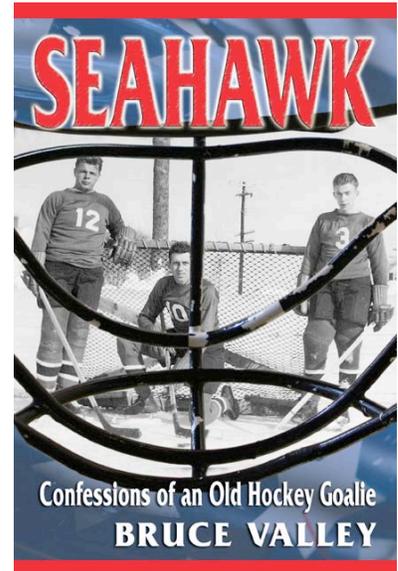
Confessions of an Old Goalie

<http://www.ryeseahawks.com>

By Bruce Valley

- History of small town New England hockey team
- WWII and Korean War veteran players
- Vintage pictures and news archive

SEAHAWK is a personal memoir of a youngster's late 1950s participation on a championship New England town hockey team composed of grizzled WWII veterans, and traces that boy's life and connection to hockey across almost sixty years. At the age of fourteen, the author became the Seahawks' goaltender, and played that position for the better part of the two final thrilling yet terrifying seasons, in 1959 and 1960.



It is a ground-breaking study of aging while playing contact sports and reflects upon the famed WWII generation, pond hockey, black ice and the "hockey towns" of New England. Few books are written about hockey; fewer expound fully on its special qualities as a sport. *Seahawk* is such a book.

This is also the story of the Seahawks of Rye, New Hampshire. America was going through a time of transition. The Great Depression and World War II lay behind. Rye's returning war veterans formed a hockey team. In their golden era -- from 1948 to 1952 -- the Seahawks were a dominant hockey club. From 1950 to 1952, the Seahawks played for a New Hampshire state amateur championship and a New England amateur championship in the venerable Boston Garden.

About the Author

Former Navy test pilot Bruce Valley has been an amateur hockey goaltender for almost six decades. A jazz musician and poet, he is chief executive of an aerospace corporation in Alexandria, Virginia, where he lives with his wife Nancy. They have two children and six grandchildren, several of them hockey players. His poetry volume, *Rye Harbor and Other Poems of the Seacoast*, has been out of print for three decades.

Media inquiries please contact: Deidre Randall, Blueline Publicity, Peter E. Randall Publisher LLC.
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Advance Praise:

"With *Seahawk*, the author rescues a great and moving hockey story from oblivion and, in the process, creates a world where sport and the lives of players are explored in exquisite detail with assured, writerly poise. A fine literary descendant of Jack Falla's "Home Ice" and Peter Gzowski's "The Game of Our Lives." Like any good hockey book, it teaches us more about the world than hockey itself."

—**Dave Bidini**, author of *Tropic of Hockey* and *The Best Game You Can Name*

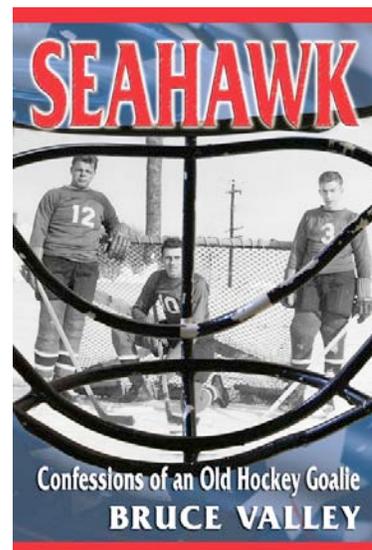
"The book is...an early 2009 release, but it will get a lot of attention in hockey circles, not to mention serious consideration for the 2009 HockeyBookReviews.com Hockey Book Of The Year Award. . . In reading his passionate words, we the reader rediscover our own childhood lust for hockey. It is a great experience. Depending on how old the reader is, we can all relate as Valley moves on from his youth through his life. We all take different journeys, but hockey is always with us."

—**Joe Pelletier**, author of *The World Cup of Hockey (2 editions)* & *Legends of Team Canada*

"The author uses a considerable measure of polish, not unlike the surface of a pond after a long freeze, in this memoir of his hockey-playing years, principally for the Seahawk team from his native New England. From Thanksgiving until the ice rotted in April, his town was obsessed with hockey....World War II veterans started a club (perhaps, Valley suggests, not just to play but to help bevel some of the harsher experiences of war, in a game where warlike tendencies are kept in check) that rose to prominence through the B ranks .

The author turns a bright light on the thrill of the game, its mesmerizing flow of speed, skill and color, but finds something deep within the Seahawks....It's good, cringing fun to read of the poor goalie's circumstances—the equipment was primitive, and he wore no mask....A neat slice of local color, regional history and the joy of amateur sport."

—**Kirkus Discoveries**, January 2009



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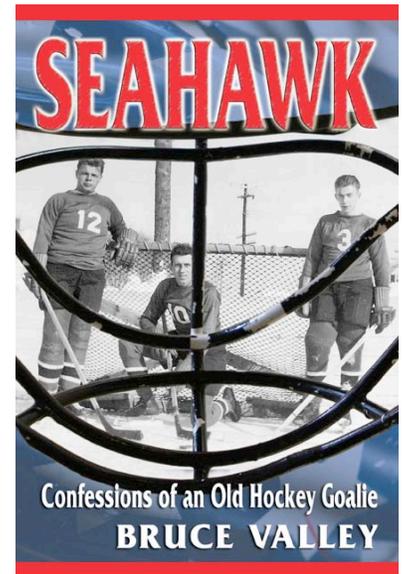
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Advance Praise (continued):

"A compellingly intimate sports book that will hopefully become a movie, *Seahawk* has the breadth, depth, and power to be read for generations."

—Tom Clarie, author of two parapsychology research handbooks, the award-winning Explorers educational game, and a forthcoming Egyptian history titled *A Lighthouse for Alexandria*.



"*Seahawk* is the true history of a small New Hampshire over-achieving town hockey team. We played the toughest big city teams in New England in the late 1940s and 1950s. And I was there from beginning to end."

—John "Jack" Hayes, Jr., Rye Seahawk 1946–1960

"This deeply moving and beautifully written memoir provides an authentic, warts-and-all look at New England amateur "town team" hockey in the years after WWII as seen through a young boy's eyes. Filled with insight, passion and honesty, *Seahawk* also traces one goaltender's amazing half century in net, and captures the three classic themes: man against man, man against nature, and man against himself. An absolute "must read" for avid hockey fans everywhere."

—Rosemary Clarie, author of *Just Rye Harbor*

"Bruce Valley describes hockey's thrills and he captures the gritty intimacy of small town sports. A terrific read for sports enthusiasts, sports historians and those fans who have always wondered what goes on behind the goalkeeper's mask."

—Steve Clarkson, author of *Patriot's Reward*

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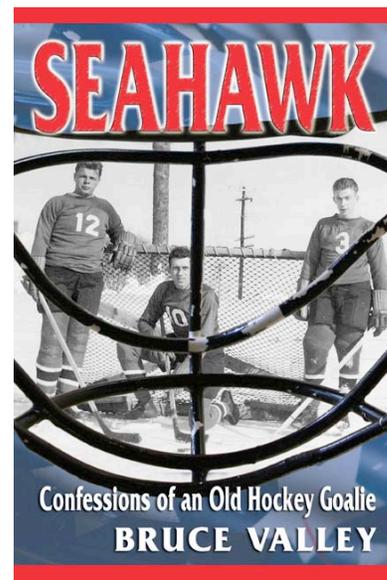
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Praise from former Boston Bruins:

KEN LINSEMAN, BOSTON BRUINS:

Seahawk is a wonderfully entertaining look at vintage amateur hockey in post-WWII New England. Bruce Valley's inside look at the challenges of both goaltending and the aging process in sports holds nothing back. Living as I do on the New Hampshire seacoast and skating on its ponds with my children and surfing buddies, this book brings home to me how the important things in life do not change -- and reminds me how very cool life must have been in the long-ago era Seahawk describes.



RICK MIDDLETON, BOSTON BRUINS:

"Bruce Valley's Seahawk: Confessions of an Old Hockey Goalie is a look deep within the living, beating heart of hockey. Written with a sense of authenticity and -- rare in hockey circles -- a genuinely intimate portrait of the game, Seahawk takes me way back, long before the NHL and Boston Bruins, to my early boyhood playing for fun on pond ice. Seahawk will evoke those memories in all its readers. Don't miss this terrific hockey book!"

TERRY O'REILLY, BOSTON BRUINS:

"Seahawk is a great hockey story, reminding us of how competitively the amateur game was played in New England, decades before some of us were privileged to play in the NHL. And Bruce Valley is obviously a goalie with a great heart. He may be well into his sixties but I'd play on a team with him anytime."

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