

1930's

A Tradition Begins

Recovery from the Great Depression would set the tone for most of the decade, but the plans of 28-year-old Robert O. Buehler and the 18-year-old Richard Valentin were anything but depressing. In 1931, they founded the Neighborhood Boys Club, in part to honor Robert's father, Carl. (Actually, the organization was at first, and briefly, called the Paul Revere League and Anakigjig Boys Club before the "true" name surfaced.) It seems Carl and Robert had watched Dick Valentin coaching the St. Benedict's 8th grade baseball team at the Paul Revere Park and, well, a little light went on in Robert Buehler's head. The rest, as they say, is history. The very first "clubhouse" was Dick Valentin's garage, but soon the fledgling group had a little shack in Paul Revere Park. A "real" building as most of us know the Clubhouse would come 27 years later, followed by a minor renovation or two (but not too many renovations, some club members might note). The NBC was an independent, and free, place for boys to play sports – and just as important, though some of the boys might not have realized it at the time -- learn sportsmanship and teamwork. The tone at the Club was set from the get-go, as the big sports led the way: football, basketball and baseball. But make no mistake, the tone of camaraderie also was set. The Monkeyshines newsletter (adorned, yes, with images of monkeys) quickly became a staple, where all members could quickly see league standings and learn about the accomplishments – and antics – of fellow club members. The vaunted Thanksgiving Day Football Classics started their run of ... er, classics, and hot chocolate. The track meet, Christmas plays, cheerleaders, pep rally bonfires, the walks to Wrigley Field and trips to Wisconsin were traditions that began right near the start. In an oft-repeated bit of (true) lore, George Gobel won the very first pumpkin carving contest. (The younger folks might need to be told that the late Mr. Gobel became one of that nation's best-known comedians.) But, hey, we are talking 75 years ago. Some things were a bit different. To wit: The guys in charge would send kids to get buckets of steam from Mr. Buehler's neighboring company, Victor's, to warm up the clubhouse. And check out a few of the early team names: Galloping Ghosts, Trojans, Cobras, Gophers, Victors, Marvels, Reveres, Mercurys and, yes, even the Midgets were under foot. About those names ... no comment. Well, maybe one comment. That first year, it actually was THE Galloping Ghost, Red Grange, who presented the championship medals to the NBC's No. 1 football team. Grange had been a schoolmate of Mr. Buehler. And fitting enough given the club's longtime home, those first champs were the Reveres. Just as fitting, given the sportsmanship focus of the club, the very first game ever at the new NBC, on Oct. 19, 1931, ended with Galloping Ghosts and Trojans in a 13-13 tie. The ref? Dick Valentin.



N.B.C'ERS AND THEIR NEW STATION WAGON - 1935



The Purpose - Each man living today has inherited a wealth of knowledge and accomplishments left him by the men who lived before him. The greatest of all knowledge inherited comes from the accomplishments of the men who lived good lives. They made this a good world. It is your duty to help make this an even better world. To do this program of sports and plan and adhering to the "Code of Good Sportsmanship," you will be helping yourself to become a better man.



REVERES BACKFIELD IN ACTION
1932

The Star Emblem - The Star is the symbol that represents the aim of the program as emphasized by the "Code of Good Sportsmanship" and the "Purpose" of this program. It is a white star on a blue field surrounded by a red border. The Star appears on all awards. It may be worn as an emblem only when permission has been obtained and in no case shall it be larger than three inches in diameter.

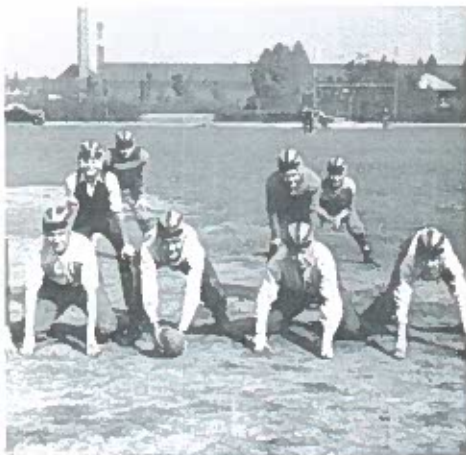


Play - Play is something you do, you talk about, you make plans about. The more you play, the better you become at your play. There are rules that direct you and guide you in your play. You must live up to these rules and help to enforce them in cooperation with your teammates and in fairness to your opponent. That is good sportsmanship.



Play Continued - In most play, there is some plan and system. That makes it a game. You must learn all about that plan and system if you want to learn how to play the game. Take a real interest in your play; give it everything you have within your power to give. Play is what you make it; make it fun and like it.





Work - Some day you will work at a job, and when you do, it can be as much fun as play. Everything that is true about play is true about work. There are rules that direct you and guide you in your work. You must live up to these rules and help to enforce them in cooperation with your fellow workers and in fairness to the public.



Robert O. Buehler (1903 - 2006)

For an organization to thrive for seventy-five years is proof of the vision of its founder, Robert O. Buehler. The Club was founded as a Boys Club to honor his father, Carl Buehler. The NBC's purpose was stated simply in its motto, "For Better Men".

Many thousands of alumni will attest that they are better men and women - more cooperative, more responsible, more successful, healthier, compassionate people with a stronger sense of self-esteem, discipline and leadership - because of their participation in the Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club.

On this 75th anniversary of the Neighborhood Boys and Girls Club, it is only appropriate that alumni and friends gather to celebrate the life, accomplishments and dedication of Robert O. Buehler, one of the best "better men" that we will ever know.



Work Continued - In work where there is a plan and system it is called a business. You must learn all about that plan and system if you want to take advantage of the opportunities the business offers you.