

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

As we near the end of another year we oldtimers have a special incentive to look ahead to the coming year and wonder what it holds for us. In the case of younger persons they can look forward to many more New Years but when you get on the downhill side of retirement age it might not be right to say that your days are numbered but you know that these are the twilight years and I'm sure that most of us in this category are, like myself, prepared to live them to the fullest.

I, personally, try not to dwell on the things which we see and hear on the radio, TV and in the newspapers. We'll always know they are there and there are enough people worrying about them anyway; I'm talking, of course, of world situations and goings on in our own country and our own province.

We would be rather remiss to lose touch entirely but we do have the opportunity to put our minds to work on other things which are worthwhile and do not leave us much time to worry about how much time it is going to take Canada to formulate an energy policy which will suit everybody, or how long it is going to take someone to come up with a formula that will roll back the possibility of double-digit inflation in the foreseeable future. As I said before we have other things to be doing in and around

Rossland to keep us busy in mind and body. I'm not going to try to take these projects, now under way, in any order of priority, as everyone's opinion on priorities could differ by quite a bit.

We have a swell city to live in and the potential for betterment is pretty big. At the present time several projects are under way for general improvement with a definite leaning toward the tourist industry. With what we have naturally to start, this leaning is understandable.

With the possibility of some of the government funding to improve the already awesome facilities at Red Mountain, the probable opening of the Uplander Hotel downtown sometime in the coming year and the possible chance that another neighborhood pub may also become a reality this year, it would seem that Rossland would be in a position to handle all the tourist traffic we can expect in any season of the year.

One project that is started and also points in the direction of the tourist trade is the Heritage Society's renovation of the Miners' Hall. I believe that if the response to their various appeals for funding is good enough they could be well along towards completion by the end of the summer. When completed this should be a mecca for the thousands of labor people who travel back and forth across our country every summer.

Another which has been two years in the works and could stand a lot of work to complete in the Lions Club proposed overnight trailer park at Black Bear. Perhaps the word proposed is not exactly the one I wanted in this instance as the club did earn some revenue from the park last summer but it can certainly stand quite a bit more work before it will attract its potential in tourists.

Situated as it is in the proximity of the city's best ball park it can be sure of the people who will flock to attend our annual Play-for-Fun Slo-Pitch tournament, along with the Golden City Days, one of Rossland's premier summer attractions. Its location in relation to the very popular Rossland Museum is another plus for the overnight trailer park.

Publicity is the only thing that will help the fledgling Drop-In centre at the Arena. To date it is open only on the days when the sponsoring Retirees Curling Club curls.

The members go up there for coffee and snacks after curling and stay for a few games of pool. We hope that more people will avail themselves of the facilities that are there and that it will add to our recreation outlets for those who enjoy what we have to offer.

At the risk of being repetitious I will name once more what we have to offer up there: we have a pool table, a shuffleboard on which several different games can be played, a piano for sing songs or dancing, facilities for all kinds of card tournaments and casual games along with a first-class dart board, combination radio, stereo and record player there for your enjoyment and the kitchen is well equipped to take care of anything short of a full-course meal.

The facility is for rent from the Recreation Commission and it is available to anyone, not strictly for seniors. The only time when they are in control is when it is open during the day and one of their number wishes to bring in some friends which is

record player there for your enjoyment and the kitchen is well equipped to take care of anything short of a full-course meal.

The facility is for rent from the Recreation Commission and it is available to anyone, not strictly for seniors. The only time when they are in control is when it is open during the day and one of their number wishes to bring in younger friends which is permissible and welcome.

Back to my usual format. I wonder what we'll see on the TV tonight, Wednesday, when the Canucks meet the Russians at the Coliseum. Wouldn't it be a good way for the Canucks to wind down '79 with a good showing against the Soviet supermen.

My congratulations to young Keith Blair of the Spokane Flames for his goal-scoring heroics in this season's KIJHL season. I have not seen the young man in action but I'm told by some qualified onlookers that he's definitely a real comer, if he hasn't already arrived.

One thing made me smile the other day. Along with the report of the Smoke Eaters' thrashing of the Dynamiters I got the word that Nelson had edged the league-leaders the next night. That would cause a lot of glee in Nelson as the Leafs have always taken a special pride in the way they can handle the Smokies and while it doesn't really mean too much to the Smokies at this stage of the season it must be a big lift to a last-place club.

I know I may not get all my New Year's wishes but I would like to see the Warriors' fortunes improve in the New Year, Philadelphia continue its winning ways, Pat Quinn deserves it, and the Canucks hang on to get into the playoffs by winning the Smythe division.

See you next week, in 1980.