

# PEPP-JALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

One thing that has bugged me and quite probably a number of other people is the continued vandalism or attempted vandalism in the parks in our town. The other day I heard of an instance where some irresponsible youngsters were caught in the act of cutting up the infield of the park at Black Bear with their vehicles. When they were taken in before the local RCMP it was found that they were too young to be charged with anything and they were turned loose.

For my money any kid who is old enough to be in charge of any vehicle, be it bicycle, moped, motorcycle or automobile, should be old enough to be responsible for his actions. At least his privileges of driving such a vehicle should be revoked until he learns the error of his ways when he is caught using that vehicle in a manner to the detriment of his fellow beings.

The parks out at Black Bear, the Lions Trailer Park and the Ball Park are fair game for vandals, situated as they are in a sparsely populated area.

The actions of these misguided people can not be

as readily witnessed as they would be in a park that can be seen from all sides.

Thanks to some interested citizens who can see what's going on out there from a vantage point above the parks, these vandals were caught red-handed and it is to be hoped that if for some reason no formal charges were possible to be laid, then their parents were notified and their driving privileges stopped until they learn a lesson.

Parks are built to beautify a city and help in the development of our youth and when a few nuts like those who perpetrated the latest acts of vandalism can go out of their way to destroy what has been built, it is a sorry commentary on our way of life.

We try to help these people with all kinds of development programs and this is what we get in return. Perhaps we should return to the days of the stocks, where these kinds of people should be held up to the ridicule of their fellow citizens.

Being a member of the Lions Club which has put in many hours of hard work developing that trailer park

out there (and having seen what some irresponsible nit-wits have done to some of the fixtures which are there) because some people wanted to make Rossland a better place to live, it makes one pretty mad to think that maybe we are going to have to devise some means of putting a stop to this sort of thing short of a constant patrolling of the area, which of course is out of the question.

It has been suggested that having a permanent resident in the trailer park would go a long way toward putting an end to the actions of these vandals. Maybe this is just what the doctor ordered. Some one there with a good vantage point to overlook both parks could go a long way to discourage these thoughtless acts of vandalism but it will still not be the answer unless these people are punished as befits their crime.

Soccer is once again in the news around town this week as the formation of teams from the registration forms has been attended to and the picture of what's what can be seen. In the Mosquito division there will probably be two

teams, in both the Pee Wee One and Pee Wee Two there will be three teams and in the Bantams one team will operate. John Habicht has lined up a mini-tournament for Saturday, April 26, or if the weather is bad it will go on Sunday. There will be hour-long games from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and every one registered will get a chance to show his or her stuff.

The question of officials and coaches is still a vexing one and anyone with a knowledge of the game who has the time to assist in any way will be welcomed with open arms. For the uninitiated the age groups break down as follows: Mosquitos seven and under, Pee Wee One 8, 9 and 10 years, Pee Wee Two 11, 12, 13 and Bantams 14, 15 and 16.

The other night I had a call from a gent by the name of Art McNeil asking about minor league baseball in our town. Actually it is a sad story that I had to tell him that minor league ball in Rossland has been a dead issue during the past few years.

Since the hey day of Bev Berry and his Rossland Colts and the introduction of minor

league soccer to our town, minor league ball has been on the decline. Some people tried to activate it a year or two back but it never really got off the ground.

Competition is the name of the game and in Rossland it seemed we always wanted to go it on our own until Bevin started his all-stars and began taking in tournaments south of the border and all over.

To my mind the first move in organizing minor ball should be to get into a working agreement with Trail and Beaver Valley and start with maybe a couple of teams in a lower division and let it grow from there.

We can see what this kind of arrangement has done for soccer in Rossland and it could very well do the same for little league ball. All it would take are a few really dedicated people. There must still be some equipment left in the shack down at Cook Avenue Park and first thing you know the familiar ring of "Play Ball" would once more be heard in Rossland's parks.

Jim Bateman, of the Legion's entertainment committee, is gearing up for

the latest tournament idea, a cribbage tourney to be held April 30 in the club's downstairs room. If you consider yourself a crib player of note why not put your name down on the list.

Meanwhile we got news that this year's Legion golf tourney will be played on the Salmo course and of course all the fooferaw that goes with it will be held in the Salmo branch. Dates on this will come up later.

A link with the not-too-distant past was forged the other night in the branch when all four sons of Jim and Jean Pollock were in town on some kind of a reunion. Billy, Jamie, Robbie and Tommy are scattered around, Jamie at Fort St. John and Billy with the waterworks department at Nakusp, Robbie and Tommy are working in the Slokan Valley in the lumber business and all of them look well. It was good to see the kids all together again.

Well it won't be long before we shall be able to see the light on the Stanley Cup playoffs. Sixteen starters will soon have dwindled to four and then it will be two and finally the Buffalo Sabres will be the 1980 Stanley Cup champs and some lucky members of the Legion will be richer by large chunks of a thousand bucks.

So it's good night from me and it's goodnight from him, 'til next week.