

ION PAGE

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PEPPER-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

During the past weekend I took a trip north to the town of Nakusp for a Legion Convention in company with fellow-members of Branch 14, Joe Thalman, Henry Matthews and Jack McDonald, who was accompanied by his wife Eileen. Also on the trip were Chuck Harkness and Norman Harry, both members of Branch 14.

We left Rossland at 8 Saturday morning under brilliantly sunny skies, ran into fog before we got to Warfield and stayed in fog until we got a few minutes break at Summit Lake south of Nakusp. Then it was fogged in until we got ready to leave Sunday afternoon.

It broke then and we could get a look at the beautiful surroundings and fall colors on the trip home through the marvellous scenery of the Slocan Valley.

On the way up we stopped at Slocan City for breakfast at the Slocan Inn, then pushed on to arrive at Nakusp around 11.

Settled into the Selkirk Motel, we registered at the Convention Hall and had a couple of beers at the Leland before parade time. That parade was pretty good too, we didn't have much music and it was fairly long, as parades of veterans go, but everyone stepped out smartly. Even those with leg ailments like Henry and Joe stayed with it heroically.

On our return to the hall, we formed committees. I sat on the Youth Leadership and Junior Citizenship committee with Al Winch and Pat Rembel from the Kaslo Branch, while Jack sat on the sports committee under the chairmanship of Norm Blais of Castlegar.

After the break-up of our meetings we repaired to the Legion Lounge for well-earned refreshment and rest before the strenuous evening

break at 1 p.m., back at it until three, then home with a stop for smorgasbord at the Hi-Arrow. It was a nice trip, some good times with good company so maybe I'll go to the winter one at Kaslo. It should be fun too.

I got quite a kick out of reading Jack Kavanagh's tribute to the Trail Smoke Eater teams of '39 and '61. When I heard that Jack had retired, I said that we would miss him, but that was a pretty short retirement and who knows maybe we shall be able to read his nostalgic stories for some years to come yet.

Who knows, maybe Jack's stories will inspire the present-day Smokies to greater heights. Maybe they will rise up and bring back another Allan Cup, it looks as if the people responsible for promoting the Smokies this season are on their toes. With an improved lineup and a better financial picture, the team could possibly bring a winning custom back to the Cominco Arena.

Well it won't be too long now before the Rossland play-for-fun hockey players go into action for another season of fun and frolic which will culminate in the annual Play-for-Fun tournament early in 1981.

We in Rossland always look forward to this bash with a lot of anticipation. Like play-funners everywhere the emphasis of this tournament is on enjoyment of the game and good clean sport. When one can sit up in the stands or the lounge and enjoy this sort of competition you can be sure these guys are on the right track.

Yes, I think you can safely say that the Play-for-Fun movement in Rossland is alive and well, both the summer and the winter variety. Run by entirely

chance and they will put a lot of them into practice.

Well, the new-look Warriors have the season under way, a win over Nelson and a loss to the Rebels in Castlegar have things moving. The exhibition season was no flaming success story but that's all behind us now and we can look for improvement in all sectors.

At present the goal-tending has been more than adequate and as the defence pairs grow more accustomed to one another, they will show steady improvement. The offence is beginning to jell, the new boys are showing a lot of good moves and I'm really pleased with the work of Allan Simm and Peter McLellan. They seem more than willing while Robbie Martin, Dale Bailey and Billy Nazaroff are playing the leaders' roles as well as can

be expected of them.

The team has possibilities and we should start to see some results favorable to our cause in the near future. The opposition, what we have seen of it, are going to be tough but if we can cut down our time in the sin-bin, we should do well enough.

Well, the Expos were unable to pull it off again this season. They looked quite a bit different in those final games to the team we had watched all season. Who are going to be the champs this year? Can this be the year the Phillies are going to be able to pull it off or will the Astros be able to reverse the trend in the next few games?

Or will the Yankees work their magic once more, provided, of course, they can get by the high-flying Royals into the playoff series.

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Banquet time was 6:30 p.m. and everyone except Norm was on the job; Norm was resting his eyes while we ate. He came to in time for the dance at 9, when we had the music of Freddy Orlando, Ernie Leschuita and Virgie Picco to dance to.

It was a good dance as were the refreshments. We met some nice people from the various branches and finally rolled into bed at around three. I heard that some parties only broke up in time for breakfast at the Dumont.

A hectic day was spent listening to committee reports and discussion with a lunch

stop for smorgasbord at the Hi-Arrow. It was a nice trip, some good times with good company so maybe I'll go to the winter one at Kaslo. It should be fun too.

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Yes, I think you can safely say that the Play-for-Fun movement in Rossland is alive and well, both the summer and the winter variety. Run by entirely different slates of officers they are a real boon to the community, giving what they can afford to any deserving community project and by their actions setting a real good example to the people who will, we hope, one day be part of their organization, our kids.

Given the opportunity, these guys who have their future to look forward to and have cast their lot with Rossland because they like the town, could be a real force in the future improvement of our playing facilities. They are mainly young, energetic and willing and they have lots of ideas, so give them a

of them into practice. Well, the new-look Warriors have the season under way, a win over Nelson and a loss to the Rebels in Castlegar have things moving. The exhibition season was no flaming success story but that's all behind us now and we can look for improvement in all sectors.

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