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PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

On Friday of last week I took a trip to Trail to watch the Old-Timers hockey game and was really impressed with the efforts expended for the benefit of low-income families in the Trail district. Terry Jones and his committee from the Trail Community Action deserve a lot of credit for their efforts.

Back in what quite a lot of people like to refer to as the "good old days", we used to see quite a lot of the kind of hockey we saw Friday evening. That was before the slap shot came into existence and when the reliance was on speed and good manoeuvrability was the thing.

On Friday night there was no hitting, no slapshots, some real good stickhandling and excellent goaltending. Tempers were kept even and it did one's heart good to see the boys, whose names were synonymous with the heavy check in their league-playing days, come out and deliberately avoid the body-check. Some of those wrist shots were a work of art.

Arnie Sherwood refereed and his son Bobby and Sam Keith patrolled the lines.

Arnie got a little playful with his calls in the latter stages but since it was all in fun nobody worried about it. Gave one feller "five" for tripping, it turned out to be seconds, not minutes and instead of dropping the puck in the circle for a face-off, he accidentally "dropped" it out over the blue line.

After the game, Reza Binab of the Crown Point, had both teams and officials over to his place for a get-together and I think everyone agreed that it was a great gesture. Afterward there was dancing at the Eagles, followed by Chinese food at the Canton. Yes, I would say it was a good evening!

The following won't mean much to Trailites, but a couple of weeks ago I paid a tribute in a story for our Warrior program, to the people who work behind the scenes to make the Warrior hockey club go. I ended it by stating that if I had missed anybody I would probably hear about it, and, sure enough, I did.

The people I missed have both provided a service to, not only the Warrior hockey club, but to minor hockey as a whole in our town.

I failed somehow to recognize the time and effort put into their volunteer work by Don and Marilyn Davis. Don runs his skate-sharpening shop in the arena and Marilyn has been a prominent part of the minor and junior hockey picture in Rossland for some considerable time.

I offer no excuses for missing these two dedicated young people. I was at fault and take full responsibility for the shortfall and I would like to thank my anonymous caller for bringing me to my senses.

While on the subject of things to write about, I was hailed by a young man as I entered the arena last Saturday evening. He said he had something he thought would be of interest so I told him I would be in my usual place behind the glass in the lounge and he could come and join me there and talk about his story. He didn't show up. I would like to say to this young man, the offer is still open, call me at home 362-5205, or catch me anytime, I'm ready to listen.

The double-header weekend for the Juveniles did not materialize. Trail had to cancel Saturday, but the teams played Sunday, the result, a close 4-3 decision, went in favor of the visitors. Wouldn't you know it! I had a commitment at the Legion's Grey Cup breakfast and didn't make it up to the game. Don't worry, kids, I'll get up there yet to one of your games!

Speaking of the Grey Cup, a lot of people I spoke to on Sunday considered the whole thing an anticlimax. They figured the two teams who should have been in the Canadian championship game had played the weekend before in Edmonton.

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Maybe some day they will take the same formula as the NHL and go by over-all points to determine who gets into the playoffs. If the East can't supply the kind of competition needed to make the Canadian championship another Super Bowl, let the rules keep them from cluttering up the Grey Cup game.

Our breakfast celebration was very well patronized, everybody seemed to enjoy the bacon, eggs, sausages and hot cakes, some even came back for seconds and most of them stuck around to watch the game, participate in the lotteries and sample the refreshments. I would like to offer my congratulations to all the people who lent a helping hand. Led by George Dyson, head of the entertainment committee, they all did yeoman service.

Now to a somewhat somber note. On Tuesday of last week a young man who made his mark in sport as a pretty good lacrosse player in Trail in the days when I first came into this area, passed away at the age of 54.

Sarge Sammartino was later to become a hockey official and became one of the most respected in the Kootenays, perhaps this respect was held even more widely.

I only know that I considered Sarge something more than just an acquaintance and I believe he will be missed by quite a large number of people who knew and respected him for what he was, a fine athlete, competent official and a real gentleman.

In closing this week I would like to say once again, the effort being made by Jim Roller of the Trail Esso, on behalf of the crippled children of B.C. during the annual Timmy's Telethon, is worthy of your support, aided and abetted by the Rossland Golden City Lions Club. Jim's contribution to this cause will once again show that the people of this area do care and are willing to put their thoughts into action.