

JAN 23.

# PEPP-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

Minor Hockey Week is celebrated across this country every year during the month of January and this year the annual event is being given quite a play, possibly the biggest yet.

The CAHA wants a special effort to be made in the kids' celebration, the idea being that the future of Canada's hockey, world-wide and for home consumption, lies with the kids who will be lining up for games in rinks throughout this country.

The Ballyhoo has been used before but this year it's expected to be bigger and better than ever, as everyone connected with hockey in this country seems intent on getting on the bandwagon behind what has always been a pretty worthy cause.

Up here in the Golden City we shall be putting on a pretty good show for the kids Saturday evening, starting at 5 p.m. with the opening ceremonies featuring the Queen, Mayor Bill Profill and the minor hockey president.

Then the Atoms and the Pee Wee House league will strut their stuff for one hour, followed by the Novices, the ones everyone goes to see. They will cavort for three quarters of an hour. Don't miss this!

Rossland's tier one Pee Wees, named the "Green Machine" at one time, will be hosts to a team from Cranbrook in a feature attraction and this will be followed by a game between the Bantams and Juveniles and a team composed of coaches, managers and

fathers of the kids.

There is no doubt that the people who conduct minor hockey in Rossland are doing a tremendous job and deserve all the support we can give them on this, their big night. Once more we should make an attempt to fill our arena to show our kids we really do care how they are progressing in their hockey education.

Remember a couple of weeks back I remarked that Warriors' manager Jim Markle was considering dropping out of the post he has held for some years at the helm of the Warriors' executive body. I said at the time that I, along with a number of other people, were hoping he would change his mind.

Apparently he has not and next Tuesday evening there will be a meeting to discuss this matter. It will be held in the arena lounge at 7 p.m., when the business will be to look ahead to next season and the search for a new manager.

For years now Jim has been a very vital cog in the Warrior machine and he will be hard to replace. For the sake of hockey in our town we will need a good man to fill his shoes; let's hope we can find one.

I didn't get to Nelson for the Warriors' game on Saturday last, but from eye-witness accounts it was a pretty rugged mess for the final four minutes. From what I can gather the report in the Nelson News was somewhat biased in its coverage of the happenings

during the final minutes of the contest.

We have a young man on the Warriors with a broken leg. I don't know if this can be blamed on the fracas that ensued but I do know that over the years I have been watching junior hockey around here, a game between Nelson and Rossland has always been played in a manner that invites this sort of thing. Don't ask me why, I can't tell you why, I just don't know.

It's really a shame that this sort of thing has to happen. People in the stands blame the officials, maybe they have some blame coming but we can be unduly rough on some of these guys whom we believe are doing their best.

We have some young officials who are just breaking in and they are bound to run into some situations they have trouble handling. The thing is, the fans leave the arena with a bad feeling in their minds for the game and may not be back. We can ill afford to lose them.

In their effort to assure themselves of a playoff spot, the Warriors have obtained the services of a former Castlegar player to help their depleted ranks. He is the third the Warriors have picked up this season. Terry Sander came from Trail and Terry Maglio from Nelson earlier and the word is that John Jorgenson has left the team for his home in the Okanagan.

There are several must games for the Warriors if they are to hang on to fourth place; one is tonight against Spokane Flames, and the other is against the Border Bruins next Wednesday in Grand Forks. Wins in both these contests would afford them a little breathing room.

As I mentioned last week, we of the Retirees Curling Club visited Trail last week

and were shown a really good time, the curling was good and the welcome extended was what we have come to expect when we go to Trail, just great.

Our rink, skipped by the redoubtable George Dyson, came through with a win over the Jack Vellutini rink, one of a very few who pulled off a win against a Trail foursome.

Before we wind up this week we would like to tip our hat to George Beaudry and his rink of Ted Wiltshire, Tom Clark and Fred Munro for their win in the Legion 'spiel held in Castlegar last weekend. Local rinks of Angus Popplewell and Phil Bateman also made some efforts in their try for the silverware.

I understand there was some dissatisfaction among the entries in the methods used to segregate the two classes but maybe next year it will be ironed out.

Also congratulations are in line for the fine effort of our Juveniles in the Kimberley tournament, winning two good games but losing in the semi-final. Trail's Juvies will represent the Kootenays in the B.C. Games and we offer our good wishes to a fine young group of hockey players.

To wind up this week with a smile we offer the following. Toby Edworthy tells a story about a visit to the Uplander Hotel. Having a drink in Rossland's modern establishment, he decided to nibble on something, so ordered a sausage.

The first part of the sausage was just fine but the last half didn't come up to expectations. On complaining to the bartender he received this answer. "In these days of high costs, inflation and what have you, it's pretty hard to make both ends meat."

So it's goodnight for now.