

RECREATION

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

During the past week there have been several events of note taking place over a wide area, some of which are of immediate concern to some of us, some which were most pleasant and others that were, I guess you could say, disastrous.

Taking them in that order, the Royal Canadian Legion Spring Convention held in Rossland over the past weekend gave a number of people a lot of extra work but when we saw the results, they were well worth the effort.

Also over the past weekend, the Elk Valley junior hockey club held its windup for the season highlighted by the appearance, in a wheel chair, mind you, of Harry Peebles, the youngster who was so badly injured earlier in the past season but who, they tell me, is well along on the road to recovery. West Division V-P Herbie Castle and League President Bert LaFreniere represented the KIJHL at this gathering and reported that it was indeed the highlight of the evening when Harry made his appearance.

The final event of our weekend was the trip to Seattle by the league representative Trail Junior Smokies to contest the Provincial Junior "B" championship with Coast League winner, the Seattle Northwest Americans. The Coast champs won the best-of-three series two straight and were very impressive doing it according to those who made the trip to the American city.

So the Cyclone Taylor trophy will rest in Seattle this summer and could possibly have a longer stay if all reports coming out of Seattle are authentic.

Money, that factor that makes winners in lots of top-ranking sports these days, is reported to be quite plentiful with the Seattle club playing on a budget of \$150,000 while the well-heeled clubs in our area have to scrape along on budgets in the \$25,000-\$30,000 range.

You might offer the argument that money doesn't buy champions. Our answer, maybe not, but it adds a helluvan incentive and most of the time these days, it does indeed play a big part.

We like to think that the kids that represented us in Seattle gave us a good showing, which we knew they would. The saying that a good big team will always beat a good little team seems to have been proven true in this instance.

The Legion Convention was indeed a real success, from the word go it was destined to be the kind of a show local branches have vied with one another to present over the years. The registration was good, with all but two branches sending delegates and there were three representatives from Pacific Command; Steve Dunsdon, a big booming-voiced auctioneer in everyday life, fronting for Command, Irene Pagnan, a very popular woman who represented the Ladies' Auxiliaries at the Command level and our good DVA rep, Bill Bowen, who took time off from his vacation to be with us.

After the parade to the cenotaph, which was something less than a smashing success owing to the non-appearance of the Trail Pipe Band who had been scheduled to lead us on our short march to the

ceremony, lack of communication at this point caused a problem at the flag-raising and lowering but we muddled through and from there on things continued to improve by leaps and bounds.

The banquet, always a high point of these gatherings, was, as always in Rossland, a smashing success. The food, courtesy of our grand group of women, was perfect and the after-dinner speech by your young chief magistrate, Bill Profili, was the mixture of humor and good common sense that always sits well with a well-wined-and-dined audience. We were at our wits end for a while when it was thought Bill wouldn't make it and we tried everything we knew how but in the end he saved our day.

Many, indeed, were the favorable comments by our visitors on the present decor of the Legion clubrooms. The decorations, a real gem of a Legion theme, were dreamed up by none other than our branch entertainment chairman George Dyson. He must go to bed just to dream a lot of the time, I think.

The dance music, by a group in which Don Zanussi plays a prominent part, was excellent and the crowded clubroom was a really happy scene.

On Sunday, all committees reported on Saturday's meetings. One which was quite important was that on membership which showed an increase of 80 throughout the Zone. Branch 170, Castlegar-Robson, led this drive with 39 newly-installed.

Kaslo offered to be host to the fall meeting and Nakusp will be the host club for the annual Legion golf tournament this summer.

We would like to say that we think the committee which prepared for it all, headed by President Jack MacDonald deserves a big hand for a fine effort.

John Habicht reports that things look good on the Minor Soccer front, some 120 registrations so far. We will come up with more on this in the near future.

The Uplander fastball

team which broke into the Trail Commercial League in 1980 will be back this summer and according to enthusiastic reports will be stronger than ever. More on this later, too.

A report on the Rossland Pee Wees' visit to Fernie was handed in too late to make this column, maybe it will find space elsewhere, if not, maybe I'll get it in next week.

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New officers installed at Sunday's meet were Bucks Lapointe of Nelson to replace Earl Moffatt of Nakusp as Zone Commander, Norm Blais of Castlegar takes over from Lapointe as Zone chairman and Deputy Zone Commander Roger Paquette of Nelson will be vice-chairman and Denny Coen, also of Nelson, will be service officer, Harry Bate of Castlegar takes over as sports officer.

Reports were given to the meeting by Dunsdon and Mrs. Pagnan and retiring Zone Commander Moffatt handed out brickbats and bouquets with equal aplomb in his farewell speech. Dunsdon by the way, turns out to be quite a singer and delighted the Saturday night crowd with a group of songs which were very well done.