

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

On Sunday morning last I received word that a very good friend, Fred "Pop" Castle, had passed away in Calgary after a short illness. Pop was 96 years old and I would venture a guess that he enjoyed every one of them.

That was the way he looked at life, put up the best show you can and give everybody else the chance to do the same. I first met him in the early fifties when I came to Rossland to live and I have cherished that friendship ever since.

The last time I saw him was a couple of years back when I was visiting my daughter in Calgary; he invited to to spend an afternoon with him at his club, an air force institution in the southwest part of the city.

I remember the occasion very well; Pop regaled me with all kinds of stories from his past and we spent a very pleasant four or five hours. Probably my clearest memory of him was when he used to sing for us in the old days at Branch No. 14, he had a really fine singing voice and knew many songs by heart.

Pop served the branch as a bartender for a while and was still a paid-up member at the time of his death. I would like to express to the

members of his family my sympathy at their great loss. I didn't meet him too often in recent years but I always looked forward to a visit from him or with him.

Pamela Baines is an 11-year-old native Rosslander, a granddaughter of well-known Rossland sportsman, Chess Edwards, she is also an excellent swimmer with the Trail-Warfield Stingrays because Rossland has no swim club.

Pamela had an extremely successful summer at her favorite sport, over a seven-weekend tour of different Kootenay cities she accumulated 6 gold and 1 silver medal placing her at the top of the list of all girl swimmers in the Kootenays, she also broke 15 pool records in the process.

This past summer she qualified for the provincial swim meet in Vancouver, where only the top 24 swimmers in each age group are eligible to compete. She won two bronze medals and had a fourth place finish.

Because of her performance she was named to a team representing B.C. to go against Alberta's best in Edmonton. Three swimmers from each age group were named. She won four silver

medals.

Pamela won the "most valuable girl" trophy at the Stingray banquet and award presentation. Other Rossland kids swimming for the Stingrays are Gordon Baines, Wendy Schuck, Tammy and Duncan Morris and Deanna and Ken MacArthur.

Pamela is to be congratulated for her success in a hard and demanding sport; dedication is a must for youngsters taking it up on a competitive basis and those are the ones who succeed.

My column last week caused several people to call me and remonstrate on the subject of the Beaver Valley kids playing for Trail Juniors. My point was taken before I was aware that the residence rule was not in effect in the KIJHL and these kids are free to play wherever they decide to throw in their lot.

It would appear from last Saturday's game out in the valley that these kids on the Nitehawks are able to take care of themselves.

In the Warriors' convincing win over Grand Forks on Friday night in Rossland young Doug DeGans was really outstanding in the nets for the Warriors. He held the Rossland team in the first period when they were outshot by the Bruins 17-6. The Warriors came out of that period with a 1-0 lead and from there on they gained strength and easily skated to a 10-1 victory.

Now, with two defeats in two games on foreign ice, the Warriors return to the more friendly confines of the Rossland Arena for a game with Spokane Flames tonight. Then it's over to Grand Forks where you bet the Bruins will be looking for revenge after that drubbing.

Only time will tell but you can imagine that this team

of Warriors are the start of a different era for the club, relying mainly on local talent. This year's team looks as though they are ready for anything, from the opening games reported on so far this season it looks as though it's not going to be easy, every team in the league have run up some big scores and the powerhouse clubs like Trail and Cranbrook, Kimberley, Castlegar and Spokane will probably be as strong this time around as they have been in the past.

Up in the NHL the reshuffling of the teams into different divisions is causing some fans to beef, particularly those of the Toronto Maple Leafs, who feel that their team's arch-rivals, the Canadiens, should still be in the same division. I think they will find out that their team will have its hands pretty full with teams like Detroit and Chicago, both of whom seemed to do quite well in pre-season exhibitions.

The Canucks, who had a rather miserable pre-season got off on the right foot with a win over Colorado in their opener and it would appear that the re-alignment in their division is a boon, mainly because of the restricted travel, especially the fact that the two Alberta teams are in the same group.

Well, the Expos made it to the playoffs for the first time and wouldn't it be something if they progressed beyond the first round, they have a definite advantage in the opening games which will be played in the chilly atmosphere of Olympic Stadium, they just could win the overall division title and then they have to contend with the Astros or Dodgers, no mean feat either.

The Brewers and A's in the American League final. How does that grab you?