

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Out on the hillsides the leaves are rapidly turning to gold and the crispness in the air coupled with that white capping on the surrounding mountains should be relaying a message that we can't too long ignore; Old Man Winter is about to make his entrance.

With the coming of winter the people of Rossland face a complete change in their life style, with the golf course covered with snow and the local lakes frozen over. We tend to put in more time with the indoor sports, hockey, curling and the like are all popular. Of course being one of the premier ski areas in the province we also get our share of visitors, they come to challenge the steep slopes

of Red and Granite Mountains.

Then there are the snowmobilers, those pioneers of the back trails all over our mountain system. There is a certain clanishness about the various outdoor groups and its a little difficult to break into these, but if one shows a willingness to participate in their get-togethers you will find a real welcome, be it downhill or cross-country skiing or enjoying the thrills and scenery from the seat of a snowmobile, these people are a breed apart.

The more sedentary of us get our winter kicks from watching a Robbie Martin or a John Caron explode down the ice at a hockey game at

the arena or watch Hoss Drake or Doug DeGans turn aside a wicked angle shot on their citadel, from a vantage point behind the glass up in the lounge, one of the only places in the Kootenays where one can enjoy the amenities of a social club and watch the fastest game on earth.

Then to get one's exercise, we can turn to the roaring game of curling. There are two types of curling, both are fun to participate in; one is where you go out there with the thought of winning the game and the other is where you go out there to have fun, in the company of good sports. You'll have a great time at either. For my part I prefer not taking it too seriously and I always like to think I get as much kick out of the game as anyone.

There is another facet to the game, it's called skipping from behind the glass, and many a fine game has been called by this type of armchair athlete. Of course, this pastime doesn't apply strictly to curling you can find these chair-bound athletes around any sports event, if you don't believe this stand around the lounge

most interesting possible. It seems to be doing that, with the four most interesting teams in baseball battling down to the wire.

Now to get down to important business, the Ladies' Curling Club, through the good offices of Fanny Albo, have called an open house for their club on Oct. 27 at 1:30 p.m. in the curling rink, Fanny notes that their ranks are somewhat depleted this season, and the club may find itself in a somewhat strained position in the coming season with a raise in dues.

This is purely a suggestion on my part but I was wondering if it might be possible to form some sort of integrated schedule between the ladies' and the retirees' club. We have done this for our Xmas parties on both sides and it has worked well, could this be carried a step further to the mutual benefit of both parties?

Turning to the retirees' club, now in the process of gearing up for the winter, club president Cleve Cowland has set a date for our first meeting, it will be held in the arena lounge Oct.

20 at 1:30 p.m. and all interested retirees are urged to come out. We will probably be faced with a hike in our rates too, so come on out and talk about it, after the meeting we can take advantage of our club facilities to make it sociable, games, coffee, etc., we may even have a beer.

Turning to our Warriors for a moment, they are now at .500 with three wins and three losses. They held the high-powered Junior Smokies for two periods on Tuesday night but lost it in the third period, this weekend they face two of the league powerhouses in Castlegar and Cranbrook, at Castlegar on Friday and at the arena on Saturday.

This story about an elderly lady caught my eye in a national magazine, this lady, while old, had kept her sense of humor intact. Stepping from a sidewalk on to an icy street she had fallen but suffered no real damage. A few weeks later falling near her home she broke a hip. A neighbor, rushing to help, heard her mutter, "At least this time it wasn't in the gutter outside the liquor store."

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Talking of second-guessing, this is the time of year people have their best chance, watching baseball. They can call the controversial plays, pick holes in managerial strategy and all the finer points of the second-guessers art. This season Canadians have an added incentive and more chances to exercise it as our beloved Expos are in a position to challenge for a spot in the ultimate series in baseball.

For many baseball lovers the split season, with its consequent strange playoff set-up, is a source of annoyance. It is true that with the present formula the team with the best overall record in either league, the Cincinnati Reds, are excluded from a chance to advance to the series, however we have to look at the broad picture and know that this is a stop-gap thing dreamed up to fill the picture and make the playoffs the

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