

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

In no way can anyone call me a ski buff. Sure I love to watch it from a nice easy chair with a side order of Kokanee or Old Style, but you could count the times I've been up to the mountain during the skiing season on the fingers of one hand. A couple of those were during last year's Winter Games when we were doing some traffic control. My other ventures on the slopes of Red were to pick huckleberries, way back in 1952-52. I watched the jumpers on the slope above the reservoir and across the highway.

Anyway that is all preparatory to my reason for writing this, I would like to offer some words of sympathy to Bob Steckle and Ron Ross and all those people who worked so hard to make the Shell Cup the best ever and then were dealt such a low blow by the weather.

You know, of late I have had pretty good reason to notice at first hand the way that the gent known as Father Time works. Despite any setbacks that might be placed in his path he marches inexorably onward, I understand too that he has a close liason with that other chap sometimes called the Grim Reaper. However, when these two guys put it all on the line they fall far short of matching that spry ol gal known as Mother Nature.

I'd hate to think two nice guys like Bob and Ron had done anything to incur her displeasure. She must have been in one of her playful

moods. She'd tease them with sunshine early in the morning then about the time the races were due to start she'd clamp down with that band of impenetrable fog half-way up the mountain and keep it there until everyone got tired of waiting. And, she kept it up all week too.

Anyway, they finally got the big race in on Sunday and I guess you'd have to say that it went the way it was expected to go with the top seeds finishing 1-2-3 in the standings.

My old chum, Ralph Berry, passed along some news about one of his favorite grandchildren. Willie Anderson travelled to Europe this past few months to take part in a tournament in Finland. On the trip the team played a game or two in Leningrad, U.S.S.R. The way Ralph tells it, Willie was not in any way impressed with what he saw in the Soviet Union.

They won their games but the conditions off the ice left a lot to be desired. Apparently the housing was always cold and second-rate. The meals were very poor and Willie says they were constantly under the eye of armed police wherever they went. Incidentally, it was in a game in Leningrad Willie scored three goals and was voted the game's No. 1 star.

On the other hand the boys loved Finland and won all their exhibition games on the tour while losing out in the tournament.

While on hockey, the

KIJHL playoffs are mostly as expected except of course the Nelson-Trail series. Castlegar has quite a job on their hands if they are going to knock off the Nite Hawks as does Spokane if they are to take out Columbia Valley. Cranbrook should take Elk Valley but they will have their hands full. Nelson's two wins over Trail were pretty decisive, but the fact they got one win away as well as at home, gives them a little leverage. By the time you read this the Canucks will either be in fourth place or mired further in the cellar with time running out.

Now to curling. Fanny Albo passed along the following on Ladies afternoon curling. The Secombe Trophy, their third competition, has been completed with the following rinks coming out on top. The Irene Brennan rink with Marg Rosse, third, Ruth Dougan, second and Janet Westbury, lead took first place while Dottie Albo's foursome, with Dorothy Fines, third; Jessie Skinner, second and Fran Hootz, lead were in the runner-up spot.

The women will now go into their last competition of the season. For the Haden-Capalbo Trophy, this will wind up a season during which they struggled along with a rather small membership. They will again wind up the season along with the Retirees club as they have during the past few years. That's a party we always look forward to.

The Retirees meanwhile have three games left in the

present, and third, competition, the fourth will be rotation style and will possibly be somewhat curtailed, depends on what time is left.

Last Wednesday, three five-man rinks went to Trail and Phil Bateman, Arnie Vanness and Dan Burnett did the skipping honors. Phil came close to upsetting his opponent and Arnie had his chances, but Dan's crest didn't have too much luck and took quite a trimming from Herb Swanson's crew, but what the heck, we had fun anyway and that's what Retirees sports are all about. You'll notice I'm looking forward to golf with that remark.

Next week or the week after I'll have a bit of nostalgia for you. As Trail-Rossland's long-time ambassador of sport, Joe Haley, takes a look back along the road he travelled to fame and some of the people from that same era.

On Monday a couple of visitors to the Shell Cup from Banff dropped by the Legion. Some of the local members had a very interesting tour talking with Glen and Margorie Baillie, an enterprising couple who operate two businesses in the mountain city. They told us that their Legion building burned down just before they left on this trip and they also mentioned they would like to have some of our surplus snow. I'll gladly donate all I have in my yard, any more offers? Have a good trip and get safely home you two!