

May 6th/83

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

When one talks about bocce, one thinks right way of Trail, particularly the Gulch and the people who live there. That, or Sheep Creek on derby days.

We are about to change all that in Rossland with a league of our own and where is a more likely place to begin than the centrally-located lots adjacent to the Branch No. 14 clubrooms, already a gathering place for quite a number of people interested in this and other forms of sport. The Legion members have come up with an idea to use those lots to promote the game in Rossland.

The league will cater to both sexes and the first practice games will be held on Monday and Thursday nights at 7. If you should be interested in participating, contact Phil Bateman, who can be found any day in his business premises, the laundromat on Washington St., or phone 362-5693, or Norma Dominic at 362-5130.

Summer leagues in fastball, baseball, slo-pitch, soccer and others yet to be named are underway in the area despite the fact that hockey playoffs are still holding the national spotlight. That international yearly farce, strictly an Eastern European monopoly for years now, the world cup of hockey, has finally dragged itself to a close, but there are at three or four competitions of a North American flavor yet to be decided. The Centennial Cup, the Memorial Cup and the last but not least the Stanley Cup, they are the last gasp of an eight-month season in our country.

The upper course at Rossland has been quite busy since its opening a couple of weeks back and men's night is already underway. The next move is up to the retirees to come up with a day of the week strictly for the branch of our society which finds itself

looking for something to do with themselves to keep them out of mischief when good wife says to them, "Now, will you get out of here and let me get my work done."

One of Rossland's senior citizens will embark on quite a journey on May 29. Jack Hook, a former teacher at Rossland High and probably among the fittest 70-year-olds living in the country today, will join Trail's Gino Pagnan and a host of other retired people in the 1983 Cross-Canada Cycle Tour for Senior Citizens, a truly ambitious project just underway on the west coast. In a telephone conversation with Jack a couple of days back he filled me in on some aspects of the project which may make interesting reading. He tells me that a gent by the name of Bert Robertson of Vancouver, heads up a 13-member committee in charge of the conduct of the project and from what he says these people have done their homework pretty well.

The riders will be equipped with new 15-speed bikes and will move out from Mile "0" at Esquimalt on May 23. They must be over 60 and carry a medical report as to their fitness to take on something like the task ahead of them. They are required to be in possession of sufficient money for food and expenses to take care of the necessities of the proposed four-month trip. They will travel back by bus.

Money to finance the groundwork of this venture has been made available from the New Horizons project, which does a lot of good work helping senior citizens help themselves, and from the B.C. Lotteries. Jack mentioned that Williams Moving and Storage will supply transport for the gear to be taken along by the participants other than their back packs. Taymor Industries will look after the cooking supplies

and the preparation will be undertaken by 50 volunteers divided into five groups.

There have been three workshops conducted at the coast to show the participants how to take care of their gear and Gino has attended them. The ride has been dubbed, the Spinning Wheel. Professional photographers will accompany the trek and seniors clubs all across the country will be contacted with an eye to the publicity for the project. It is hoped to make this an annual world-wide project. Jack has been told that a possible ride around China is proposed and could take place as early as next year.

So, as these intrepid oldsters climb on their bikes on May 23 we will just sit back and hope to watch the coverage it will get on TV and wish them all the luck in the world. Jack has promised to drop me a card from time to time so that I may get a few personal glimpses of how the tour is going. I'll pass them along to you all.