

May 13/83

RECR

PEPP-TALK with Harry Pepper

Wednesday, May 18 at 8 p.m. in the curling lounge of the Rossland arena, a meeting will be held by Rossland Warriors hockey club.

Manager Doug Buhr told me Monday evening most of the players from last year's roster are coming back and the coming season looks very promising. This could be the year of the Warriors. He also added that at this meeting, the coach for '83-'84 will be named.

It probably is a good idea to get moving on this right now while hockey interest is still strong. The Stanley Cup, with two of the strongest teams in modern-day hockey battling, has people thinking hockey. Let's hope they will respond to the needs of their own hockey club which has given us so many entertaining evenings.

Still on hockey, both the WIHL and KIJHL have elected new presidents. Let's hope this move foreshadows an improved climate in both leagues. The senior league, in particular, has had its troubles over the past few years, maybe the move will be beneficial to all, players, officials and fans alike.

Roy Grant called the other evening and told me about the progress being made in minor soccer in Rossland. It seems registration is now complete and the results are a pleasant surprise to all minor soccer people. A total of 145 youngsters of both sexes have expressed a desire to play the game and are eager to get started.

Twenty-three are in the

Mosquito section, approximately 50 in each of the Pee wee 1 and 2 sections and a real surprise in the Bantam section where there have been 27 sign up. Virtually the whole Bantam hockey team from the '82-'83 season is going to be out there on the soccer field this summer.

So far, the Bantams have a coaching team, both former senior players in town, Ray von Diebitsch and Dave Lawrence will look after the kids and put them on the right track, soccer-wise. The same can not be said however for the other divisions. Roy says they are in dire need of coaches and also need some sponsors. So he is asking that anyone with time on their hands come out and volunteer to help some of our kids learn to play the game. Any organization or business that can see their way clear to help out with some jerseys, etc., will be more than welcome.

A tentative schedule has been drawn which gives all teams the chance to travel to Nelson, Castlegar, Beaver Valley, Trail and Grand Forks in addition to their league commitments.

On Monday night I attended a retirement party held in the Colander at Trail for a long-time buddy of mine, Jim Flanders. All of Jim's working friends from the equipment depot were there to wish him well as were two of his brothers, Russel and Tommy from Agassiz. Two of his sons, Lee and Murray, and son-in-law Bill Langman.

It was a typical stag party with a happy hour or so in the Eagles Lodge in Trail and a grand Italian dinner at the Colander. Then, all the Rossland group finished off the evening at the Legion in Rossland.

Jimmy and I go back a long way in our association. We first met after I started on the Hill in '49 and pretty soon he, I and Bob McCuaig became pretty close. We all worked at the roofing business for old Dick in Annable in our spare time, days off, etc. When the old boy passed away Bob and Jimmy inherited the tar-pot and we worked together for a number of years in that business. It was always fun with help from guys like Jack Lloyd, Buck Jones, Bill Schmidt and Glen Tait among others. We roofed a lot of houses from Beaver Valley to Castlegar.

Jimmy has always said how he wished he could have retired from the Hill at the same time I did. Now he's happy and all I have to do is lure him out on to the golf course in the summer. The winter is already taken care of with Retirees' curling, so all I'm going to add is this:

"Have a long and pleasant retirement, Jim, and we'll get together down the road for a couple of cold ones."

In closing I think we can safely say that something will be done by this coming week with regard to Retirees' golf at the upper course. Hopefully, we'll get something going on Tuesday, weather permitting.