

May 20<sup>th</sup> 83

# PEPP-TALK

with  
Harry  
Pepper

During the past week two happenings of note have taken place in our area; one in Rossland and one in Trail.

In Rossland on Friday afternoon a going-away party was held for a long-time resident now retired. Charlie Cholak has decided to go and live with relatives in Edmonton and will be on his way to the Alberta capital some time during the coming long weekend.

Charlie has been an avid supporter of local sports since arriving here in the late forties. Little League ball in Rossland always found him with the purse strings loose when help was needed. He could always be heard at the kids' games. He was also a supporter of the Rossland Capilanos, if they needed help in both areas. When Bevin Berry started Rossland's travelling ball team, the Colts, they played

against teams around here and in the adjoining states and built up a pretty successful tournament record. Tournaments were never at a loss at the gate as he would come through with some help to see them through.

He was in his element during the years of Rossland's senior hockey club. He'd be at whatever pub the team chose for after-the-game festivities and there was always a bunch of free suds for the players after every game. As many old-time fans will remember, we had quite a number of thirsty hockey players at that time.

The scene for Charlie's going away party was the home of John and Ethel McFarland, long-time friends of Chuck. John and Ethel really went out and did a job in preparing for the event which was attended by

about 20 of his close friends. Ethel was assisted very ably by her two sons, John Jr. and Dan, who kept a steady flow of goodies both liquid and solid coming to all present. The stuffed mushroom and oysters rolled in bacon were particularly tasty.

A baseball uniform shirt marked "Charlie Cholak, Fan" was presented to Charlie by Don Holmes, long-time coach of the Capilanos. He suggested that it could be kept in Rossland's museum sports section and Charlie agreed.

We all wish Charlie a long and pleasant retirement in Edmonton. He says he will return whenever the chance comes along.

The other party we attended was a retirement recognition for a long-time friend and well-respected Trail resident. For many years a staunch member and hard worker in the Royal Canadian Legion, Barney Boyzuk has retired from Cominco and now will have more time for the goodies that we retired people enjoy.

The Legion hall in East Trail was full to capacity for this occasion. Barney and his good wife, Jean, have held province-wide jobs in various areas on behalf of

the organization. Barney in the regular members' section and Jean in the auxiliary, both could always be relied upon to present the views of the members they represented as honestly and faithfully as possible.

After a fine meal, prepared by the ladies of the branch, there was a chance for anyone wishing to talk about Barney or reminisce with him about bygone days. Many took advantage of this opportunity and all ended by wishing him a long and pleasant time ahead. One of the spots you might look for Barney now is the large table in front of the window at the Rex where he might be found enjoying the company of his many friends, Archie, Ab, Mike, Jake, et al.

Sitting in the Uplander the other day I noticed a familiar figure standing up at the bar. When he turned around I recognized Bud Fox, who is visiting friends and relatives in town at present. Bud and I helped coach and manage many Little League ball players back in the early fifties and it was good to talk to him again. At present he is living in Victoria where he worked in the customs section of the government. He will be back

in August when we can get together for a longer session to talk of the past and remember kids like Fabbro, Vebin Berry, Billy Martin, Eddie Legare, Billy Robertson, Ernie Severs, Liam Brown and others.

"It was good to see you again Bud and I'll look forward to our next session in August."

Looking back seems to be popular this week. I spoke to Eric Granstrom at men's night at the upper course last week. He was telling me that someone had shown him a picture of a ball game in progress in Victoria Park. For the young people, that was where the Cominco Arena hockey rink is now situated. He said "guess who was sitting in the stands," I didn't have to guess because I was at pretty near every game there in the late forties.

Rossland Labatts soccer team seem to be having an undecisive season so far. In league play they are 2-3. All the losses have come at the hands of the two East Kootenay powerhouses, Cranbrook and Kimberley. I'll tell you more about them as the season progresses and I get a chance to see some games.