

June 3/83

PEPP-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Retiree Golf on Tuesday was actually the second day of that particular event for the 1983 season. It was another beautiful day out there and 48 members of our elite clan were on hand to participate.

Highlighting some pretty fair performances was that of one of our newer members, Ernie Primeau. he came in with a gross 39, playing to a nine handicap. Ernie used his putter only 10 times in his round and until half way through the morning's action he had the longest putt on No. 9, however, Lou Freeman beat him in this category with a great 45-footer.

For his putting Ernie gets a ball. Policy dictates that a player can only win one at a time, so runner up Herve St. Jean with a 41 gets the ball for low gross honors. In the low net category, Lou Crowe and Rick Watkinson tied with 33s and a gent by the name of Osing won the ball for his honorable qualities. Believe me, it wasn't for his golf.

Next week it will be hidden partners and Bob Walley and Morris Sawyer will be at the helm.

Before I leave this part of it I want to relate a story about Lou Crowe. Coming into the clubhouse the other evening while a basketball game was in progress on the tube, he was asked what he thought of the action. A typical Crowe answer followed.

"Hell, I know all those guys, I used to play centre on one of those teams!"

A very fine effort is being pushed by the Rossland branch of the Canadian Legion. It is being headed by an activities committee presided over by Allan Stinson.

Allan told me the other day that since it opened they have qualified six people in CPR, the first aid effort which lets people recognize symptoms and get help to other people who are injured under various circumstances.

The thing about having these six people qualified means that they can now go ahead and instruct others in the field, making it possible for a larger number of people to get that teaching. I understand the subject will be brought before a meeting

of the Legion's LA next week and they may add to those numbers.

Allan wishes to thank David Martin and the boys of the ambulance crew for their assistance in every phase of the job being done.

News of a different variety is the subject of this next part of this week's column. Thanks to an effort on my behalf by Ab Cronie, I have garnered some background on Gerry Thomson who passed away during the previous weekend.

Gerald Manwell Thomson, a big name in B.C. amateur hockey circles, was born in Calgary, Aug. 7, 1913 and took all his schooling in the city system. He took part in all school athletics and played all his minor and junior hockey there. Some of his teammates in those days

were names well known to many Trail people, Mel Snowdon, Lorne Mercer, Jack Forsey and Ab Cronie. One of his favorite sports as a youngster was boxing. It can be said to his credit that he did not use the art in any of his other sports.

Gerry moved to B.C. in 1933 and played hockey in Nelson in 1933-34. Moving on to Trail in 1934 he played his remaining years of senior hockey with the Smoke Eaters and was instrumental in bringing Snowdon and Cronie to Trail that year.

After years of participation in sports he passed on his experience to the young people and spent many years working as a member of the Trail Amateur Athletic Association. He coached in all divisions of minor hockey

and then took the Trail Junior Smoke Eaters to the Memorial Cup Finals in 1943-44.

Among the names on that team were Trail boys Jake McLeod, Lorne DePaolis, Ivo Toffolo, Frank Turik and Tino Magliani.

Gerry also coached the Senior Smoke Eaters. He then became involved in the problems of running amateur hockey in B.C. and was appointed district representative for the BCAHA, later becoming president.

In his retirement years Gerry actively pursued the games of curling and golf, both of which he thoroughly enjoyed and played well.

Gerry will be missed by many of us who knew him and I would like, on their behalf, to extend our sympathies to those left behind.