

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

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Tuesday and Thursday mornings of this past week saw the retirees in Rossland have an open house for quite a number of new would-be members of their curling club.

Some dozen or so newly-retired Cominco workers were on hand. Some have played the game before while others are in the process of taking it up, but they all dug in enthusiastically.

On Saturday morning last I took a trip to Castlegar where three of the branches were having an impromptu dart tournament. Darts is getting to be quite a thing among the area Legion members now and a tourney will be held in Castlegar in the new year to decide which branch will go on to the provincial playoffs in Squamish. Anyway, I'm told the Rossland team won the tourney Saturday, beating out the host branch and a team from the Trail branch.

On another tack, I got a

letter from an old friend the other day. It was from Charlie Cholak who moved away to Edmonton earlier this year and we hadn't had word of him until this week when he wrote both me and Carl Osing. Charlie, who was a red-hot sports fan when he was around here, has a few problems. He has sickness in his family and hospital visits take up a lot of his time. He sent along his good wishes to a number of his friends around Rossland and said he hopes to visit us in the summer of '84. Charlie did quite a lot for youth sports back in the '50's and '60's. He could always be relied on to dig down and put money on the line to help out a needy kids' ball, soccer or hockey team.

The KIJHL is beginning to show some kind of a picture of how things are going in the league now. Spokane and Beaver Valley are off to an excellent start with eight wins apiece while the best in

the East are Columbia Valley and Cranbrook. The boys from Invermere had a bad weekend losing to the Junior Leafs on Friday in overtime, dropping a 5-3 decision to the Border Bruins before eking out a 4-2 win over the Warriors in a game that was tied until late in the third period.

Elk Valley is starting to come on in the East as they took two wins on the weekend over the Colts and Knights. In the West, Trail and Nelson find themselves in an unfamiliar spot in the standings. Both of these are young teams and, like the Warriors, they may take some time to find themselves but I think it is safe to say the league could be the scene of a lot of exciting hockey before the season is much older.

Looking at the lower age groups, Rossland's former bantam team have moved down the hill to Trail this season and from what I hear, most of the boys have found

a place on Trail's midget rep team. In another year or so these boys will be graduating to the Warriors and the team will get the benefit of some more home-grown talent.

Still on hockey, I read an article turned over to me by John Campbell the other day, on Tony Tanti, the Canuck's high-scoring forward. At 11, this young fellow played in the same league as Wayne Gretzky. He also broke Wayne's rookie record for goals scored, 81 while playing for Oshawa in 1980-81. It seems the Canucks have made quite a find in Tony. Besides scoring goals he was on a penalty-killing unit in Oshawa and the unit never gave up a goal in 71 straight power-play situations.

Over to football, the first place in both East and West have now been decided. The Lions clinched theirs in the Hamilton game on the weekend while Toronto has theirs sewed up after being

well out in front all season. It looks like Winnipeg and Edmonton, or possibly Calgary, will battle it out for the right to meet the Lions while Ottawa and Hamilton will do the same to earn the right to play the Argos. Montreal still has a chance but they must play Ottawa on Saturday and the way Ottawa squeaked out that 20-19 win over the Argos on Sunday means they have their eyes set on bigger things.

So, now we can look forward to some of the white stuff coming along to make the skiers happy and some motorists unhappy while the average Joe will just grumble at the amount he has to shovel. I, personally, don't mind the snow and I shovel what lands in the pathway when it gets too deep to walk through. It usually doesn't take long and what the heck, I've got lots of time and you can't tell me it's not good exercise!

Till next week, then!