

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

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Golf! The word alone has some magic qualities. When one plays golf one can be transported to the heights of joy and the depths of despair. Personally, I have not been playing the game for long, dabbling in it for some time but since retirement I took to it. It offers a way to be in the open and widen my circle of friends and acquaintances.

I don't know what other people get from watching golf on TV, I know that when I get parked in front of mine on a Saturday or Sunday, I sit there mesmerized, watching every stroke. You know something, I believe it is doing something for my own game. At least, I'm learning that if I really dub a couple of shots not to let it get me down. For instance, on my last outing at Birchbank, I played in a foursome with Bart Dudley, Roly Gariepy and world-renowned cyclist, Gino Pagnan. My first shots off No. 1 travelled a maximum distance of 20-30 feet apiece, but I pulled it together, remembering to keep the head down. When we reached the green I amazed everyone, most of all, myself, by sinking a putt of about 15 feet.

Anyway, that's enough exposure on my accomplishments for today.

The two games I like to watch on TV are golf and hockey.

It seems kind of funny, because the two games are so different in tempo. Golf, which they say was first played on the moorlands of Scotland, is probably the slowest-paced game in the world (excepting curling), its appeal is the beauty of the surroundings it's played in and the perfect form and execution of the players.

Hockey, which I guess we in Canada can still claim for our own, has its appeal in the opposite direction,

speed, dexterity and those solid, bone-shaking checks.

You never saw or heard an opposition hockey player congratulate his opponent, with "Good shot" or "Sorry, old chap," just as you would never see a golfer rap his opponent across the shins with his nine-iron, a la Billy Smith.

Watching "Gentle Ben" Crenshaw win the Masters was probably the most

satisfying few hours I have spent watching TV in a long time. When he pitched out of that trap and holed out on Saturday afternoon, I thought, "You're on your way, Ben."

And then you go to watch Edmonton and Calgary battle it out in their series which was all blazing speed and heavy body work. Trying to be impartial in these games isn't difficult

for me. The only team I watch where my impartiality shows signs of deterioration, is the Rossland Warriors.

One thing that happened this past week was a visit from Tommy Bruce. Tom, you will remember, ran the Rossland Fun Hockey tournament earlier this year. He brought along a very handsome gift for my scorekeeping crew at that

event and on behalf of all of us I would like to say "Thanks a lot, Tommy, to you and all your people in the RFHL."

And back to golf for a moment. We have had a trip over the course and given the weather we have had for the past few days we should be playing shortly after the Easter weekend.

Till next week, then!