

PEPPER-ALK

with
Harry
Pepper

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On Tuesday morning I got a call from Jack Buchanan in which he said he wanted some of our Retiree curlers to pass around a questionnaire regarding Retiree golf at the Rossland-Trail golf club's two courses.

The survey is intended to give the Rossland-Trail executive an idea of what the Retirees are getting for their golf dollar and how much more they can stand without feeling put upon. I know that this idea has been toyed with for some time, but I did not think it would come to anything until I went to the meeting in the Union Hotel and heard some of the arguments put up by some of the members who, I think, believe retired people can well afford to pay more for the golfing privileges they enjoy.

The questionnaire is quite detailed, asking questions about how much you play and on what course, how you would look at the idea of restrictions on playing time, whether you would be willing to pay half the green fees on top of your membership dues on certain prime-time situations and the use of the bar. I'm told that the Rossland course bar and kitchen are used by most people playing the course but Birchbank falls way short.

There is also a following question to this section whether we would agree with the idea of a house fee of so much per month. This was brought up at the meeting and seemed to be fairly well received.

A small house fee would, I believe, be quite ac-

ceptable, there is not much doubt in my mind that we do quite well at the present price for our golfing entertainment. I know in this area we enjoy our sports at a far cheaper rate than many places around the country. I've been told this repeatedly by friends who have played courses all over the country.

However, there are places in this area where the retiree gets a cheaper rate than we do. We heard at the meeting the cost of unionized labor has increased costs.

To sum up, the playing members will probably be asked to assume a higher rate.

I talked to a few of our retirees and on the whole I feel they feel somewhat along the same lines as I do. The people who are

conducting this survey should not try to pile it on but we know the money for upkeep has to come from somewhere and there are not too many options open to them. A small increase or a house fee would not hurt the average retiree.

I'm looking forward to the golfing season and if it's going to cost a little more, so be it!

While on the subject of golf, I hear via the grapevine a certain left-handed golfer of Scandinavian origin has accumulated enough left-handed clubs that he is thinking of starting a pro shop. I'm told he has quite

a store of everything the average golfer needs. Left handed balls, tees and even left-handed carts.

Turning to curling for a moment, this weekend will see the Legion zone 'spiel take place in the Castlegar club. Three rinks will go from Branch No. 14. Jim Schuck and his rink of Jim Bateman, Ivan Bell and Mike Kraftchick will be taking in the junior tourney which he came close to winning last year in Trail. Bill Vickers and Phil Bateman will be skipping two rinks in the senior section. Good curling, fellas!

So, until next time.