

# PEPP-TALK

MAR 8/85  
with  
Harry  
Pepper

On Saturday evening, last, the Rossland Warriors held their annual banquet and presentation of awards in the Parish Hall.

It is one night of the year which I eagerly await. Other teams may battle it out in the playoffs, but to the people who attend this dinner and talkfest is the event of the year.

There are always two high spots to this celebration. One is the always amazing and tantalizing number of dishes put up by the hockey mothers, enough to satisfy a small army. The other is the awards presentation. When you see it close up, it's much more satisfying than watching it from the stands or lounge at the arena.

This year the talk was spirited and continuous. The guys who served the drinks were capable and generous and the food would satisfy a gourmet appetite and was there in gargantuan amounts. We were lucky to sit across from Clare Anderson's mom and dad and team trainer Kenny. It's nice to encounter such a pair of young-thinking oldsters. I think they thoroughly enjoyed every minute and I know we did.

After everyone was satisfied, the head table was introduced and the business of the evening got underway with Doug Buhr, our manager, presiding. He thanked everyone for coming and had good words and thanks to the members of his executive and partners. He didn't dwell on the subject of his upcoming departure to the U.S., but we are aware of it and know it will tear our hearts out to lose "big Doug." His will be a hard act to follow.

Next came the presentations to this year's trophy winners. The most sportsmanlike award was won by Garnett Compton, the coaches trophy went to Patrick Corrado and the most improved award went to Danny Ferguson. Rob Porcellato took home the top scorer trophy and Dallas Drake took the rookie-of-the-year award.

The next two awards went to players who may

Gary Cahoon, the team's most valuable player told me he intends to go away to school next year. Both these boys will be sorely missed. The last two awards were both memorial awards, the first, in memory of George Pastro, father of defenceman Darren, who passed away late in the season and will be remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. The fans' choice for most popular was Gord Stanton.

The second, in honor of the memory of Jack Cox, and donated by his wife Greta, goes to the player judged to be the most dedicated. It went to Russ Fuhr this year.

This year's team, for my money, were definitely one of the most entertaining teams we've had in Rossland in a long time. I compare them to an old friend of mine, now departed, Jack Molyneux. There were times when they weren't up to par, maybe "grumpy" is the word Jack would have used, but they were never, never dull.

And so another season winds down for our Warriors, maybe some of the new faces we shall see next season will help carry the team to participate in the playoffs. But we shall need all those from this season to show them the way.

Coming events in the Rossland Arena include a Pee Wee tourney on March 15-17 in which the home town kids, 11-12 years old, will entertain with the help of teams from the surrounding communities. Nelson, Castlegar, Beaver Valley, Grand Forks and Trail. These are always fun to watch, so be sure you save some time for this.

On Sunday the 17th, the Legion will hold a branch mixed 'spiel, members and ladies' auxiliary only, in the curling rink. Then on March 31 it's the Legion annual one-day 'spiel when we invite teams from other branches to join us for a day of curling and fun, plus a nice supper in the branch to finish off.

I have to say sorry to Robbie Harasin and his Box Hotel teammates for

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The next two awards went to players who may not be with the Warriors next season. Rod Diebert won the best defenceman trophy and will return to his home in Moose Jaw.

He means to go away to school next year. Both these boys will be sorely missed. The last two awards were both memorial awards, the first, in memory of George Pastro, father of defenceman Darren, who passed away late in the season and will be remembered by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. The fans' choice for most popular was Gord Stanton.

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I have to say sorry to Robbie Harasin and his Rex Hotel teammates for relegating them to the "C" event last week when in reality they won the "B" event.

So till next time, then!