

PEPPER-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

APR 26/85

Last Sunday I was offered an opportunity I could not turn down. Over the years I have made mention in various columns of the varied exploits of the Derby Club, and on Sunday Danny Tweed came along with some notes he had laid out for me on the club's activities over the years and their present aims to make the club even better and stronger.

Dan is president of the club today and has had a lot to do with it since he was old enough to get a licence. He has held various posts in the organization over the past years and as prexy he is going to endeavor to make the necessary changes to make the club even more successful.

During its formative days as the Orwell Derby Club, its name derived from the hotel under the ownership of "Frenchy" Bousquet. It offered to sponsor the club's formation in 1952, and several well-known local sportsmen formed the nucleus to get it started. Jack Cox, Alfie Albo Sr., Milt Stinson, "Whiz" Topliff and Tommy Gibbons were among the original members of the club.

One of the original activities of the club was the Derby Day which was held on the third Saturday in June of every year since its inception. It was originally held at the old mill site and the catch of the day was cooked on an old saw blade. Various forms of sport were held on Derby Day to enliven the proceedings. As well as the fishing, there was a tug-of-war across the creek where the losers got dunked in the creek. I remember one time when Harry Gregory was our anchor man and he looped the end of the rope around the base of an old stump and when the opposition pulled themselves into fatigue, we had no trouble pulling them into the creek. Also there was a greasy pole climb, swimming races up the creek against the current, ball games and bocce.

Over the years the club has acquired quite a number of supplies including a trailer equipped with a propane griddle; this has seen the menu of Derby Day change practically every year from chili, stew, through chicken, beef, pork and steak barbecues. The club also has its own camping supplies and any member can avail himself of their use at no cost.

Incidentally, this year's Derby Day will be June 22 at Big Sheep and the menu will be barbecue baron of beef and all the trimmings.

The club membership voted to change the name of the club to the Kokanee Derby Club when the Columbia Brewery offered its sponsorship in 1983. The membership has fallen from around 200 to approximately 150 over the past couple of years and the aim is to get it back to its former strength. The \$8.00 membership fee includes free displays, cold plate snack and beverage at the annual meeting, free admission to Derby Day with free meal and free beverages, and eligibility to enter any or all of the trophy categories at no charge. Membership monies also go to supporting the B.C. Wildlife Federation, Trail Wildlife Association and other worthwhile projects.

Among other projects are community involvement in such things as the sponsorship of trophies and medals for best boy and girl athlete in both elementary schools in Rossland, donations to the Girl Guides, sponsorship of Golden City Days Log-sawing competition, and the sum of \$225.00 to the Trail Wildlife Association to assist in a sheep transplant.

The club's involvement in the BCWE and the TWA is connected with fish and game management practices and input to the government and their biologists regarding restocking of Big and Little Sheep Creeks and other wildlife and habitat preservation problems.

The sponsor has agreed to supply all new trophies in six fishing categories along with small keeper trophies in each, plus hunting trophies for non-typical and typical mule and whitetail deer and black bear. All will be on display at the Uplander Hotel.

Plus these, the club will sponsor the Jack Cox Memorial Trophy for best Dolly Varden and the sponsor will add the Kokanee Cup for the best Kokanee.

its name derived from the hotel under the ownership of "Frenchy" Bousquet. It offered to sponsor the club's formation in 1952, and several well-known local sportsmen formed the nucleus to get it started. Jack Cox, Alfie Albo Sr., Milt Stinson, "Whiz" Topliff and Tommy Gibbons were among the original members of the club.

One of the original activities of the club was the Derby Day which was held on the third Saturday in June of every year since its inception. It was originally held at the old mill site and the catch of the day was cooked on an old saw blade. Various forms of sport were held on Derby Day to enliven the proceedings. As well as the fishing, there was a tug-of-war across the creek where the losers got dunked in the creek. I remember one time when Harry Gregory was our anchor man and he looped the end of the rope around the base of an old stump and when the opposition pulled themselves into fatigue, we had no trouble pulling them into the creek. Also there was a greasy pole climb, swimming races up the creek against the current, ball games and bocce.

Over the years the club has acquired quite a number of supplies including a trailer equipped with a propane griddle; this has seen the menu of Derby Day change practically every year from chili, stew, through chicken, beef, pork and steak barbecues. The club also has its own camping supplies and any member can avail himself of their use at no cost.

Incidentally, this year's Derby Day will be June 22 at Big Sheep and the menu will be barbecue baron of beef and all the trimmings.

The club membership voted to change the name of the club to the Kokanee Derby Club when the Columbia Brewery offered its sponsorship in 1983. The membership has fallen from around 200 to approximately 150 over the past couple of years and the aim is to get it back to its former strength. The \$8.00 membership fee includes free displays, cold plate snack and beverage at the annual meeting, free admission to Derby Day with free meal and free beverages, and eligibility to enter any or all of the trophy categories at no charge. Membership monies also go to supporting the B.C. Wildlife Federation, Trail Wildlife Association and other worthwhile projects.

Among other projects are community involvement in such things as the sponsorship of trophies and medals for best boy and girl athlete in both elementary schools in Rossland, donations to the Girl Guides, sponsorship of Golden City Days Log-sawing competition, and the sum of \$225.00 to the Trail Wildlife Association to assist in a sheep transplant.

The club's involvement in the BCWE and the TWA is connected with fish and game management practices and input to the government and their biologists regarding restocking of Big and Little Sheep Creeks and other wildlife and habitat preservation problems.

The sponsor has agreed to supply all new trophies in six fishing categories along with small keeper trophies in each, plus hunting trophies for non-typical and typical mule and whitetail deer and black bear. All will be on display at the Uplander Hotel.

Plus these, the club will sponsor the Jack Cox Memorial Trophy for best Dolly Varden and the sponsor will add the Kokanee Cup for the best Kokanee.

While the club has always catered towards males, consideration is being given to a Family Day at either Little Sheep or Nancy Greene Lake.

Oops! I forgot to give you those fishing categories so here they are: biggest fish on Derby Day, biggest Eastern Brook of the year, plus one for the biggest by a retiree, biggest Rainbow, Dolly Varden and Kokanee.

A draw to raise funds is to be held shortly and tickets will be on sale from all executive members and at the Uplander. Prizes for this will be a video recorder and movies from Rock Island, a spotting scope from Wises, and a portable gas barbecue.

Among the active members of the club at the present time are Bob Glover, Graham Jones, Rob Newton, Mark Martin, Brian Eyres, Kim LaFond, Bob Peebles, Ross Armour, Joe Rosse, and Dave Tweed Jr. For information you might phone Danny at 364-1492 or 364-4771 or Mark Martin at 362-7192.

Till next time, then!