

One day last week the Rossland Legion played host to one of its older members, a fellow who introduced me to Branch No. 14. Since his retirement he has moved over to Penticton. "Chow" Sdao, whose real first monicker is Art, comes over to the Rossland-Trail area quite frequently, having friends in both places that he has made while working at Cominco and while pursuing a long and varied career in Rossland sports circles.

That career dates back to 1924 when as a boy of tender years he started as mascot and bat boy for Rossland's senior ball club. The manager at that time was George Hunter who supplemented his local talent with players brought in from Gonzaga University in the Spokane area. Among the locals were "Dutch" Singer, Frank Cosgriff, Leo Burke, Skid Marsters, Billy Molisky, Don McKenzie, Joe and John Farko, Puggy Hutton, Paul Teeters, Doc Rochford, and, a fellow by the name of Luce also played. From what Chow told me this last bunch came from below the line as he also remarked that three or four of them also married Rossland girls.

At the age of 16 he became the youngest player to make the senior ball club. He played with fellows like George Petrunia, Red Tullock, Rusty Wynn, Ross Jackson, Chow, John Gidinsky, Rico Martin, Tick Hall, Ed Crowder, and John Densky. Joe Bielli of the Allan Hotel was the team's sponsor.

Chow also played junior hockey and travelled with the intermediates to Merritt to play for the Coy Cup. On that team were Dick Speno in goal, Dusty Grubisic, Ira Henderson, George Holmes and Gil Besso on defence. Forwards were "Dutch" and George Couture, "Pills" Purcello, George Tomich, Chow, Harry Beaulieu and Pat Presley. The team played well but were beaten by Merritt in the Coy Cup final. The manager at that time was Albert Albo, brother of Alfie.

In later years Chow became the trainer for the senior Warriors under Mikey Buckna, coach, and Fini Rossi, manager. On that team were probably some of the best performers to play in this area in many years, guys like Reno Zanier in goal, defencemen Yogi Kraiger, Vic Lafvendahl, Don Fletcher and George Ferguson, and forwards Harold Jones, Leo Lucchini, Alex Birukow, Pinoke McIntyre, Ray Demore, Norm Lenardon, Frank Turik, Larry Lund, Norm Hyssop, Al Lloyd, Bud Andrews, Gerry Penner and Dave Nicol.

Chow also performed in what was known as the Trail City-Wide Men's Fastball League on a Rossland-Crown Point team. Johnny Wallace was coach and the pitchers were John Fulthorpe and John Fisher, other Rossland players on the team were Al Lavorato, Babe and Jackie LaFace and Ray Scott. Bill Anderson, who had a shoe store in Trail, was president of that league and "Smokey Joe" Haluska was VP. The games in Trail were played in Victoria Park next to the river where the Cominco Arena stands today. Castlegar, with its Wanless brothers combination were in that league also and the battles between them and Trail were always hotly contested.

In the field of lacrosse, Chow never did play but saw duty as trainer. Getting his basics in that art from Ben Dixon, those were the years when the Redmen were really a force to be reckoned with in B.C. lacrosse circles. The Scotts, LaFaces and Davis' played a major role assisted by Julie Bilesky and probably one of the best ever to wield a lacrosse stick, Marcus Smith, the "Red Ghost."

Chow also curled, I never heard him talk about golf so maybe he drew the line there. But for 30 years he certainly left his mark on Rossland's sports scene. He still get around pretty well, so with that we'll say thanks for the memories, Chow! May you live as long as you want and never want as long as you live.

As I promised a while back as soon as I could get a commitment on the teams entered in this coming weekend Slo-Pitch Tournament I would pass them along. This morning, talking to Cam Jensen, I got just that. There are twelve teams entered and they are, as usual, from points north, east, south and west. They consist of three teams

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Play will commence Saturday morning and carry on all day, with the same schedule for Sunday and as usual, weather notwithstanding. In this tourney they play on regardless. The past few years have been a bit tough but they just pour more sawdust on the base paths and tough'er out.

With regard to the Warrior situation, Danny Ferguson went along to the meeting last Tuesday and reported that another meeting will be held this Wednesday which I will be able to attend. Dan said an ad will be put in the paper for the positions of manager, coach and directors and if there are not filled by a certain date (not yet given) the Warriors will have to cease operations. He said the raising of the Midget age limit is one of the hardest things to swallow as it exerts a lot of pressure on Rossland to hold on to kids coming towards the junior team tryouts.

The annual Kokanee Fish Derby at Sheep Creek was held this weekend and I was quite surprised to find the new members, mostly young, were wondering what has happened to the older chaps that used to be there. We heard quite a lot of comment on this out there. Anyway, Slim Lafond and I really enjoyed ourselves and I want to say thanks to the executive of the club for the invitation and all the goodies that went along with it.