DEC 20/85

Well, here it is growing closer to the end of 1985 and with Christmas still to come, it's going to be a very hectic couple of weeks. On Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon I donned the red suit with the white and black trim to help the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary to carry on the good works at which they shine so brightly at this happy season.

On Saturday night it was the annual supper which the men serve to the ladies, and on Sunday the kiddies Christmas tree. I enjoyed both of them very much, mostly because it was my first time, but I was glad of the chance to follow in the footsteps of my late friend and colleague, Jack Cox.

While on the subject of Legion activities, I must hand out credit to people who make things happen at the club, one of these is a fellow writer in The Times, Bert Pengelly. Bert coordinated a pool tournament over the past few weeks and it turned out to be a great success. Nineteen players took part and played their games whenever they would happen to be available. It worked out very well and it was finalized last weekend with Jim Schuck beating out Clyde Gordon in a shoot-out for the top prize. Runner-up to the two guys was our petite little barmaid, Jame Richardson. This young lady can hold her own with most of the guys who play in the club. Jolly good show, Bert!

On the Warrior front, the team won a must game from the Border Bruins in their last home game last Friday evening. Garnett Compton was a big man on the scoring lines as he scored four times while Darryl Lindgren continues to be very stingy in allowing rubber to enter the net he guards. Sunday they were beaten 7-4 in Spokane and previous to the Christmas-New year layoff they have three extremely tough games to play. Tuesday they visited Castlegar, then it's Trail tonight and back home on Saturday they host Cranbrook Colts, who are running pretty free in the East division. This will be a real test.

On Thursday night I was invited to watch two of Rossland's minor hockey teams perform. The

one team, which is coached by Dan McFarland, has not lost a game all season. But on the night I watched them they were up against a team which had just as much desire as they did, the result was a very fair one, a 3-3 tie. These youngsters have not got the skating and stickhandling abilities of the Bantams but they are learning. In a few years they will play a pretty smooth game.

At the Retiree curling level, the Rossland club is now into its second competition with one or two additions to our ranks. Jack Mitchell, Harry Gregory and Bernie Ferrey are now back and Jack has asked for the spare board in this competition to see how it goes. On Tuesday we hold our annual Christmas party in conjunction with the ladies club. We'll play again on Thursday and then call it a day until the New Year.

Beryl Davis passed along the winners in the ladies' initial competition which was won by the Marg Rosse rink with Beryl's foursome coming in second. They will not start again until after the New Year.

On Marg's rink, Cathy Faulkner and Gail Ross took turns playing third on a five-girl rink, something to do with babysitting, I think, the second was Eileen McDonald, and the lead Irene McCormack. Helping Beryl were Irene Dunlop, third, Mary Bruce, second, and Janice Hamilton, lead. This competition was for the Cominco Shield.

Back to the Legion for a moment, Tuesday we vote for a new slate of officers with contests in every position except one, so it will be an interesting day. Hope we have a good turnout.

This will be the last column of the year as I'll be down in Alberta next week visiting the kids for Christmas. We shall leave on Friday morning and be back by the 29th.

So, to all my friends everywhere, I want to say All the Best for a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. God bless us, everyone.

'Til next time, then!