

PEPPER-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

MAR 14/86

There is a gent in Rossland who will come up to me every once in a while and hand me a clipping from the Regina Leader-Post. His name is Cleve Cowland and from what I've heard he was quite a hockey player in days gone by. He played a lot in Saskatchewan before he came this way. I never saw him play hockey so I have to take his and other people's word for how good he was, but I do know, for sure, that he is a better than average curler in the Retirees Club. Of course our standards probably wouldn't be accepted by the likes of top-notch guys like Eddie Lukowich or Russ Howard, but Cleve is a pretty good curler by our standards. Hey, I pretty near strayed from my point there, didn't I?

Anyway, these missives he brings me are by Bob Hughes, who is sports editor for the Regina paper and every one of them is well worth reading. In the latest one Cleve brought along, the topic was sports heroes and drugs and the lead line was, "Where have all the heroes gone?"

The situation today with so many guys into drugs way over their heads, does pose a lot of questions, when a guy makes a super play one almost has to wonder what he uses for a stimulant. It's not about to make kids look up to the guys that used to be their heroes. One wonders how deeply rooted this particular habit is and the question comes up, will it ever be the way it used to be, before the drugs came on the scene.

Enough of that, we have our own little heroes around these parts and as far as I know the drug habit hasn't infected any of these too much. Let's hope it doesn't!

We of the Retirees Club in Rossland had the Nelson group over for fun, eats, and curling last Wednesday. When the smoke of the fray cleared,

the score stood at Rossland six, Nelson two, after eight games. Two rinks, mine and Carl Seefeldt's won in the morning draw and all four of our teams won in the afternoon. There are three possible answers to this happening, either we are getting better, Nelson is not as good as they were, or, they couldn't figure out our ice. As far as our club is concerned, we will take the first of the three alternatives while Nelson will probably take the last.

Our rink played "Lefty" White and over the past few years I have played a number of games against "Lefty," in Grand Forks, Nelson, Trail and Rossland. He figures this was the tenth game I've played against him, I wasn't always the skip but we've always had a battle. "Lefty" figured he won six or seven before I got a tie in Nelson on our trip over there earlier this year. So you can see my win this time is really a landmark decision.

As the hockey and curling seasons draw to a close I must say that I have a whole lot of people to thank for the enjoyment of the past few months. When we finish the Retirees season after another six games, we'll have had 36 games and I mean it when I say I've enjoyed every one of them. For my hockey enjoyment I have to thank the kids on the Warriors first and then all the other teams who formed the opposition. I can only say it has been a lot of fun and I'm already looking forward to next year. Let's hope it will be as entertaining as it has been.

The next few months will be spent on the golf course trying to improve my game. Maybe I'll make some headway and then again.

Maybe I'll just say.
'Til next time, then!