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PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

By the time you read this the Armistice Day parade and all the reminiscing that goes with it will all be over for another year. This past Sunday night, the Ladies' Auxiliary of Branch No. 14 entertained 61 veterans to a royal supper — an event they have practised for many years now and it seems to get better with age.

A really great meal of beef, ham, turkey and all the trimmings was there for any gourmet's satisfaction. Paddy Flood was in charge of the paddle award ceremony and he chose Cleve Cowland to succeed him for the upcoming year. One of our members who came along last night claims he is rapidly becoming quite an expert with a slingshot — shades of David and Goliath — Frank Kirk tells me he has reached the point now where he can pick off partridges on the waing. Maybe next year Frank will catch Cleve's eye at ceremony time.

After the meal was over, Dick Bouchier got busy on the piano and by the time he had warmed up he had attracted quite a choir. It seemed the warmer he got the larger the group. Maybe some of the world-be singers were slightly off-key but at that kind of a celebration no one worries about that and it seemed everyone had an excellent time. I know Bart and Carl, bartenders for the evening, were kept on their toes.

Retirees curling is now under way and so far we have had no casualty reports. We opened on Thursday, Nov. 6 with a full complement of games. This Wednesday we shall put on two games and then commence our regular five-a-day, twice-a-week, schedule until each team has completed nine games. We usually manage a 36-game schedule plus visitations from other clubs around the Kootenays and probably a final bonspiel and supper within the club.

It makes for a pretty good winter at something we all enjoy. While the young people polish up their ski equipment, we of the aging bones category get our brooms and brushes in shape, dig out our winter woolies and warm sweaters, and get our eyes and arms in focus and shape for another curling winter. It makes for a lot of good times with after-game drinks and discussion about the shots we missed and of course, the ones we made.

The Warriors really pulled one out on Friday evening as we watched a spunky comeback on the part of both teams as we have seen in a long time. A 1-1 tie after one period as the Kimberley goalie kept Rossland at bay despite the fact they could have had quite a lead. The Warriors added four in the second only to have Kimberley come back with four of their own, as they got to netminder Larry Simm. Tied at five at the buzzer, Rossland's super-sniper, Dallas Drake, put one high to Richard King's left side and Rossland celebrated a 6-5 win.

Next week we shall probably have a better picture of the current curling situation. The Legion bonspiel which was to have been in December has now been displaced by the Men's Zone playdown which Rossland is hosting this time and the dates were apparently scrambled. As I said, I shall have something more definite after our meeting of the retirees. The Masters Zone was also to have been played in Rossland this year, however, I got word from Angus Popplewell that that event is in danger of being moved, possibly to Nelson. However, that's how the old saying goes, "All these things are sent to try us" and we may have to try again.

And with that I'll say
'Til next time, then!