

Dec 5/86 PEPPER-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

Thursday we got to talking about the old days in the history of Rossland. The winter of 1951-52 was the first time I'd ever tried curling. The old curling rink was still in operation, when Bob McCuaig, Jim Flanders and I were sitting in the Allen Hotel one Friday night. Our 12-day shift was over on the hill and we had the weekend off. Bob suggested we go in the weekend bonspiel. I told him, "I never curled before and might be a drawback to your team."

Anyway, it turned out that we pooled our money and we went over and saw Bob Rose and got our entry into the competition. As I remember it, the weekend turned out to be fairly warm and we had a pretty tough time getting the rocks down to the house on the natural ice in the old arena. Anyhow, what I was getting at was that weekend I became a curling devotee and have remained so since. I just get more of a fan as the years have passed by. That must have been the farewell spiel at the old arena because work got underway on the present one with the ice plant to make artificial ice which we use today.

We have a young fellow making ice up at the curling rink this winter who previously worked at that trade in Montreal. His name is Ron Weldon and he was telling me that he enjoys living in Rossland, and I know as long as he does the kind of a job he's doing now, he is going to be welcome for as long as he wants to stay in town.

From curling to golf. I got the report from the Rossland-Trail Golf and Country Club. It concerned the statement of the financial condition of the club. I did not get a real chance to look it over yet, I'm kind of waiting to talk to Jim Markle, an officer of the club who attended the latest meeting. But from what I can gather it is that there will definitely be some new faces around when the next season rolls around.

Not being a driver of transportation, I have to look elsewhere to get a ride down to a course, and living in Rossland I do practically all my playing on the upper course. Occasionally the guys I play with most of the time, attend retirees day at Birchbank, but most of the time we play the old course. Personally I love the old course and it certainly has its share of devotees. Both my boys, Rick and Dave caddied on it and I certainly enjoy it very much. This summer was particularly good as the three guys who ran the clubhouse were Max Spearn, Bill Blackburn and Dave Cochran. They made everybody feel so welcome that it was a pleasure to sit down after a round and have a quiet drink with your partners. I was sure happy when the retirees group were able to have a final meal with these gents and show our appreciation of their efforts. I may not be alone either when I say I hope these guys come back next season. I'll bet a lot of people who use the upper course will welcome them.

Now to the Warriors. After a win over Beaver Valley on Friday, the postponement of Saturday's fixture at Trail due to the Canadian-Germany game at the Cominco Arena, and having lost to Spokane on Nov. 25, the Warriors managed to salvage two points out of the week's play. Their next weekend fixtures will be played in the East as they tangle with Kimberley on Dec. 5 and Dec. 6-7 sees them in Columbia Valley to face the Rockies in back-to-back games. They return home to take on Castlegar on Dec. 9. Would you say they could be in bad shape if they don't salvage some points from this quartet of contests. Only time will tell.

Retirees curling in Rossland is nearing the end of its first round and things are beginning to heat up.

'Til then I'll say, bye for now!