

DEC 19/86

PEPP-JALK

with
Harry
Pepper

On Monday morning of this week the City of Trail and the surrounding districts lost a good friend and one of its top boosters in the person of Al Tognotti. His sudden passing and the way it happened came as an awful shock to all who knew him. When I came to Trail to work in the 4X Bakery, Al's father, Happy, had a butcher shop just above where the Trail Hotel was situated and I guess I bought my first hamburger steak from Happy. I was right in the middle of what was then known as Little Italy and having spent almost a year in Italy during the war I almost felt like I had come home.

I'm not sure what year Al started his little store on Bay Avenue, but I do know that even then if someone in some minor sport was looking for some help to boost their team, Al's your Pal, was the place to look. You know, I think he must have just continued on from that time, because he became a leader in the city in anything that was to benefit the people and he was also quite a strong member of the Colombo Lodge.

Yes, I think you can say in the loss of Al Tognotti, Trail has lost one of its greatest assets, he was indeed a credit to his community.

Now to a bit of curling news. The Rossland Retirees went to Nelson last week to play some games against their Nelson counterparts and as usual we came out second best. We travelled in style, leaving Rossland at 8:30 a.m. in a comfortable Dickens coach with "Butch" Bonin at the wheel, and we started to curl at 10 a.m. We curled five games in the morning draw, had lunch and then it was on to more curling. Rossland had three winners in the morning but Nelson turned things around in the afternoon, winning three with the others ending in ties. I had the pleasure of curling against Len Bicknell and his team. I needed four to win but managed only three. They will visit us early in the New Year.

As I write this we are anticipating joining the Rossland Ladies club for a joint Christmas party and mini-spiel. The ladies will have one member on each of the four-man Retirees rinks. I understand 14 games will be played during the day plus some partying.

Over the past few years there have been some dandies. Little skits by the men and by the women that show a wealth of acting talent among the ranks of both clubs. It's just a chance to really let your hair down for a few hours.

We have now started our second round of competition in the Retirees. My boys got off on the right foot as we edged Angus Popplewell when Angus missed a takeout with his last rock. Joe Rosse is my third, while Jim Thompson is second, Ernie Brown lead and Louie Thompson my fifth man. Competition continues on Thursday Dec. 18 and Dec. 23, before we break for Christmas. Then we get back into it on Dec. 30 with another break for New Years. Then back at it again on Jan. 6 and 7.

We received some good news in the club the other day as we got news that Gordon Brennan, who was one of our originals in the club along with a couple of others, always made our coffee on game days when we operated out of the Warriors' Lounge. He has been in hospital in Vancouver suffering from a bout with T.B. but the news at this time is he is coming along very well in his battle with what used to be a pretty bad problem. When I was a youngster in the old country, my father's family were all subject to that particular problem which was at that time considered to be almost fatal. However, with the advances of modern medicine we may be looking at a brighter picture. Gordon, we shall look forward to welcoming you back to our midst, you

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"Doc" Halladay has had to return to hospital for further work on his thigh and hip while Bernie Ferrey is back in action again after his rupture operation. Al Besso and Bill Dobbs are off yet. Al's knee is giving him trouble while Bill had a back problem. Hurry and get well, you guys!

The kiddies Christmas tree and party at the Rossland Legion is always a source of pleasure to those who participate. Just to see the looks on the wee ones faces is something to behold, great show Bernie and ladies.

The Warriors lost a couple more close ones — to the Rebels during the week and to Spokane over the weekend. I see where Bob Whitlock has decided to call it a day so I assume that Rich Chobanuk will now take over. The club can certainly use a couple of big wins to get them headed in the right direction. Since the season began with such a good feeling something has to be done to get them back on the right foot. One thing I always look forward to is a Warriors vs. the Oldtimers at Christmas when the boys come home.

And I think with that I shall say,

'Til next time then!

And Merry Christmas to all.