

FEB 6/87 PEPPER-TALK

with
Harry
Pepper

I didn't get out to see the Rossland Triathlon, much as I would have wished to, because I didn't feel quite up to following the athletes on that very trying competition.

When I heard about it at first I figured to catch the skating part of the contest, then take a walk out to the back road of Red to watch as they came in. But due to the doctor's cutting down on some of my activities the installations on Friday night, helping with the meat draw on Saturday, were enough for one weekend. Ninety minutes was a very respectable time for someone competing in his first competition. Rossland's Tom Holland was almost ten minutes ahead of the Nelson competitor, Mark Hornby, who came in second. Since this was a first for Rossland it will be interesting to see how it will catch on.

Another event which I look forward to which is coming up is the Rossland Winter Carnival the weekend of Feb. 13-15. Alderman Pat Cayen is holding a meeting to organize his troops this Wednesday night in the Rossland city hall. With the groundwork he has done he should get a good turnout. I know the Legion, Eagles, and the Retirees Curlers will all be giving Pat quite a bit of help in his endeavor to make this a real bang-up event.

This carnival is going to give a bit of a lift to another popular event which will be staged on that weekend. It will bring a lot of people to town, and a number of them could quite probably drop in at the curling rink to look in on the always colorful Ladies' Winter Wonderland 'Spiel, which will be in full swing on that Friday evening.

While on the subject of curling, Joe Rosse just called to give me the standings for the fourth competition in our Retirees curling. First and second are two old-time curlers, Phil Bateman and Russ Broughton. Phil is at 4-0, Russ 3-1. Three of the guys who have varied fortunes at times are at the other end of the tables, Bert Morrow, Fred Munro and Carl Seefeldt are all at 1-3.

Oh, I mentioned that Nelson would be visiting last week. They did and it was close. The visitors took 3-1 in the morning. I didn't stay after lunch as I had to see the doctor at 1:30. Someone told me we were ahead on three sheets in the late stages in the afternoon. I didn't get the final standings but I have a notion that it was 5-3 for the Nelson crew. Yes, "Lefty" White came over and looks every bit as spry as ever. At age 85 you have to give the old joker a lot of credit for the way he keeps going. He sure loves that curling game and he has learned a lot about it over the years.

Now to hockey. I guess we have to say the sad story of the Smoke Eaters is the big one of the sport for a long time to come. The people who tried to revive the Smokies story were faces with a gigantic task. For what they did with what they had is something they should never be ashamed of. It hurts all the more because this town is indeed a Home of Champions. I can remember back on the prairies, long before I ever saw Trail, a bunch of young farm hands would gather at one place where there was a radio and follow every play. Names like Cronie, Buckna, Johnson and Scodellaro were household names to us.

The Warriors played two good games on the weekend as they defeated Beaver Valley and tied the Cranbrook Colts. Their opposition in the playoffs will be Trail and the way the Junior Smokies are playing now they will need all the scoring power they can muster to advance. Both of them have been able to beat the Rebels, but again, to advance to the next step, the Warriors will have to play real good. They have now what is probably one of the best teams we've seen in years in the Red and White but

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And with that thought in mind, I will say,
"Til next time, then!