

It wasn't so long ago that someone asked what gave me the urge to write these weekly columns for the paper. And do you know I gave them an answer which seemed to satisfy the person. I told him I have loved all sports from the time I could read in our locality in England. Soccer and cricket were the top drawing cards in a period which encompassed the years between the first World War and my departure for Canada, prior to my 17th birthday in 1929.

I also watched the runners and jumpers and used to write compositions in my school tests about the sports. The culmination of my pleasure was a trip to the F.A. Cup final, played in London where we lived.

So you can see from the foregoing that when Gerry Long, who wrote a column for the old Rossland Miner, asked me if I would like to try my hand at it, I literally jumped at the chance. Gerry said, "Go see Fred White, and he'll tell you how to go about it." Fred told me to write a couple of essays about people in local sports whom I knew well enough to be able to do so. I happened to have two very good friends at the time whom I had learned a lot about over my years in Rossland. They were Joe Haley and Ken Stanton.

Fred enjoyed reading my stuff and gave me the job.

When Bruce Ramsey came along we spent many hours together as I did my weekly stint. Bruce, who now lives just outside of Fernie, was a noted author in his own right and gave me a lot of direction, along with a couple of girls who worked there and typed up my stuff. The girls would pick out grammatical faults and would always point them out to me for which I'll be forever grateful.

Today we have every form of sport on TV but I still love to watch our local Junior Warriors and kids' soccer, which I helped to get going in Rossland along with John Hughes, who has since passed away. Golf of course is the only game I play and that I don't excel at by the longest stretch of the wildest imagination but I love the exercise I get and the hit and the crack as it leaves the club on a good one

and the occasional ten-footers that you sink when you need a lift.

As you get older your memory sometimes lets you down and when I try to remember the name of the young man who asked me if I'd like to do a column for The Times. The old Miner had closed down and this young chap came to see me and offered me the chance to continue writing. I jumped at the offer and do you know I've enjoyed every minute of it.

Despite the fact that it was not a very nice day, cold in the early morning and didn't really warm up until about noon, we had 68 golfers out on the tee for Tuesday's Retirees Day at the upper course. Chris Christiansen and Carl Seefeldt were on the desk for the day and did the usual good job.

I went out with the first foursome, composed of Jack MacDonald, Al Dixon, Wilf Woodhouse and myself. I had my usual not-good round while nobody else in the foursome did any better.

The winners Tuesday were for low gross Sam Anselmo with a 40, low net was won by Barry Zanier with a 34, Dan Burnett, our retirees curling club president, was closest to the pin on No. 5 with a shot that stopped a couple of feet away from being a hole in one. The hidden holes were No. 4 for low, won by Ray Gariepy with Gil Laycock taking high on No. 2. Lou Freeman had a 16-18-footer to take the long putt on No. 9.

Roger McEwan and Peter Browne will be in charge of next week's show and they will tell you the game they'll play. We have to offer a vote of thanks to the group of retirees who worked on the No. 5 rope tow and other assorted cleanup projects. I understand that Joe Bielli had a big hand in the organizing of it. There have been several of these projects and I know who was in charge but I would like to have a little more information so that I will be able to try to give credit where it is due.

Dave told me the other day that they will endeavor to put up a good snack for us every golfing day. I like the idea and think we should give the boys our full support.

And now I think it's time to say bye for now, so 'Til next time, then!