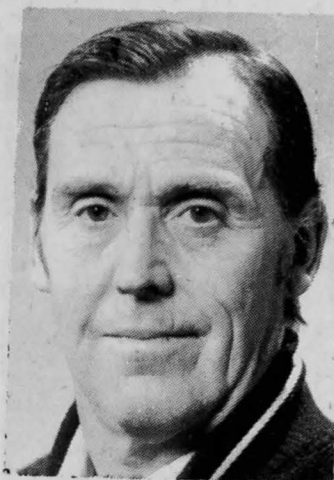


AS I SEE IT

WITH

HARRY PEPPER



There was a time when I thought I might never write this particular column, but as things stand now I feel that I should.

For one thing I have been interested and active in most minor league sports since I came to this town something over 20 years ago. I feel that this alone qualifies me to speak my piece on a subject that may adversely affect the facilities we have in Rossland for the recreation of the youth of our town.

At a time when the whole world is crying out loud to have measures taken to stop juvenile delinquency, drug abuse and like ailments of our so-called militant youth, we in Rossland are blessed, or cursed, whichever you want to call it, with a city government that apparently seems to lack the initiative to come out into the open and do something which is going to have to be done. That is to insure the continued operation of our ice arena.

If it means that taxes must be raised, what's wrong with that? Sewer, garbage, etc. rates were raised dramatically this year. These would, I imagine, come under the heading of utilities, right? Is there anyone who has ever attended a minor hockey game or Minor Hockey Night in Rossland who would consider our arena anything but another utility? It's something we must have just as much as we need light, heat and water for our youth to survive as decent people in a world in which there are lots of temptations to go the wrong way.

I have heard quite a few opinions from various people on what should be done to save the Arena. They range from dunning the businessmen to can-

vassing the town for donations, but I cannot go along with this or that. I feel that the Arena facilities should be a charge on every citizen of our community regardless of whether they make use of them or not.

From my point of view that Arena is just as necessary to our community as our churches, schools or hospitals and as such should be administered by a paid authority, not be allowed to fall on the shoulders of a few hard-pressed dedicated citizens.

The only obvious answer! Raise the taxes to cover what is needed! I imagine that if the city fathers should decide to do this they would expect a say in the operation of the Arena. A council committee working with the present R.C.A.A. body should be adequate for this purpose.

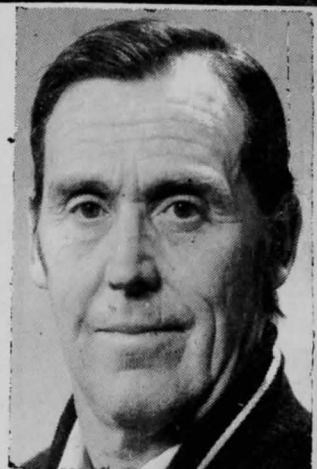
A word in praise of the hard-working members of the R.C.A.A. would certainly not come amiss here. I see that even now, with everything in doubt as to the future of our Arena, they are still working to organize a skate-athon to raise money for needed Arena equipment. Some information on this is contained elsewhere in the paper.

So, to the City Council members, I'd like to say, "Gentlemen, it looks like the fate of the Arena is going to be in your hands. If you choose to padlock it, I hope you'll be able to live with yourselves."

AS I SEE IT

WITH

HARRY PEPPER



The first half of the yearly poll I like to take on the World Series of Baseball and Hockey's Stanley Cup has been completed and as usual the opinions are varied.

The rather sudden demise of the Montreal Canadiens caused some anguish to some of their ardent supporters in this area, among them being our Soccer Association Treasurer, Greta Cox, Joltin' Joe Caron, sometime Warrior defenceman and presently pitching high school ball in Trail, "Rags" Magnone, Eddie Ruelle, Capilano short-stop, Rich Miller and Jimmy Portz.

Those who follow my line of thinking and pick the Bruins from Boston to take it all, were Trailites Jack Ferguson and top flight curler, "Buzz" McGibney, locals Jimmy Williams, Jimmy Driscoll, John McFarland Jr., Kenny Dixon, Herb Castle, Gerry Flanagan, Jackie Richardson, Al Madge and old-time hockey star, "Dutchy" Singer.

The New York Rangers pulled in quite a few votes too, as they were favored by John McFarland Sr., Bruce Holm, Jimmy Ling, Warrior coach Lloyd McLellan, Bill Serediak, Wayne Hootz, Bill Lukkar, Buck Jones, Glen Tait and that feller for whom the Canadiens made a lot of money last year, Bob McCuaig.

The Western Division winners, Chicago Black Hawks, were not left out entirely as they drew votes from R.C.A.A. President Jack Cox, Ricky Cox,

Merv Jensen and Irvin Hotel Proprietor, Ray Wesemann.

Now all that needs doing is to get the strike of those CBC technicians over with so we could at least get a look at some of the action. It has sure been closely contested so far in all series and the two games I saw on the U.S. network between St. Louis and Minnesota were dillies to watch.

Just got a few more fearless forecasts from here and there, two being for New York, and two for Boston. "Slim" Lafond, Charlie Cholak and former Trail Smokie great "Pinoke" McIntyre are pulling for the Rangers while Bev Berry and the spryest old bartender in these here parts, Alex McLeod, think the Bruins have what it takes.

The West Kootenay 1971 Baseball Champions, Rossland Capilanos, will hold their first practice in Trail's Pople Park this coming Sunday, commencing at approximately 1:30 p.m.

Along with 22 players already named, the Club will welcome anyone willing to try out.

Don't forget that May 3rd date for the draw, eats and refreshments, the proceeds of which will go to help finance the club this summer.