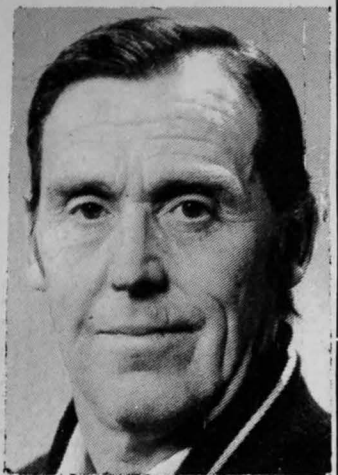


AS I SEE IT

WITH

HARRY PEPPER



I hope that no one will ever try belittling the Rossland Fire Department in front of me, because if they do, they will be in for an argument.

Until last Thursday, I imagine, that along with numerous other Rosslanders, I took the fire boys pretty much for granted, but my opinion had to change in about an hour, as they went to work to save my home from being demolished by fire.

The promptness with which Chief John Dougan's boys came to our aid was one of the reasons that our material loss was very small instead of total destruction.

So to Chief John's merry men, Spud, Gerry, Al, Bobby and Bill and to those who also serve who only sit and wait, as Don had to on Thursday, go mine and my wife's heartfelt thanks.

The same degree of gratitude I also wish to extend to my neighbours and friends who did all they could to help.

Now, this week's column is going to be a continuation of my salute to the young Warriors, West Kootenay Junior League champs.

This week's subjects are three very good reasons why the Warriors are champs. The first is one of the team's veterans in point of service. Bob Hook has been with the Warriors since they were formed and has held down a right defence position during those three years. He is a fine rushing defenceman who garners a good share of points. Like many other rear-guards Bob comes in for a lot of criticism when goals are scored against his line, but this will always be that way, not much can be done but learn from the errors.

Born in Rossland in 1952 Bob is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hook and is a student in Grade 12 at Rossland High School.

Doug, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alun Jones of Warfield, is the Warriors' top point getter and is quite likely to wind up as league scoring champ when all the stats are compiled.

Born in Trail, Doug played all his Minor Hockey in the Silver City. In his Pee wee years his coach was Howie Palmer, when he graduated to Bantam, he came under the tutelage of Frank "Deacon" Waite, former N.H.L. star, and was on the B.C. Bantam championship team.

It was his last year as a Midget that Doug won what he figures was his best award. That year, under Addie Tambellini, he won the Gordon Pasacreta Memorial Trophy.

Doug has completed Grade 12 and at this time is employed by the Rossland branch of the Nelson Lumber Co. He hopes to continue his hockey career to any point that he considers he is capable of and if it should lead to the pro ranks he won't worry.

He feels the Warriors can win the West Kootenay title this year. After that, his philosophy is, take 'em one at a time.

The third member of this week's trio is definitely a great asset to the Warriors, his blue line play this season has been a feature of all Warrior games and I believe an inspiration to his teammates. Last year Jimmy Cotton was voted most improved player on the team, and his play this season has left no doubt that the award was well-earned.

When this year is completed Bob hopes to travel in Europe. He does not plan to play hockey while there, just see the other side. He played his Minor Hockey in Rossland with the exception of the playoffs in 67-68 when he played on Castlegar Midget Reps who lost in the area semis to Trail.

Standing 6 ft and weighing 185 Bob has not thought much about his future in hockey but has had thoughts that he might like to coach at some future date.

He considers coming in first this year is the best thing that has happened to him in hockey and hopes the Warriors can come out on top in the Province this year.

The next member of my trio for this week is a dark, curly-haired young Dynamo who answers to the name of Doug Jones.

Born in Rossland in 1954, Jimmy is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Cotton, proprietors of Cotton's Drug in our town. At present finishing Grade 12 at Rossland High, Jimmy hopes to go on to Selkirk to continue his education. He told me that he will have no hesitation in accepting any offers to continue his hockey career provided his education is part of the contract.

Jimmy played all his Minor Hockey in our city and was coached during most of his Minor years by none other than Kenny Davis. I wonder how many Rossland kids would give the same answer when asked who coached them? Jimmy was a member of the Rep team in every division in which he played. He was always a driving type of player as long as I can remember. This I believe was one of the reasons for him being made Captain of the Warriors when John Stanton decided to quit.

Jimmy hopes, along with both the other boys, that this year the Warriors can win it all.