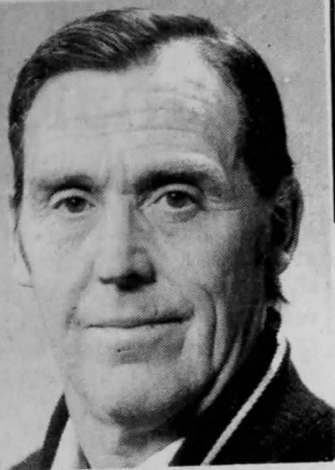


AS I SEE IT

WITH

HARRY PEPPER



This week my column is going to be dedicated to the one commodity that should make it enjoyable writing for me.

I have been asked by the Editor to do a special on the girls of the Rossland Royals Softball Club and while I don't think this is exactly what he had in mind, this is the way I want to do it and therefore the only way I can do it properly.

While girls everywhere are a favorite subject with me, this project has been a favorite one with me ever since the McArthur era which has seen Maurice and Flo bring women's softball out of the doldrums in our local area.

During the first year of his role as coach of the local girls, Maurice would have been the choice for the all-star coach, but a move by the company saw fit to send him to their northern properties, a move which forestalled his coaching the girls to the first-ever championship of the province.

Therefore, this week's column will be dedicated to girls, as such, and while I don't set myself up as an authority on this subject, it is one which is very near and dear to me and one on which I would be quite will to discourse at any length which is deemed necessary.

Girls, as anyone who is familiar with his subject knows, come in many different forms. You have young girls, old girls, thin girls, fat girls, some are red-haired, some grey-haired, some brunette, some blonde, some are extra attractive, but I have yet to see one which I didn't find some redeeming feature in. They all have that certain something which makes them, shall we say, watchable, and this is particularly evident in girls in the athletic field.

One of the nicest things that ever happened to me was to be lucky enough to be the father of a beautiful daughter. Today she is someone else's property, but for almost 19 years she was the pride and joy of my life, and as another mans' wife she has added something to our family and as such she will always be a wonderful asset.

Which leaves us with one member of the Royals to write about, Shirley Williams. She has done a lot of work on her own. Shirley was a member of the West Kootenay team which won the B.C. title a couple of years back and has played all her ball in this district, starting when she was about 12 years old, along with Joan Ferguson her name has been very prominent in local ball circles down the past years.

It is quite obvious to the average observer that this year's edition of the Royals was not the most successful, but rebuilding takes time, even the big leagues, and as I remarked at the start of this column, I've enjoyed any games I've watched, and maybe next season I'll be able to give more time to my favorite pasttime, girl-watching.

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Both our sons, too, have brought us assets in the form of happy, handsome wives which has boosted our family to three sons and three daughters, and to top it off. We now have a beautiful granddaughter, so you can see, girls do mean quite a lot to me.

Well, now to get back to my subject, the Royals Ball team, this season, their first without McArthur, the emphasis has been to bring up youngsters to take the place of veterans who have either retired or moved on to some other locality.

Among the kids who have come along real well in their first year among the seniors are such girls as Patti Scott, who is the daughter of a well-known Rossland athletic family; Kathy Diedrich, who can do almost any job on the diamond as well or better than most; Cheryl Vermiere, Ruth Wert, Lori Gibson, Sharon Slubowski and Carol Wagner fill out the youth program and everyone will do quite a job if they continue to play and improve the way they have this season. Backing up the youngsters are the veterans who are in the twilight of their careers, some of which have been fairly distinguished. Elsie Miller, who now acts as club statistician and scorekeeper and Ella Oliver are two girls who have played all their ball locally. Shirley Ree and Nancy Anderson both played ball in Penticton, as did Muriel Gibson, the Royals veteran short-stop, Shirley also had some experience in Toronto.

Probably the widest travelled member of the present Royals is Betty Guyitt. Betty has played extensively in many parts of Canada from Montreal to Vancouver.

Maxine Ferguson played some of her ball in the Yukon and has been quite an asset to the Royals as a catcher who could come up with her share of hits.

Vi Krest has also done a good job for the Royals during '69-70-71 and will probably continue doing so during the next few seasons as the youngsters are being brought along.

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