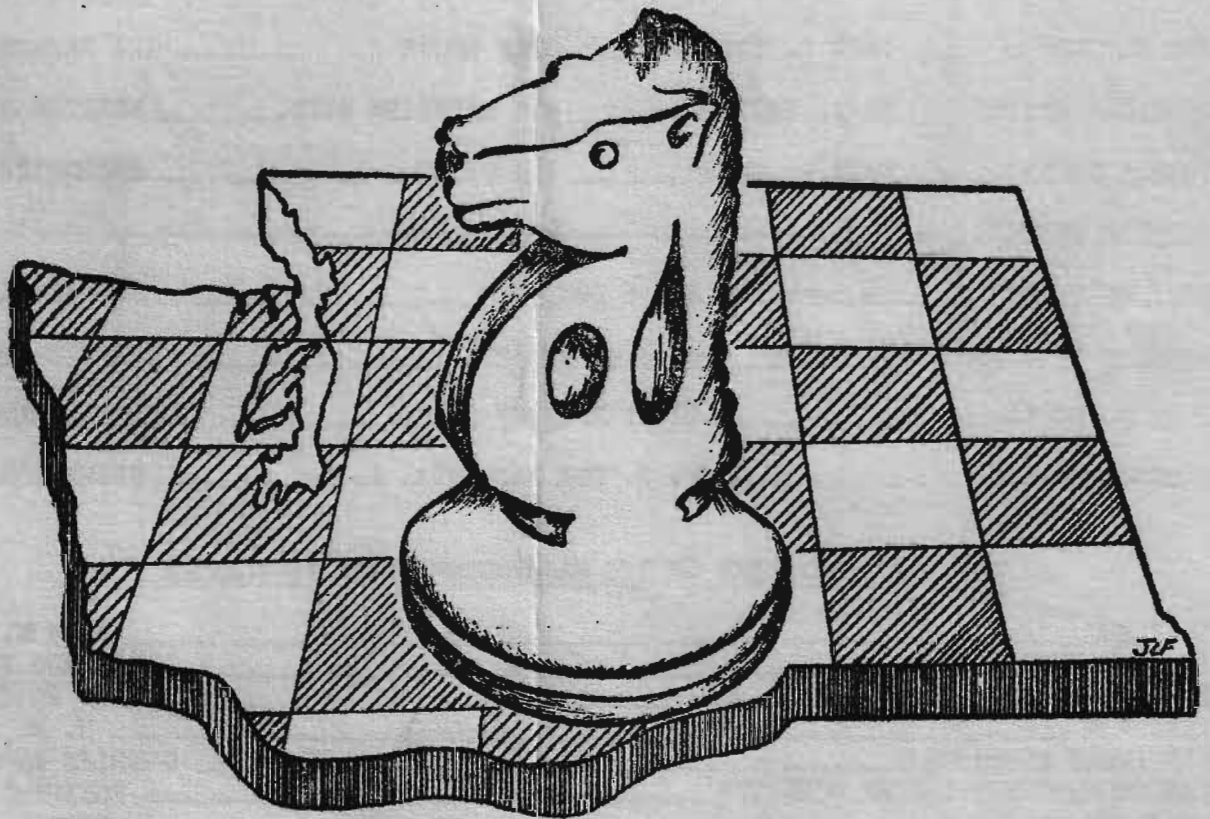


WASHINGTON

CHESSES

LETTER



DECEMBER 1950



# WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER

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# EDITORIAL

ALL RESULTS ARE TINGED WITH IMPERFECTION SO DO NOT LET MISTAKES DISCOURAGE YOU

THE 1951 WASHINGTON STATE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP will be held January 27 and 28 as the first Open Tournament to carry a State Title for the winner. All players are invited to attend. State residence is not required and I am sure we will have a record turnout. The prizes for first place have never been surpassed in any previous tournament. They are, first, the title 1951 WASHINGTON STATE OPEN CHAMPION, second, a large bronze trophy, third, the title of WASHINGTON CHESS EXPERT and fourth an invitation to play in the WASHINGTON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP held in February if the winner is a state residence. Second prize is a years subscription to the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER. Invitations to play in the State Championship will also be extended to those players placing second to fifth so here is an excellent opportunity to win a chance at the State Championship.

Complete information regarding the 1951 WASHINGTON STATE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP is as follows:

DATE & TIME: 9:00 A.M. January 27 and 28  
ENTRY FEE: \_\_\_\_\_ \$2.00  
TIME LIMIT: \_\_\_\_\_ 45 moves in 1½ hours  
ROUNDS SCHEDULE: \_\_\_\_\_ January 27 & 28  
Round 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.  
          Lunch  
Round 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 1:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M.  
          Dinner  
Round 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.  
SYSTEM: \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Round Swiss

PLACE: \_\_\_\_\_ Assembly Hotel, Seattle  
PRIZES:—(1st) Titles of 1951 WASHINGTON STATE OPEN CHAMPION & WASHINGTON STATE CHESS EXPERT, Trophy, and qualification for 1951 State Championship  
          (2nd) Year subscription to Wn. Chess Letter. Qualification to 1951 State Championship.  
          (3rd, 4th and 5th) Qualification for 1951 State Championship.

The response recieved from the appeal made for funds has been very encouraging indeed and this editor considers it a strong vote of confidence for the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER. To this date of Dec. 26 we have recieved a total of \$316.00 which leaves \$134.00 to be raised. Any of you Chess Players who have not contributed that can help out in this matter please do so as we have purchased this machine with the confidence that you will support our actions. Please help if you can. A dollar alone is not much but one from each of us would be all we need. Following is a list of loans and contributions recieved by Dec. 26, 1950.

## LOANS

PETER HUSBY _____	\$100.00	R. P. ALLEN _____	\$50.00
J. CERRETELLI _____	\$100.00	M. F. PARKMAN _____	\$20.00

## CONTRIBUTIONS

MORRIS GOLD _____	\$2.00	A. C. SHIVES _____	\$2.00
RAY HISCOX _____	\$1.00	LESLIE COUBROUGH _____	\$5.00
CHARLES MAGEKURTH _____	\$5.00	R. R. MERK _____	\$10.00
KEN MULFORD _____	\$7.50	R. M. COLLINS _____	\$5.00
LAWRENCE ALLYN _____	\$2.50	HELA CASE _____	\$5.00
R. L. LINKLETTER _____	\$1.00	(WCF) _____	\$100.00

The WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER and all the staff would like to take this opportunity to express it's gratitude to the above named players.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A 1951 CANADA vs U.S.A. CORRESPONDENCE MATCH is to be organized, with play by postcard mail, to start Jan. 1st, 1951 and to close Dec. 31st, 1951.

About five such matches have been played during the last half century, the last one about 15 years ago. Because of the larger U.S.A. population it is suggested that this time the U.S.A. team be drawn first from States near the international boundary, so that it could be used also as a means for leaders to broaden contacts and further stimulate interest in their areas in the annual crossboard match each summer.

The Match would of course be 'chess for fun', a social event open to players of all classes (A,B,C,D), suitably paired as in the border match.

The Canadian team captain will produce four Bulletins during the course of the Match, including a final board by board tabulation of results, games, etc. He will also produce Starting Sheets, with list of rules agreed on. These services will be available free from the Canadian Team Captain for distribution by those U.S.A. Regional Captains wishing to avail themselves of this service.

A volunteer for the position of U.S.A. National Team Captain to be found later from among the Regional Captains.

Additional Suggested Rules: a. Each team member to play two games simultaneously with his opponent, one with the black and one with the white pieces.

b. Pairing with opponents living not further apart than 1,000 miles, and closer if possible.

c. 72 hours to be allowed for consideration of reply moves, exclusive of delivery time.

d. Unfinished games at Dec. 31st, 1951 to be adjudicated, by the National Team Captains.

For further information write to: 5970 Durocher Ave., Montreal, Que., Canada.

Sincerely yours,

D. M. LeDain

Dear Bob, .....

I received your letter of Dec. 4, 1950 some days ago and often reading it came to the same conclusion that I had when I read the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER of a month ago telling of the need for a new mimeograph machine, and that as I have enjoyed the monthly letters and the opportunity of playing postal chess and the many good friends made through this organization so much that I could not afford not to do something about helping to hold the publication together. So here is my small contribution for that purpose. I know that many others have given a lot of their time to promote the organization and the publishing of the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER and I suppose that the only pay received has been the self satisfaction of having promoted something that is dear to their hearts. Unfortunately I am not able to participate in the tournaments and have to play my chess by mail or when some of my friends come to the house to have a session with me.

Please convey to the rest of the staff my congratulations for a fine job on the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER!

Sincerely yours,

Bob Merk  
1026 E 71  
Seattle 5, Wn.

## SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS

Problem No. 1. -- 1. k-k7 p-k5 2. k-q6 p-k6 3. k-b5 p-k7 4. r-k7 p-r7 5. k-n4! p-r8(Q) 6. rpx ch k-b8 7. r-kl ch wins.

Problem No. 2. -- 1. r-n4 qxr 2. q-q3 ch k-k4 3. q-q5 mate. Or 1. ... nxq 2. nxp ch k-k6 3. r-q3 mate. Or 1. ... bxn 2. nxp ch k-k6 3. q-k2 mate. Or 1. ... q-b5! 2. nxp ch k-k6 3. nxp mate.

Problem No. 3. -- 1. b-n6 p-r7 2. b-nl pxb(Q) 3. p-n8(Q) q-k5 4. qxp ch q-n5 5. q-r6 ch etc. Or 3. ... qxb 4. q-r7 ch k-n5 5. q-n6 ch k-r6 6. q-r5 mate. Or 1. ... p-kb7 2. p-n8(Q) pxb(Q) 3. q-r7 ch k-n5 4. q-r5 mate.

Problem No. 4. -- 1. p-n6 b-k5 ch 2. k-n3 p-q5 3. p-r4 k-n3 4. b-nl! resigns.

# PUGET SOUND LEAGUE RESULTS

## SEATTLE 1ST-SEAY. M.C.A. 2ND.

SEATTLE	6½	UNIV. of WASH.	3½	INDIVIDUAL RATINGS (Dec. 10, 1950)					
				W	L	D	Pts		
G.S.G. Patterson	1½	G. Schain	½	G.S.G. Patterson	7	0	1	37½	
G. Muller	1½	C. Ballantine	1½	R. Stork	6	3	1	32½	
Carl Enz	1½	K. Mulford	½	D. Wade	7	2	1	26½	
T. Davidsen	1	L. Allyn	1	C. Joachim	5	3	0	25	
Dr. Shephard	2	J. Amidon	0	J. Nourse	6	4	0	24	
 				Max Bader	4	1	3	23½	
 				G. Schain	4	1	3	22½	
 				C. Ballantine	6	0	2	22½	
 				Dr. A. Murray	5	4	1	22	
 				R. Collins	6	1	1	21½	
 				L. Allyn	5	1	0	18	
 				Glenn Müller	4	3	1	16	
 				C. Magekurth	5	2	1	16	
 				C. Hewitt	3	2	1	15½	
 				F. Hebert	7	0	1	15½	
 				J. Cerretelli	4	4	2	15	
 				C. Crain	2	3	1	12½	
 				L. Coubrough	4	2	1	11	
 				G. Rehberg	2	6	0	10	
 				Carl Enz	3	1	2	10	
 				Ken Mulford	3	5	1	9½	
 				J. A. Naas	2	0	0	8	
 				Ferris	2	2	0	8	
 				J. Finnigan	4	0	0	8	
 				H. E. Yocom	6	0	0	8	
 				J. Amidon	6	2	0	8	
 				V. Holmes	1	2	1	7½	
 				R. P. Allen	3	1	0	7	
 				Dr. Shephard	5	1	0	6	
 				T. Davidsen	4	1	1	5½	
 				Max Bader Jr.	3	4	1	5½	
 				Sid Nourse	1	3	0	5	
 				Max Mage	0	2	2	5	
 				Traynor	2	3	1	5	
 				D. Tweeddale	1	2	1	4½	
 				T. Warner	1	3	4	4½	
 				Pennert	1	1	1	3	
 				C. Harmeson	3	5	0	3	
 				Anders	0	3	1	2½	
 				R. Neale	0	1	1	2	
 				K. Seekamp	1	1	0	2	
 				R. Avann	2	0	0	2	
 				Martin	2	0	0	2	
 				Vukonich	2	0	0	2	
 				S. Srodzinski	2	0	0	2	
 				Belden	2	0	0	2	
 				J. Butterfield	0	2	2	1½	
 				Steve Miller	1	2	1	1½	
 				Dick Murray	0	1	1	1	

 				<b>OLYMPIA</b>					
 				<b>6</b>	<b>KITSAP</b>	<b>4</b>			
R. Stork	2	G. Rehberg	0						
Dr. Murray	1	J. Nourse	1						
J. Cerretelli	1	C. Magekurth	1						
C. Harmeson	0	J. Finnigan	2						
H. E. Yocom	2	R. P. Allen	0						
 				<b>SEATTLE YMCA</b>					
 				<b>9½</b>	<b>WEST SEATTLE</b>	<b>½</b>			
Max Bader	1½	Max Mage	½						
Dan Wade	2	Dave Breuninger	0						
Floyd Hebert	2	Stewart Woodward	0						
Max Bader Jr.	2	Forfeit	0						
S. Srodzinski	2	F. G. Schneider	0						
 				<b>TACOMA YMCA</b>					
 				<b>7</b>	<b>EVERETT-WHIDBEY</b>	<b>3</b>			
C. Hewitt	1	Sid Nourse	1						
L. Coubrough	0	J. A. Naas	2						
R. M. Collins	2	Steve Miller	0						
V. Hultman	2	Peter Husby	0						
Martin	2	Ed. Tweeddale	0						
 				<b>TACOMA YMCA</b>					
 				<b>5</b>	<b>SOUTH TACOMA</b>	<b>5</b>			
Vernon Holmes	½	Carroll Crain	1½						
L. Coubrough	2	Schuyler Ferris	0						
R. M. Collins	½	Dolle	1½						
V. E. Hultman	0	Traynor	2						
Clarence Martin	2	Forfeit	0						
 				<b>SEATTLE</b>					
 				<b>6½</b>	<b>EVERETT-WHIDBEY</b>	<b>3½</b>			
G.S.G. Patterson	2	Sid Nourse	0						
B. Bickford	1	Peter Husby	1						
Dr. Shephard	1½	Steve Miller	½						
E. Arnold	1	Ed Tweeddale	1						
Gillette	1	Dr. Gold	1						

# CLUBHOUSE NEWS

## UNIV. *of* WASH.

Ken Mulford won the University of Washington Championship in a very decisive manner, winning all his games except one draw given to Rod Dimoff. Second place went to Charles Ballantine and third to Gerry Schain, former University Champ.

Mulford recieved an engraved trophy in the shape of a large Queen which matches the King trophy he won with the 1949 University Championship.

Three University Team members have already taken their physicals for the army. They are Gerry Schain, Lawrence Allyn and James Amidon. If they have to leave it will be a severe blow to the University Team.

## TACOMA

The Tacoma Chess Club has moved its site of operations to the YMCA at 714 Market St. in uptown Tacoma. Also they have changed the name of the Tacoma Chess Club to the Tacoma YMCA. At present the Tacoma YMCA Chess Club is planning a Kriegspiel match for after the holidays. Several have agreed to play, among them being, Holmes, Collins, Hultman, and Ferris -- should be quite a tournament!

Tacoma Chess Ladder ratings are: Vernon Holmes 883, Charles Hewitt 719, Leslie Coubrough 668, Robert Collins 649, Victor Hultman 649, Clarence Martin 621, Schuyler Ferris 604, Mill 601, Savage 608, Thomas Dolle 597, Owen Traynor 593, Carl Engsrrom 586, Lee 584, Lt. Mercy 580, Charles Belden 555, Lynn Fenton 548 and Felix Plouf 470.

## OLYMPIA

Dr. Murray has cinched at least a tie in his ten game match with Stork by winning two more games in their 10 game match. This brings the score to five games for Dr. Murray and only three for Stork.

Olympia's ladder rating is as follows: Stork 854, Dr. A. Murray 845, J.

Cerretelli 827, Don Chambers 806, Dick Murray 803, C. R. Harmeson 800, H. Yocom 794, J. J. Butterfield 791, Ellis Ayer 758, and C. Yocom 746.

## E. SEATTLE

Mr. V. W. Bever reports a chess Club being organized by players in East Seattle. They have been meeting in private homes to date and those attending are: V. W. Bever, Norman Jenner, H. H. Roberts, J. H. Smith, Fred Svaren, Dr. Feller, Dave House, Church Mallory, J.W. Arden and Don Means.

## SEATTLE CITY

In the Seattle City League the Seattle Chess Club is in the lead with 3 wins followed by West Seattle and Duwamish and West Seattle tied for third. Following are match results;

SEATTLE C. C.	3½	YMCA C. C.	4½
R. Vellias	½	M. Bader	1½
Weissenborn	2	Dr. Popper	0
Schurman	1	Chakefield	1
Bushnell	2	Rich	0
Forfeit	0	M. Bader Jr.	2

Seattle C. C.	8½	Madrona C. C.	3½
Father Bussy	2	Bill Hayes	0
Sprague	0	Weisenborn *	2
Burgess	1	Dr. Groves	1
Carson	1½	MacAdoo	½
Schurman	2	Johnson	0
Bushnell	2	Robertson	0

\* substitute for the Madrona Chess Club.

## PORTLAND

### PORTLAND CHESS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The Portland Chess Club Championship was quite a tournament. The top 4 players are separated by only one point and it was that way most of the time. After two weeks Short and Turner were tied for first 2-0 each with Bills and Burnham 1-0. Turner drew with Bills and Burnham beat Short. The third week saw Burnham pull way out in front with 4-0,

Bills  $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ , Turner  $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$  and Short 2-1. Then things really got mixed up. Bills beat Burnham, Short beat Bills, Turner took Short, Strong drew Burnham and Short and Turner both beat Strong. When the fog cleared Turner and Burnham were tied at  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$  with Bills  $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$  and Short 4-2. Then in that last week Aiken flashed to form, which if he could maintain it would make him one of the best players in Oregon. First, he eliminated Turner's name from the top two by taking him in an end game that he entered two pawns down. Then in the last day of the tourney he took Bills to town to throw the tourney into its present state.

Of the top 4 Bills, Burnham, and Short are all former club champs. Here are the results:

J. C. Burnham	.....	$6\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$
E. G. Short	.....	6-2
Glenn Bills	.....	$5\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$
Donald Turner	.....	$5\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$
Fred Aiken	.....	4-4
Jack Strong	.....	4-4
George Faust	.....	2-6
Evans Dahlberg	.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$
Gordon Anderson	.....	1-7

## NOTES BY DONALD TURNER

### E. G. SHORT

If consistency is the basic quality of chess success then this month's subject E. G. Short is the most successful player in Oregon. He has been among the top chess figures in the West for twice as long as I have been living. For about fifteen years, roughly from 1915 to 1930, he was considered the strongest player in the Northwest. He has played against Reshevsky, Lasker, Alekhine, Marshall, and Maroczy in simultaneous exhibitions (drawing with Marshall, Lasker, Maroczy, and beating Reshevsky  $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

He has achieved his reputation by a style of chess quite different from Schmitt's and even more radically different from Suchobeck's attacking brand. Mr. Short is a remarkably good end game player and he exploits this ability to the utmost. His openings and his middle game, his every move seems to be played with the ending in mind. Quite willing to endure a vicious attack for the end game advantage it may bring, it is his

policy never to sacrifice unless the immediate regaining of the material is forced.

Probably his biggest weakness is his lack of opening preparation. In order to exploit end game advantages he frequently adopts inferior variations or ones with which he is not familiar. As white he invariably aims for the exchange variation of the Lopez at which he excells. Beware of playing the Lopez as black against Short—he knows it backwards! As black he occasionally adopts 1...P-K3 and 2...P-QB4 in lieu of sound openings which his opponent may know.

## LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE

Lewis and Clark College recently finished playing a match with Pacific University at the clubroom. We hope this may be the start of a new college league. The match was won by L & C  $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $8\frac{1}{2}$ . Here are the results on the top 5 boards.

LEWIS & CLARK		PACIFIC
Turner	..... 2	Braukman ..... 0
Moore	..... 1	Skarsten ..... 1
Von Ammon	..... 2	Goodman ..... 0
Morey	..... 1	Wong ..... 1
Wilkening	..... $\frac{1}{2}$	Beckerman ..... $1\frac{1}{2}$

## KITSAP

Jack L. Finnigan is now leading the KITSAP COUNTY CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP with a score of 15 to 4. Jack Nourse is close on his heels with  $14\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  and Charles Magekurth third with  $12\frac{1}{2}$  to  $5\frac{1}{2}$ .

Each player has a total of 20 games to play so Nourse and Rehberg can still get back into the running although it would be a long uphill grind to do it.

### KITSAP COUNTY CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

	W	L
Jack L. Finnigan	..... 15	..... 4
John Nourse	..... $14\frac{1}{2}$	..... $3\frac{1}{2}$
Charles Magerkurth	..... $12\frac{1}{2}$	..... $5\frac{1}{2}$
Richard P. Allen	..... 11	..... 7
George Rehberg	..... $9\frac{1}{2}$	..... $3\frac{1}{2}$
F. Miller	..... $6\frac{1}{2}$	..... $11\frac{1}{2}$
J. Paterson	..... 6	..... 12
L. Buher	..... $4\frac{1}{2}$	..... $8\frac{1}{2}$
Henry Kauffenberger	..... $2\frac{1}{2}$	..... $7\frac{1}{2}$
Nels Markson	..... $2\frac{1}{2}$	..... $14\frac{1}{2}$

# NOTES *by* TURNER-CONT.

## RADIO MATCH

W7ARY - PORTLAND

W7LQT - BREMERTON

E. G. SHORT

JOHN H. NOURSE

White

Black

1. p-k4

p-k4

2. n-kb3

n-qb3

3. b-n5

p-qr3

4. bxn This is Mr. Shorts' favorite opening. Unfortunately Nourse evidently didn't find this out until too late.

4. ....

qpxb

5. p-q4

pxp

6. qxp

qxq

7. nxq

n-b3

8. O-O

b-qb4

9. p-qb3

O-O

Trading would relieve black of his two Bishops -- the only compensation for the bad end game he must endure after some exchanges.

10 p-kb3

p-qn4

11 b-k3

r-kl

12 k-b2

b-n2

Not too good a square for the Bishop.

13 n-q2

p-qr4

14 n(q2)-n3

b-n3

15 n-b2

qr-q

16 qr-q1

n-q2

17 bxb There goes the game.

pxb

18 r-q6

p-qr5

19 n-b1

n-k4

20 rxr

rxr

21 k-k2

n-b5

22 r-q3

p-qb4

23 n-k3

b-r3

24 nxn

pxn

25 n-b4 The pattern is set. White will push slowly on the King side while Blacks' pawn majority will remain "so many horrid ghosts".

26 ....

p-qn4

26 r-q

rxr

27 kxr

b-n2

28 k-k2

k-b1

29 k-k3

k-k2

30 p-kn3

k-q3

31 n-r5

p-n3

32 n-b6

p-r4

33 k-b4 A sealed move. Black resigned at second session after receiving it.

# REHBERG SAYS.....

The answer to last month's rather easy problem is 19...Q-B3.

A simple answer to a problem that was simple. Simple that is when compared to the task of popularizing the game of chess.

We will never get it across to the general public as long as they regard it as a slow game. They will continue to think of it as a game for the disabled i. e. those confined to the wheel chair or bedridden as long as our actions lend a shred of truth to this line of thought.

I know that many of you do not agree but that is understandable. A lot of us delight in pondering over the manifold situations that develop. Of course this standpoint. But it is my sincere belief that chess will never reach great popularity as long as it is essentially a slow game.

This is the last time that I will devote any space to this subject in this column as I know that it must be a sore spot with many of you.

J. Nourse is a firm exponent of the pin and discovered check according to an exclusive interview given this reporter a couple of years back. I rather lean toward the checkmate myself by any means that presents itself.

K.C. Chess Club is considering 2 meetings weekly. Something we haven't had here for lo these many years. (4).

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

# SEATTLE CHESS CLUB

New elections in the Seattle Chess Club are;

President \_\_\_\_\_ T. Davidsen

Vice-President \_\_\_\_\_ Fred N. Burgess

Secretary-Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Clarence Bushnell

Director \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Sturges

Tournament Director \_\_\_\_\_ Glenn Muller

WCF Representative \_\_\_\_\_ T. Davidsen

Ladder Tournament Director \_\_\_\_\_ Carl Enz

# WIN A NEW CHESS SET !!!

## READ R.P. ALLEN'S COLUMN EN-PASSANT !!!!!



# 'EN PASSANT'

By DICK ALLEN

I think we owe the publication committee a vote of approval for the action they have taken in purchasing a new mimeograph machine. This machine is one of the best obtainable and will certainly contribute to the quality of our rejuvenated "Chess Letter".

Now we are slaves to this machine. There still remains a balance of several hundred dollars to be paid. Also, since it prints about ten times as fast as the old one, we'll have to feed it a lot more paper.

Our capable editor is doing his best to satisfy it---the average issue now is running about 18 pages as compared to 9, pre-Stork. But it is becoming more ravenous---we can't increase the size of the magazine because it's hit the ceiling, so there is only one thing left to do---increase the number of copies per issue.

We've played "hard-to-get", we've hinted tactfully, we've tried various forms of bribery, cajoling, wheedling, blackmail, in fact everything short of violence as the political forces within the WCF have sought expansion. Still we have only 125 members. What's holding us down? The same thing that's holding down the greatest game that was ever invented---the only game that can be played at any rate by either sex at any age, giving expression to the highest and most noble faculties and characteristics of man.

The general public thinks that chess is a very slow game. The typical picture in the average non-chess player's mind is that of two old men sitting at a table, neither one moving, and a spider spinning his web between them. Were it not so ridiculous, this would be insulting to those who love chess. But the slow-movers, with delusions of master ability, are unwittingly doing their best to perpetuate this horrible picture which repels thousands of potential chessplayers every day. Who knows? There may be a few young people in Washington (besides Ulvestad) who have master potential and need only a favorable introduction to the game to start them up to fame.

As a result of the recent questionnaire which was sent to all members of the WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION, several promising suggestions have been offered for promoting and expanding chess in Washington State. Plan "A", strangely enough, is a membership drive with a contest motif. It will operate on the "buddy" system, in which each member will either "persuade" his closest, non-member friend to take out a membership or take it out for him. The reward in this case is the undying gratitude of the neophyte. However, if said member has a lot of buddies and can sign up ten of them, then according to the plan, he will be awarded a badge of honor---a lapel pin as illustrated in Chess Review (a competitor) valued at \$1.50, gold-plated knight-head over a black and white enameled chess board.

Naturally there are probably some who are simply swarming with friends who would subscribe to the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER at the drop of a hat if they only knew where to send the money or those firebrands who enjoy building a fire under their more slothful neighbors who will surpass the ten buddy mark. You will not go unnoticed. Starting with the publication date of this issue, the one who turns in the most new members (subscriptions, new or renewal) will receive a beautiful imported chess set, tournament size, weighted and felted. Get yourself a receipt book and a few back copies as samples, and you're in business! The contest closes March 1, 1951; at which date the dues go up to \$2.00 per year. Renew now for as many years as you wish at the old price of \$1.50. If you're not in the contest, give it to someone who is.

WIN A NEW 4" CHESS SET!  
READ ABOVE FOR DETAILS OF CONTEST.

# GAMES DEPARTMENT

## UNIVERSITY OF WASH. VS. OLYMPIA

### ENGLISH OPENING

#### GERALD SCHAIN

White

1. P-QB4
2. N-QB3
3. N-B3
4. P-K3
5. P-Q4
6. B-K2
7. BxB
8. NxP
9. BxP
- 10 BxN
- 11 B-Q2
- 12 Q-K2
- 13 KxB
- 14 QR-Q1
- 15 KxQ
- 16 K-B3
- 17 K-N3
- 18 B-B3
- 19 B-N4ch
- 20 KR-K1
- 21 RxR
- 22 K-R4
- 23 R-K2
- 24 K-R3
- 25 B-B3
- 26 B-R5

— WHITE RESIGNS —

#### ROBERT C STORK

Black

- P-K4
- N-KB3
- N-B3
- P-Q4
- B-KN5
- BxN
- PxP
- PxP
- NxN
- B-N5ch
- Q-K2
- BxBch
- O-O-O
- QxQ
- KR-K1ch
- N-K4ch
- P-QB3
- NxP
- K-B2
- KRxR
- R-Q6ch
- N-Q3
- R-Q5
- P-KB4
- P-KN4
- R-R5ch

12 R-QN1

13 B-R4

14 N-K5

15 O-O

16 B-N3

17 P-QR4

18 BxN

19 P-N5

20 PxP

21 B-B5

22 BxB

23 P-B4

24 QPxN

25 Q-Q3

26 KR-K1

27 R/K1-Q1

28 KPxP

29 QxB

30 PxP

31 RxQ

32 R-R4

33 PxP

34 R-N3

35 R-N8ch

36 P-N3

37 K-N2

38 R-R5

39 R-K8ch

40 R-KB8

41 R/B8-B5

42 K-R3

43 R/B5-K5

44 R/R5-Q5

45 R-K6ch

46 R-Q1

47 R-QR1

48 K-N4

49 R/R1XP

50 R/K6-B6

51 K-N5

52 R/R6-N6

53 R-R6ch

54 R/B6-N6ch

55 R-R3ch

56 RxR

57 R-KN6

58 K-B5

59 RxP

60 R-N5

61 P-N4

62 R-N8

P-R3

B-N5

B-R4

N-N5

B-N4

NxN

R-B1

BPxP

R-K3

B-N3

NxB

NxB

B-K2

B-B4

P-Q5

Q-R4

BxPch

QxN

QxQch

PxP

P-B3

RxP

R-QB2

K-B2

R-Q3

R-R2

K-K3

K-Q2

K-B3

R-Q7ch

R-QN7

K-N3

R-N4

K-R4

K-N5

R-R4ch

RxP

R-Q2

Q-R4ch

R-Q6

K-R4

K-N5

K-B6

K-B5

KxR

R-R3

K-K6

K-B6

P-R5

R-N3

P-R6

## UNIVERSITY OF WASH. VS. SEATTLE

### QUEENS GAMBIT DECLINED

#### CARL ENZ

White

1. P-Q4
2. P-QB4
3. N-QB3
4. B-N5
5. P-K3
6. N-B3
7. P-QR3
8. Q-B2
9. PxP
- 10 B-Q3
- 11 P-QN4

#### KEN MULFORD

Black

- P-Q4
- P-K3
- N-KB3
- QN-Q2
- B-K2
- O-O
- R-K1
- P-B3
- KPxP
- N-B1
- P-QR3

63 R-KR8	K-N7
64 P-N5	P-R7
65 P-N6	P-R8(Q)
66 RxQ	KxR
67 K-B6	K-N7
68 P-B5	K-B6
69 K-B7	K-B5
70 P-B6	K-B4
71 P-N7	R-N4
72 K-K7	K-K4
73 P-B7	RxP

DRAWN

UNIVERSITY OF WASH. CHAMPIONSHIP

SICILIAN DEFENCE

KEN MULFORD

GERALD SCHAIN

White

Black

1. P-K4  
 2. N-KB3  
 3. N-B3  
 4. P-Q4  
 5. NxP  
 6. B-K2  
 7. B-K3  
 8. N-N3  
 9. O-O  
 10. P-N4  
 11. P-B3  
 12. P-N5  
 13. N-Q5  
 14. N-N6  
 15. NxR  
 16. BxB  
 17. P-B3  
 18. N-Q4  
 19. N-K2  
 20. Q-N3  
 21. R-Q1  
 22. B-KN1  
 23. R-KB1  
 24. P-QB4  
 25. QxP  
 26. R-Q1  
 27. PxP  
 28. QxRP  
 29. P-KR3  
 30. Q-K6  
 31. B-B5  
 32. R-KB1  
 33. BxN  
 34. RxRch

P-QB4  
 N-KB3  
 N-B3  
 PxP  
 P-Q3  
 P-KN3  
 B-N2  
 B-Q2  
 O-O  
 Q-B1  
 P-QR3  
 N-K1  
 B-R6  
 Q-Q1  
 BxR  
 QxN  
 P-N4  
 P-K4  
 N-K2  
 K-R1  
 P-B4  
 Q-B1  
 Q-Q2  
 NPxP  
 F-Q4  
 BPxP  
 Q-N5  
 PxP  
 Q-R5  
 N-B4  
 KN-Q3  
 QxNP  
 N-K6  
 RESIGNS

MASTER GAMES

(A 22 MOVE COMBINATION)

M. M. BOTVINNIK

V. CHEKOVER

White

Black

1. N-KB3

P-Q4

2. P-B4	P-K3
3. P-QN3	N-KB3
4. B-N2	B-K2
5. P-K3	O-O
6. B-K2	P-B3
7. O-O	QN-Q2
8. N-B3	P-QR3
9. N-Q4!	PxP
10. PxP	N-B4?
11. P-B4	Q-B2
12. N-B3	R-Q1
13. Q-B2	N/B4-Q2
14. P-Q4	P-B4
15. N-K5	P-QN3
16. B-Q3	PxP
17. PxP	B-N2
18. Q-K2	N-B1
19. N-Q1	R-R2
20. N-B2	Q-N1
21. N-R3	P-R3
22. N-N5 ! !	The beginning. Black must accept.
22 . . . . .	PxN
23 PxP	N/B1-Q2
The attacked Knight cannot move. 23. . . . .	
N/B3-R2?, 24 NxP threatening Q-R5 wins.	
24 NxP ! !	KxN
25 P-N6ch ! !	K-N1
26 QxPch	K-R1
27 Q-R3ch	K-N1
28 B-B5	N-B1
If 28. . . . B-Q3, mate in four. If 28. . . .	
. . . B-N5; 29 B-K6ch, K-B1; 30 BxN is the winning line.	
29 B-K6ch	NxB
30 QxNch	K-R1
31 Q-R3ch	K-N1
32 RxN !	The third sacrifice, more obvious than the earlier ones, but gives the game an added attraction, especially for those who measure brilliancy by the amount of wood sacrificed.
32 . . . . .	BxR
33 Q-R7	K-B1
34 R-K1 !	B-K4
Now 35 RxB would win, but slowly, Black could give up his Queen. Nothing that banal.	
35 Q-R8ch !	K-K2
36 QxPch !	K-Q3
37 QxBch.	K-Q2
38 Q-B5ch	K-B3
39 P-Q5ch	K-B4
40 B-R3ch	KxP
41 Q-K4ch	K-B6
42 B-N4ch	K-N7
43 Q-N1	MATE.

This game was played at the tourney in Moscow in 1935.

# 'CHESS LIFE' REPORTS

## UTAH STATE OPEN CHAMP

William F. Tabor, Reno, Nev., took home the Utah State Open Championship for the second successive year with victory in the final round of the three-day invitational tournament. For his triumph Tabor became the first holder of the Sam Teitelbaum perpetual huge gold trophy which will be awarded annually to the tourney champion.

Runner-up was Lloyd Kimpton of Twin Falls, who is number two ranking players of Idaho. His brother, LeVerl, Idaho State Champion, finished seventh in the Utah tournament. Louis N. Page took third place to retain the title of highest ranking Utah player. He has been Utah Champion eight times. Bronze medals were presented to Lloyd Kimpton and Page.

The tournament represented winners in three regional state tournaments held over Labor Day plus the top players of Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming. In the regional events, Alma A. Madsen and Joseph Openshaw topped the 20-player event at Provo, while Richard Durham, three-time state champion, and Judge Leon Fommesbeck topped the 18-player event at Logan. In Salt Lake City, Gaston Chappuis, Ted Pathakis, Irwin M. Taylor and Sverre Gridseth topped the 30-player tourney; and when the Wyoming players were unable to attend, Farrell L. Clark and Phillip Neff were asked to play in their place. Page was seeded as ranking Utah player.

The tournament ended with a banquet for the players and their wives in which two top magicians of Utah gave a hilarious half-hour entertainment and the versatile chess editor of the Deseret News, Harold Lundstrom, obliged with several piano solos. Teitelbaum and Lundstrom acted as tournament directors for the event which was sponsored by the Salt Lake City YMCA Chess Club.

## CALIFORNIA

Off to a flying start the San Jose Chess Club leads the Central California Chess League by a 3-0 match score while last year's winners, fielding the same team, are in the cellar with 0-3.

Sacramento holds second with 2-0, and Fresno is third with 2-1. Other teams in the league are: Stockton, Oakdale and Pittsburg.

## ADAMS INVITED

U. S. Master Weaver W. Adams has been invited to participate in the annual Christmas Tournament at Hastings, England -- scene of one of Pillsbury's greatest triumphs. Adams is now giving simultaneous exhibitions in order to raise funds to finance the trip.

## SAMMY 2ND AT START

Samuel Reshevsky flew to Amsterdam to participate in the International Tournament there which includes such leadings lights as Najdorf, Dr. Euwe, Rossolimo, Tartakower, Trifunovic, Gligoric, Stahlberg, and Pilnik in the 20-player list. At round four Svetozar Gligoric was leading with three wins and a draw, while Reshevsky, Nicholas Rossolimo and Gideon Stahlberg were tied for second with 3-1 each. Reshevsky lost no games but drew with Najdorf and Kottbauer while winning from Donner and Van Den Berg.

After fourteen unfinished rounds Najdorf was leading with  $11\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ . Other scores: Stahlberg  $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; Reshevsky 9-4; Euwe 9-5; Gligoric  $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ ; Rossolimo  $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ ; Pirc 8-6; O'Kelly  $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; Pilnik 7-5; Trifunovic  $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; Tartakower  $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$ ; Donner 6-8; Foltys  $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $8\frac{1}{2}$ ; Gudmundsson and van Scheltinga 5-8 each; Van den Berg 5-9.

## RUSSIA

The annual Soviet Championship is

under way in Moscow with the following distinguished list of competitors: A. Kotov, I. Boleslavsky, Yu. Averbakh, R. Borisenko, I. Lipnitsky, T. Petrosan, V. Smyslov, D. Bronstein, I. Bondarevsky, P. Keres, S. Flohr, A. Tolush, V. Alartortsev, L. Anonin, E. Heller, A. Konstantinopolski, V. Lublinski, V. Mikenas A. Sokolski, A. Suetin.

## WOMEN'S CLUB

USCF Director James B. Gibson, Jr. of Tampa has organized the women players of Tampa into the Tampa Women's Chess Club, an affiliate of the Tampa Chess Club. President is Helen Williams, vice president, Mrs. Eleanor Baker, secretary Suzanne Newell, and treasurer Flo Ann Roberts. The Tampa Women's Chess Club now joins the select group, consisting of the Queen's Women's Chess Club of Cleveland and the Women's Chess Club of New York, of chess clubs exclusively composed of women players.

## TRI-STATE TOURNEY

Glenn Hartleb, USCF Member Secretary, from Erie, Pa., won the fifth Tri-State Tournament at the Seneca Hotel in Columbus, Ohio over November 11 and 12. Hartleb, who placed fourth in the U. S. Open Championship at Omaha in 1949, took the Tri-State title by winning five straight games. Thus, Bill Byland, also from Pennsylvania, had to be content with fourth place this year after winning the 1949 event. Ahead of Byland were Jim Schroeder, present Ohio State Champion, and A. Nasvytis, also of Ohio.

With Paul Dietz, winner of the 1949 U. S. Intercollegiate Championship, entered, there was little doubt about the Junior title. Dietz won with  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , conceding a draw to Fleat of Ohio.

## NEW RATING SYSTEM

The United States Chess Federation has devised a new system for rating all U. S. Chess Players. A complete list of players' classification has been published in "Chess Life" and following is a list of ratings given to Northwest Players by the U. S. Chess Federation.

### USCF CLASSIFICATION

Grandmaster \_\_\_\_\_ 2700 Points up

Senior Master _____	2500 to 2699
Master _____	2300 to 2499
Expert _____	2100 to 2299
Class A _____	1900 to 2099
" B _____	1700 to 1899
" C _____	1500 to 1699
" D _____	Below 1500

## U.S.C.F. RATINGS

Dake, Arthur W. (Portland) _____	2598
Ulvestad, Olaf (Seattle) _____	2311
Amidon, James (Seattle) _____	1990
Joachim, Charles (Seattle) _____	1985
Nourse, Jack (Bremerton) _____	1985
Patterson, G. S. G. (Seattle) _____	1981
Sheets, Leonard (Seattle) _____	1961
Schmitt, Jim (Portland) _____	1951
Reddington, George (Portland) _____	1903
Murray, Dr. A. A. (Olympia) _____	1850
Power, Neil F. (Everett) _____	1847
Stork, Robert C. (Olympia) _____	1835
Schain, Gerald (Seattle) _____	1824
Muller, Glenn (Seattle) _____	1824
Neale, Bob (Seattle) _____	1819
Wander, Frank (Washington) _____	1819
Allen, R. P. (Bremerton) _____	1808
Bollman, Dean (Seattle) _____	1780
Taro, Lawrence W. (Everett) _____	1776
Naas, J. A. (Everett) _____	1773
Tweeddale, D. (Everett) _____	1755
Holmes, V. E. (Tacoma) _____	1748
Cerretelli, J. P. (Olympia) _____	1747
Murray, R. J. (Olympia) _____	1740
Finnigan, J. L. (Bremerton) _____	1685
Burnhan, J. C. (Portland) _____	1680
Nippell, Norman (Seattle) _____	1655
Davidson, T. H. (Seattle) _____	1652
Allyn, L. (Wenatchee) _____	1641
Beal, John (Everett) _____	1636
Turner, D. (Portland) _____	1580
Eikren, S. (Portland) _____	1580
Wade, Dan (Seattle) _____	1544
Amsden, Henry B. (Bellingham) _____	1542
Bever, V. W. (Bellingham) _____	1542
Brandstrom, Bert (Washington) _____	1541
Hazen, Ray (Washington) _____	1530
Husby, Peter (Everett) _____	1528
Collins, Robert M. (Tacoma) _____	1515
Mulford, K. W. (Seattle) _____	1485
Bushnell, Clarence (Seattle) _____	1485
Mackenzie, J. (Portland) _____	1480
Hebert, Floyd (Seattle) _____	1461
Martin, Clarence (Tacoma) _____	1431
Case, H. A. (Bellingham) _____	1402
Aikrem, F. (Portland) _____	1347
Butler, M. C. L. (Washington) _____	1319
Gordon, J. S. (Washington) _____	1280
Lyman, S. (Portland) _____	1280
Cannon, E. (Portland) _____	1080

# WASH. CHESS HISTORY

— BY JOHN N. NOURSE

Another outstanding personality of this period was William Dickey, who is remembered by the world as the man who discovered Mt. McKinley. The Encyclopedia Americana records:- "Mt. McKinley, a peak of the Rocky Mountains, the highest in North America, south of the central part of Alaska, about 155 miles north of Cook Inlet. The Indian name of this peak is Traleyka, and the Russian name, Bolshaya. The fact that this is the highest land on the continent was not known until 1896, when Mr. Dickey explored the Sushitna River and the land near its source. He estimated the height of the peak at 20,000 ft. and named it Mt. McKinley in honor of William McKinley. (q.v.). In 1903 it was visited by members of the United States Geological Survey. The mountain is a great dome-shaped mass, 20,000' above the sea." Apparently Mr. Dickey was equally effective in estimating the height of a mountain, or the depth of his opponents combinations.

Will Dickey was a top player and a permanent fixture of the club for many years. He met Mr. Bagley in 1887, and through their mutual enjoyment of the sporting gambit side of chess, became intimate friends for over 40 years. He was a mining engineer from New York, with headquarters in Seattle, spending 3 or 4 months of the summer in Alaska, and frequently returning to New York. Owing to the many chess experts he knew in the east, such as U.S. Champion Showalter, he became one of the leading players of the Northwest. Like most of the pioneer players he loved a sporting opening, the gambits especially being prime favorites. Dickey was especially fond of the Allgaier.

Mr. Dickey won a special niche in chess fame as the originator of a daring opening, which he introduced both here and in New York, and which was played extensively at that time. It was called variously, "The Fool's Own," the "Klondike," or Dickey's gambit. Mr. Otto Case describes it thus:- "It was a very radical departure from the Max Lange attack. Along in the middle of the opening he sacrificed a Queen for a Knight and a Bishop, gaining a maximum attack with nearly all his remaining pieces."

"The worst of it all," (Mr. Case laments,) "was that he beat us all and then looked up for approbation. He even went to New York and won many games from the leading players there, until they became familiar with the attack. I gave it another name, I called it the "Britches", because it was a right and left prong of great strength."

And this it most certainly is! Following are the opening moves in the venturesome "Klondike" gambit, which with Mr. Otto Case's audacious "Blackmere" gambit, comprise the only openings originating in the Northwest.

## THE KLONDIKE GAMBIT

White	Black	White	Black	White	Black
1. P-K4	___ P-K4	4. P-QN4	_____ BxP	7. BxPch	___ K-B1
2. N-KB3	___ N-QB3	5. P-B3	_____ B-B4	8. BxN	_____ NxQ
3. B-B4	___ B-B4	6. Q-N3	_____ N-R4	9. BxN	_____ ???

Now it is every man for himself and the devil take the inept.

To my way of thinking, this is a most refreshing departure from the "tournament" type of game, where most games run for over 15 moves before they depart from "book", and a game is won or lost on memory alone.

Mr. E. A. Erickson is the authority for the following legend concerning the birth of the "Klondike" gambit, which probably contains much more than a grain of truth.

It seems that Mr. Dickey and a group of his colleagues, mostly mining engineers had missed the last boat of the season out from Alaska, and were doomed to stay all winter until spring, which gave our talented pioneer ample time and opportunity to analyse the Evans gambit, a new innovation at that time. Probably playing with weaker players, and in an effort to confer a handicap, he devised the Queen sacrifice and became so adept at it that he was able to confound Seattle's best players with the gambit until much study and analysis developed some defense.

The "Klondike", and Mr. Case's "Blackmere" gambit, (which will be printed soon) can be thoroughly recommended as a minor handicap against slightly weaker players.

# THE OPENING LABYRINTH

By CHARLES K. JOACHIM

As this year comes to a close I want to extend the greetings of the seasons in my name and all the Tournament Directors who so generously helped during the year. I thank you for your wonderful cooperation and your appreciation of our efforts to improve Washington Chess.

This report is to acquaint you with the activities of our Federation, Leagues and Clubs. The Seattle City League has celebrated it's second year of existence and is proving invaluable in providing chess for a large number of players who have not participated in tournament or Puget Sound League competition. I am especially expressing my thanks to Mr. Bushnell, Mr. Mage, Mr. Schnieder, Mr. Walker and Dr. Groves for their cooperation and able assistance in the Seattle City League.

In the WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION 1950 saw the beginning of the Washington Woodpusher's Tournament which was organized exclusively for those players with little or no practice in tournament play. 1951 will see the State Championship played in a Round-Robin for the first time, also the first Washington State Open which will act as a Qualification Tournament for the State Championship.

The WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER is equivalent to chess life in Washington. It is communications, reports, news and entertainment all at the same time and it carries our thoughts to you like pulsating blood into the veins and vessels of the body of chess. Now we can not use our old outworn mimeo-machine any longer and we have either the choice of stopping publications (which we do not intend to do) or obtaining a new machine. In my opinion I would wish that everyone would consider the continuation of the W. C. L. as his own paper and would be generous enough to donate a small amount to this cause.

## MAX LANGE ATTACK

No opening has had so much analysis research, refutation and been reaccepted so many times as the Max Lange Attack. Some analysis reaches to the 23rd move but don't worry I am not going that far.

1. p-k4 p-k4

2. n-kb3 n-qb3

3. b-b4 b-b4

4. O-O There is no game possible in which you can castle before the 4th move, this Max Lange has speed.

4. .... n-b3

5. p-q4 This move is the real beginning of this variation, of course. We can avoid it and plainly play bxp as the so called Tartakower Attack, but this spoils the fun.

5. .... pxp

6. p-k5 p-q4

The Black underdog kicks back.

7. pxn You can't kid me, says White

7. .... pxb

8. r-k1 ch b-k3

9. n-n5 q-q4

10 n-qb3 Don't you dare to take this

Knight, it's poisonous.

10 .... q-b4

Black can not take nor can he stay so he has to go away.

11 p-kn4 q-n3

12 qn-k4 b-n3

13 p-b4 O-O-O

or after

11 qn-k4 O-O-O

We can deviate from the bookline in two ways either the White Pawn can take the pawn on n7 or nxb on k6.

12 pxp r-n1

13 nxb(k6) pxn

14 b-n5 r(ql)-k1

15 q-r5 p-q6

16 nxb qxn

17 qxp(r7) qxb

18 rxp r-ql

19 pxp pxp

20 r-n6 p-q7

21 r-ql q-k4

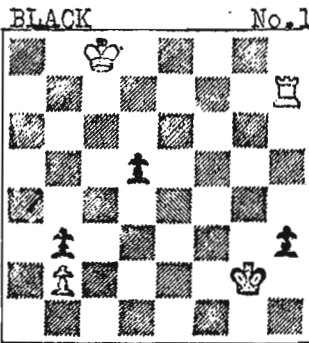
Threatening Mate

22 q-r3 ch k-n1

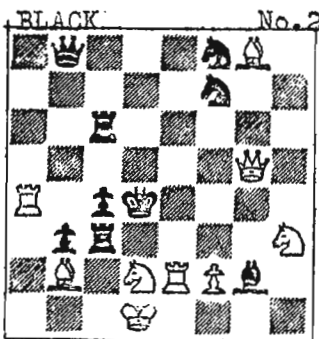
23 q-k3 and the four Pawns may be equivalent to the Knight.

# PROBLEM COLUMN

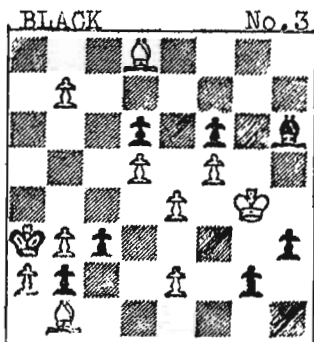
By E. A. ERICKSON



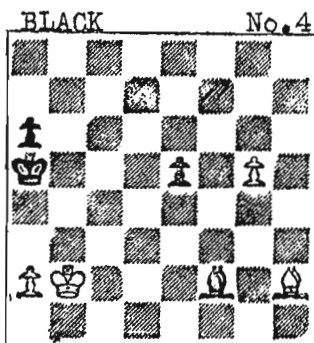
WHITE TO PLAY & WIN



WHITE MATES IN 3



WHITE TO PLAY & WIN



WHITE TO PLAY & WIN

Problem No. One  
by I. A. Horowitz

A beautiful end game position in which the King proves to be ten fold more manueverable than it appears. A force win.

WHITE has one pawn on KN2, one Rook on QR7 and a King on KB8.

BLACK has three pawns on KN6, K4 and QR6, his King on QN7.

Problem No. Two  
by Dr. R. Dalton

One move forces Black to make the situation exactly what White desires.

WHITE has one Pawn on QB2, two Rooks on KR4 and Q2, two Bishops on KN2 and QN8, two Knights on K2 and QR3, a Queen on QB5 and a King on K1.

BLACK has two Pawns on KN6 and KB5, two Rooks on KB6 and KB3, two Knights on QB1 and QB2, one Bishop on QN7, one Queen on KN1 and a King on K5.

Problem No. Three  
by Troitski

A forced win for White if played correctly.

WHITE has seven Pawns on KR2, KN3, KN7, K5, Q2, Q4 and QB5, two Bishops on K8 and KN1, and a King on QN4.

BLACK has six pawns on KN7, KB6, K3, QB3, QN7 and QR6, one Bishop on QR3 and a King on KR6.

Problem No. Four  
by Troitski

Pawn endings are tricky and must be played with exactitude. One wrong move and Black could draw.

WHITE has two Pawns on KR2 and QN5, one Bishop on QR2 and a King on KN2.

BLACK has two Pawns on KR3 and Q4, one Bishop on QB7 and a King on KR4.

SOLUTIONS  
PAGE 3



# STRÖBECK

# CHESS TOWN !!

BY HARRIET GEITHMANN

STROBECK, the chess town? It is in the Harz Mountains, near Halberstadt, only a step off your route from Berlin to Weimar, encouraged our commercial attache, in the shadow of the Reichstag.

However, though we were going into the land of Grimm's Fairy Tales, we had in our knapsacks no seven-league boots with which to cover the distance in a 'step' so we resorted to more modern, but equally magical means of transportation. We took a Passenger express plane from Tempelhof Field and floated down to Leipzig an hour later. There, after picnicking with the swallows and the swans at the station, we boarded an afternoon train for Strobeck. At dusk, four hours after we had left Leipzig and its industrial fair fluttering with ribbons, we were deposited, somewhat bewildered, at a little brick station surrounded by yellow stubble fields and a few old elms. Not a sign of a town could we see.

"Where's Strobeck?" we asked the agent with some concern, as the train disappeared around a bend and left us in the shadows.

"Over yonder, where you see the grey church spire among the green trees, It's only a half hour away by foot," he replied with a quizzical smile. We answered the question in his eyes. "We came to Strobeck to see the children play chess in the school."

With no taxis or other means of transportation in sight, we left our bags of souvenirs at the station and started off with our knapsacks. We finally landed breathless in front of the village inn, the Gasthof Schattenberg, on the edge of a public square. We were in Strobeck, the only place in all Germany, if not all Europe, where the royal art of chess is taught year after year in the school.

Adjoining our simple quarters was the huge entertainment hall devoted to chess, the best room in the house. The walls were decorated with painting and mottoes illustrative of 'Schachspiel'. On the tables were the chessboard, ivory pieces and pawns and other precious sets, hand-carved and charcoaled by local artists.

We were much impressed with one old-fashioned chessboard, which we were made to understand was not exhibited to everybody. It illustrated the character of the village and on it we read the inscription that it was given to Strobeck by the Elector of Branderburg on May 13, 1661.

Our Host, Herr Schattenberg, noted our interest and presented us with some of the paper money printed and used by Strobeck during the World War -- 25, 50, and 75 pfennig slips and half-marks -- all of which were gayly illustrated with chessboards and colored chessmen. One of these half-marks has a cartoon of Uncle Sam looking disdainfully across a chessboard of stars and stripes at the crestfallen king. Another bears a picture of Bismarck as 'Der Welt Schachmeister' (the world chess master.)

Finally we arrived at school, where Erika who was guiding us introduced us and explained our mission to the master, Herr Wilhelm Winne, an apple-cheeked, snowy-haired Teuton. He, in turn, introduced us to his flock of 32 boys and girls ranging in age from 10 to 14. These children carry their chessboards to school as naturally as American school children their books. "This is the only grade in which we teach the children how to play chess," said Herr Winne. "Here we teach the game every week during the last three months of the school year -- January, February and March. The children attend school, however, every month of the year -- from 7 to noon in summer and 8 to noon and 1 to 3 P.M. in Winter."

Like the royal children of the Kingdom of Cyrus, who had to learn the laws of chess 'almost with their mothers' milk,' so the children of Strobeck learn early, with their ABC's, to master the rules and regulations of the game.

Going into the classroom we found the children ready with 16 chessboards -- 32 devotees of the kingly game. Soon we were forgotten, as Herr Winne explained the

laws of the game and the functions of the chessmen. The children set up their black and white pieces in formal array on the checkered battlefields.

"Players with the white pieces make the first move," announced the schoolmaster. Slowly and carefully the 32 young enthusiasts made their moves, and it was with keen interest that we watched the uniform courtesy that they displayed to their opponents, their quiet and undemonstrative behavior in times of defeat or victory. The fast thinkers won their games in 5 to 10 moves, while the slow thinkers looked long at their men and moved slowly. The average player won or lost his game in 40 to 50 moves. Some were badly beaten and some soon resigned and started all over again. While the games were being won or lost there was no talking or whispering.

"Strobeck is the home of Chess," Herr Winne reminded us, as he sent the children back to their lessons. "Don't fail to see the historical chess tower or castle, where the chess champions of the town held their first contests a half century before William the Conqueror landed in England."

Regretfully we left the kindly schoolmaster and proceeded to the tower of chess in the heart of the village. "You see the balcony," said Erika, when she had succeeded in cajoling the key from the keeper and had opened the heavy door. "The tower, since the year 1011 has entertained two groups of players, one on the balcony and one on the ground floor." That this tower should have played a part in the legendary origin of the royal game in Strobeck is most natural. When Henry the Second of Germany decreed that the Wendish Count of Gungelin be delivered to the Bishop of Strobeck, to be kept in solitary confinement, the prisoner was straightway whisked off to this stronghold.

The royal captive soon learned how to beguile the lonely hours by playing chess a game in which he was passionately interested. He chalked out a chessboard on his dungeon floor and carved two sets of chessmen out of wood. Then, being doomed to play alone, this ingenious prisoner made his right hand the opponent of his left, and the game went on. In due time the Strobeck peasants who took turns in guarding the door of his cell became interested in the door of his cell became interested in the Count's silent maneuvers on the checkered floor and were initiated into the mysteries of the game. They, in turn, taught the rules to their wives and children. This legend of the origin of chess in Strobeck is perpetuated on the town's chess inspired paper money. There is, however, another version which is equally interesting. According to the Penny Magazine of December, 1836, published in London by "The Society for the Diffusion of Usefull Knowledge," one of the dignitaries of the Cathedral of Halberstadt was exiled to Strobeck toward the end of the 15th century. The simple people received him with such hospitality that the good man was overcome with gratitude. After considerable thought he decided that he could best express this gratitude by teaching the villagers how to play the royal game of chess. Eventually the exile was granted his freedom with honor and later became the Bishop of Halberstadt. At the zenith of his career he remembered his Strobeck friends with benefactions. He founded a school and provided that the masters should instruct the children in his favorite game. A chessboard with a set of chessmen he decreed should be given annually as a prize to the best player.

The good bishop foresaw a moral advantage in promoting chess. The villagers soon lost interest in games of chance and concentrated their attention upon the game of skill. Soon mothers taught the game to their daughters, and fathers bequeathed their chessboards to their sons 'as a sort of patent of nobility.' Each family tried to surpass the prowess of its neighbor.

Presently the fame of the chess players of Strobeck swept beyond the boundaries of Saxony and across Germany. Chess enthusiasts arrived from all directions to compete with the villagers, and the majority of them went away defeated.

Even gambling on chess once knocked at the door of Strobeck, but only for a brief interval, after which the game was never again played for money. The story goes that one day Silberschmidt, a student of human nature as well as a master at chess, gave Strobeck a lesson which it never forgot. He played for the high stakes which the villagers proposed and won from their champion. The villagers were willing to pay for their losses, but they were most unwilling to grant Silberschmidt a certificate of defeat. "Take the gold," they implored, "but leave us our glory."

"Good people of Strobeck," returned the stranger, "the money I have won from you I give to your poor and to your school, but on one condition: you must swear that henceforth you will never play for money. The noble science of chess carries its interest in itself; a single game won is a treasure of satisfaction to one's Amourpropre." The villagers took the oath, gave Silberschmidt his certificate, distributed his money as directed, and, so far as records show, never again did they play for aught but honor.

In this atmosphere of legendary chess Strobeck enjoys a quiet, bucolic life. Once a year a chess tournament is held in the village school, usually with 48 contestants taking active part in the tourney. The victors carry off the trophies, which are always new chessboards, and are escorted home in honor. Then the village is alive with gay banners and badges, and living chessmen, kings and queens, bishop and knights, and pawns parade the streets. Visitors interested in chess flock into Strobeck from many points.

While a village merchant waits for customers, he entertains himself with the exciting problems of chess, and when business knocks he lays his chessboard aside only while the purchaser is served. So his father has done before him. So his son will do after he is gone.

Wherever people go in Strobeck for entertainment and refreshment, they find chessboards and chessmen provided for their amusement. The game is part and parcel not only of the town's educational and recreational hours, but of its business hours the entire village breathes chess morning, noon, and night, generation after generation.

When a Strobeck maiden marries a man from the outside world, she must play a game of chess with the chief magistrate of the village before she leaves her native heath, in order to prove that she carries with her the knowledge of the traditions of the community.

When we swung aboard the noon train the day following our interesting sight-seeing walk with Erika, we heard the conductor ask the agent, "What brings Americans to Strobeck?"

"Visiting chess in the schools," came the swift reply.

Not until then did we realize that practically no American travelers visit Strobeck, and, except for the few words at the command of the schoolmaster, no one in the village can speak English. We had managed somehow, with a smattering of German language and Erika's fine understanding well mixed with her Old World courtesy.

END

### THE MAGIC BOX

When I am angry with life and am tempted to revile it as a failure, I make it a rule to go over its balance sheet and then I cheer up. I find that after all I have a noble balance at the bank—enormous credits of joy and pleasure that have made the adventure rich and splendid; the pageant of nature, the sunlight and song, mountain and sea, the green of spring and the gold of autumn, the mystery of love and the divine gift of friendship; the treasures of the eye and the treasures of the mind, books and music pictures and the noble works of man's hands; play and laughter and all the pleasant appetites of the senses. And in this grand stock-taking, CHESS! WHY, it was almost worth the adventure of life to make this discovery alone. If I had not been born I should not have played chess. What other answer is necessary to that querulous complaint against life? In this grand kingdom of the mind, all are free, all equal, all happy. For the price of a dinner you may purchase a magic box that will spirit you away on adventures more wonderful, more inexhaustible, than all the tales of the Arabian Nights. Battles you shall have as heroic as any fought on "the plains of windy Troy", ambushes that hold you breathless, plots and counter plots, mines and counter mines, stubborn fights around one faithful pawn—the brave fellow, lonely but unafraid—one who holds the bridge against the foe as Horatius held it in the brave days of old. Bring up the reinforcements, then. Unsheath the shining sword of the Bishop. A Knight, my Kingdom for a Knight! Life a failure? Nonsense. Here my son, bring out the chessmen. I'll try the Evans Gambit on you...

# TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Charles K. Joachim \_\_\_\_\_ Tournament Director

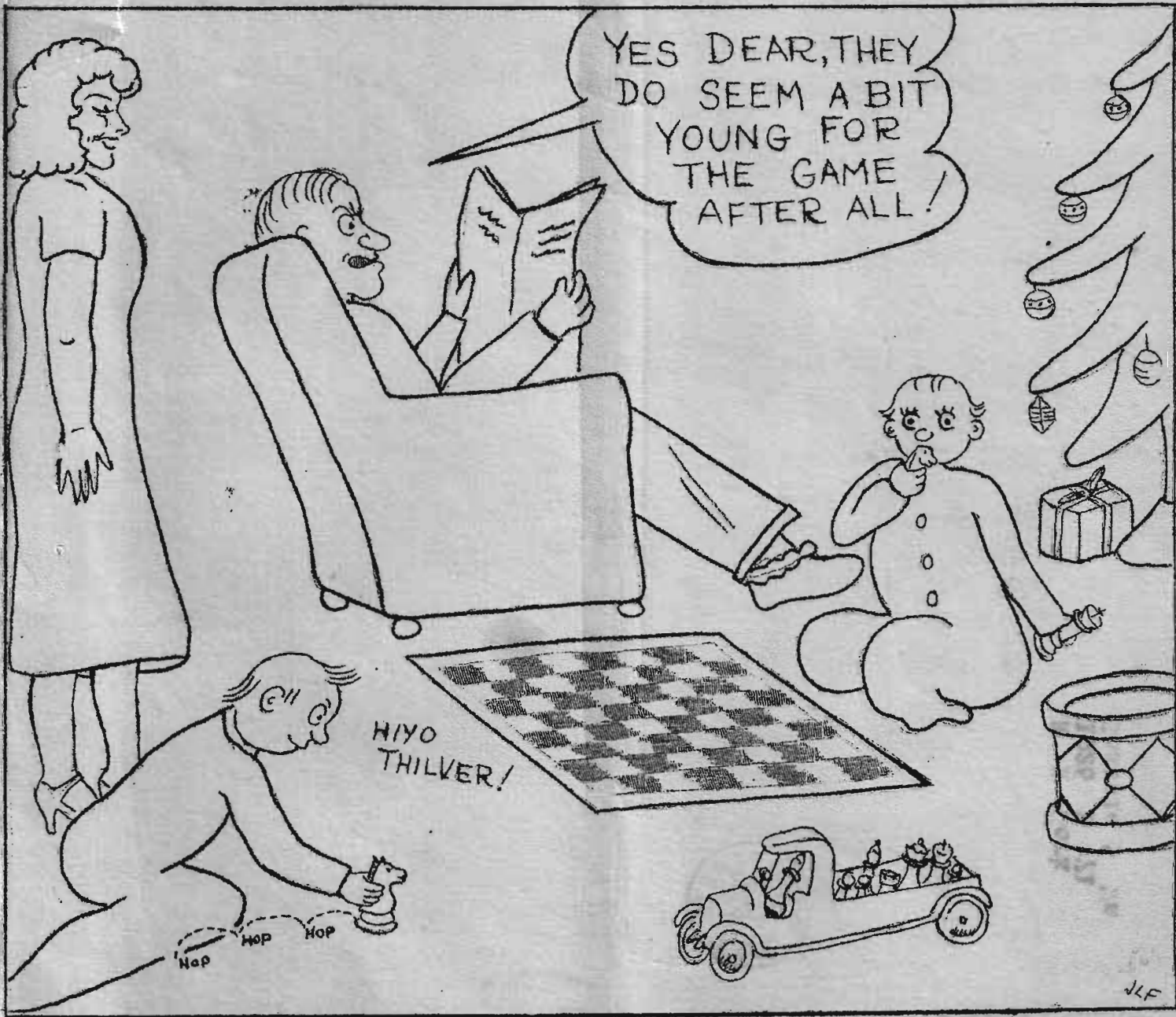
Tournament	Date	System	Entry Fee	Location
WASHINGTON STATE OPEN (Qualification Tourney)	Jan. 27-28 9 AM 1951	6 Round Swiss	\$2.00*	Assembly Hotel Seattle
WASHINGTON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP	Feb. 10, 11, 17 & 18th	Round Robin	\$2.00*	Assembly Hotel Seattle
WASHINGTON STATE WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP	Feb. 24 1 PM 1951	3 Round Swiss	\$1.00*	Assembly Hotel Seattle
WASHINGTON STATE SPEED CHAMPIONSHIP	Feb. 25 1 PM 1951	Round Robin	\$1.00*	Assembly Hotel Seattle
WASHINGTON STATE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP	March 31 9 AM 1951	4 Round Swiss	\$1.00*	Assembly Hotel Seattle
PUGET SOUND OPEN	Apr. 28, 29 9 AM 1951	6 Round Swiss	\$2.00*	Assembly Hotel Seattle
<u>DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS</u>				
<u>SEATTLE DISTRICT</u>	May 12 9 AM 1951	Decided by Districts	\$1.50*	Assembly Hotel Seattle
<u>SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON</u>	May 12 9 AM 1951	"	\$1.50*	Tacoma, Wash.
<u>NORTHWEST WASHINGTON</u>	May 12 9 AM 1951	"	\$1.50*	Everett, Wash.
<u>CENTRAL WASHINGTON</u>	May 12 9 AM 1951	"	\$1.50*	Yakima, Wash.
EXPERT TOURNAMENT	May 26, 27 9 AM 1951	6 Round Swiss	\$3.00*	Assembly Hotel Seattle
N.W.U.S. CITIES TOURNAMENT	June 18 9 AM 1951	4 man team Elimination	\$ ?	Assembly Hotel Seattle

\*Section IX Paragraph 3 of WCF BY-LAWS allows a 50% reduction to all W.C.F. members.

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS



# HAPPY NEW YEAR