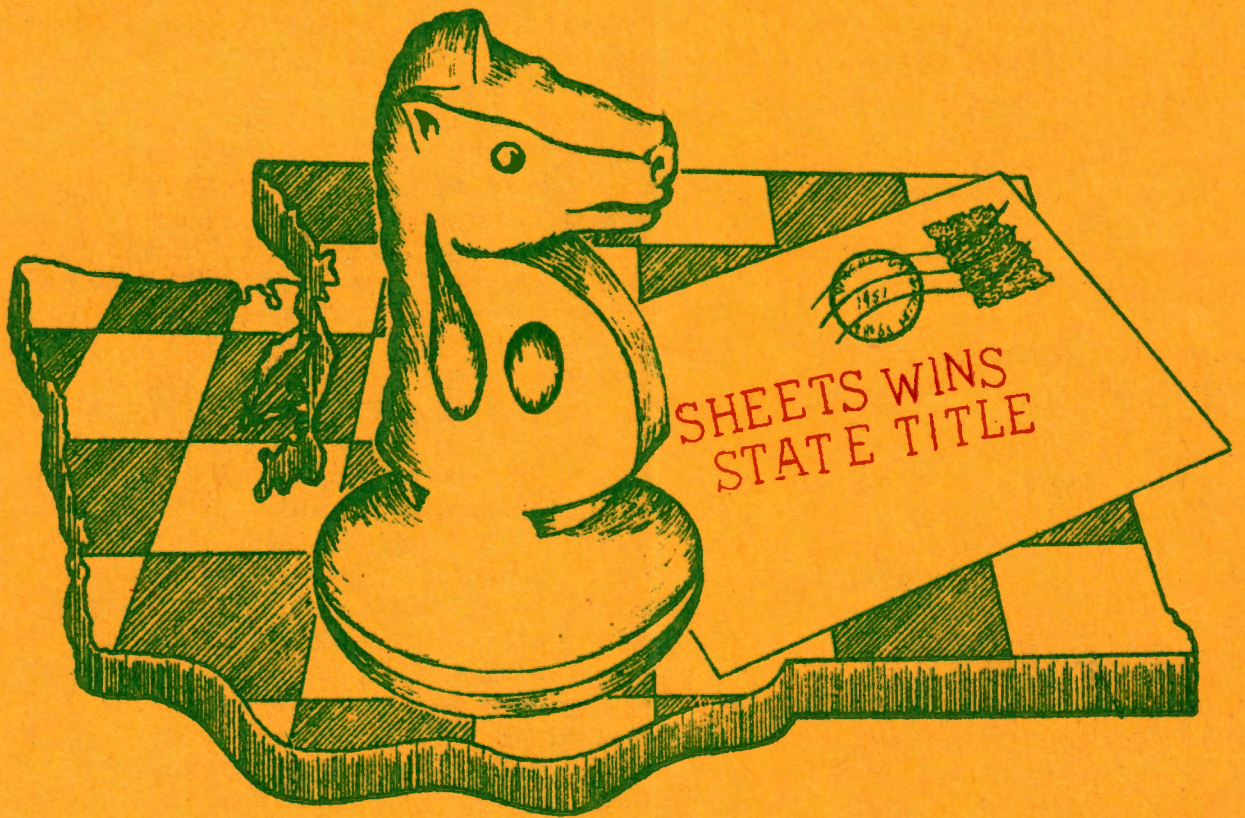


WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER



NOVEMBER 1953

WASHINGTON

Chess Letter

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A magazine is put out monthly by the inmates of McNeil called the "Island Lantern". It is a neatly done mimeographed job in blue and black and full of cartoons and articles. On page 16 of the November issue there is a page on chess giving the results of the McNeil vs. West Seattle match and the schedule. Also the prison player ratings are given. Mr. Manney is thanked by the editor of the chess page on behalf of the members of the club for the efforts which made possible their admittance into the Puget Sound League.

The admittance into the PSL was Jake by this writer but there is one detail that needs cleaning up in regards to match play at McNeil. The match is supposed to be over by 4 P. M. so both sides should bend every effort to complete the match by that time. The YMCA tilt with McNeil ended 4 - 4 because two of the McNeil men did not think an hour and 15 minutes was enough time in which to play a second game. The writer had to wait 20 minutes for his opponent after the others started play but was able to complete both of his well before quitting time. Let's save our slow chess for the State Tournament or some affair where the time element isn't so important. Move! Push that wood in a spritely manner! Save your slow moves for when you get into a jam but try to get on with the game.

PUGET SOUND LEAGUE

Kitsap 9 Olympia 1

It appears as though Kitsap has rallied strongly behind Zemgalis and has serious designs on the Puget Sound League championship. It at least becomes increasingly certain that the lowly position assigned to the Kitsappers in my pre-season prediction was, to put it mildly, a bit off! Zemgalis and the strong showing of Dr. Almond (both have 4 wins in as many starts) are a couple of good reasons for this.

| | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------|---|
| Kitsap | 9 | Olympia | 1 |
| E. Zemgalis | 2 | K. Mulford | 0 |
| Dr. Almond | 2 | J. Cerretelli | 0 |
| J. Nourse | 1 | E. Ayer | 1 |
| C. Magerkurth | 2 | H. E. Yocom | 0 |
| F. Blakefield | 2 | C. Harmeson | 0 |

U. of Wash. 8 West Seattle 2

The U. of Washington stayed in the thick of the league race by trouncing West Seattle 8 to 2 which is a surprising margin of victory when it is remembered that a supposedly stronger Washington team won by only one point over the Westsiders a year ago. Only Manney could chalk up points for the losers.

| | | | |
|---------------|---|--------------|---|
| U. of Wash. | 8 | West Seattle | 2 |
| Ted Warner | 0 | O.W. Manney | 2 |
| C. Rosburg | 2 | Max Mage | 0 |
| A. Clark | 2 | F.M. Howard | 0 |
| O. LaFreniere | 2 | E. Vukonich | 0 |
| Bob Edberg | 2 | (Forfeited) | 0 |

Tacoma Y. 7 Seattle 3

The Tacoma team joined Kitsap and the University of Washington at the top of the standings, trouncing the visiting Seattle Chess Club team 7 to 3.

| | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|---|
| Tacoma Y. | 7 | Seattle | 3 |
| V. Holmes | 1 | V.W. Bever | 1 |
| V. Pupols | 2 | Dr. Shephard | 0 |
| L. Coubrough | 2 | D. Nagel | 0 |
| R. Collins | 1 | T. Davidsen | 1 |
| V. Hultman | 1 | J. McCormick | 1 |

Seattle Y. 4 McNeil Island 4

McNeil Island Prison inmates played the highly rated Seattle Y.M.C.A. team to a 4-4 standoff. Two games were unplayed as the visitors had to leave the island at a set time. Actually, there was over an hour during which these games might have been played. This tie will not do either team's chances for first place any good.

The visitors received a free boat ride, a free meal and a free tour of the prison but no free victories in the chess match!

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Seattle Y. | 4 | McNeil Island | 4 |
| C. Joachim | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Chappel | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| M. Bader Sr. | $\frac{1}{2}$ | Shapera | $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| D. Wade | 1 | Cox | 1 |
| J. DeWitt | 0 | Raya | 1 |
| J. Bader | 1 | Berg | 0 |
| M. Bader Jr. | 0 | Berg | 1 |

(Will the "Y" ever win a match?)

P. S. L. LEADING SCORERS (Plus Scores)

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-------|------------|----------------------------------|------------|-------|
| S | Zemgalis | 4 - 0 | Magerkurth | 3 - 1 | Wood | 2 - 0 |
| U | Dr. Almond | 4 - 0 | Coubrough | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Manney | 2 - 0 |
| B | Rosburg | 4 - 0 | Joachim | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Carlson | 2 - 0 |
| S | Clark | 3 - 0 | Wade | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | LaFreniere | 2 - 0 |
| C | Pupols | 3 - 1 | Hultman | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Schrank | 2 - 0 |

I TO THE WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER. IF YOU WANT THE FACTS ABOUT
 B NORTHWESTERN CHESS SEND TWO DOLLARS TO MR. W. H. RALEIGH, OUR
 E TREASURER, WHO HIBERNATES AT 4312 WOODLAND PARK AVE, APT. # 3
 IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. YOU GET THE FACTS, JUST THE FACTS.

How Times Change Dept. Seventeen year old Jim McCormick, Renton High School student, wins Woodpushers! A year ago young Jim would have been figured last or close to the bottom. Even now it is hard to believe that he could top such experienced men as Collins, Mulford, Bever Dr. Shephard, Davidsen or Oliver LaFreniere. Just goes to show you what study, youth, enthusiasm and leverage can do. Jim had leverage in his final game against Mulford. Mulford had a draw and two wins while McCormick had three wins and therefore needed only a draw to win the tournament. As a draw was not of much use to Mulford, he had to pull out all stops in an effort to win and lost! A tip-off on Jim's new-won strength was his even break in the U. S. Junior at Kansas City last summer. These youngsters really do learn fast and Jim's estimate of three years from now really cleaning up on all comers may be on the conservative side.

WHY I BELONG TO THE CHESS CLUB

What kind of home would you have if you were unable to invite friends over for a visit without feeling guilty of transgression? Not a very good one I'm afraid. The State Tournament held at the Seattle Chess Club had one player from Tacoma and eight regular club members playing in it. The Woodpushers had five club and five visitors in it. Both could easily have been held at the chess club. Because a few players MIGHT want to visit the club Sunday for a game of skittles, a room at the YMCA had to be rented. These few players (they did not put in an appearance Sunday) apparently are considered much more important than such members as myself and several others who rarely play at the club except in tournaments. It is true that the Woodpushers could have had 20 players instead of 10 and the two tournaments would have taken

up nearly all of the tables on just one day but some of us are not particularly interested in playing except in tournaments. If we pay \$10 per year we like to feel that we can invite as many guests as we please occasionally for a tournament. After all, it is supposed to be our club too! It isn't as though we were holding tournaments every week. Some of us like our chess interesting and not just something to kill a few hours with. This feeling that the WCF is an outsider and should pay to use the Seattle Club for tournaments is very unfair. The tournaments are usually filled mostly with Seattle players and most of the Seattle men are also Seattle Club members. I hate to twist a "sacred cow's" tail and hold no malice toward any individual but feel that this matter must have an airing. The Club and the WCF membership is too intermingled. The policy should always be "1st come, 1st served" in regards to club tables.

BELLEVUE CHESS CLUB DEFEATS GOLF TEAM IN CHESS MATCH!

On Monday, Nov. 9th, the Bellevue Chess Club defeated the Jefferson Golf Club (Chess Division) team $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$. The Bellevue team consisted of V.W. Bever, H. Roberts, E. Carlson, Mr. Swett and W. H. Raleigh. The Jeff. team consisted of J. L. Sheets, Bud Moore, Ed Cox, A. J. Pillo and their team's captain, N. Robinson. Mr. Robinson is one of the few to gain a draw in the Zemgalis simultaneous, but in this event he lost two games.

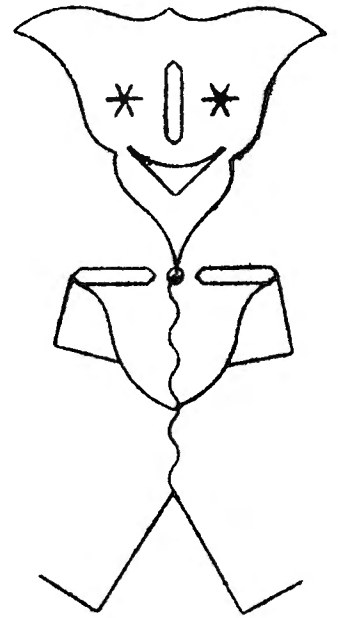
SOME NOTES ON THE STATE CLOSED.

All but one player in this State Tournament belong to the United States Chess Federation. Sheets, DeWitt, Pupols, Rosburg, Vellias, Manney, Joachim and Warner belong. Only your editor (who gets "Chess Life" free through exchange) does not belong.

MCCORMICK

WINS

WOODPUSHER TOURNEY



The FINAL STANDINGS

SB Score

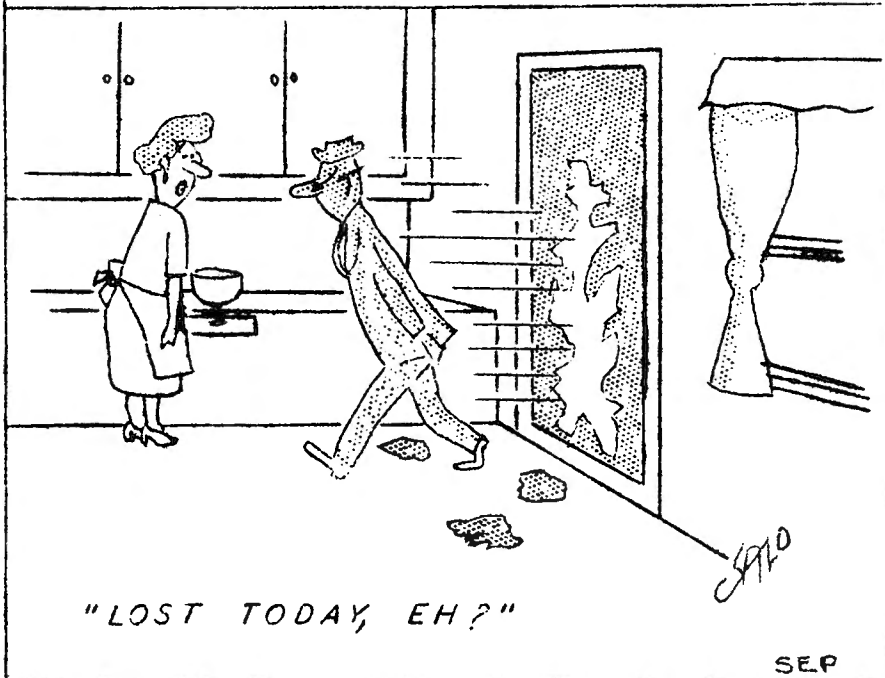
| | W7 | W8 | W6 | W4 | 7½ | 4 |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| 1. Jim McCormick | W7 | W8 | W6 | W4 | 7½ | 4 |
| 2. Elmer Carlson | W3 | L6 | W9 | W5 | 7½ | 3 |
| 3. Dr. Shephard | L2 | D5 | W10 | W6 | 7 | 2½ |
| 4. K. Mulford | D5 | W10 | W8 | L1 | 7 | 2½ |
| 5. O. LaFreniere | D4 | D3 | W7 | L2* | 10 | 2 |
| 6. V. W. Bever | W10 | W2 | L1 | L3 | 9½ | 2 |
| 7. Don Kendall | L1 | W9 | L5 | W8 | 8 | 2 |
| 8. H. E. Yocom | W9 | L1 | L4 | L7 | 9½ | 1 |
| 9. R. M. Collins | L8 | L7 | L2 | W10 | 6 | 1 |
| 10 Ted Davidsen | L6 | L4 | L3 | L9 | 8 | 0 |

James McCormick takes top honors at the Washington Woodpusher Tournament. The future master took all four games to win the tournament with a perfect score. This is just a beginning, fellows, watch out for McCormick!



From Ripley's
BELIEVE IT OR NOT

* FORFEIT



"LOST TODAY, EH?"

SEP

The town that was traded for a cup of melted butter—SHIRHATTI, INDIA was offered in 1607 to anyone who could keep an oil lamp burning while the town's owner finished a chess game. A woman poured clarified butter into the empty lamp—and her descendants still own the locality after 346 years.



Beginning next issue—an exciting story of a duel over a game of chess—

DAWN AT ÉTAMPES

by Sydney Goodman

GAMES

Dear Dan:

I don't know if you like annotated games and I'm not used to sending them in anyway. But since I seldom do, since I'm leaving etc and since I played one in the last Washington Open which wasn't too bad--well, here it is if you can use it.

Thanks.

See you in about two years.
Don Turner

Don Turner
White

V. W. Bever
Black

K. Indian Def.

The defense which black adopts has been successfully rejuvenated by the Russians for only one reason--black'sP-KB4. In the typical positions, that move gives black his counter-chances. I like this game not because it is especially good but because it illustrates that fact. When Mr. Bever fails to adopt the K-side advance, he falls into a poor position. The rest is routine.

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| 1. P-Q4 | N-KB3 |
| 2. P-QB4 | P-KN3 |
| 3. N-QB3 | B-N2 |
| 4. P-K4 | P-Q3 |
| 5. N-B3 | O-O |
| 6. B-K2 | QN-Q2 |
| 7. P-KR3 | P-K4 |
| 8. B-K3 | R-K1 |
| 9. Q-B2 | P-QN3 |
| 10 P-Q5 | B-N2 |
| 11 O-O | P-B4 |
| 12 PxP ep | BxP |
| 13 KR-Q1 | N-B4 |
| 14 BxN | NPxB |
| 15 N-R2 | |

Make way for the blockader.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 15 | Q-B2 |
| 16 N-B1 | KR-Q1 |
| 17 N-K3 | R-Q2 |
| 18 KN-Q5 | NxN |
| 19 NxN | Q-R4 |
| 20 R-Q3 | B-R5 |
| 21 P-QN3 | QB-B3 |
| 22 B-N4 | |

I like this move. On the surface its point is positional, to enforce 22...R-N2 and thus facilitate

white's pressure on the P at Q6. However, to make it took 10-15 minutes time because of incidental complications.

22 P-KB4

The temptation was irresistible. In the surprise of allowing this, the previous move had its strength.

23 PxP P-K5

24 P-B6 PxR

25 QxP R-K1

Not best, however there seems to be no clear-cut refutation of white's sacrifice. 25...BxN and 25...BxP fail quickly. 25...B-B; 26 B-K6ch, R-KB2 (26...K-R1; 27 BxR, BxB; 28 N-K7, BxN; 29 PxP, Q-B2; 30 Q-Q5, B-B3; 31 Q-B7, Q-B1; 32 R-K1 is also good for white) 27 Q-B3, R-K1 (27...Q-Q1; 28 R-K1, R-N; 29 BxRch, KxB; 30 R-K7ch is as bad) 28 N-K7ch, BxN; 29 QxB, Q-Q1; 30 BxRch, KxB; 31 PxP, QxB; 32 R-Q1 is no refutation. **

26 P-QN4 PxP

27 BxR BxB

28 PxP KxB

What else?

29 Q-Q4ch K-R3

30 Q-R4ch K-N2

31 Q-B6ch K-R3?

32 P-N4 R-K4?

33 White mates in four. 33 Q-B8ch, K-N4; 34 Q-B4ch, K-R5; 35 P-N5dis. ch., KxRP or K-R4; 36 The Q mates at either N3 or N4 depending on black's final move.

In the K-Indian white should keep an eye on black's....P-KB4. If he can successfully prevent it, white should have the better game Q.E.D. **

The others I leave to your curiosity. 25...B-R1; either...R-Q1 and ...R-KB2 give white an advantage. 25...R-N2 is best but white gets a satisfactory game at least.

*** **

The Washington State Open Tourney Champion was decided in the fifth round when Schmitt faced Manney, each player boasting a perfect 4 won, 0 lost record. Interesting!

O. W. Manney
White

Jim Schmitt
Black

Sicilian Def.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 1. P-K4 | P-QB4 |
| 2. N-KB3 | N-QB3 |
| 3. P-Q4 | PxP |
| 4. NxP | N-B3 |
| 5. N-QB3 | P-Q3 |
| 6. B-K2 | P-KN3 |
| 7. B-K3 | B-N2 |
| 8. Q-Q2 | O-O |
| 9. O-O-O | |

The idea - to throw every thing into an attack on black's K-side. However, this makes it possible for black to launch an immediate attack on the exposed white king. A chess boomerang!

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 9. | P-QR3 |
| 10 P-KR3 | NxN |
| 11 BxN | P-QN4 |
| 12 P-B4 | Q-R4 |
| 13 Q-K3 | R-N1 |

White threatened to win a queen.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 14 P-K5 | PxP |
| 15 BxKP | R-N2 |
| 16 K-N1 | P-N5 |
| 17 N-K4 | B-K3 |
| 18 P-QN3 | R-B1 |
| 19 BxN | |

This bishop was needed for the defense of the white king. Possibly the opportunity to win the exchange (temporarily) blinded white from seeing his peril.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 19 | PxB |
| 20 N-Q6? | RxP! |
| 21 KxR | QxPch |
| 22 K-Q3 | P-B4 |

Threatening 23...QxP mate.

- | | |
|----------|---------|
| 23 R-QN1 | R-Q2 |
| 24 Q-B5 | B-B1 |
| 25 K-K3 | RxN |
| 26 Q-B1 | B-Q4 |
| 27 K-B2 | Q-R4 |
| 28 R-Q1 | R-QB3 |
| 29 Q-Q2 | B-B4ch. |
| 30 K-N3 | R-Q3 |
| 31 R-QR1 | Q-B2 |
| 32 RxP | P-N4 |
| 33 K-R2 | B-B3 |
| 34 Q-N2 | RxR |
| 35 BxR | QxPch. |
| 36 P-N3 | Q-K6 |

37 Resigns.

The poor white king, pursued across the board, at last can flee no further!

Postal Chess Sect. 53A-1A

Dan Wade
White

Joe Cerretelli
Black

Ruy Lopez

- | | |
|----------|--------|
| 1. P-K4 | P-K4 |
| 2. N-KB3 | N-QB3 |
| 3. B-N5 | P-QR3 |
| 4. B-R4 | N-KB3 |
| 5. O-O | NxP |
| 6. Q-K2 | P-QN4? |
| 7. B-N3? | |

White should play BxP here and why he didn't he will never know! However, the point of recording this game is in the ending.

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 7. | P-Q4 |
| 8. P-Q3 | N-KB3 |
| 9. NxP | NxN |
| 10 QxNch. | B-K3 |
| 11 R-K1 | B-Q3 |
| 12 Q-K2 | O-O |
| 13 B-N5 | P-QB4 |
| 14 P-QB3 | Q-B2 |
| 15 P-KR3 | QR-K1 |
| 16 BxN | PxB |
| 17 N-Q2 | K-R1 |
| 18 Q-B3 | B-B5 |
| 19 N-B1 | R-Q1 |
| 20 N-K3 | P-B5 |
| 21 B-B2 | R-KN1 |
| 22 P-Q4 | R-N2 |
| 23 K-B1 | B-N4 |
| 24 P-KN4 | Q-B5 |
| 25 QxQ | BxQ |
| 26 B-B5 | BxN |
| 27 BxB | PxB |
| 28 RxB | R-K2 |
| 29 P-B4 | K-N2 |
| 30 R(1)-K1 | R(1)-K1 |
| 31 K-B2 | K-B2 |
| 32 K-B3 | P-QR4 |
| 33 F-R3 | R-N2 |
| 34 P-B5 | R-N3 |

33...R-N2 gives white his chance to win.

- | | |
|-----------|-----|
| 35 RxP | RxR |
| 36 RxR | RxR |
| 37 PXRch. | KxP |
| 38 K-K3 | |

Attempting to gain a move.

- | | |
|----------|--------|
| 38 | P-B4?? |
| 39 P-N5! | |

Black is lost! 39...K-B2; 40 K-B4, K-N3; 41 P-KR4, P-R5; 42 P-R5oh, KxP; 43 KxP, K-R5; 44 P-N6, PxP; 45 KxP, K-N5; 46K-B6 and white wins easily.

MAIL BAG

I just want to tell you how much we enjoy your comments and articles in the "Chess Letter". I think you and the "Missis" write real good.

I enjoy the game of chess and have been playing, whenever I had the opportunity, for many years. I am not much of a force at the game but did manage a few wins off Ken Mulford when he was spending a couple of summers at Toledo. One game is worth my remembering. Ken showed me what a terrible position I had put myself into by counting up all of the squares his men covered. His men covered 12 more spots on the board than did my men. Ken said it was an impossible game for me. However, I won that game! However, we think a lot of Ken and I expect to see his name at the head of the "A" players one of these days.

A. C. Shives
Toledo, Wash.

For example Smyslov is figured (as in your club perpetual) as playing 18/10 against a 1450 (tourney average) player. Difference is 20. Points won are 19. His new rate is 1491 (1472 plus 19).

Since that resulted in five more points lost than won, lost points were reduced by that much against the biggest losers to eliminate drift. Above pt. change is shown after that change. Smyslov played at a 1550 rate. Mr. Reshevsky at 1500, Taimanov 1450 and Stalberg at 1290. This will bring your Grandmaster list up to date.

A tournament average, where all are not rated, is reached by averaging rated players and adding or subtracting respectively the difference corresponding to a minus or plus ratio of their added wins and losses. Then proceed as above.

E.G. Short
7315 N. Alta
Portland 3,
Oregon.

Dan Wade -

Following is a work-sheet on the World Championship Challenge Tourney.

| Player | Won | Lost | Old rate | Dif.* | Points | New rate |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|----------|-------|--------|----------|
| Smyslov | 18 | 10 | 1472 | 20 | 19 | 1491# |
| Bronstein | 16 | 12 | 1498 | 50 | 0 | 1498 |
| Keres | 16 | 12 | 1468 | 20 | 7 | 1475 |
| Reshevsky | 16 | 12 | 1439 | -10 | 15 | 1454# |
| Petrosian | 15 | 13 | 1480 | 30 | -1 | 1479 |
| Geller | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1504 | 50 | -8 | 1496 |
| Najdorf | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1411 | -40 | 9 | 1420 |
| Kotov | 14 | 14 | 1481 | 30 | -7 | 1474 |
| Taimanov | 14 | 14 | 1498 | 50 | -12 | 1486 |
| Auerbach | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1438 | -10 | -1 | 1437 |
| Boleslavsky | 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1484 | 30 | -9 | 1475 |
| Szabo | 13 | 15 | 1420 | -30 | 1 | 1421 |
| Gligorich | 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1390 | -60 | 5 | 1395 |
| Euwe | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ | 1360 | -90 | 7 | 1367 |
| Stalberg | 8 | 20 | 1413 | -40 | -25 | 1388 |

No. players - 15) 21756

Tournament Average 1450

* The difference between the player's old rate and the tournament average. (To the nearest 10.)

New high for Smyslov and Reshevsky.

Chess Courier Folds

Ray Hiscox informs me that due to circumstances he has no control of, his correspondent chess magazine, "Chess Courier" must give up publication. Hiscox sent along the Chess Courier Club system of rating players.

Chess retreats again!

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

PENNSYLVANIA (67 players)

| | | |
|---|--------------|-------|
| 1 | R.D. Sobel | 6 - 1 |
| 2 | A. DiCarillo | 5½-1½ |
| 3 | V. Bonanov | 5½-1½ |
| 4 | S. Wachs | 5½-1½ |

WYOMING (24)

| | | |
|---|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Vic Stalick | 5 - 1 |
| 2 | Chester Ingle | 4½-1½ |

NEW MEXICO (28)

| | | |
|---|----------------|-------|
| 1 | James Phillips | 6½- ½ |
| 2 | Jack Shaw | 5½-1½ |
| 3 | John Halladay | 5 - 2 |
| 4 | Dr. Underwood | 5 - 2 |

SOUTHWEST OPEN (46)

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-------|
| 1 | Robert Steinmeyer | 6 - 1 |
| 2 | Don Thompson | 6 - 1 |
| 3 | Joe Gilbert | 5½-1½ |
| 4 | John Hudson | 5 - 2 |
| 5 | Leon Poliakoff | 5 - 2 |

CANADIAN TITLE

| | | |
|---|------------------|-------|
| 1 | D.A. Yanofsky | 7 - 1 |
| 1 | Frank Anderson | 7 - 1 |
| 3 | Povilas Vaitonis | 6 - 2 |

WEST VIRGINIA

| | | |
|---|----------------|-------|
| 1 | Dr. Werthammer | 6 - 0 |
| 2 | Allen DuVall | 4½-1½ |
| 3 | John Hurt | 4½-1½ |
| 4 | Don Burdick | 3½-2½ |

VIRGINIA (24)

| | | |
|---|---------------|-------|
| 1 | Herbert Avram | 7 - |
| 2 | Rodney Baine | 5½-1½ |
| 3 | H. Nagin | 5 - 2 |
| 4 | C.W. Rider | 4½-2½ |

GEORGIA (31)

| | | |
|---|---------------|--------|
| 1 | R.W. Williams | 5½ - ½ |
| 2 | R.L. Froenke | 5 - 1 |
| 3 | A.C. Davis | 4½-1½ |
| 4 | L.D. Martin | 4½-1½ |

Jim Schmitt, Washington State Open Champion, now living in San Francisco, has forwarded the scoop that the 1954 U.S. Open will be held in Hollywood, the first opportunity that Westerners have had to play en masse. This should result in some surprises, at least extend big league chess from its present concentration in New York City.

Because of criticism leveled against tactics of the Russian team in previous World Candidates matches, Schmitt was curious enough to analyse all of the games in the 1953 Tournament held in Zurich, Switzerland, and concluded that they really tried to beat each other in this year's play and Reshevsky, USA hope, was unsuccessful because he failed to break even against the Russians, losing 4, winning 3, drawing 11. Reshevsky did all right against the non-Russians and finished in a tie for second with Bronstein and Keres. Winner Smyslov will play Botvinnik for the World Championship in March, 1954. Kotov, who gave Smyslov his only defeat and also defeated Reshevsky, finished in ninth place.

| | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Smyslov | 18-10 | Taimanov | 14-14 |
| Reshevsky | 16-12 | Auerback | 13½-14½ |
| Bronstein | 16-12 | Bolovsky | 13½-14½ |
| Keres | 16-12 | Szabo | 13-15 |
| Petrosian | 15-13 | Gligoric | 12½-15½ |
| Celler | 14½-13½ | Euwe | 11½-16½ |
| Najdorf | 14½-13½ | Stahlberg | 8-20 |
| Kotov | 14-14 | | |

The World Championship Challengers Tournament is undoubtedly the strongest tournament of 1953, an assemblage of 15 foremost grandmasters in the world.

Along the fifteen, two were seeded to play as original participants in the first tournament for the World Championship in 1948, when Botvinnik won the title: Dr. Max Euwe from Holland; and Samuel Reshevsky of the United States. The remainder were qualified in Challengers Tournaments of 1950 and 1952.

NOURSE AD NAUSEAM^Q

CUSTOMS & MANNERS

It would be hard to name a country today where chess is not played, and of all the places of record there is noted little variation in the rules for play. However, some odd and quaint local customs have from time to time been noted.

In the jungles of Sumatra there is a tribe whose women do all the work, while the men play chess. Boys of the tribe play as many as twenty games simultaneously.

A curious custom was noted by a traveller in Morocco, who reported natives playing chess, the loser awarding to the winner a large colored feather to be worn in the hat. Since the records of chess incline so largely to fables and rumors, we hereby offer this item as responsible for the saying; - "a feather in his cap".

Another Quaint practice was that of Khalif Al Almin of Bagdad, who made use of his power to tax to surround himself with all the chess talent in his domain. This bright chap, among his other provisions, commanded the different provinces to send him their best chess players, to whom he allowed pensions and with whom, needless to say, he spent most of his time. (Wonder if they had a League in those days.)

There has been a tendency through the years to standardize the design of chess pieces. However in out of the way places where sets are hard to come by, travellers have come across some odd chess sets.

A tribe of desert Arabs have been noted playing chess on boards marked in the sand, using 32 pebbles for men. This actually amounts to a limited form of blindfold chess.

Kermit Roosevelt told of playing chess in Java with a native chief, whose board was cut in the turf, and whose pieces were two and three feet high. Relates Mr. Roosevelt; - "The chief ordered his servants to move his men, but I didn't know enough of the dialect so I had to move my own men, and just moving the men around fairly wore me out."

We thought we had heard about all the alibis extant, but we must confess that Kermit Roosevelt really had an original.

The aforementioned oddities were mostly occasioned by local conditions and had no reflections on the rules of the game. However, thru the years there have been many astute minds who felt that the game lacked variety and interest, that it should be speeded up by adding more pieces. Next month's article will endeavor to list some of the recorded attempts to add more sparkle to the game.

Book Salesman; - "Buy these books on chess and you will know how to play chess twice as well as you do now."

Prospect; - "Heck, man, I already know how to play chess twice as well as I do."

J. L. SHEETS NEW WN. STATE CHAMPION

Mr. J. L. Sheets - State Chess Champion for 1954. He will reign as king-pin of the royal game throughout 1954 and succeeds Elmars Zengalis who was not on hand to defend his title. Sheets outplayed eight of Washington's strongest king and pawn sifters and finished well ahead of his nearest rival with a $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ score. After winning six in a row and shooting for a perfect record, the new champion ran afoul of a fired-up John DeWitt. DeWitt had just absorbed seven shellackings in a row and was determined that he would score in his last chance. DeWitt outplayed the champion but Sheets managed to halve the point with a perpetual check. With the championship in his hip pocket, Sheets turned back Rosburg in his last game to finish undefeated.

Winning the State Chess Championship is nothing new for Mr. Sheets. He has more or less dominated the game here for the past quarter of a century. He won his first state title in 1930. He followed that with championships in 1931, 1932 and 1933! He won the crown again in 1936 and repeated in 1940 and 1942. There followed a lapse due to the war but when the new Washington Chess Federation revived the State Championship Tournament in 1947, Mr. Sheets was around to win it again!

Sheets retired from tournament chess for awhile but returned to the wars in the 1952 tournament. He lost 3 and drew 5 and failed to win a game in that event, but last year took over second place giving ample warning that Sheet's fortunes were again on the rise.

A newcomer in our midst, Mr. Viktor Pupols of Tacoma, won second place with a 6-2 score, losing only to the champion and to Charles Rosburg. Mr. Rosburg is another strong newcomer. He is from the mid-west and is now attending the University of Washington.

The next five players were closely bunched with little to choose among them. Mr. Charles Joachim, by the narrow margin of a half point, took third with a $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ score. Wade, Warner, O.W. Manney and Rosburg all compiled 3 won, 3 lost and 2 drawn records to finish with 4-4 scores.

Wade won fourth by virtue of his win over Warner and draws with Rosburg and Manney giving him a 2-1 score in this "tournament within a tournament". Ted Warner defeated both Manney and Rosburg but lost to Wade. He also scored 2-1 in this group but his individual game loss to Wade put him fifth. Manney made $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ and Rosburg $\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$ in the 4-4 group and thus finished sixth and seventh respectively.

Tournament Director Russell Vellias took eighth with $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ and DeWitt last with $\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$.

| | 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. | 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | W.L.D. |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. J. L. Sheets | W-3 | W-6 | bye | W-8 | W-5 | W-4 | W-2 | D-9 | W-7 | 7-0-1 |
| 2. V. Pupols | W-4 | bye | W-9 | L-7 | W-3 | W-6 | L-1 | W-8 | W-5 | 6-2-0 |
| 3. C. Joachim | L-1 | W-8 | D-5 | W-4 | L-2 | W-9 | D-7 | bye | D-6 | 3-2-3 |
| 4. Dan Wade | L-2 | W-9 | D-7 | L-3 | D-6 | L-1 | W-8 | W-5 | bye | 3-3-2 |
| 5. Ted Warner | W-9 | W-7 | D-3 | W-6 | L-1 | D-8 | bye | L-4 | L-2 | 3-3-2 |
| 6. O. W. Manney | bye | L-1 | W-8 | L-5 | D-4 | L-2 | W-9 | W-7 | D-3 | 3-3-2 |
| 7. C. Rosburg | W-8 | L-5 | D-4 | W-2 | W-9 | bye | D-3 | L-6 | L-1 | 3-3-2 |
| 8. R. Vellias | L-7 | L-3 | L-6 | L-1 | bye | D-5 | L-4 | L-2 | W-9 | 1-6-1 |
| 9. J. DeWitt | L-5 | L-4 | L-2 | bye | L-7 | L-3 | L-6 | D-1 | L-8 | 0-7-1 |

DeWitt vs. Vellias played ahead of schedule. First prize was a trophy and second prize was \$10. Played at the Seattle Chess Club on the weekends of November 14-15 and 21-22.

COTTAGE GROVE vs. DAKE

R. W. Cairncross of Eugene, Oregon sent the following story to our Circulation and Postal Chess Director, Bob Merk. Merk sent it along to your editor and he passes it along to you.

Clipping from an Oregon newspaper

Arthur Dake, International Chess Master from Portland, will be at the Cottage Grove Elks Club on Wednesday, Nov. 11th. The public is invited to see his performance beginning at 2 p. m. He will give an exhibition of simultaneous and blindfold play.

Dake is rated as one of the top ten chess experts in the United States. In the 1932 Olympics he defeated the chess champion of the world, Dr. Alexander Alekhine of France.

From the Cairncross letter to Merk

Did you ever hear of the small town of Cottage Grove, Ore.? Well, Arthur Dake helped put it on the map last Wednesday (Nov. 11) afternoon.

Cottage Grove doesn't have a chess club but through the efforts of Joe and Vince Bricher, Grant Lovegren and Stan Daugherty, who guaranteed Dake his \$40 fee, Dake played 21 players in a simultaneous exhibition.

Dake won 20 and drew a game with Virg Newton of Cottage Grove.

After the simultaneous, Dake played a blindfold game. Stan Daugherty and Joe Bricher were supposed to play against Dake but most of the time there were three or four others helping them! Dake lost the exchange (rook for bishop) early but finally drew the game after 66 moves. For awhile it looked like Dake might win it.

I was very surprised to see such a large turnout as Cottage Grove is such a small place. I am going to try to get a carload of Eugene chess players together and visit Cottage Grove for a match some evening.

Joe and Vince Bricher, Newton, Lovegren and Daugherty play postal chess and are interested in W.C.F. postal chess.

I had about a dozen back issues of the Washington Chess Letter along with me to pass out among the players. Everybody seemed quite interested and my copies didn't last long.

The players in the simultaneous

From Eugene: Alvin Reiss, T. W. Turel, E.B. Barnes and R. Cairncross. From Springfield: Clarence A. Nelson. From Drain, Ore.: George V. Sanders. From Cottage Grove: Fred G. Roles, Wally Morelock, Joe Bricher, Vince Bricher, Ed Jones, Cal Davis, Leonard Hicks, Virg Newton, Hugh Roberts, Grant Lovegren, Donald Sweeny, Stan Daugherty, Craig Hickok, Will Dodge and L. F. Hartwig.

Games (concluded)

A recent letter from Joe Cerretelli gives us the reason for his move 38....P-B4?? Joe thought his pawn was at R3 instead of R2 (see Wade vs. Cerretelli on page 6). After studying the ending a bit, we have come to the conclusion that white had no forced win. After 38 K-K3 where white moved hoping to get black to move any pawn after which white gains the move & can win, all black needs to do is K moves.

IF 38 K-K3, K-Q3; 39 K-B4, K-K3; 40 P-N5 will win! ...FxFch 41 KxP, K-B2; 42 P-KR4, F-R5; 43 F-R5, K-N2; 44 F-R6ch, K-B2; 45 K-B5 wins easily.

IF 38 K-K3, K-B2; 39 K-B4, K-N3; 40 P-KR4, F-R3; 41 F-R5ch, K-N2; 42 Drawn.

IF 38 K-B4, K-B2; 39 K-B5, (not F-N5, K-N3) F-R3; 40 F-KR4, and white wins. IF 38 K-B4, K-K2; 39 F-N5, K-B2; 40 K-B5, FxF; 41 KxF wins. After 38 K-B4 F-R3 will draw.

KITSAP BEATS TACOMA

On Sunday, Nov. 29th, PSL teams clashed in third round match play. After the firing ended, a defending champion Tacoma five had been defeated and Kitsap County had taken over an undisputed hold on first place. Figuring the Kitsap-U. of Wash. match as a tie until the controversial "40th game" is played, the standings are as follows:

| Team | Won | Lost | Drawn |
|-------------------|-----|------|-------|
| 1. Kitsap County | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| 2-4 Olympia | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 2-4 Seattle YMCA | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 2-4 U. of Wash. | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| 5-6 Tacoma YMCA | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 5-6 McNeil Island | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 7. West Seattle | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| 8. Seattle C. C. | 0 | 3 | 0 |

Kitsap 6. Tacoma 4.

Zengalis was too much for Holmes and Jack Nourse snapped out of his slump to win a pair. Add to this the fine showing of Dr. Almond against Pupols and it shows why Kitsap County defeated Tacoma. The loss nearly eliminates Tacoma from championship contention.

| <u>Kitsap</u> 6. | | <u>Tacoma</u> 4. | |
|------------------|---|------------------|---|
| E. Zengalis | 2 | V. Holmes | 0 |
| Dr. Almond | 1 | V. Pupols | 1 |
| J. Nourse | 2 | R. Collins | 0 |
| C. Magerkurth | 0 | L. Coubrough | 2 |
| F. Blakefield | 1 | V. Hultman | 1 |

Seattle YMCA 9. Seattle 1.

The Seattle Y. finally met a team they could whip and made plenty of points they could have used in previous matches. The Seattle Club was weakened by the absence of several star players whom it wouldn't hurt to have around occasionally for a match. Apparently, many good chess men belonging to the club do not care how badly their team makes out. Mr. Davidsen is doing a fine job but there is little he can do if the players will not cooperate.

There are enough good players loose to make a fine team.

As for the match, the lone win for Seattle was Woodpusher Champion Jim McCormick's victory over Vellias. Both Davidsen and Bever put up a lot of resistance before tipping their kings.

| <u>Seattle YMCA</u> 9. | | <u>Seattle</u> 1. | |
|------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| C. Joachin | 2 | V. W. Bever | 0 |
| Dan Wade | 2 | Dr. Shephard | 0 |
| Max Bader | 2 | W.H. Raleigh | 0 |
| R. Vellias | 1 | J. McCormick | 1 |
| J. DeWitt | 2 | T. Davidsen | 0 |

Olympia 6. West Seattle 4.

The Olympia team squeezed by West Seattle 6-4 for its 2nd match victory in 3 attempts. Except for O.W. Manney's usual two points, the Olympia boys either held their own or had the better of it on the remaining boards.

| <u>Olympia</u> 6. | | <u>West Seattle</u> 4. | |
|-------------------|----|------------------------|---|
| K. Mulford | 0 | O.W. Manney | 2 |
| Cerretelli | 1½ | Max Mage | ½ |
| E. Ayers | 1 | F.M. Howard | 1 |
| D. Reveal | 1½ | E. Vukonich | ½ |
| E. E. Yocum | 2 | Schrank | 0 |

U. of Wash. 5. McNeil 5.

The McNeil team seems to specialize in tie matches, this being their third straight even-break. The U. team was the victim of sabotage when one of their men failed to show up. Perhaps players who break their word can be blackballed and shunned.

| <u>U. of Wash.</u> 5. | | <u>McNeil</u> 5. | |
|-----------------------|---|------------------|---|
| Ted Warner | 1 | Chappel | 1 |
| C. Rosburg | 2 | Raya | 0 |
| A. Clark | 2 | Shapera | 0 |
| H. Sanden | 0 | Schran | 2 |
| (Forfeit) | 0 | Berg | 2 |

The next round of Puget Sound League action is scheduled for Sunday, December 20th. The Seattle Chess Club visits McNeil, the Olympia Club will be hosted by the University of Washington, West Seattle travels to Tacoma and the Seattle YMCA invades Bremerton for their match with Kitsap. The YMCA vs. Kitsap battle could easily decide the championship. If Kitsap defeats the Y, all their remaining opponents, such as Seattle, McNeil and West Seattle will probably lose to Kitsap also. If the YMCA wins, several teams will still have a good chance.

5th round matches are scheduled for January 10th. On that day Olympia visits McNeil, Seattle visits Bremerton to play Kitsap, the University of Washington visits Tacoma and the Seattle YMCA meets West Seattle.

A decision must be made by the Tournament Director on the unplayed game in the U. of Wash. vs. Kitsap match before January 1st. If nothing is done by then, I will (as President) have to call the match a 5 to 5 tie as the University could have legally taken the game by forfeit at the time when the Kitsap man had to leave before the final game. It is sincerely hoped that the game will be played. Let us have no more champions by debate.

PSL Individual Standings

| <u>Player</u> | <u>Won</u> | <u>Lost</u> | <u>Drawn</u> | <u>Player</u> | <u>Won</u> | <u>Lost</u> | <u>Drawn</u> |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. E. Zengalis (K) | 6 | - 0 | - 0 | 26 Berg (M) | 2 | - 2 | - 0 |
| 2. C. Rosburg (UW) | 6 | - 0 | - 0 | 27 Schrank (WS) | 2 | - 2 | - 0 |
| 3. A. Clark (UW) | 5 | - 0 | - 0 | 28 Schran (M) | 2 | - 2 | - 0 |
| 4. Dr. Almond (K) | 5 | - 1 | - 0 | 29 V. Holmes (T) | 2 | - 4 | - 0 |
| 5. C. Joachim (Y) | 4 | - 1 | - 1 | 30 K. Mulford (O) | 2 | - 4 | - 0 |
| 6. D. Wade (Y) | 4 | - 1 | - 1 | 31 T. Davidsen (S) | 2 | - 4 | - 0 |
| 7. L. Coubrough (T) | 4 | - 1 | - 1 | 32 R. Collins (T) | 2 | - 4 | - 0 |
| 8. O. Manney (WS) | 4 | - 0 | - 0 | 33 F. Howard (WS) | 2 | - 4 | - 0 |
| 9. V. Pupols (T) | 3 | - 1 | - 2 | 34 Chappel (M) | 1 | - 2 | - 1 |
| 10 M. Bader Sr. (Y) | 3 | - 1 | - 1 | 35 Shapera (M) | 1 | - 3 | - 1 |
| 11 Cerretelli (O) | 3 | - 2 | - 1 | 36 M. Mage (WS) | 1 | - 4 | - 1 |
| 12 V. Hultman (T) | 3 | - 2 | - 1 | 37 E. Vukonich (WS) | 1 | - 4 | - 1 |
| 13 D. ReVeal (O) | 2 | - 0 | - 2 | 38 J. Bader (Y) | 1 | - 0 | - 0 |
| 14 Blakefield (K) | 3 | - 2 | - 0 | 39 Dr. Michael (UW) | 1 | - 1 | - 0 |
| 15 J. Nourse (K) | 3 | - 3 | - 0 | 40 Raya (M) | 1 | - 2 | - 0 |
| 16 Magerkurth (K) | 3 | - 3 | - 0 | 41 V.W. Bever (S) | 1 | - 5 | - 0 |
| 17 H.E. Yocom (O) | 3 | - 3 | - 0 | 42 T. Warner (UW) | 1 | - 5 | - 0 |
| 18 J. DeWitt (Y) | 2 | - 2 | - 1 | 43 M. Bader Jr. (Y) | 0 | - 1 | - 0 |
| 19 McCormick (S) | 2 | - 3 | - 1 | 44 R. Edberg (UW) | 0 | - 2 | - 0 |
| 20 LaFreniere (UW) | 2 | - 0 | - 0 | 45 H. Sanden (UW) | 0 | - 2 | - 0 |
| 21 Wood (M) | 2 | - 0 | - 0 | 46 W. Kemp (WS) | 0 | - 2 | - 0 |
| 22 E. Carlson (S) | 2 | - 0 | - 0 | 47 F. H. Weaver (S) | 0 | - 2 | - 0 |
| 23 R. Vellias (Y) | 1 | - 1 | - 2 | 48 D. Nagel (S) | 0 | - 2 | - 0 |
| 24 E. Ayers (O) | 2 | - 2 | - 0 | 49 Dr. Shephard (S) | 0 | - 4 | - 0 |
| 25 Cox (M) | 2 | - 2 | - 0 | 50 C. Harneson (O) | 0 | - 4 | - 0 |

HAPPY HOLIDAYS !

POSTAL CHESS

R.R. Merk
Postal Chess Editor
1026 E 71 St., Seattle 5, Wash.

| | | Games completed to Nov. 30, 1953 | | | | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----|------------|-------------------------|---------------|----|
| | Section | Points | | Section | Points | | |
| Sams | 1 Magerkurth | 0 | 64 | Bever | 1 Cairncross | 0 | 44 |
| | Section 51A-13A | | | | Section 52A-3B | | |
| | Section 53A-1A | | | | Section 53A-1B | | |
| Ceretelli | 1 Coubrough | 0 | 56 | Ceretelli | 1 Coubrough | 0 | 56 |
| Wade | 1 Ceretelli | 0 | 66 | Greene | $\frac{1}{2}$ Ceretelli | $\frac{1}{2}$ | 24 |
| | Section 53B-1A | | | | Section 53B-1B | | |
| Luters | 1 Haar | 0 | 30 | Luters | 1 Haar | 0 | 30 |
| Schrank | 1 Haar | 0 | 50 | Schrank | 1 Haar | 0 | 50 |
| Sutherland | 1 Haar | 0 | 50 | Sutherland | 1 Haar | 0 | 50 |
| Leonard | 1 Haar | 0 | 50 | Leonard | 1 Haar | 0 | 50 |
| | Section 51B-12 | | | | Section 53A-3A | | |
| Emerson | 1 Raleigh | 0 | 20 | Almond | 1 Bever | 0 | 88 |
| Raleigh | 1 Hardinge | 0 | 96 | | Section 53A-3B | | |
| Cairncross | 1 Hardinge | 0 | 22 | Almond | 1 Roberts, D. | 0 | 14 |
| Engstrom | 1 Hardinge | 0 | 60 | Almond | 1 Bever | 0 | 70 |
| | Section 53A-2A | | | | Section 52B-2A | | |
| Cairncross | 1 Merk, R.R. | 0 | 24 | Merk, R.R. | 1 Roberts, D. | 0 | 38 |

October issue reported games completed in section 53A-2A and 53A-2B which due to a typographical error should have been 52A-3A and 52A-3B.

We have 3 good entries in an A section waiting for two more, and 2 entries in a B section waiting for 3 more. Who will come in and complete these sections?

New entrants in the A sections start with a rating of 1250 and in the B sections with 1050, to answer recent inquiries.

We hear by the grapevine that Wade and Almond expect to edge out Mulford for second place in the A section. They are both on their way up the ladder. Mulford will have to take on some more games in order to boost his score if he is to make good his ambition of going to first place and we expect that Greene will have something to say about that. How about an A section with the top five players competing. That might bring about some changes.

We need new players in our postal chess tournaments. If each of you can induce a new entrant to come in occasionally it will be the means of keeping the tournaments rolling. If you have the names of prospects, send them in and we will send them an invitation to join with us.

POSTAL CHESS TOURNAMENTS

Enter our Postal Chess tournaments any time. New sections are formed as soon as five new entries are received. 50¢ per section of five players. Each player plays two games with each of four opponents, one game as white and one as black.

Send entries to
 R. R. Merk
 Postal Chess Director
 1026 E 71 Street
 Seattle 5, Wash.

POSTAL CHESS RATINGS

Class A Players

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Greene | 1683 |
| Mulford | 1590 |
| Cerretelli | 1547 |
| Cairncross | 1534 |
| Bever | 1469 |
| Dolle | 1445 |
| Coubrough | 1434 |
| Almond | 1422 |
| Yocom, H.E. | 1402 |
| Wade | 1392 |
| Howard, F.M. | 1350 |
| Husby | 1350 |
| Magerkurth | 1294 |
| Kaffenberger | 1292 |
| Sams | 1277 |
| Knapp | 1250 |
| Baron | 1250 |
| Naas | 1226 |
| Hellums | 1190 |
| Harmeson | 1136 |
| Yocom, C.L. | 1035 |

Class B Players

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Luters | 1318 |
| Winters | 1302 |
| Skarsten | 1268 |
| Merk, R.R. | 1219 |
| Allen, W.P. | 1216 |
| Dickey | 1208 |
| Engstrom | 1208 |
| Kendall | 1150 |
| Schrank | 1150 |
| Leonard | 1150 |
| Southerland | 1150 |
| McCarthy | 1148 |
| Moore | 1137 |
| Emerson | 1126 |
| Holland | 1086 |
| LaFreniere | 1054 |
| McCormick | 1050 |
| Dickson | 1050 |
| Falk | 1050 |
| Vukonich | 1050 |
| Merk, Fred | 1046 |
| Roberts, Don | 1038 |
| Thomas | 1030 |
| Farry | 1012 |
| Martin | 997 |
| Baker | 964 |
| Raleigh | 883 |
| Cox | 742 |

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