

Historical WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER recaps (in the pages of *Washington Chess Letter* and *Northwest Chess*) by Russell Miller

1948-1988 at ten-year intervals

November 1948 (WCL)

So what was Editor Lawrence Taro of Everett reporting on in the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER (WCL) of November 1948? Page two has a letter to the Editors (All five of them) from one Robert A. Karch of Tacoma. He wanted the Washington Chess Federation to help the younger generation of players and set up student competition. The letter from Max Bader of Bellingham said his sons study the "Chess Letters" very carefully. Jim Schmitt of Portland wrote in to thank the editor for the notes to his game with Dake in a recent issue. Jack Nourse of Port Blakely suggests that all chess clubs consider charging dues that include the \$1.00 a year subscription to WCL.

Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle had success in New York coming 2nd to Larry Evans in the New York State Title event. The Whidbey Island Chess Club won two recent matches over North Whidbey and Everett. Jack Nourse and George Rehberg tied for first place in the annual Kitsap County Tournament at 15-1. There were 6 events listed in the coming events list. Puget Sound Chess League report gave results of Tacoma over Kitsap 6-4, Everett downing University 5.5-4.5, Bellingham in a forfeit win over Seattle, Queen Anne topping Olympia 7.5-2.5 and Skagit and YMCA tying at 5-5. Jack Nourse kept the Kitsap County Championship in a match win over George Rehberg 4-1. Corbett's Chatter reported some on Vernon Holmes of Tacoma chess exploits including teaching his nine month old son to play chess. There was announced that the Seattle YMCA Hobby School would have two courses on chess instruction by Charles Joachim and Richard Allen. J. Naas was listed on top of the Postal Chess Rating List.

November 1958 (WCL)

Issue number 132 of the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER was November 1958 under the editorship of Daniel E. Wade of Seattle and was 16 pages. Dan presented a plea from The American Chess Foundations to chessplayers for help with a program to stimulate the playing of chess among all the Armed Forces. In 1958 it cost \$2.00 for 12 issues of WCL. Lots of Puget Sound League results were reported: Seattle CC over North Seattle 6-4, Latvian Team over Olympia 8-2, Kitsap County topping Tacoma 8.5-1.5, West Seattle by forfeit over Chess Center, Latvian Team 7-1 over McNeil Island, Kitsap County over North Seattle 7.5-2.5, Tacoma CC over Seattle CC 7-2, McNeil Island over Olympia 7-3. At this point Kitsap County was on top of the league standings with Jim McCormick playing first board. WCF tournament director Al Livingston announced that the Washington Open would be held Jan 24-26 at Seattle University. Buz Eddy is the leader of the U of W Chess Club following such leaders in the late 40's and early 50's as Robert Stork and Ken Mulford plus Ted Warner.

In news drawn from the pages of CHESS LIFE it was reported that Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle won the Heart of America Open held at Kansas City with a 6-1 score. There were 37 players. You could join USCF for \$5.00 and get 24 issues of the newspaper CHESS LIFE in 1958. Drawing from the Los Angeles Times newspaper chess column by Isaac

Kashdan the WCL reported on the Russia win of the 1958 Chess Olympiad. USA was 4th. The USA and Russia drew their match 2-2.

Wade published a page of WASHINGTON TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS listing the winners over the years of the Washington State Champions, Washington Open, Seattle Seafair, Seattle City, Seattle Chess Club, Puget Sound Open, Inland Empire Open, Spokane City Champions, Tacoma Open, Pierce County Champions, Olympia City Champions, Washington Junior Champions, Washington Woodpushers and Washington Speed Champs. The names of Jim McCormick, Viktors Pupols, Olaf Ulvestad, J.L. Sheets, Ivars Dalbergs and others were in the lists. There was a full page of "Excerpts from WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER of November 1948." The postal chess rating list was topped by Coubrough.

November 1968 (NWC)

The November 1968 issue cover of NORTHWEST CHESS says "21st 1947-1968 Anniversary Issue" including a cartoon drawing by Jack Schrader of a black king chasing a white pawn. The editor of this issue was Russell Miller living in Yakima at the time. The issue was printed by Shields Bag and Printing in Yakima on nice white stock paper. I printed a list of people whose subscription had recently expired. There were tournament announcements for 10 chess events in the Pacific NW in this issue. At the time Buz Eddy was keeping track of W.C.F. Master Points which were based on scores and median tie-breaking points from tournaments requiring WCF membership. The top two players on the list this month were Jim McCormick and Viktors Pupols.

Bob Eldridge reporting in the B.C. Bulletin section of NWC says Peter Biyiasas won the New Westminster Open 5.5-.5 good for \$25.00 plus a trophy. 27 players took part. A new chess club has been setup in downtown Vancouver BC at the Engineers Club. Russell Miller was the TD for the 19th annual Washington Woodpushers held at the Tacoma Chess club and Ernst Rasmussen and Stephen Strand tied for 1st with 5.5-.5. 24 players took part. Buz Eddy reported on and directed the 1968 Peace Arch Open which was won by Fred Schutz of BC and Wayne Chin of Bellingham both with 3.5-.5. Northwest Rating Director Peter J. Olson gave a list of rating for players in 16 events and 6 matches rated for this month adding 16 new players to the rating files. John Ward reported on activities at the Tacoma Chess Club. Howard Shelton won a recent 5 minute tournament with a 7-0 score over 7 club members. Vernon Holmes and Ernest Prentice were leading the Club Championship event at this point. Dick Starr won a novice event held at the club 5-1.

Harry Glidden of Medford was the Oregon Chess News editor. Mike Montchalin of Clackamas won the Oregon Junior event of 38 players with a 5-0 score. The Rhodes Jr. chess event in three sections had the largest turnout ever up to this year. Bill Fitzgerald won the 12-14 age group, 5-1, Owen Dvorshak won the 15-8 group 4-0 and Phil Irwin topped the 8-11 section 5-0. Now 20 years later the only names on the crosstables that I know who are still playing tournament chess are Carl Haessler who scored 4-1 in the 8-11 group and Edward Addis in 15-18 group with a 3-1 score. Puget Sound League play resulted in the following match scores: Boeing A vs. Boeing B 6.5-3.5, Marysville vs. T-Birds 5.5-4.5, Seattle vs. Bellingham 6.5-3.5, Tacoma vs. Bellevue 5-5, Bellingham vs. Boeing B 8-1, Seattle vs. Boeing A 5.5-4.5, Bellevue vs. Thunderbirds 5-5, Bellingham vs. Marysville 8-1, Boeing B vs. Tacoma 5-5 and Boeing A vs. Bellevue 9-1. Seattle was

on top of the league standings at this point. Tim Kauppila was the Seattle Chess Club events reporter for this month. Lloyd Kaamura of Hawaii took part in a chess tornado at the Seattle CC and scored 3-1 drawing with 2nd and 3rd place finishes Viktors Pupols and Viesturs Seglins also both 3-1. Stephen Hueston won the reserve section 4-0. John Ward was the postal chess director at this time and he reports Richard Schultz as the top rated player.

November 1978 (NWC)

NORTHWEST CHESS for November 1978 was vol. 32, no. 11, issues 370 under the editorship of Robert A. Karch. This issue was 24 pages printed on newsprint. The cover was a picture of a young Karpov. Page 2 was a full page ad for CYBERCHESS a mechanical chess playing machine. The results of the mail ballot election were reported. Only 17 people voted! President- Russell Miller 10, Bill Newell 6; V-P-David Teplow 12; Secretary-Jim Perry 13, Duane Polich; Treasurer-Mike Mulford 13; Tournament Director-Mike Thomas 4, Jim Perry 2, Dan Blachly 1, Robert Karch 1, Russell Miller 1; USCF Delegates: Robert Karch 13, Russell Miller 9, Stephen Christopher 9, Viktors Pupols 7, Jim Perry 5, Mike Mulford 3, David Teplow 1; NWC Editor Robert Karch 12, Karl Schoffstoll 1, NWC Business Manager- Robert Karch 12, NWC Exec Board Washington-Russell Miller 11, Oregon- Lewis Richardson 2.

One of the games in the issue was provided by Bruce Harper of BC. He drew the game with Jon Berry in the 1974 B.C. Closed. He got Robert Zuk, Dan Scoones, John Donaldson and the two players themselves to provide notes to the game. It ended in a 71 move draw. Seattle Lutheran was set to host a 30 board simul by John Peters. It was a part of his Church's Fried Chicken tour of the USA. The crosstable from the 1978 Puget Sound Open shows John Donaldson as the winner 5-0. Three other players on the table are still some what active today: H.G. Pitre, Bobby Ferguson, Robert Karch, Dennis Ambler, Alexey Rudolph (now Root). 40 players took part. Jerrold Prothero won the top section of the 12 player Chess in The Park with 3-0. David Teplow won the 2nd section 3-0 also. Editor Robert Karch presented lesson 3 of his free correspondence chess course-King and Pawn endings. Harold Brown of BC and Phil Irwin of Oregon won a \$100.00 each for winning the Seattle Amateur, Larry Ball was the Oregon section editor for this issue. Dennis Waterman won the Oregon Open on tie-break over Viktors Pupols, D. Leo Stefurak and Eric Tangborn. There were 164 players in the 1978 event with 126 in 1977 and 135 in 1976 per a report by organizer Robert Karch about how he set up the event Oregon Open of 1978 was number 3 on the total turnout list for events held Labor Day weekend in the USA. Jim Perry provided NWC with news from the Russian weekly 64: Karpov defeated Korchnoi for the World Championship title and Maya Chiburdanidze downed Nona Gaprindashvili for the women's title. David L. Brown of Illinois did a problems page for NWC. There were TLA for 11 events in this issue, being held in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. There 23 different sponsors of chess events listed on the chess calendar page of this issue.

November 1988 (NWC)

The November 1988 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS was the last issue under the editorship of IM Nikolay Minev, he and a crew of people did 216 pages over the year of his term. James Blackwood would take over the duties for the next issue. He outlined his

plans for the future issues of NWC in this issue. A photo of the Lakeside Middle School team was on the cover of this issue. They were the 1988 Washington Junior High School champions. There was an article by their coach Jon Bayley and Summit MS coach John Braley in this issue about the team.

The crosstable of the Woodpusher Open held in Tacoma in August of 1988 listed 24 players and the winner Neil Salmon. Other players I noticed on the table who are still active in area tournaments are: Ernst Rasmussen, John Graves, Randy Walther, John Ward, Mike Schemm.

Dick Phillips wrote an article for NWC about Seattle CC member Ben Delson. Ben served in World War II in Europe and was a POW for several years and played chess while a POW. He was the best player in his barracks at Stalag Luft No. 4. Ben also did service in Korea. He has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Miami. It was 1959 before he started serious tournament play. 1978 found him working for Boeing in Seattle and becoming a member of the Seattle Chess Club.

The crosstable from the 1988 Oregon Open held in Eugene lists 121 players with John Donaldson on top at 5.5-5. More players on this table than others I have found in writing these Nov every ten year articles that are still active today. Some are in finish order from the table: Ralph Dubisch, David Weinstock, H. G. Pitre, Bill McGeary, John Hatala, Mike Morris, E. Rasmussen, Mike Schemm, Phil McCready, Evan Whipple, David Roper, Marvin Hayami, Wray Maxwell, John Mead, Allen Smith and probably more. The Summer Swiss in Tacoma was won by John Graves, M. MacGregor, and Robert Allen all at 4-1. Spokane CC held a two section action event with Bill Phillip winning one and Lee Willis winning other. David Collyer was the TD and his son Curt was probably playing in his first rated event. Kristen Dietsch was the Postal Chess Director for this time. There were 6 tournament announcements for events in this issue including the Washington Class to be held in Tacoma with a \$20.00 in advance entry fee and \$700.00 prize fund based on 40 entries. Event was to be held at the Masonic Temple. The Oregon Chess Federation was to hold a \$1,200.00 guaranteed prize fund event at the Imperial Hotel in Portland with a \$25.00 in advance entry fee. It was to be a one day event four rounds with three sections.