

This Month in Northwest Chess History

by Russell Miller



1949

The March 1949 was the last issue for editor Lawrence Taro of Everett, Washington. *"I find it impossible, impractical, and inconducive to the betterment of my peronal life for me to continue longer in my duties as editor of the WCL, so I must resign."* Appears he stopped playing postal chess also. This issue was only 7 pages of material.

Taro and Neil Power tied for first place in the Everett CC tournament and were to play a ten game match to decide the winner of trophy plus "a fine hand carved chess set made by Peter Husby."

The officers of the Seattle CC recently elected were: T. Davidson- Pres, C. E. Shurman - V-P, Ben L. Carson - Sec-Tres, Jack Finnegan-TD, C.C. Bushnell-Director. The ones for Everett were: J. A. Naas-Pres, E. J. Tweeddale - VP, Peter Husby - Sec-Tres, J. A. Naas- WCF Director. Tacoma CC leads the Puget Sound League at this point in play. Crain of Tacoma had the best board score 9.5-.5.

The last of the five part article by Olaf Ulvestad about his trip to Soviet Russia was printed in this issue. Naas of Everett was the top rated postal player in this issue.

1959

Dan Wade of Seattle does the editor work on the March 1959 **Washington Chess Letter** issue of 22 pages. He reports on the 7-player round-robin Washington State Closed. It was won by Elmars Zemgalis 6-0. James McCormick was 2nd at 3 wins 2 losses and 1 draw. Viesturs Seglins scored 3-3. At 2.5-3.5 were Daniel E. Wade and Dr. A. A. Murray. Donald Kendall had 2-4 while 7th place went to Edward Diedrich with 1.5-4.5. The event was held at the Seattle CC. This event continued Zemgalis record of never losing a game in Washington State events, 25 wins and 2 draws. Al Livingston and Buz Eddy were the tournament directors. The Seattle Times printed a picture of Kendall playing Zemgalis.

In a match held in Vancouver BC the group from Washington State was beaten

7.5-1.5. Elod Macskasy vs Zemgalis 1-0, Murvald Jursevakis vs Olaf Ulvestad 1-0, Gerhard Neufahrt vs Seglins 0-1, Jack Taylor vs Charles Joachim 1-0, Jac Patty vs G.S.G. Patterson 1-0, Don Murray vs O. W. Manney 1-0, George Zergecich vs Dr. Murray 1-0, Kad Nielsen vs Wade .5-.5, Frank May vs Ivars Cakarbus 1-0.

Tacoma CC elections report finds C. R. Hewitt elected President. Others Dick Somsen VP, J. Dolle Tres, Vernon Holmes TD and Jack Finnegan-Seg at Arms.

Three photos from the 1959 Washington Open were printed and did not turn out too badly for a mimeograph-printed publication.

Clark Harmon took the first Oregon Centennial Open on tie-break over John Bell when both scored four wins and two draws. They were both Portland junior players. 34 players took part with Deane Moore as TD. The event was held at the Oregonian Hostess House in downtown Portland.

Buz Eddy did a report on University of Washington chess play. Viktors Pupols gave a 7-board blindfold exhibition and the result was Pupols 2.5-4.5. Uof W topped a team from Seattle Pacific 7-2. They also topped a team from West Seattle 6.5-3.5

Bruce Fredstrom gave WCL a report on Inland Empire Junior Chess. High School teams taking part in a league were: Cocur d' Alene, Sandpoint, Spirit Lake and Wallace all of Idaho plus Lewis & Clark of Spokane.

Writing of Spokane, the club championship ended in tie between Dr. David Groenig and Gordon Cornelius at 5-1. 11 players took part.

Editor Wade was listed on top of the Postal Rating List.

1969

The March 1969 issue of **Northwest Chess** had Russell Miller of Yakima as editor. It was 16 pages printed on newsprint paper. He had help from Layout Editor - Larry Ball of Portland, Tournament News - Buz Eddy of Kent, Rating Director - Peter J. Olson of Seattle, Circulation Director - Kathy Miller of Yakima, Postal Director - John Ward of Tacoma, Idaho Chess Bulletin

- Richard Vandenburg of Boise, Oregon Editor - Harry Glidden of Medford, B. C. Bulletin - Bob Eldridge of Burnaby BC, High School Editor - Howie Chin of Seattle. The cover was done by Larry Ball.

Tournament announcements for the following events were printed: Chess for Fund at the Seattle CC, Inland Empire Open at Gonzaga U in Spokane, B.C. Open in North Burnaby BC, Ruse De Guerre Open in Washougal, WA, Puget Sound Open at Boeing Plant #2 cafeteria in Seattle.

The crosstable of the 1969 Washington Closed listed James McCormick and Kent Pullen as winners at 6-1. McCormick lost to 3rd place finisher Viktors Pupols and Pullen lost to McCormick. McCormick won the one-game playoff match. This was the 6th win for McCormick and 5th in a row. The Alternates Cup was won by Digne deLenea with 5-1.

The Boeing Employees Chess Club round-robin of 8 players was won by Mike Murray 6-1.

The Northwest Ratings list page for this month reported that 23 new unrated players had taken part in events rated for this month.

Howie Chin reporting for High School Chess says there are leagues all over the western Washington. There is the Northwest League, Northwest Metro League, Seattle Catholic, Seattle Metro, King County, Tacoma. High School play in Eastern Washington was having a rough go. The state team tournament was set for April 26-27 at Seattle U.

Harry Glidden in Oregon Chess News reports two matched in the Portland Metro League. Dark Avengers with Ivars Dalbergs on board one drew the Bookends team with top board of Dennis Waterman at 4-4. Clark Harmon was top board for the Black Knights who beat Rocky Butte Raiders 7-3. The 1968 Oregon Woodpusher ended in a 5-way tie at 3.5-.5 between Robert Mitchell, Owen Dvoshak, Mike Montchalin, Rod Espey and

Bruce Betzer. Mitchell won on tie-break. 46 players had taken part.

Bob Eldridge in the B.C. Bulletin section reported on the Vancouver Open a win on tie-break for Ray Kerr of Victoria. Elod Macskasy of Vancouver had matched his 5.5-.5 score. They drew in round 5. 50 players took part the strongest Vancouver Open in history. Russ Vogler was the TD. J. Lee and Viesturs Seglins finished 3rd and 4th with 5-1.

Norm Hardy presented a report on Seattle Metro League play. Queen Anne High School won the first round robin over 11 other teams with 9 wins 1 loss and 1 drawn matches. Owen Overton of Roosevelt High won a 10-player Seattle Metro League RR with 7-2 score.

Boeing "A" won the 68-69 Puget Sound League play with a 6-1 match score. They lost only to 2nd place Seattle CC. 8 teams took part.

In history articles the editor gave short reports on what was in issues of the magazine in 1949, 1954, 1959 and 1969 plus printed "A History of Organized Chess in Washington State," by John Nourse that had appeared in the *Washington Chess Letter* of May 1950.

Dan Rogers came from Bozeman, Montana, to play in the Wenatchee Valley Open. He won the 16-player event 4-0.

Richard Schultz's name was atop the Postal Chess Rating list this month.

1979

Robert A. Karch with a PO address in Kenmore is the editor of *Northwest Chess* for March 1979. The list of regular columnists was Postal Chess by Larry Swan, Games Editor by Ron Norman, Russian Translation by Jim Perry, Cartoonist by Les J. Roselle, and British Columbia by Harold Brown, plus Problems by David L. Brown. Others writing for this issue were: Harold W. Kohn, Tom Moore (Oregon Chess News) and Yasser Seirawan.

Display ads in this issue were a full page for 1979 Canadian Open, 1/2 page ad for Portland Spring Open with \$625.00 prize fund guaranteed, Continental Life Idaho Open with \$1,260.00 guaranteed. About a 1/2 page ad for 5th Annual Grants Pass Open also with guaranteed prizes, \$300.00.

Topping the 5 postal masters list was Borek Groschl. There were 10 Experts

topped by Ron Norman. The Class A list of 15 was topped by Fred Van Natta. 20 players were in the Class B list topped by Richard Solorio. Class C had 17 names on the listing topped by William Dillon. George Hayes that the top of the 20 player Class D list.

Yasser Seirawan's article was called "Breaking into the Arena," part one. It is about his play in the Hastings Challengers of 1977 with his games and his notes to them plus other comments on his starting to play as a chess pro.

Karch printed a call for a new NW Rating Director.

Kevin Casey, a newcomer from California, won \$50.00 for 1st place in the 24-player Hobgoblin Hectic, sponsored by the Tacoma CC. Ernst Rasmussen was 2nd and winners of the Class prize were Duane Polich, Bill McGeary and Eugene Foman.

George Duleba won the 7-round Boeing Swiss with a 6-1 score. Jeff Treder of Ellensburg took the Ellensburg Grand Prix No. 2 over 7 other players.

Kevin Casey also won the South Eye Street Blues over 17 others with a 5-0 score. Neil Salmon of Tacoma was the 1978 Washington Challengers Cup winner with 5-0 score beating Casey in round 5. 30 players took part in this one. The Christmas Congress was held in 4 sections. Yasser Seirawan scored 3.5-.5 in the Championship section of 9 players. Gerard Van Deene topped the Alekhine section with 4-0. Ronald Silley and Michael Darby both scored 4-0 in the 25 player Morphy Section. The Scholastic event drew 18 players and was won by Kirk Radeck with 5-1.

Ollie LaFreniere directed a seven-team Shoreline Invitational High School Team event which was won by Lakeside.

The British Columbia section reported on Gordon Taylor's win of the 36 player Victoria Winter Open. He won \$75.00 for his 5-0 score. That was his third perfect score in a row.

The article by Harold Kohn was about Pre Chess and "Super Pre Chess".

Portland "A" won the 78-79 Cascade League with a 5-1 match score. Gerard Van Deene of the Portland "A" team had a 6-0 record.

Tournaments and Activities section had an ad for Norwescon, a Science Fiction Convention in Seattle. Two 30-board simul

by GM Larry Christianson as part of his USA Church's Fried Chicken sponsored tour were announced, one in Portland area and another in Seattle. Steve Christopher advertised for Jerger Chess Clocks for \$35.00.

1989

James Blackwood, doing the March 1989 issue of *Northwest Chess*, called it "Goodwill Games Commemorative Issue".

The Editor vs Readers game is now up to move 7. The Washington State Senate Resolution 1989-8612 was printed. It was to assist in the expedient reunion between WGM Elena Donaldson and her daughter, Dana, who was still in the Soviet Union at the time.

There was a two-page article about the recently acquired giant chess set at Crossroads Shopping Center in Bellevue, complete with photos.

Games and pictures of the GM Anatoly Karpov vs GM Johann Hjartarson quarter-finals match in the world championship series: Karpov won the 6 game match with two wins and 3 draws. The games with notes by the editor were printed in this issue.

GM Yasser Seirawan of Seattle won two Goodwill Games sponsored chess events, Washington State Blitz Championship and Washington State Action Championship. Among the players who tried to prevent Yasser from winning were Don Schultz (USCF official), Florencia Campomanes (FIDE President), GM Ron Henley, GM Eduard Gufeld, GM Stefan Djuric, WGM Elena Donaldson, IM John Donaldson, IM Leon Piasetski and IM Elliot Winslow plus a number of local players. Gene Fisher, Director of Special Projects for the Seattle Goodwill Games gave NWC a full page report covering all the chess activities sponsored by The Goodwill Games. A couple of matches were arranged between some Soviet Junior Superstars, including future World Champion Vladimir Kramnik at age 13, and some Northwest Juniors (including Nick Raptis, now a master), plus a team of adults. The Washington Juniors lost their match 12.5-.5. The adults also lost, 11.5-1.5.

Robert Karch did a report on the 1989 Washington High School Team Championship which had 26 teams taking part and was won by Cleveland High of the Seattle Metro League.