

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

1949-1989 at ten-year intervals

June 1949 (WCL)

11 pages was the count for the June 1949 issue of the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER. The 12th page of your compiler's copy is blank. Jack L. Finnegan, living at Star Route, Gig Harbor, Washington is the editor. The other staff members listed are: Postal Editor: Neil F. Power of Snohomish, Feature Writers: Richard P. Allen and T. Patrick Corbett both of Seattle, Jim Schmitt of Portland plus Circulation Manager: Peter Husby of Everett. [IM John Donaldson comments that "I remember Jack Finnegan from when I first joined the Tacoma Chess Club. He was a very good cartoonist."]

The only event listed under "Coming Events" was the Portland Open, to be held July 2, 3 and 4 at the Portland Chess Club with a \$2.00 entry fee.

The editor reports that Louis Rall and Ray Hiscox have started THE CHESS REPORTER to cover chess in the Tacoma area. Also in Tacoma, C.C. Crain won a 5-player speed event 4-0.

Oregon State College in Corvallis won a match with University of Oregon, 6.5-3.5.

The match between U of W and Seattle CC ended in a 13-13 draw.

A Chess Carnival was held by the Seattle YMCA CC. Activities were Blindfold Chess, Speed Chess, Four-handed, Three Dimension, Caterpillar Chess and Kriegspiel.

It was reported that the Kitsap CC visits the Naval Hospital in Bremerton every Tuesday night to play chess with and teach chess to the patients.

Final standing report for Puget Sound League had Tacoma in first place with 7.5 wins and one drawn match on the minus side. Bellingham was second at 6.5-1.5. This was the third year in a row that the Tacoma CC won the league play. The leading league player was C.C. Crain of Tacoma, 13.5-.5, and second best was Neil Power of Everett 10.5-5.5.

In a couple of non-league matches U of W downed Seattle U 8-2, and they also beat Port Office 12-6.

The Portland CC was able to top a team from Oregon State 10-0.

An example of "Put 'Em Back Chess" was given in this issue.

It was announced that the USCF will play a series of matches against the Canadian Chess Federation on July 3 at several sites along the common boarder.

June 1959 (WCL)

The June 1959 issue of the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER was under the editorship of Buz Eddy living in Seattle, his first issue as editor. Washington Chess Federation officers at this time were: President-Max Mage, V.P.-Dan Wade, Secretary-Charles Joachim, Ratings-Robert A. Karch, Publicity-Fred Howard and Tournament Director-Al Livingston. The membership fee was \$2.00 per year.

It was reported that a Seattle Junior Chess Club had been formed to concentrate on game improvement. The members were: Bob Holzinger, John Braley, Mike Franett, Jim Blain, David Grannis, Pat Hickey and Buz Eddy. To your writers knowledge only Pat Hickey is an active chessplayer today.

The two chess events announced in this issue were: International Match between Washington and BC to be held July 26 at the Peace Arch on the border. The Seafair Open would be held at the Seattle YMCA Colman Room on Aug 1 and 2. In those days they played 6-round events with a time control of 50 in 2 and adjudication after 4 hours. The entry fee was to be \$3.00 with a 1st prize of \$35.00 guaranteed.

Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle topped the crosstable of the Inland Empire Open printed in this issue. He scored 6-0 over Buz Eddy, Steven Sala of Osburn, John Barto of Great Falls, Richard Schultz of Seattle, Dr. David Groenig (who finished tied for second with Richard Jerome of Yakima at 4.5-1.5) of Spokane and Danny Towne of Prosser. 25 players took part in the event.

Ulvestad got nicked for a draw in the last round of the 35-player Puget Sound Open by Dan Wade, but won the first prize with 5.5-.5. Tied at 5-1 were Jim McCormick and Clark Harmon. The event was held at Seattle University. Ulvestad defeated both of the second place finishers.

In Idaho news the crosstable of the Idaho Open listed 14 players with Gaston Chappius in the top spot at 4.5-.5. He was from Salt Lake City. Tied for second at 4-1 were: Duane Meader of Vancouver and Dr. David Groenig of Spokane.

Seven players took part in a round robin of Seattle Pacific College players, which was won by Phillip Moorman with 5.5-.5.

Bob Saibel, a sixth grader from McKinley School, won a 27-player event from seven schools around Olympia.

Final standings for the 1959 Seattle High School league found Garfield on top with 6.5-.5 match results. They drew with Highland. The best scorer was Teddy Iwata of Garfield 11-0. Those who are still playing chess today to my knowledge are: Peter O'Gorman 6.5-3.5, Robert Allen 8-4. Eight schools played in the league.

Wallace Idaho high school won a five-team league with a 7-0 match score.

Mike Franett of Seattle scored 4-1 to take top honors in the 12-player Oregon Junior. Ivars Dalbergs adjudicated several games in the event.

June 1969 (NWC)

Your compiler Russell Miller was the editor of NORTHWEST CHESS for the June 1969 issue. I was living in Yakima then. Tim Kauppila of Seattle did Tournament News for Washington. Ben Thurston did the big job of Rating Director. Kathy Miller was listed as Circulation Director. John R. Ward of Tacoma was the Postal Chess Director. Richard Vandenburg of Boise Idaho did the Idaho Chess Bulletin section. The Oregon Editor was Harry Glidden of Medford. BC news came from Robert Eldridge of Burnaby, BC. High School in Chess was done by Howie Chin of Seattle. Clark Harmon living in Milwaukie Oregon at the time was the Games Editor.

GM Larry Evans was coming in June to play in the Strawberry Open in Marysville and also do two simultaneous exhibitions, one at Monte Cristo Hotel in Everett and another at the Seattle Chess Club at 617 Jackson Street.

Jerry Larkin was the WCF President at this time in our chess history. He lived in Marysville and was the main spark behind the Strawberry Open. Angus Pitt of Seattle was the V.P. I was the treasurer, Tim Kauppila of Seattle was the WCF TD, Willie Skubi of Seattle held the Publicity Director post.

The Strawberry Open was set for eight rounds on June 14-20 at the Marysville Community Bldg. under the direction of GM Isaac Kashdan. First prize was to be \$1,000.00 with \$3,000.00 total prize fund in the championship section. On site entry fee was \$25.00.

The Puget Sound Open was held in May 1969 with 32 players in the top section. James McCormick of Seattle scored 5.5-.5 while Stephen Strand of Centralia had 5-1. Some of those who still play today (or at least get NWC) I noticed in the crosstable are: Mike Murray, George LeCompte, Viktors Pupols, Buz Eddy, Pat Hessen, Peter O'Gorman and Pat Herbers. 20 players took part in the Woodpusher section with Gene Fomin, Lee Baldwin and D. Shapiro all scoring 4.5-1.5. A third section of 26 players was won by Robert Ruotsalainen of Seattle at 5.5-.5.

Jack Finnegan won the Tacoma City Championship event 4.5-.5 over 13 others.

Wolfgang Freese, formerly of Germany but now living in Pocatello, won the Idaho Open with 4.5-5. Ten players took part in the top section and 16 in the B group won by Alan Taye of Salt Lake City. The Idaho Chess Association annual meeting elected officers, with Ted Hartwell of Twin Falls winning the President spot.

Esther Schrader of South Salem, Oregon took over the problem department of NWC in this issue.

The 1969 Interstate Open was a seven-round event which ended in a tie at 6-1 between Dennis Waterman of Portland, Viktors Pupols of Seattle and Bill Kiplinger of Portland. Solkoff points gave the title to Waterman. 53 players took part.

Mike Montchalin of Portland won the 26-player Milwaukie Junior sponsored by the Milwaukie Jaycees. His brother Mark won the Jr. Grade Section 5-0.

Norm Hardy reported the results of the Seattle Metro High School league play in this issue. Queen Anne, with a 5-1 match score, won the top section of seven teams. West Seattle won the reserve section 4.5-.5. Queen Anne team members were: Norm Hardy, Gerald Cook, Tim Kauppila, Les Cowan and Bob Born. Garfield team member Digne deLenea had the highest NW rating at 1866 of the league players.

The High School Individual of 14 players was won on tie-break by Larry Pratt of Bellevue over Tim Kauppila of Seattle when both scored 4-1.

The crosstable of the 1969 Vancouver Island Open had 25 players and was won by Jan Krotki 4.5-.5. The BC Junior was won by Bill Macskasy 6-0 over 35 others.

Richard Schultz was on the top of the postal rating list in this issue.

June 1979 (NWC)

Robert A. Karch, editor of NORTHWEST CHESS for the June 1979 issue, put lots of photos on the cover of this issue. Those of you reading this on the NWC website can see the photos of Lloyd Uhler Jr, Steven T. Russell, Rob Stackelberg, Robert Tunnicliff, Benny O'Flattery and Gordon Shuck plus a couple of playing room sites.

The paid circulation figures for the May issue were reported in this issue, and were 427 in Washington and 297 in Oregon, and a total of 833, which was 51 more than the November 1978 total.

Yasser Seirawan's article about breaking into international play continued in this issue from the March and May issues. The article can be found on the NWC website.

Peter Biyiasas topped the 28-player crosstable for the top section of the third annual Northern B.C. Open held in Prince George, BC with a 5.5-.5 score, drawing with second place Gordon Taylor in round 6. Peter won \$1,000.00. The Pacific Gold Brewery was the sponsor. There were a total of 95 players in the event. Biyiasas played a 25-board simul the night before the tournament and only gave up a draw to Bea Sarac.

The Vancouver Island Open crosstable had 34 players on it. Again Biyiasas was on top but only by tie-break because John Donaldson of Seattle also scored 4.5-5. They drew with each other in round 5. Gordon Taylor of Vancouver, BC was the only one at 4-1.

Jerry Wolfe of Eugene won \$70.00 for his first place finish score of 4.5-.5 in the Eugene-Springfield Open. 34 players took part.

Larry Swan, NW Postal Chess Director, reported Richard A. Schultz as the top-rated player with John Donaldson second. He reported 47 Washington residents and 30 from Oregon were taking part in postal chess play.

Northwest ratings done at this time by Edwin Kivi of Olympia using a computer also produced crosstables for printing in the magazine and this issue caught up on events held the past several months..

The Oregon Novice Championship crosstable had 23 players with Elmer Blanton on top. William Lamar of Des Moines at 4-0 was on top of the Washington High School Individual table of 22 players. The Washington High School Team Championship resulted in a crosstable of 152 players, and scoring 5-0 for various teams were: Vince Delaney of Bothell, David Baker of Seattle, Jerold Prothero of Mercer Island and Eric Tangborn of Tacoma.

The Emerald Valley Open table was topped by William Lapham of Portland 4.5-.5. 30 players took part in the event. The OMSI High School Championship had 47 players with Karl Schoffstoll of Troutdale and Teddy Leong of Astoria the top scorers at 4.5-.5. They both drew with third place on tie-break Larry Musa of Coos Bay.

The Seattle CC Special played over several weeks with 10 players ended with both Ralph Dubisch and Norman Abrahamson scoring 3.5-.5. They drew with each other.

The Grants Pass Open attracted 50 players in 1979. Richard Fourzon of Medford and John Studley of Klamath Falls both scored 5-0.

76 names are on the Portland Spring Open for 1979. Greg Vitko of Portland won the event with 5-0. Ralph Hall of Oregon City was the only player with 4.5-.5

Robert A. Karch of Bothell won a one day event, 3rd Tri-Cities Open with 4-0. 24 players took part.

The one day Cowlitz Open drew ten players with Lewis Richardson of Astoria the winner 3-0. The scholastic section of nine players was won by Tom Simshaw of Portland with a score of 4-0.

The 1979 Presidents Congress was held in three sections of 26 and 27 plus 3 women in a Northwest Women's Championship. Seattle players John Donaldson and Yasser Seirawan won the top Presidential Section with 4.5-.5. They drew with each other in round 5. At 4-1 were Eric Tangborn and Steve Thomas. Robert McKenzie won the Congressional section 4.5-.5. At 4-1 was Glen Ossianer. The Women's section ended in a tie between Debra Ktichen of Monroe, Oregon and Alexey Rudolph of Tacoma.

Roy Groth of Graham, WA was the only player with 5 wins and 0 losses in the TAPCO High School Chess League play of 78-79. 39 players took part.

5-0 score by Jim Gallagher of Kent, WA took top honors at the Tacoma All-Winner Amateur of 21 players.

The Second Tri-Cities Open, a one-day event, drew 18 players with Nehemiah Spence of Richland winning with 4-0.

June 1989 (NWC)

The present editor of NORTHWEST CHESS was the editor of the June 1989 issue of the magazine, Ralph Dubisch living in Bellevue at the time. It was numbered issue 496, 24 pages in length. Ralph had to borrow the use of a computer and laser printer to do the issue.

John Braley and Fred Kleist provided a report to the magazine about the 1989 Keres Memorial. A visitor from Tallin Estonia, Juri Vetemaa, won the 43 player top section 6-1. He won \$900.00 Canadian. John Donaldson was second at 5.5-1.5.

There was a report on Washington players at the National Elementary Championships held at Arizona State University for age 5-12 players. Five kids from Washington took part, Kwelin Moore (5-2 good for under 1400 trophy and best score by a female player in her section), Litsun Moore (6-1 good for 9th place trophy), Paul Doyle (4-3), Peter McCullum (4-3), Julia Neuhaus (4-3).

Two-plus pages were filled by a report (results and games and cross tables) from Robert Karch on his Mountlake Terrace Class event. The King of Mountain section attracted six players for a round robin and was won by David Weinstock 4-1. 12 players took part in the Class A section which was won by Gary Edwards and Randy Kaeck at 4-1. The Class B section had 15 players which resulted in a clear first place at 4.5-.5 for Michael Darby.

Robert Burke took the Class C section of 14 players with 4-1. The under 1400 section had the most players with 30 including seven unrated. The winning 4-1 score in this section was achieved by Martin Smith, Steve Wing and Mykai Egbert.

The USCF ratings for Pacific Northwest players were printed in this issue of NWC as compiled by Robert Karch.

Kristen Dietsch was Postal Chess Director at this time, and the rating list he had printed was topped by John Penquite. There were 63 names on the full list.

From the crosstable section in this issue we learn that the top section of the one-day Washington Jr. Open held in Spokane was won by Clavin Creger and Robert Dixon over 10 others at 3.5-.5; they drew with each other. The 20-player age 11-14 section was won by Michael Hill 4-0. The 36-player age 7-10 section had two 4-0 scores by Brian Jones and Robbie Fisher. Curt Collyer won the under age 7 section with 3.5-.5. The Spokane Action Championship was held the same date and drew 22 players, and John Wise and Barry Neuhaus both scored 4-0.

Randy Kaech directed a strangely-named event, Olympia Alphetourney One of six players. Scott Mc Niven won it 3-0. Gary Dorfner directed the Daffodil Open in Tacoma with 20 players. John Graves won it 4.5-.5.