

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

1949-1989 at ten-year intervals

July 1949 (WCL)

The cover of WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER (WCL) for July 1949 says “International Match Issue.” There are 11 pages of material in this issue by Editor Jack L. Finnigan of Gig Harbor and published by Peter Husby of Everett.

In news, Gerald Schain topped the U of W final quarter tournament with James Amidon second and Ham Martin third. 20 players took part in the A section and 12 in the B. Norm Newblom won the B Section.

In a letter to the Editor, Larry Hagen of Corvallis Oregon thinks the Portland CC should play a match against Puget Sound League champion team. Tacoma CC and the editor agree.

The International Match of Washington vs. BC was set for July 3, 1949. There were to be matches in other area of the USA and Canada on the same day. The match with BC was to be played in Seattle. A history article by Richard Allen appeared in this issue. For more info on all the matches over the years check out the website <http://www3.telus.net/public/swright2/bcwam.html>.

23 players took part in the Puget Sound Open held in Everett. Scoring 5-1 were U of W student Jim Amidon and Richard Allen of Seattle. Sonnenbern-Berger tie-breaking points gave the title to Amidon. Amidon won \$15 and Allen \$5. Guess they did not combine and split prize money in those days. Larry Taro was the event TD.

The game score from a George Koltanowski 1947 simul was given. J.A. Naas as Black won the game. Naas was also the top rated postal chess player in this issue of WCL.

A report on the Washington Chess Federation annual meeting appeared. At a meeting held May 29 in Everett, Jack Nourse was elected President, Richard P. Allen - V.P., Jack Finnigan - Secretary, Peter Husby - Honorary Director and W.H. Ralieggh - Treasurer. Charles Joachim was appointed WCF tournament director and Honorary Director for WCF. Lawrence Taro was chosen as the 1948 “Oscar” winner for outstanding achievements on Washington Chess; he did excellent work in 1948 promoting chess.

Because of money, an Arthur Dake vs. Herman Steiner match was called off.

The Portland Open was to be held on July 2-4 at the Portland CC with a \$2.00 entry fee.

July 1959 (WCL)

The WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER for July 1959 says issue 140 with Buz Eddy of Seattle as Editor.

Corresponding Reporters listed were: Robert Kittredge of Spokane, Richard Jerome of Yakima, Bruce Fredstrom of North Idaho, Deane Moore of Portland and Richard Vandenburg of South Idaho.

Clifford Dolph reported that the Maryhill CC was meeting at the Maryhill Museum with players from Wishram and Goldendale taking part in activities. Gordon Gray reported on the organizing of a South Seattle CC.

The Seattle CC was going to host a tournament for players rated 1800 to 2000 on August 8-9, with Pat Hickey as TD.

It was being looked into to hold the 1961 US Open in Seattle during the World's Fair of 1961.

The Peace Arch was to be the site of the annual Washington vs. BC match on July 26.

A \$3.00 entry fee was announced for the Seafair Open to be held at the Seattle YMCA, with Al Livingston the tournament director.

The crosstable of the 1959 California Junior Chess Championship was printed in this issue. The reason was Clark Harmon of Portland won the event with a 6.5-.5 score and WCL Editor Buz Eddy also played. Buz scored 4-3 and was 18th place on the table. Gilbert Ramiez was second and Arthur Wang was third. There were 44 players.

20 players took part in the Seattle Open and Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle and Viktors Pupols of Tacoma both scored 4.5-.5, with title to Ulvestad on tie-break. They drew their game in round 3 and the game was printed in this issue of WCL. James McCormick of Seattle was third at 3.5-1.5. Buz Eddy was the TD. The entry fee was \$3.00.

June 21, 1959 in Olympia saw a match between the Portland CC and Seattle CC. Portland won 3.5-2.5.

Killian Seekemp won the 1959 West Seattle CC Championship.

Charles Joachim won the 10th N.E. Seattle Invitational 7.5-2.5. Dan Wade was second at 7-3.

Buz Eddy was the moderator for a couple of blindfold exhibitions by Olaf Ulvestad. Gig Harbor was the site of one against adults, and a second versus a group of Seattle juniors.

The top section of the Idaho Open was 14 players and won by Gaston Chappuis of Salt Lake City with 4.5-.5. The Class B/Junior section was won by George Raser of Boise over 11 others.

Richard Jerome of Yakima won a double round robin of 18 players called the Yakima County Tournament by winning 24, losing 1 and drawing 2. Event ran from April to June.

The Seattle CC held a picnic at Woodland Park with lots of food and chess play.

July 1969 (NWC)

The cover of the July 1969 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS (NWC) had pictures of GM Larry Evans, IM William Addison and Isaac Kashdan (TD for the event) from the 2nd Annual Strawberry Open. Evans of Reno and Addison from San Francisco tied for first place on the crosstable with 7.5-.5 scores, good for \$800 each. They drew with each other in round 5 in 16 moves. 61 players took part in the top section. Alan Ludgat of

Vancouver BC was third. Of the players from outside the Pacific Northwest who played in 1968 only Evans returned.

The Reserve Section was won by Ben Thurston of Seattle with 7.5-.5. 36 players were in this section. Jerry Larkin and Kathy Miller were the TDs.

The entries were too low and expenses of \$1,000 were not covered by the entry fees.

Russell Miller of Yakima was the editor of this issue of NWC.

John Braley of Seattle won the Tacoma Centennial with 6-0. Gary Holmquist was second at 5-1 in the 32-player top section. Vincent Hikida of Auburn won the 43-player B section.

A six-team event ended in victory for the Black Bandits (John Braley, R. Hubbell, David Williams, Richard Parsons and John Walker) with 19 points. The Seattle CC scored 16 points.

The 2nd Annual Sunfair Open held in Yakima ended in a tie at 5.5-1.5 between Danny Kopec of Kew Gardens, NY and Alan Ludgate of Vancouver, B.C. They drew with each other in round 6 and won \$45 each. 26 players took part. Kopec and some of the other players were attending a Math Institute in Walla Walla.

In the BC Bulletin section it was reported that Peter Biyiasas, Alan Ludgate and Ray Kerr all scored 5-2 in an eight-player round robin event. Kerr did not take part in the play-off match and Biyiasas scored 1.5-.5 over Ludgate to take the title.

40 players took part in the Oregon State High School Individual Championship. Mitchell Montchalin of Clackamas High School in Portland topped the field with a 6-0 score to repeat his victory of 1968. The prize was a \$50 scholarship and trophy for the event held in Medford. Two girls took part, the first to do so in three years.

Clark Harmon scored 12-0 in a simul at the Astoria Chess Club.

Richard Vandenburg once again won the Boise CC championship 9.5-.5.

The Boise CC won a match with Twin Falls 11-9.

John Ward, the Postal Chess League director, reported Richard Schultz was the top rated postal player.

GM Larry Evans scored 15-1 in a simul at the Seattle CC. Joseph Toth was the only winner. The club had moved to 617 S. Jackson, it was reported. Tim Kauppila was on top of the club rating ladder.

Howie Chin reporting on High School Chess had Auburn winning the Tacoma (Pierce County) League with Franklin Pierce having the same 8-2-0 score.

July 1979 (NWC)

Robert Karch, editor of the July 1979 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS, placed six pictures on the cover of this issue. Benny Hash, Karl Schoffstoll, Jay Collins, Alexey Rudolph (future US Women's Champ he said), Ralph Hall and Gerard Van Deene. The 24-page issue had a crosstable for an in-progress event at the Boeing CC. Five sections with 40 players. Bobby Ferguson was leading his section 6-1. Mr. Karch noted that

USCF was having trouble with their rating of events but the Northwest Rating System was working fine. He was also hoping that NWC was progressing from a part-time volunteer to a full time professional editor and small staff. NWC circulation at this time was 733 for WA/OR plus 133 others.

There appeared a story of a computer chess tournament won by Chess Challenger 10. It included some games of various computers vs. humans.

The British Columbia section of the magazine reported on the results of the 1979 Keres Memorial. Attendance was down from the year before, 126 to 97. Three players scored 5.5-1.5, GM Peter Biyiasas of Vancouver BC, IM John Grefe of Portland OR and Jim McCormick of Seattle to take the top honors. Bruce Harper of Vancouver BC was the only one to score 5-2, good for fourth place money.

The tournament ad for the 1979 Oregon Open to be held at the Cosmopolitan Motor Hotel in Portland called for a \$2,500 prize fund with a \$30 on-site entry fee, with \$1,500 guaranteed.

The crosstable of the 1979 Continental Life Idaho Open listed 68 players with Jerome Weikel of Sparks NV the only one with a 5-0 score, good for \$250. William Whitacre of Boise won \$150 for his 4.5-.5 score. It was noted that Karch had canceled his Seattle Spring event because of the Idaho event on the same weekend, but few Washington or Oregon players turned up in Idaho.

Richard Schultz and John Donaldson were the top two players on the postal ratings list. There were ten sections with 45 players total for the 1979 NW Postal Chess Championship.

Jim Perry in his world news section of this issue reported that World Champion Anatoly Karpov had married.

The crosstable section of this issue had: Kirk Widdison of Beaverton winning top section of the Corvallis Open of 18 players, Peter Biyiasas of San Francisco winning Pierce County Open of 28 players, David Collyer of Wenatchee winning the Western Washington Open #1 of six players, Larry Parsons of Boise taking the Tri-Cities Grand Prix #5 of 15 players, Jim McCormick of Seattle winning top section of the Washington Class of nine players. The A/B section of 20 was won by Bill McGear of Seattle, Benjamin Thurston of Seattle won the C section of 26 players, Nicholas Hoffman and Gary Edwards topped the D section of 26 players.

July 1989 (NWC)

The current editor of NORTHWEST CHESS (Ralph Dubisch) was the editor of NWC for the July 1989 issue. He was living in Bellevue then. The NWC business manager at the time, your writer, reported \$2,817.05 cash and prepaid postage on hand as of 6/1/89.

The Seattle CC reported their officer election results: President-Phil McCready and Stan Scott, VP-Mounier Hanafi, Sec-Mary Pachorek, Tres-Greg Staley and TD-Fred Kleist.

Results of the 6th World Computer Chess Championship were given: Deep Thought with a perfect 5-0. 200 spectators watched the last round.

103 people entered the 1989 Washington Open held at Loew Hall on the U of W campus in Seattle, a free playing site. The 21-player top section was won by with a 4.5-.5 score by Senior Master Ken Tomkins who also got his photo on the front cover of the magazine. He won \$175. Winning \$65 each and scoring 3.5-1.5 were: Ralph Dubisch, Paul Eggers, David Roper, Neil Salmon and David Weinstock. Randy Kaeck and S. Somasundaram took top honors in the Premier Section with 4.5-1.5, winning \$112.50 each in the 43-player event. The Amateur section had 39 players. An unrated player, Krishna Natarajan, won this section 5-0. Fred Kleist and Laura Dubisch directed the event for sponsors East West Tournament Association.

The magazine had a report on both the 1965 Northwest Invitational held in Portland and the 1989 event by the same name held in Vancouver BC. Dr. Elod Macskasy of Vancouver BC was the only player to take part in both events. He won the first one just ahead of Ivars Dalbergs of Portland. Andy Schoene of Seattle was third, Viktors Pupols, Elmars Zemgalis and James McCormick made up the rest of the field in the first event. Leon Piasetski of Vancouver BC won the second event with 7.5-1.5, losing only to Ken Tomkins, and drew with Tom O'Donnell who finished second at 7-2. Juri Veteman was third at 6-3. Ken Tompkins scored 5.5-3.5 and Clark Harmon had 5-4. Other scores: Nigel Fullbrook 4.5-4.5, Gary Basanta 4-5, Lionel Joyner 3-6, Elod Macskasy 2.4-6.5 and Paul Brown 0-9.

The organizers report, part one, with commentary and games by Joel Barnes of Olympia for the 1989 Washington Closed appeared in this issue. The event was held over three weekends for the ten players. The players were: Viktors Pupols, David Weinstock, Paul Eggers, John Graves, Mike Franett, John Braley, Clark Harmon, Matt Edwards, Hugh Tobin and Ken Tomkins.

The 1989 Washington Junior Open was held in Spokane under the direction of David Collyer. Robert Dixon of Mt. Lake Terrace HS won the event in the speed playoff over Calvin Creger of Spokane. 74 players from ages 4 to 18 took part. The under age 7 section was won by 4-year-old Curt Collyer. A one-game speed playoff decided the 7-10 year old section title between Robbie Fisher and Brian Jones of Vancouver WA in favor of Fisher. Mike Hill of Issaquah won the 11-14 year old section with 4-0. The Spokane Action Championship was held at the same time as the junior event. John Wise of Vancouver WA and Barry Neuhaus of Seattle topped the field of 22 with 4-0 scores.

Jay Collins doing the Oregon Report was able to provide information on the Lane County CC which had 35 active members. Club President was Ray Wissig, and David Arganian was the current club champion. The crosstable for the 46-player Grants Pass Open had John Donaldson and Barry Nelson in the top spots, both with 5-0. The Great Pumpkin table had Yew Chiang Ong on top with 4.5-.5. 46 players took part. Jay Collins was second at 4-1. Ong also topped another Albany Oregon crosstable, the Linn Benton Open with the same 4.5-.5 score. Collins also had 4-1 in that event but so did Manuel Joseph and Rodolfo Abero. There were 28 players in this one. Daniel Rogers directed those two events as well as the Willamette Valley Open. Joseph won this one over 39 players with 4.5-.5, with Collins again amongst those with 4-1. Other were Ong, Leland Harmon, Mark Turner and Thomas Robinson.

The results of the Puget Sound League Southern Division were given as a crosstable of 52 players. The best score was turned in by Ralph Dubisch with 4.5-.5. Bill McGearry and Keith Yamanaka both scored 4-1. Play took place Dec 9, 1988 to April 28, 1989.

The Seattle CC April Foolery #1 event ran from April 7-29 and was won by Daniel Marshall and William Hood at 3.5-.5 over 55 others. Marshall also won section #3 over 9 others with 3-0 to put his USCF rating up to 2173.

Marvin Hayami won the Fort Lewis Base Championship over five others, with a 5-0 score.

The NWC business manager, your writer, had a notice printed that he needed space to store 30 boxes of back issues of NWC. He was also selling back issues for \$1.00 each, years 1983-1989.