

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

*1949-1989 at ten-year intervals*

**December 1949 (WCL)**

The December 1949 issue of the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER has nine pages done by editor Jack L. Finnigan of Bremerton.

The results of the 1949 Washington Championship can be found in this issue. Robert Stork of Chehalis took the title with a 5-0 score. In 2nd place was Vernon Holmes of Tacoma at 4-1. 20 players took part in the event including Jack Finnigan who wrote an article saying the event should have been six rounds so Stork and Holmes would have played a game in round six.

The Kitsap County championship required a playoff match when both Jack Nourse and George Rehberg scored 14 wins and 4 lost games, topping eight others.

A report on Latvian Chess Champion Elmars Zemgalis, who was coming to Seattle from Europe soon, was printed.

In Puget Sound League play the Seattle Chess Club had the top score of 4-0 at this point in league play. There was also a Seattle City League that Seattle U and West Seattle CC were leading. It had a Ladies Team taking part.

The list of new officers for the Seattle CC was printed: Ted H. Davidsen-President, Burge Bickford-V-P, B.L. Carson-Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Sturges-Director, Charles Joachim-Director, Glenn Muller-Tournament Director.

Seven ladies took part in a tournament at the South Tacoma CC. Mrs. Otto Venneberg and Mrs. William Ward both scored 3-0 to top the list.

On a chess club directory list were Portland, Spokane, Wenatchee and Everett clubs. There were other clubs listed in the November issue.

Postal Director Neil Power of Snohomish reported that J.H. Naas was the top rated postal player and Power was 2nd.

**December 1959 (WCL)**

The December 1959 issue of the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER has 20 pages done by editor Buz Eddy of Seattle.

The full page ad in this issue for the 1960 Washington Open to be held at Seattle U listed the entry fee as \$5.00 with juniors paying \$3.00. Al Livingston was going to be the director.

The 1959 Spokane Woodpusher crosstable had 11 players on it. James Ashley of Spokane won the event with 6-0.

The Seattle High School league team list included players from defending champion Garfield, West Seattle, Highland, Mt. Rainier, Lincoln, Prep/O'Dea, Shoreline and Cleveland.

The crosstable of the Northwest States Open listed Richard Schultz of Seattle on top with a 6-0 score. 2nd place was won by Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle at 5-1. Schultz won their fourth round game. The tournament was held in Missoula, MT. There were five players from Seattle who made the long drive. Other than the two listed above there were 4th James McCormick (4-2), 6th Viktors Pupols (4-2) and 18th Buz Eddy (2.5-3.5).

About four pages of the issue were filled by Northwest Ratings done by S.F.C. Robert Karch.

In Puget Sound League match reports, Seattle CC downed Tacoma 7.5-2.5, North Seattle downed Tacoma CC 10-0, Golden Horde topped McNeil Island 7.5-2.5, 5-5 was the score between Latvians and Seattle CC, plus North Seattle downed Seattle CC 7.5-2.5. North Seattle had won all five of their matches.

The 12th NE Seattle Invitational was won by Oliver Morris with 4-1 in a four-player double RR event. This was the third time he had won this event.

Max Mage of West Seattle was on top of the postal chess players rating list.

### **December 1969 (NWC)**

The December 1969 issue of the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER has 24 pages done by editor Russell Miller of Yakima.

In a short report, Sam McKibbin reports that 52 players under the direction of Viktors Pupols took part in the Northwest Open at the Seattle CC. Three players scored 5-1, Dennis Waterman, Mike Franett and Peter Biyiasas.

The announcement for the 1960 Washington Open to be held January 3-4, 1970 called for a \$10.00 entry fee.

The cover of this issue had pictures by John Ward of Clark Harmon at the Oregon Open and Michael Schemm and Ronald Gist at the Washington Woodpushers.

Northwest Ratings by Ben Thurston of Seattle filled one page in this issue.

The crosstable of the Oregon Junior had 50 names, and on top were Mike Montchalin at 5.5-.5 and Joe Brandenburg at 5-1. In more Oregon news Montchalin tied with Mike Morris for the 1st place honor in the 36-player Klamath Falls Open. They won \$51.62 each. Montchalin was a junior at Clackamas High School.

The Eugene 30/30 event drew 18 players and Ralph James of Corvallis scored 4-0 for top honors. The Vancouver BC 30/30 drew 16 players with Bob Zuk scoring 4-0 for first place.

A 5-0 score by Peter Biyiasas won the 24-person South Vancouver Island Open.

A speed event held at the Spokane CC ended in 8.5-1.5 scores by both Peter Torker (formerly of Yugoslavia) and Dr. David Groenig. Groenig won the Spokane County event with a 4.5-.5 score. Tokar and Pat Herbers scored 4-1 to tie for 2nd and 3rd. 20 players took part.

Sam McKibbin's score of 4-0 won the Central Washington Open held in Wenatchee on November 22nd. 18 players took part.

The Crusaders CC 1969 Swiss Tournament was won on tie-break by Ron Jarmon when both he and Joe Bricher scored 4-1 in the eight-player event directed by John Ward. Ernst Rasmussen won two events at the Crusaders CC – the first on tie-break over Jim Boettcher when both scored 8-1 in the ten-player first event, and 9-0 in the second event, also of ten players.

Ron Norman of Seattle had postal director duties for this issue. Washington was leading the postal match with Oregon 8-2.

Norm Hardy reported he was the top player on the Seattle Chess Club rating ladder.

### **December 1979 (NWC)**

The December 1979 issue of the NORTHWEST CHESS (NWC) had 32 pages done by editor Robert A. Karch of Kenmore.

We find the results of the mail ballot in this issue. Russell Miller of Yakima was elected President of the Washington Chess Federation (WCF). Other WCF officers: Duane Polich-V-P, James Little-TD, Oliver LaFreniere-Secretary, Michael Mulford-Treasurer, Robert Karch-Editor NWC and Business Manager.

Postal Director Sofus Eckrum of Everett reported Richard Schultz as the top rated postal player. Postal section winners reported this month were: Greg Vitko, Jack Grigsby, John Hatala, Carol Miller, Tom Moore, David Donnelly and Richard Banner. Seven people were added to the postal players roster this month.

The team of Marvin Ansted, Manuel Joseph, Jay Collins (best score 4.5-.5) and Mark Turner, calling themselves “Three M’s and a question Mark,” won the Northwest Team of Four Tournament.

A. Edwin Kivi was doing Northwest Ratings using a computer where he worked at this time in NWC history. In events rated for this issue of NWC the top three rated players were all from Canada: Bruce Harper 2317, Jeff Reeve 2277 and Robert Zuk 2244.

From the crosstables in this issue we learn that seven players took part in the Rogue Valley RR held in August and won by Gary Elder of Shady Cove, OR. Jeffery Reeve won the 40-player British Columbia Day Open with 6.5-.5, held to a draw by 2nd place Bruce Harper. Myrtle Creek Oregon resident Randal Svedreck scored 4.5-.5 over 16 others to win the Santiam Open; 3.5-.5 scores by William Ballard and Jeff Holmes put them on top of the Mt. Hood Invitational of 19 players; Wayne Hatcher of South Cle Elum won the 10-player Yakima Grand Prix No. 1; 5-1 scores by Gordon Taylor and Ross Cameron both of Vancouver BC topped the Labor Day Open of 31 players; Karl Schoffstoll of Troutdale Oregon won the Portland Amateur with 3.5-.5; Viktors Pupols and William Schill drew a four-game match; Jerold Prothero of Mercer Island won the Seattle CC Championship 5-0 over 16 others; H.G. Pitre won a match with Daniel Bailey 5-1, and Pitre drew a match 3-3 with Charles Ditzel; Bruce Harper of Vancouver BC won the British Columbia Open with 5.5-.5 over 31 others; Kenneth Chun won \$160.00 for his 5-0 score in the 73-player Seattle Amateur.

### **December 1989 (NWC)**

{Not available.}