

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

1949-1989 at ten-year intervals

October 1949 (WCL)

For the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER (WCL) October 1949 I will use the “10 Years Ago in Washington Chess” by R. R. Merk that appeared in the October 1959 issue of WCL.

The 1949 Seattle City Championship was awarded to Antone Walloch but, to gain this honor, he had to sweat it out playing eight hours of the toughest kind of chess vs. Glenn Muller, the then state speed champ. In the playoff, which was played in one sitting by agreement, all was even for the first five games, then Walloch took two in a row, clinching the title. Of the 20 players in the tournament only two are now currently active in local chess. Charles Joachim played third and a player by the name of Weaver, who we presume to be F. H. Weaver, did not do so well with 3 wins, 10 lost and 1 draw.

The Washington Chess Federation tournament schedule was announced for 1949 and 1950 with 7 teams participating, Seattle, Tacoma, Everett, University, Kitsap, YMCA and Olympia. The schedule consisted of seven rounds, 40 moves per hour per player, 10 moves each 10 minutes thereafter with no adjudications.

A Wenatchee chess club, newly organized, journeyed to Yakima on August 28th to play what was believed to be the first inter-city chess match held in Eastern Washington. Wenatchee downed the Yakima team by a score of 9-5 on seven boards. Of the 14 players participating there is only one that is still active in chess and that is William H. Hoge, who was the first board for Yakima.

It was announced that Olaf Ulvestad and Charles Joachim would conduct a school for chess players at the YMCA (Seattle), with Joachim instructing the beginning players and Ulvestad teaching the advanced class.

Charles Joachim was undertaking to organize a City Chess League in Seattle. A tentative list of competing teams consisted of West Seattle, University, YMCA, Colored Men's Club, Seattle CC and Seattle U.

Added by your compiler: Several letters were printed by Editor Jack Finnigan of Seattle about time controls. An article by Charles Joachim was printed about Chess in Vienna. He grew up there. On the tournament schedule was the State Championship (to be a six round Swiss), Washington Junior, First Washington Women's Championship, Washington Speed, Puget Sound Open, four district championships with the state divided up, West Coast Tournament, City of Portland vs. City of Seattle match. Naas was the top postal player on the rating list. The issue was 12 pages but my page 12 is blank.

October 1959 (WCL)

16 pages are found in the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER for October 1959. Buz Eddy of Seattle was the editor. Other staff were: Richard Schultz, Seattle; Fred Weaver, Seattle; Carl Carlson, Tacoma; Robert Kittredge, Spokane; Richard Jerome, Yakima; Richard Vandenburg, Boise; Deane Moore, Portland and Dan Wade, Seattle.

There was a full page ad for the Central Washington Open to be held in Yakima on November 7-8, 1959. The time control was to be 50/2 with adjudication after four hours. The entry fee was \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for juniors. First place was \$50.00. The TD was to be Buz Eddy.

The 1959 Washington Woodpusher crosstable had 19 names. Tom Maken of Seattle won with 4-0. The event was one day, played at 40/1 with adjudications by Viktors Pupols. Buz Eddy was the TD.

The South Seattle CC had a simul by Olaf Ulvestad of 10 boards. Olaf won them all except a draw with owner of the playing site, Gordan Gray.

The 11th N.E. Seattle Invitational was won by Dan Wade at 6-2. It was a double RR of five players.

The National News report had results for the 1959 US Open held in Omaha, Nebraska. Arthur Bisguier of New York won the event with 10-2. He defeated Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle in the last round. Olaf scored 8.5-3.5, good for 8th place. Clark Harmon of Portland Oregon scored 6-6 to place 74th in the field of 135. Robin Ault of Cranford NJ won the US Junior. Harmon also played here and finished with another even score, 4.5-4.5, to place 22nd in a field of 40.

In the Puget Sound League play report this month, North Seattle defeated South Seattle 8.5-1.5. A team of junior players called the Golden Horde downed the Tacoma CC 7-3. Golden Horde topped South Seattle 8-2. West Seattle was downed by the Seattle CC team 7-3. West Seattle also lost to North Seattle 6-4.

Max Mage was the top rated postal chess player in this issue.

October 1969 (NWC)

Your compiler was editor of the October 1969 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS which was 16 pages.

The crosstable from the Walla Walla Valley Open had 16 players. The top score was 4.5-5 by Steve Strand of Centralia.

The Oregon Chess News section by Harry Glidden reported a team match win by Pacific U over Hillsboro. The 3rd annual OMSI Grade School tournament, 8th grade and under, was reported upon. Philip McCready of Eugene took the top trophy. 78 players took part. The Oregon Chess Federation annual meeting report lists Don Turner reelected President, Harry Glidden V-P, Esther Schrader Secretary/Treasurer.

The Russell's Chess Chats column reported that Karpov of USSR won the World Junior with a 10-1 score in the finals.

Bob Eldridge gave the report for the B.C. Bulletin in this issue. Peter Biyiasas with 5-0 topped the New Westminster Open of 28 players.

An article by John Nourse, "A History of Washington Chess," from a WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER in 1950 was reprinted. It was mostly about William Dickey and The Klondike Gambit.

The Yakima Valley Open crosstable had 10 players with Sam McKibbin on top, 4-0. His wife Roz and my wife Kathy are on the crosstable also.

October 1979 (NWC)

32 pages in the October 1979 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS under the guest editorship of Russell Miller, for this October issue only it says.

The issue started with a list of chess clubs in Washington (Cowlitz, Boeing, Lynnwood, Mercer Island, Port Angeles, Seattle, Tacoma, Tri-Cities, Wenatchee, Yakima), in Oregon (Lincoln, Oregon City, Portland, Rogue Valley, Eugene, East County-Gresham, Newberg), plus eight in British Columbia.

Subscription/Membership rates then were \$7.50 for adults for a year, and about 960 were getting the magazine each month.

Robert Karch, Oliver LaFreniere plus Harry Glidden were on top of the list of Tournament Directors.

The WCF officers list: Pres-Russell Miller, VP-David Teplow, Tres-Mike Mulford, Editor-Robert Karch, Sec-Jack LeMoine, TD-James Little, High School Director-Oliver LaFreniere, Junior High Director-none. (In 2009 Russell, Mike and Jack are active posters on the USCF forums. James played in the last two National Opens).

A report on the 1st Annual Award Dinner by Jack Le Moine was printed. Awards: Player of the Year-Yasser Seirawan, Guest of Honor-Daniel Wade for his outstanding service to Washington Chess, Best All Around Chess Club-Tacoma, Tournament Director Emeritis-Buz Eddy, Distinguish Players-John Donaldson, William Schill, Eric Tangborn, William McGeary, Ken Chun, Cliff Pappas, Niel Salmon, Best New Promotional Idea: The Grand Prix organized by Russell Miller, Jack Grigsby and David Collyer, Best New Tournament Directors-Hannigan Pitre, Nehemian Spence, James Perry, Ten Most Active Players for 1979 - Dennis Ambler, David Butler, Stephen Christopher, Ken Chun, Jack Grigsby, Robert McCurdy, Thomas Murtola, Alexey Rudolph, Jack Woehr, Most Understanding Wives - Kathy Miller, Peggy Teplow, Diane Mulford. Dan Wade and Yasser Seirawan gave talks at the dinner.

Awards were also given to people who gave service to NORTHWEST CHESS magazine: Jack Woehr-Games editor and cartoonist, Charles Ditzel-Opening articles, Yasser Seirawan-Best Series, Harold Kohn-Series of amateur articles, Angus Pitt-occasional columnist, Oliver LaFreniere-Tournament Reporting, Daniel Bailey-Best Interview, Angleine Cory-Cover Photos, Jeff Holmes-Cover Photos, Donald Gerue-Micro-computer analysis, Clay Kelleher-Columnist, New Ideas, William Blazer-Rogue River Valley reporter, Harry Glidden-Important contributions, Russell Miller-Editorials, new ideas, Kennedy Poyser-Editor 1975-1978, Richard Stewart-Business Manager/Ratings Director, Larry Swan-Postal Director, James Perry-Russian translations, Harold Brown-B.C. Columnist, Ronald Norman-Book Reviews, Leslie Roselle-Staff Photographer, Bruce Harper-Games Annotator, Columbiast.

Issue had the annual mail ballot for Washington Chess Federation members to vote and Northwest Chess Subscribers to vote for Editor, Business Manager, Washington and Oregon and BC Directors.

The crosstable section had a full page of crosstables from events held in Madras, Oregon. Eric Tangborn of Tacoma topped the 47-player Seattle Seafair crosstable. Dana Muller topped one of the larger Grand Prix events, this one held in Ellensburg of 14 players. Dennis Amber topped the Lynnwood Rating tournament of 16. Portland CC reported five quads and one Swiss held in August. Three way tie at 2.5-.5 for the Wenatchee Grand Prix #6 of 13 players between David Collyer of Ellensburg, Brendan McMahan of Wenatchee and Jack Grigsby of Tri-Cities. A one day Puget Sound Rating Swiss crosstable had Bruce Harper of BC and Alexey Rudolph tied at 3-0 over 31 others. David Collyer won Yakima Grand Prix #5 with 3-0 score over 15 others.

In the 1979 Oregon Open report it says Yasser Seirawan of Seattle won the 124-player event 6-0 but was tied in score by Jerry Wolfe of Eugene, so they both got \$330.00. \$52.50 for 5-1 went to Stephen Ball of Alberta, James Hanlen of Longview, Richard Banner of Oregon and Kenneth Chun of Washington. Robert Karch was the chief TD.

The guest editor gave a report on the 1979 US Open held in Chicago. Romanian GM Florin Gheorghin won with 10.5-1.5. 563 players took part with 300 from Illinois. Bill Schill of Seattle scored 9-3 including a game with Vik Pupols that ended at about 2:00 am in the last round. I scored 7-5 and I won \$93.75. Alexey Rudolph of Tacoma scored 5.5-6.5. Derek Edwards of Seattle had that same score. Vik Pupols scored 8-4. Mike Schemm, a former Oregon player who was playing out of California in 1979, scored 8-4.

The tournament organizers list in this issue had 26 names.

October 1989 (NWC)

The October 1989 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS was listed as issue 500 (this is probably wrong as some research in 2009 found, and even noted in this issue, as being probably 504). Editor Ralph Dubisch did this 24-page issue while living in Bellevue Washington.

This was a time when the Washington Chess Federation elected its officers via mail ballot, so two pages of this issue were filled with candidate's statements and the ballot.

The major story in the issue was a report on the 1989 Oregon Open done by John Glass, Dave Zick (notes to several of his games) and Casey Bush (his article from the Oregonian newspaper). You might be surprised to learn that IM Igor Ivanov won the top section of the event 5.5-.5. Thomas Crispin in the last round got the seven-move GM draw. WGM Elena Donaldson was the other international player in the event, and Ivanov beat her in round four in 62 moves. Glass and the editor did notes to the game. Ivanov won \$1,000.00. The number of players in the event was listed as approximately 167. 2nd-3rd place prizes of \$375.00 each were won by Donaldson and Crispin at 5-1. The tournament directing team was Clay Kelleher, Lewis Richardson, Mark Turner and Robert Barney. The reserve section winners, also at 5.5-.5, were Mykal Egbert and Corey Russell good for \$400.00 each.

Oregon Chess Federation held their annual meeting at the Oregon Open and elected Mark Turner of Salem President, Bob Barney of Portland V-P., Lewis Richardson of Astoria Secretary/Treasurer, Larry Ball of Portland as tournament coordinator, Neil Dale of

Gresham as Scholastic Coordinator and directors at Large, Mike Morris of Portland and Brian Donnell of Portland.

John Donaldson was reported as the winner of the Oregon City Open with 5-0. About 50 players took part. Donaldson also won the Crossroads Summer Blitz Championship, good for \$100.00.

Kristen Dietsch of Seattle was the postal chess director at this time. He was looking for someone to take his post.

John Graves won the Washington Junior Closed with 4.5-.5. His draw was with 2nd place David Roper.

The annual Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation report to the USPS appeared in this issue. The average circulation including 52 free was 576 (not much different than it is now in 2009).

From the crosstables section: August event Woodpusher's Open of 23 players was won by John Graves 5-0. The Open Section of the Seattle Seafair with 26 players was won by Elena Donaldson 4.5-.5; Graves was 2nd at 4-1. The 38-player reserve section was topped by Keven Dunn, 4.5-.5. Marysville Open, a one-day event, was won by Robert Karch 3-0. A month long Seattle CC event of 35 players was won by Phil McCready.

Mark Turner provided a two-page listing of WCF and OCF members with their USCF ratings.

October 1999 (NWC)

Your compiler of these bits of information from past issues of the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER, NORTHWEST CHESS LETTER and NORTHWEST CHESS finally found a copy of an issue from 1999.

The 32-page October 1999 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS has a black and white cover photo by Gary Beller of FIDE Master Chuck Schulien of Portland, Oregon. He won the 1999 Oregon Open according to an article in this issue done by editor Peter Prochaska of Portland. Peter was also President of the Oregon Chess Federation at this time in Oregon Chess history. Schulien scored 5-1, being nicked for draws by Jay Collins and Eric Dana. Clark Harmon lost to Schulien in the last round and the game is in this issue with notes by the winner. 113 players took part in the event organized by Mike Morris and the Portland Chess Club. Lewis Richardson was the tournament director. Mike Ratliff won the reserve section of the event which was held at the Red Lion Inn in Portland.

Ollie LaFreniere was president of the Washington Chess Federation and wrote an article for this issue about the 1999 Washington Class to be held November 26-28 at the Hilton at the Seattle Airport.

Chess Printing (Kathy and Russell Miller) did the printing and mailing of this issue. The paper was nice white 20-weight.

The issue reported that Schulien won the Portland Fall Open held in September with 4-0 score. The McMinnville Open was a three-way tie between David Rupel, Clark Harmon and Tom Crispin.

From the crosstable section of the magazine we learn that Nick Raptis (as he is still doing in 2009) won a G/60 event held at the Portland CC with 4-0 score over 16 others. Paul Barton and Bryan Black both scored 4-0 in the Evergreen Open held in Tacoma in June. 16 players took part in the event directed by Gary Dorfner.

Mike Morris was the chief TD for the Oregon Class held in March. Eric Hennell won the Class A section with 3.5-.5. Class C winner was Thomas Robinson with the same score. Nick Figone scored 4-0 to take Class E.

There were 23 names on the Knighthood donor list.

The magazine had a full page ad for the 17th Annual Sands Regency Western States Open to be held October 29-31 in Reno Nevada.

Several games from the 1999 US Championship won by GM Boris Gulko, with notes by Schulien, were printed.

Murlin Varner was the postal chess director at this time. Philip Peterson did the Miller NW Grand Prix report in this issue.

An almost-full page of Northwest organizers was printed, 30 in Washington and 15 in Oregon.

A short report on the 1999 Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions listed Riley Yates-Doerr as the Washington representative. He scored 3.5 tying for 4th to 8th. 34 players took part in the event held in Reno.