

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

1949-1989 at ten-year intervals

November 1949 (WCL)

The complete November 1949 issue of WCL will soon be available online.

November 1959 (WCL)

Editor Buz Eddy of Seattle produced 18 pages for the November 1959 issue of WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER.

Robert Karch was stationed in Germany at the time and doing the West Coast Chess Ratings. He was thinking about stopping in favor of full support of the U.S.C.F. program for ratings.

The staff list was Richard Schultz of Seattle - Games Editor, F. H. Weaver of Seattle, Cover Design and Problem Editor; corresponding Reporters: Robert Kittredge-Spokane; Carl Carlson-Tacoma; Dan Wade-North Seattle; Richard Jerome-Yakima; Mike Conway-Spokane; Richard Vandenburg-Idaho; F.J. Thiel-Maryhill and Contributor: Viktors Pupols.

There was a full page ad for First Northwest States Open sponsored by the Log Cabin Chess Club of West Orange, New Jersey. It was to be held in Missoula, Montana on November 26-29 in six rounds, one Thursday, two Friday, two Saturday and one on Sunday. A banquet was to be held Saturday evening and the prizes were \$150 for first place, \$125 for second and \$100 for third. USCF membership was required. Entry fee was \$11.00 including the banquet, with \$5.00 refunded if one played all six games.

Spokane Chess Club officers listed in this issue: President-Robert F. Kittredge, Secretary-George Priebe, Treasurer-Dr. Giffith Parker, TD-Dr. David Groenig; Directors-Ed Ray and Lee Ray Simmons plus Publicity Chairman-James Waugh.

A Washington State Pen chess team beat Spokane 8-4. F.J. Thiel reported about a chess club playing at the Maryhill Museum with members from Wisham, The Dalles and Goldendale.

Danny Towne topped the chess ladder of the Yakima CC.

The crosstable for the 1959 Central Washington Open had 58 players, "second biggest single event in northwest chess" history up to that time and was held in Yakima. Clark Harmon of Portland won on tie-break over Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle when both scored 5.5-.5. They drew with each other in round 3 in 52 moves and the game score was printed in this issue. At 5-1 were Viktors Pupols of Seattle and Ivars Dalbergs of Portland. Harmon beat them both.

North Seattle at this point in Puget Sound League play had won all three of their matches and topped the league standings. Eight teams were taking part including one from McNeil Island who played all matches at home.

Max Mage topped the postal chess rating list in this issue.

November 1969 (NWC)

24 pages in the November 1969 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS. Your compiler (then living in Yakima) was the editor. The staff was listed at Tim Kauppila-Tournament News-Washington; Ben Thurston-Rating Director; Willie Skubi-Circulation Director; Ron Norman-Postal Director; Richard Vandenburg-Idaho Chess Bulletin; Harry Glidden-Oregon Chess News; Bob Eldridge-B.C. Chess Bulletin; Howie Chin-High School In Chess; wanted-Games Editor; Esther Schrader-Problem Corner.

There appeared an obit by Buz Eddy for Howard Weaver (1901-1969), a mainstay for the Washington Chess Federation for nearly twenty years.

Robert Zuk of B.C. won \$40.00 for his perfect score in the Peace Arch Open held in Bellingham. When a Washington resident played someone from B.C. this was counted toward the WA-BC match for that year. BC won the match 21.5-9.5. Scoring 4-1 in the tournament were Peter Biyiasas of BC, Viesturs Seglins and Mike Franett both from Seattle. This was the first tournament directed by Jon Berry of BC. The result by Zuk pushed his Northwest Rating up to master class, 2209. The other masters active for the November rating list were Biyiasas 2244 and Franett 2217.

The Seattle Chess Club announced their new site at 617 S. Jackson Street. Since Tim Kauppila announced his retirement from tournament chess, Norm Hardy now topped the club ladder.

Another perfect score of 5-0 was recorded in tournament play by Michael Schemm of Portland in the 20th Washington Woodpusher over 23 others. At 4-1 were Walt Gentala of Carbonado and Marty Gray of Bellevue.

In action in Spokane, Pat Herbers a former Washington Junior Champion, tried his hand at simultaneous play. He won seven and drew with Mel Leonard and John Rektor. Pat won a seven-player round robin speed event 6-0.

Boeing CC was leading Puget Sound League play at this point in play with three match wins and no losses.

In the Boeing-Seattle CC match, Mike Murray scored 2-0 vs. Gary Holmquist, Alan Clark 1.5-.5 vs. Frank Alexandro, Angus Pitt 1.5-.5 vs. Pat Hessen, George LeCompte 1-1 vs. Tim Kauppila and K. Munzlinger 1-0 vs. Robert Burns.

Bob Eldridge reports that the Vancouver Woodpusher of 28 players was won by E. Krzyzowshi with 5.5-.5

The full November 1947 issue of the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER Volume 1 Number 1 was reprinted in this issue of NWC, and can now be found on the NWC website as a PDF file.

Richard Schultz was on top spot of the postal rating list 103 points above Randy Dean. The players on the list that I think are still active chess players today are: Mike Schemm, Robert Karch, Phil McCready, Lewis Richardson, Russell Miller, and Pat Herbers.

November 1979 (NWC)

The cover of the November 1979 issue of NORTHWEST CHESS has pictures of Debra Kitchen, Jerry Wolfe, Jack Grigsby, David Collyer, Russell Miller, Steve Wilson (the label of the picture says Wayne Hatcher), Chris Lauinger and Julie Desch.

Robert Karch of Kenmore, Washington is back in the editor chair for this 32-page issue printed on newsprint.

The 1979 statement of ownership was printed in this issue. At that time 1,200 copies were being printed and 830 was the average mailed to paid subscribers during the year with 965 going out for the October 1979 issue.

H.G. Pitre presented the idea of a Greater Seattle Communities Chess League.

Your compiler was Washington Chess Federation President at this time in Washington Chess History. I wrote an article in this issue calling for some goals to be set, i.e. 2,000 WCF members by January 1981, make WCF a tax exempt non-profit corporation, have a major national event in 1981 and an international one in 1982. I also called for there to be more TDs and more tournaments.

The Yakima Grand Prix No. 1 crosstable had 10 players on it. Wayne Hatcher won the event with 3-0. The event was held in a empty store in the Valley Mall on National Chess Day. There were two games played by a TRS-80 computer using SARGON software against a PET 2001 computer. Sargon won both games. There was a display of chess books and stamps for onlookers to look at.

WCF had about \$1,400 in its bank account. A statewide Grand Prix would be run in 1980 with WCF supplying \$225 for prizes.

Jeff Reeve scored 6.5-.5 to win the 40-player Victoria Summer Open. Bruce Harper was 2nd at 6-1, draws with Reeve and Taylor.

The report on the White Rock Speed Tournament had Yasser Seirawan winning the Open Section and \$200.00 for his 6.5-.5 score in an eight-player round robin. The event was sponsored by the Semiahmoe Indian Band as was part of the Canadian Open Sandcastle Competition held in British Columbia. Other section winners were Ken Morton, Ross Cameron, David Strashnoy, Alexey Rudolph and John Bollenkamp.

Debra Kitchen of Monroe won the 1979 Oregon Women's Championship over four others. She declined the trophy and the title, and a letter from her about why was printed in the issue.

A chart showing numbers of players in recent Oregon Open events was printed. Total of 124 in 1979, with 72 from OR and 44 from WA; 164 in 1978 with 96 from OR and 46 from WA; 125 in 1977 with 87 from OR and 34 from WA, plus 135 in 1976 with 85 from OR and 35 from WA.

Clay Kelleher set up a Portland November Amateur tournament for a Saturday in November that included a Chess Players and Friends Banquet with IM Arthur Dake as guest speaker for a \$15.00 cost.

Sofus Eckrem of Everett was doing the chore of NW Postal Chess Director at this time. Richard Schultz was the top rated postal player. John Donaldson was number two.

The crosstable for the 1979 Oregon Open appears in this issue including the prize money won. 124 players took part in the 6-round event, and Yasser Seirawan of Seattle and Jerry Wolfe of Eugene were undefeated to win \$300.00 each.

Ben Bednarz of Corvallis won the top section of Cowlitz Quads. David Collyer of Ellensburg won the Yakima Grand Prix #6. 12 players took part.

15 players took part in the Tri-Cities Grand Prix #7 with Tim Blackwell of West Richland the only player with a 3-0 score.

November 1989 (NWC)

As he is in 2009, Ralph Dubisch living in Bellevue Washington (now in California) was editor of the NORTHWEST CHESS issue for November 1989. He listed his technical assistants as: Laura Dubisch, Arthur Iodice, Kathy and Russell Miller, David Peterson and Keith Yamanaka.

Philip Peterson gave a report on his play, and the play of Ralph Dubisch and Keith Yamanaka, in the Reno Open held in October. Nick DeFirmian won the event. Keith scored 3/6 in the Open Section. Ralph in the same section scored 4-2. Philip won the \$300.00 "A" prize for 5-1.

Ian Osgood provided a report on the Oregon Junior Closed. The event was a six-player round robin which ended in a three way tie between Craig Wilcox of Milwaukie and Erik Kastner and Jeff Hardin of Portland with 3-2.

The report on the 1st Annual Yakima Valley Harvest Open by organizer Neil McClure said 28 players took part. John Donaldson won the event with 4.5-.5. Tied at 4-1 were Ralph Dubisch, Steve Mervin, Ted Waner and Darby Monahan. Willie Nelson was in Yakima that weekend to give a show at the Central Washington Fair.

Kristen Dietsch of Seattle gave the NW Postal Chess report. John Penquite topped the rating list.

There was a 1/4 page ad asking people to vote for Kent Pullen for King County Council 9th District.

Nice heavy white paper for this 24 page issue.

The Donaldson Extravaganza report was given by Mark Turner on an event held at the University of Oregon in October. John and Elena Donaldson gave a 21-board simul the Friday evening before the event and scored +15 =5 and the only loss to James Bricher. 44 players took part in the five-round tournament, which was won at 4.5 by Igor Ivanov and John Donaldson, good for \$200.00 each.

Robert Karch the organizer provided a report on the Mountlake Terrace Junior/Adult one day event held in October. Ralph Dubisch won the \$100.00 King of the Mountain Section first place prize. Medals were awarded to the scholastic players.

There was a full-page report on the International Correspondence Chess Federation by Max Zavanelli, ICCF-US Secretary.

In the USCF crosstable section the 79-player table from the Oregon Open had Igor Ivanov on top at 5.5-.5. Elena Donaldson and Thomas Crispin tied for 2nd with 5-1. Corey Russell and Mykal Egbert scored 5.5-.5 in the reserve section of 91 players.

John Graves topped the six-player round robin Washington Junior Closed with 4.5-.5. John Donaldson topped the Oregon City Open table of 50 players with 5-0. The Fall Open in Tacoma drew 26 players, in which Mike Franett took the top spot with 4.5-.5.

Listed in this issue as federation presidents were Mark Turner of Salem, OR and Robert Karch of Everett, WA.

November 1999 (NWC)

The Northwest Chess issue for November 1999 was printed by Chess Printing (Russell and Kathy Miller) on nice white heavy paper. The top of the cover was printed in blue ink while the rest of the magazine was printed with black ink. A photo of Ernst Rasmussen taken by Robert Karch was on the cover page. Philip Peterson living in Puyallup started his six-month term as editor.

Robert Karch provided an article on the results of Series 2000. Paul Bartron of Tacoma won the eight-player top section 3.5-5. Ernst Rasmussen of Port Hadlock won the 17-player Reserve with 4-0. Charles Feketz of Burnaby, BC scored 3.5-.5 to top the Woodpusher section of 17 players. The article notes that on the same weekend 27 players were playing in Spokane and 20 in Portland. The organizer Robert Karch provided a "Continental Breakfast" during play on Sunday.

Editor Peterson interviewed Mr. Karch and found out that the first tournament Robert ran was in the summer of 1947 when he was working at Mount Rainier National Park, Paradise Inn. Karch told Phil he had directed events in several places around the world including helping run a 500-plus player event in England while working for B. H. Wood.

Tacoma News by Gary Dorfner reported on the Washington Women's championship of eight players won by Kistin Parker. In other club news, 19 players took part in the Puget Sound Open in July, with top prize of \$81.00 going to both Bill Schill and Paul Bartron. They repeated this result and prize in the 11-player top section of the Northwest Open held in August. A 15-player Friday Knight Quick #1 was won by Paul Bartron. He also topped a Summer Quad and a Quick Chess Day.

Riley Yates-Doerr gave a report with a game on his play in the 1999 Denker Tournament of High School Champions. He tied for 4th-8th.

Murlin Varner gave a report on the Northwest Postal Chess Club. The top rated player was Michael Mays.

There was a report on the Miller NW Grand Prix by Philip Peterson. Peter Prochaska was on top of the Oregon Open section and Paul Bartron topped the Washington Open section. Expert top players were Jay Collins of Oregon and Joel Barnes of Washington. Richard Banner of Oregon had the most points for Class A players while Pat Hickey held that spot on the Washington list. Class B leaders were Paul Cressman for Oregon and Stephen Buck for Washington.

From the crosstable section one learns that Charles Schulien scored 4-0 in the top section of the Portland Fall Open over eight others. William Gagnon won the reserve section also 4-0 that had nine players.

The Statement of Ownership for NWC showed the average number of copies sent out during 1999 was 607. The issue was 24 pages.