

Peter Petrovich Lapiken

1907-1983

By Russell (Rusty) Miller (Chelan, WA), Tom Kalaris, IM John Donaldson (Berkeley, CA), and back issues of *Northwest Chess* and its predecessor *The Washington Chess Letter*, and with editorial assistance and game analysis by Mike Murray (Port Townsend, WA). U.S. Open information from Jack O'Keefe.

Dr. Peter Petrovich Lapiken was a strong chess player who lived in the Northwest from 1958 until 1972, and quite likely the strongest player ever to reside for any length of time in the state of Montana. He was born in Riga, Latvia, on July 7, 1907, of Russian parents. His father was a Russian Orthodox priest and he had two older siblings, Nicholas and Irene.

The family moved from Latvia to the far eastern Russia in 1915 and then to Harbin, China, in 1916, where Lapiken's father found a position as a priest servicing the city's large Russian population. It was there that Lapiken was educated and in 1931 graduated from the Harbin Institute of Oriental and Commercial Sciences. He worked as a detective for the French police, he being fluent in Russian, Chinese (Mandarin), and French. In 1935, he left with most Europeans and moved to Shanghai until 1939 when he emigrated to the U.S. He played in the Washington State Championship in 1939 and the Mechanics' Institute Championship in 1940. He was attending school at U.C. Berkeley when the war started.

During the war, Lapiken eventually ended up in Army Intelligence where he worked as a translator. He returned to Berkeley and completed his PhD in Slavic languages in 1949. He taught for several years at UCLA, then left to take a position teaching Russian and French at the University of Montana in Missoula. He spent summers and his retirement in San Francisco.

Lapiken never married. He also did not play serious chess except in the summers when he wasn't teaching. He played in numerous U.S. Opens in the 1950s and

Northwest Chess

60s. His results tended to decline after about 1962, probably, in part, due to the lack of serious competition in Montana, perhaps partly due to age. He was perhaps best known for his performance at the U.S. Open in Long Beach in 1955 where he narrowly missed beating Sammy Reshevsky (the game was drawn) and drew with the event's winner GM Nicolas Rossolimo.

A man of many talents, Lapiken was a master at bridge as well as chess. He was also a concert level classical violinist who knew an amazing number of scores by heart. Dr. Lapiken was the consummate gentleman. We've come across many stories where he displayed his courtesy, professionalism, and sportsmanship. At social occasions, Lapiken was often the life of the party, reciting from memory many poems, witty lyrics, etc., from a variety of authors and historic periods.

In the somewhat less cultured venue of the chess club in the back of Hansen's Famous Ice Cream in Missoula, Murray remembers Lapiken chuckling while reciting the limerick:

There once was a lass from Madras
Who had a magnificent ass
Not like you think,
Soft, round and pink
With four legs and long ears and ate grass

National and International Results

Some of Lapiken's results that we have been able to find:

1930's Twice (two years running) chess champion of Manchuria, China.

1939 According to Hugh Enochson who won the event, Peter played in the 1939 Washington State Championship.

1953 California Open tied for 1-2, out of ~ 80 players; brilliancy prize

Hollywood Club Championship 6th/18

Herman Steiner Masters Tournament, 5th/12

1954 2nd Pan-American Chess Congress, 8-9 out of ~ 80 players, behind Arthur Bisguier, Larry Evans, Nicolas Rossolimo, Herman Steiner, James Sherwin, & Isaac Kashdan.

California Open, 7th place

1955 California Open, 4-8th out of ~ 100 players

US Open Long Beach Tied 52-70 score 6.5/12 drew with Reshevsky and Rossolimo

1956 U.S. Open Oklahoma City tied 34-44 score 6.5/12

1958 U.S. Open (Rochester) 25th tied 16-32 with 7.5/12

1959 U.S. Open Omaha tied 44-58th score 6.5/12

1960 U.S. Open St. Louis tied 23-38 score 7.5/12

1961 U.S. Open San Francisco, Lapiken is 13th on the crosstable, scoring 8/12 with 150 players

1962 U.S. Open San Antonio tied 12-19, scoring 8/1

1963 U.S. Open Chicago, score 9/13

1964 U.S. Open Boston

1968 U.S. Open Snowmass/Aspen, Colorado

1969 U.S. Open Lincoln, Nebraska

1973 U.S. Open Chicago

Lapiken in the Northwest

For many years, the Northwest maintained its own rating system. It generally used the same formulas to compute ratings as did the USCF, but rated many

events not covered by the national body. Regional events, including those sponsored by non-affiliated organizations, were usually rated. National events (e.g., the 1966 U.S. Open in Seattle) were sometimes rated if they had a strong Northwest connection. Northwest ratings tended to roughly reflect USCF ratings, but since they covered a different set of events and were more current, they were rarely identical, and a rated "Master" in one system could be an "Expert" in the other.

1958

Lapiken's Northwest rating in June, 1958, *Washington Chess Letter (WCL)* was 2015. That rating reflected his win of the Inland Empire Open, held April 19-20 in Spokane, by a score of 5.5/6 over twenty-six other players. He beat Egen Jaensah, drew Gordon Cornelius, beat George Priebe, F. H. Weaver of Seattle, Dr. David Groenig and Dr. Griffith Parker, all of whom, save Weaver, were from Spokane. The only player on the crosstable that is recognized as still active in tournament play is Pat Hickey of Seattle.

Lapiken's August rating was 2127 NW. The change stems probably from his first place win on tie-break of the eighteen player Idaho Open. Equaling his 4-1 score were Viesturs Seglins and Jim McCormick both of Seattle. Lapiken beat Dr. Groenig again, defeated Harold Hughart of Albany, OR, Viktors Pupols of Seattle, drew Ben Greenwald of Salt Lake City, UT, and drew with Seglins. He also won the twelve-player Montana Open at 5-0. The crosstable supplied by Bill Lynch records that Lapiken beat Theo. Stalmach, H. Wendel, H. L. Meury, Adam Smith (who finished 2nd) and James Sheirie. There were 22 players in other sections in the event held May 3-4 at Great Falls, the 23rd time the event was held.

1959

The February rating for him is 2194 NW. The December *WCL* reports on the first Northwest States Open held in Missoula, Montana, on November 26-29. Richard Schultz of Seattle won 6-0. Lapiken placed eighth on tie-break at 3.5. He beat Ralph Hansen of Missoula, beat Buz Eddy of Seattle, drew James McCormick of Seattle, beat John Barto of Great Falls, lost to second place fin-

isher Olaf Ulvestad of Seattle, and to Herman Hesse of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, who finished third. Lapiken won the 1959 Montana Open.

1960

The April, 1960, NW Rating list has Lapiken listed simply as a "Master" with no number rating. He was USCF rated 2144 in the December 20, 1960 issue of *Chess Life*.

1961

The January issue of *WCL* sees Lapiken, spelled "Lapikan," rated 2168. It was not possible determine what event caused this drop. Possibly, it might have been an Idaho or Montana event that the rating director received but which did not appear as news in the *WCL*.

The September *WCL* reports on 1961 U.S. Open held in San Francisco. The story follows the adventures of NW players, including Lapiken. He lost to Pal Benko in round four, Robert Byrne in round six, Arthur Bisguier in round eleven, and Zoltan Kovacs in round twelve, finishing with 8-4, along with Ivars Dalbergs of Portland and Jim McCormick of Seattle.

The November *WCL* reports Dr. Lapiken placed second with 4-1 in the Montana Open in Helena, Montana, on May 5-6. Forty-six players, in three sections, participated. Ellak Papp took first at 4.5. The crosstable supplied by Bill Lynch does not list first names or home towns as later tables do, but we learn that Lapiken beat Merierding, Smith, drew Albert and Berkoff, then beat Roney.

1962

The May *WCL* reports on the 27th Montana State Championship held at Butte, Montana, April 28-29. Lapiken topped the 4-1 score group on tiebreak, but took third behind Don E. Devere of Helena and Peter Irwin of Missoula who scored 4.5. Lapiken drew with both winners. More information from crosstable supplied by Bill Lynch was Lapiken beat Ellak Papp of Billings, James Sheire of Butte and Wally Albert of Missoula There were twenty-four players in the top section and twenty-two in the "B" event. In the July *WCL*, Lapiken (again spelled "Lapikan") appeared with a NW rating of 2164.

The September *Chess Life* has the crosstable for the U.S. Open held August 13-25 in San Antonio, TX. Lapiken finished with 8-4, good for 17th place in the field of 144. He beat A. Goddard, lost to C. Hidalgo, beat T. Jenkins, drew USCF Secretary Marshall Rohland of WI, lost to R. Castle, beat A. M. Gardner, beat V. Radaikin of CA, beat G. Kane, beat T. Lux, lost to the tournament winner, IM Antonia Medina (10-2) of Caracas, Venezuela, drew J. Sullivan, and beat F. Street. The write up on the story says Lapiken was a Master. The game against Medina reached a Rook-vs.-Rook-and-Bishop endgame at the expiration of the first time control. Medina eventually won after nine hours of play. Lapiken's USCF rating was 2167 in December, which reflects his US Open result and we don't know what else.

1963

The May *WCL* reports on 28th Annual Montana Open won by Dr. Peter Lapiken 5-0 over thirteen other players in the top section. He beat R.G. Turner of Kalispell, J.B. Spaulding of Helena, Ellak Papp of Billings, John Barto of Great Falls and Dr. Adam Smith of Butte as listed on the crosstable supplied to this report by Bill Lynch. Twenty-two players took part in the B Section in the event held April 27-28 at Kalispell.

September's *WCL* reports on NW players in 1963 U.S. Open held in Chicago, August 11-23, at the Hotel Belmont. The November *Chess Life* has the crosstable. Lapiken lost in the only upset in round one to David Edwards. He beat Robert Franklin, Donn Rogosin, Ben Carter of Berkeley, CA, and Harold Stanbridge. He drew in rounds six and seven with Edward Formanek of Berwyn, IL, and with Gordon Dunham of Chicago. He then lost to George Berry, beat John J. Pyne, beat Arthur Spiller of CA, drew with Milan Momic, who drew eight games and lost none in the event, of Leighton, AL, beat Roy Mallet and ended with a draw against GM Arthur Bisguier to finish with 9-4, tied for 11-18th place, the same score as future GM Duncan Suttles. Jim McCormick scored the best of the NW players at 9.5 (drawing with GM Lombardy in the last round). Russell Miller played in the 1963 U.S. Open and might have met Lapiken there. He does

not remember for sure, but thinks they did meet somewhere in his chess playing days. Lapiken's NW rating in September was 2195.

1964

The May *WCL* covers the 29th Montana Open won by Ted Brown of Missoula (who won the Class B section in 1963) at 4.5/5. Lapiken was second, topping the 4-1 score group on tiebreak. He lost to Brown in round three and beat Jack Fitts of Great Falls, Wasyl Jarosz of Bozeman, Hector Gonzales of Great Falls and Mike Murray of Missoula. The top section had twenty-two players, with 62 players in the whole event. Dick Vandenburg, editor of the *Idaho Chess Bulletin* described Lapiken in the March/April issue, supplied by Bill Lynch, as "one of the top players in the country, and [he] holds a USCF master's rating. Lapiken seems to slack off a little playing in local tournaments, which is easy to do when rating and reputation are not at stake." Lapiken was elected President of the MCA for the next year at the annual meeting held during the event. Other information from crosstable supplied to compilers by Bill Lynch.

The April NW rating for Lapiken (this time spelled "Laplkan") was 2173. Lapiken played in 1964 U.S. Open in Boston, Massachusetts.

1965

The October *WCL* says Lapiken won the 30th Montana Open held May 8-9 at Florence Hotel in Missoula. Lapiken was President of MCA in 1965. He beat J. B. Spaulding, John Barto, John Reddy, Adam Smith and then drew with second place finisher Wally Albert for a 4.5-0.5 score. There were twenty players in the Open with thirty in other sections, including nine players from Glasgow High School. This resulted in the November issue showing a NW rating for "Lapikan" of 2179.

In the *Record of the 30th Montana State Chess Tournament*, compiled by Robert E. Giden of Missoula (supplied by Mike Jensen of Missoula, who won the Junior section of the event), is a short bio of Lapiken: "Learned to play chess from his Grandfather in Russia around 1913. Previous tournaments played in were the Pan American at Hollywood, several U.S.

Opens and a championship at Harbin, China. Dr. Lapiken has met Dr. Alexander Alekhine and played against Mieses, Tartakover, Kostich as well as many current U.S. Masters."

Mike Jensen comments on the Montana Open Games: "[The round two game] is a semi-rout where Black gets a Rook trapped in the middle of the board . . . The Dutch Staunton is incomprehensible to me. Black throws his pawns forward on both sides of the board and somehow toasts his opponent . . . [W]ith Adam J. Smith, Dr. Lapiken grinds down a former perennial state champion, showing a great deal of patience in the process. Game five with Albert is an early exit from the tournament hall."

Reti

Peter Lapiken John Barto

Missoula, Montana Open (2) 1965

1.g3 d5 2.♘f3 b6 3.♙g2 ♘b7 4.O-O ♘f6 5.d3 ♘bd7 6.♘bd2 e5 7.c3 ♙d6 8.♞c2 O-O 9.e4 dxe4 10.dxe4 ♘c5 11.♞e1 ♙a6 12.♙f1 ♙xf1 13.♘xf1 ♞d7 14.♙g5 ♞e6 15.♔g2 ♘cd7 16. h3 h6 17.♙xf6 ♞xf6 18.♘e3 ♞d8 19. ♘f5 ♞e8 20.♞ad1 ♞e6 21.♞d2 ♞f8 22. ♞ed1 g6 23.♘e3 ♘f6 24.b4 ♞d8 25. ♘c4 ♞e7 26.♞d3 ♘e8 27.♞e3 ♔g7 28.a4 f6 29.a5 ♞b8 30.g4 ♞b7 31.♘h4 c5 32.♘f5+ gxf5 33.exf5 cxb4 34.fxe6 ♙c5 35.♞f3 ♞xe6 36.♞xb7+ 0-1

Dutch Staunton Gambit

John Reddy Peter Lapiken

Missoula, Montana Open (3) 1965

1.e4 d6 2.d4 f5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.e5 dxe5 5.dxe5 ♞xd1+ 6.♘xd1 ♘g4 7.f4 e6 8. h3 ♘h6 9.♘f3 a6 10.♙c4 b5 11.♙b3 c5 12.c4 ♘f7 13.a3 ♘c6 14.♙e3 g5 15. g3 gxf4 16.gxf4 ♘a5 17.♘d2 ♘d8 18. ♘c3 ♙d7 19.♙a2 ♞b8 20.♞b1 b4 21. axb4 cxb4 22.♘ce4 fxe4 23.♘xe4 ♙c6 24.♘f6+ ♔f7 25.♔f2 b3 26.♙xb3 ♘xb3 27.♞hg1 ♙e7 28.♘h5 ♙e4 29. ♞g7+ ♔f8 30.♞bg1 ♙g6 31.♞xe7 ♔xe7 32.♘f6 ♘f7 33.h4 ♞hd8 34.h5 ♙f5 35.♙a7 ♞b7 36.♘g8+ ♞xg8 37. ♞xg8 ♞xa7 38.♞g3 ♘a5 39.c5 ♘d8 0-1

Reti

Peter Lapiken Adam Smith

Missoula, Montana Open (4) 1965

1.g3 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.♙g2 d5 4.O-O b6 5.d3 ♙b7 6.b3 ♘bd7 7.c4 ♙e7 8.♙b2 O-O 9.♘bd2 c5 10.e3 ♘e8 11.cxd5 exd5 12.d4 ♙f6 13.♞c1 ♘c7 14.a4 ♞e8 15.♞c2 ♞c8 16.♞f5 ♘e6 17.h4 g6 18.♞b1 ♙g7 19.♞fd1 cxd4 20.♞xc8 ♞xc8 21.exd4 ♞b8 22.♘f1 ♞d6 23.♘e3 ♘c7 24.♙c3 ♘f6 25. ♘c2 ♘e4 26.♙b4 ♞d8 27.a5 ♘b5 28.♞a1 ♞c8 29.♞c1 ♞a8 30.♙h3 f5 31.♙f1 ♘bd6 32.axb6 axb6 33.♞b2 ♞d8 34.♔g2 ♞d7 35.♘e3 ♙h6 36. ♘e5 ♞e6 37.♞c7 ♙xe3 38.fxe3 ♞c8 39.♞c1 ♘e8 40.♞xc8 ♞xc8 41.♞xc8 ♙xc8 42.♙b5 ♘c7 43.♙c6 ♙e6 44. ♙e7 ♔g7 45.♙d8 ♘a6 46.♙xb6 ♘b4 47.♙a5 ♘c2 48.♔f3 ♘d6 49.♘d3 ♔f6 50.♘f4 ♘c8 51.♘xd5+ ♙xd5+ 52. ♙xd5 ♔e7 53.♙c4 ♘d6 54.♙d3 ♘b7 55.♙c3 1-0

Sicilian Najdorf

Wally Albert Peter Lapiken

Missoula, Montana Open (5) 1965

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙g5 ♘bd7 7.♙c4 ♞a5 8.♞d2 e6 9.a3 b5 10.♙a2 h6 11. ♙h4 ♙b7 12.f3 ♞c8 13.O-O g5 14. ♙g3 h5 15.♞xg5 ♙h6 16.♞h4 b4 17. axb4 ♞xb4 18.e5? Draw

18.e5? throws away White's advantage. From what I remember hearing about this game, Wally offered the draw at this point, which gave Lapiken undisputed first place in the tournament. Better was 18.♙f2 and White has a significant plus. (Mike Murray)

1966-1968

We found nothing in the 1966-1968 *WCL/NWC* issues about Lapiken, but did find some information elsewhere.

Wally Albert won the 1966 Montana Open with 4.5/5, ahead of Murray with 4-1 and, Gonzales, Lapiken, and Stromsberg, each with 3.5. The event was held in Billings on April 30-May 1, with 20 players in the top section. Lapiken suffered an upset draw with Wyoming's Burley in the first round, then later lost to Gonzalez. He beat Murray, Alan D.

Strout of Billings and Ellak Papp of Billings for a 4th place finish on tiebreak.

Lapiken and Murray tied for first and second in the 1967 Montana Open, held in Havre, with 4.5/5. They drew in the last round. Lapiken took the title on tiebreaks.

Lapiken did not compete in the 1968 Montana Championship, won by Ed McCaskey.

The November *Chess Life* contained the crosstable for the U.S. Open, held in Aspen, Colorado, August 10-24. Peter scored 7.5-4.5. GM Bent Larsen of Denmark won the 172-player event with an 11-1 score. Peter beat A. Foord (MI), J. Fisher (UT), lost to Karl Burger (NY), drew V. Radaikin (CA), beat USCF President Marshal Rohland (WI), lost to Viesturs Seglins of Seattle (who finished 8-4, as did Jude Acers of CA), and G. Simms (TX), beat G. Olsson (CA), lost to H. Wallach (NY), beat R. Golla (IL), C. Savery (CA), and R. Harshberger (CA).

1969

The May *Northwest Chess* reports on Lapiken's win of the 34th Montana Open's top section 5-0. He beat Jack Reddy, Hector Gonzales, Dan Rogers, Ed McCaskey, and Thomas Burke. The event was held in Bozeman at Montana State. "MCA decided not to affiliate with the Washington Chess Federation in the manner that Oregon and Idaho have done because of inadequate benefits." Second place finisher Dan Rogers of Bozeman gave Russell Miller the information and crosstable, which he wrote up for *NWC* as editor.

Jack O'Keefe supplies the U.S. Open results for the event held in Lincoln, Nebraska: A draw with D. Gustafson, wins over L. Wight and J. Ellis, a loss to D. Willis, a draw with E. Olins, a win over R. Pease, a loss to S. Swartz, a win over C. Clayton, losses to I. Zalys and A. Sildmets, a win over W. Beattie, and a draw with D. Harger for 6.5-5.5, tied 65-84th.

1970

The January *NWC* reports "Lapikan" (again!) had a NW rating of 2195. The June-July issue reports on the 35th Montana Open held April 24-25 at the Finlen Hotel in Butte. Tai Hum of Butte, who won the B section in 1969!, won, scoring 4.5/5. Dr. Lapiken was third on

tiebreak among the players scoring 4-1. He drew with the winner and also drew with second place finisher David Reynolds. For his three wins, he topped Ralph Hanson of Missoula, John Barto of Great Falls, and Wally Albert of Missoula. There were twenty players each in the Open and Class B sections, with nine in the Junior section. The event was not Northwest rated. Some of above information from a crosstable of the event supplied by Bill Lynch.

1971-1983

The 36th Montana Open was won by Dr. Lapiken. From a crosstable supplied by Bill Lynch, we find that Peter won 4.5/5 over 15 others. He beat William Lowrie of Tacoma, Gordon Shuck of Whitehall, Tim Estle of Butte, drew with 2nd place finisher Loren Meierding of Missoula, and defeated Tim Dolan of Bozeman. The event was held May 1-2 in Kalispell. This appears to have been his last event in Montana.

The last ten years of his life were spent in San Francisco and he would often drop in at the Mechanics' Chess Room. The December 1974 *Chess Life & Review* lists Lapiken at 2017. The USCF 1978 Annual rating list has him at 2031, and the 1980 list has him at 2011. He died August 14, 1983, in San Francisco.

Some Lapiken Games

Notes by Mike Murray (with FRITZ 8), now of Port Townsend in October and November of 2005.

(Mike Murray, who lived in Missoula in the 1960s, played a lot of chess with Lapiken. Murray moved to Seattle in 1968 and held a USCF and NW Expert's rating for several years. He won the Inland Empire Open three times, tied for first with Lapiken in the 1967 Montana Championship, and finished fourth in the 1973 Washington State Championship. He hasn't played tournament chess for about thirty years.)

This game was awarded the brilliancy prize at San Jose. Notes, unless otherwise indicated, by Imre Konig, in *The California Chess Reporter*.

That magazine (page 136) made a very insightful comment in its introduction to the game:

"Dr. Lapiken proved once more, if proof were really needed, that he is one of our finest players, lacking only in

consistency. In tournament after tournament, he demonstrates his exceptionally fine theoretical and tactical abilities by beating the strongest players, and yet he is prone to relax in what seems to him to be an easy win or draw, only to find too late that his opponent has found a way out."

In this writer's opinion, this particular weakness in Lapiken's play manifested itself repeatedly over the years in Montana play, as he often dropped half and whole points to players he outranked by two or three hundred rating points.

Albin Countergambit

W. Hailparn
Peter Lapiken

San Jose 1953

Annotations by Imre Konig with additional comments by Mike Murray

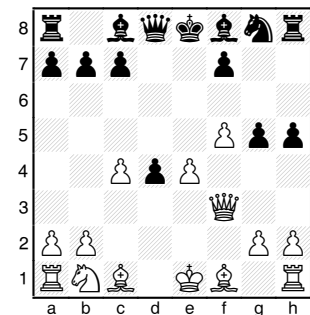
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.e4 ♖c6 5.f4 g5 6.f5

Better is 6.♗f3 gxf4 7.♙xf4.

6...♗xe5

This line, introduced by Schlechter, is best.

7.♗f3 ♗xf3+ 8.♙xf3 h5



This and the following move show good judgment of the position. Black sets up a barrier on the King's side to cover his weaknesses there.

9.♙d3 f6 10.h4 g4 11.♙g3 ♙d6 12.♙f4 ♙xf4 13.♙xf4 ♗h6 14.♗a3 ♗f7 15.O-O ♗e5 16.♙fd1 c5 17.♙d2 ♙c7 18.♙c2 ♙g8 19.♗b5 ♙b8

On 19...♗f3+ 20.♗f2 ♙h2, would follow 21.♙h1.

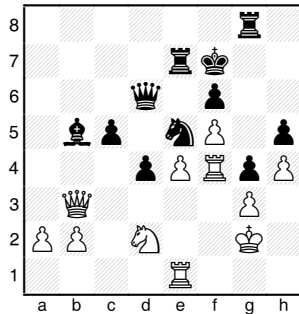
20.g3 ♙d7 21.♗g2 a6 22.♗a3 ♙c6 23.♙f1 ♗f7 24.♙ae1 ♙d6 25.♗b1 ♙ae8 26.♗d2 b5

Beginning the decisive breakthrough on the Queen's side.

27. ♖f4 ♜e7 28.cxb5 axb5 29. ♗xb5

Better, says FRITZ, was 29.a4 ♗xd3 30. ♖xd3 bxa4 31.b3 axb3 32. ♗xb3 ♘g7 33. ♖c2 ♜c7 34. ♗d2 ♜e8, but Black still has a significant edge.

29... ♗xb5 30. ♖b3+



White has fallen into the trap set by Black. Although White wins a pawn temporarily, the opening of the lines helps only Black.

30... ♘g7 31. ♖xb5 ♜b8 32. ♗c4 ♜xb5 33. ♗xd6 ♜xb2+ 34. ♘f1

FRITZ offers 34. ♜f2 ♜xf2+ 35. ♘xf2 ♗d3+ 36. ♘e2 ♗xe1 37. ♘xe1 as a better try in a lost cause.

34... ♜d7

Better than 34... ♗d3, as it wins a piece.

35. ♗c8 ♜b8 0-1

While his loss to Fischer is probably the most well known of all Lapiken's games, the following is probably the most famous game that he didn't lose. I've used Knoch's notes from the October, 1955, *Chess Review*, extensively, with help from FRITZ, and from Dr. Karl Burger's letter to the editor in the April, 1956 *Chess Review*.

Sicilian Dragon

Peter Lapiken
GM Samuel Reshevsky

Long Beach, U.S. Open 1955

Annotations by Hans Knoch with additional comments by Mike Murray

1.e4 c5 2. ♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♗xd4 ♗f6 5. ♗c3 g6 6. ♗e3 ♗g7 7.f3 O-O 8. ♖d2 a6

8...d5 & 8... ♗c6 are good alternatives.

9.O-O-O b5 10.a3 ♗b7 11.g4 ♗c6 12.h4 h5

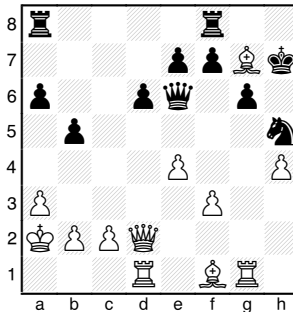
Yes, the theory of this line has sharpened in fifty years, but back then, it was

leading edge. Years later, Larry Evans cited this game in *MCO-10*, evaluating the position as slightly in White's favor.

13.gxh5 ♗xh5 14. ♜g1 ♘h7 15. ♘b1 ♖c8 16. ♗d5

The last move leads only to the exchange of three minor pieces, after which Black gets the edge. 16. ♗xc6 is preferable (16... ♗xc6, 17. ♗d3 or 16... ♖xc6, 17. ♗d5).—Knoch

16... ♗xd4 17. ♗xd4 ♗xd5 18. ♗xg7 ♗a2+ 19. ♘xa2 ♖e6+??



A major blunder, which Knoch missed in his notes. Correct is 19... ♘g7 with only a slight edge for White.

20. ♘b1??

Here, as Karl Burger pointed out a few months later in a letter to the editor in the April, 1956, *Chess Review*, 20. ♗c4! wins outright. If Black replies 20... ♖xc4+, then 21.b3 attacks the Queen, while White also threatens mate by ♖h6-h8. And, of course, 20...bxc4 allows the same two move mate. Fritz spotted all this instantly.

20... ♘xg7

Black has emerged with a positional advantage on the King-side. He is ready to attack White's scattered Pawns there, and, remarkably enough, the King file has become useful for him.—Knoch

21. ♗e2 ♜h8 22. ♜g5 ♖f6 23. ♜dg1 e5 24. ♜1g4 ♗f4

White's game has rapidly deteriorated. His King-side is under heavy blockade, and he must lose a Pawn.—Knoch

25. ♗f1 ♜xh4

Knoch gives this an "!", adding, "This capture ought to be decisive. But White shows great skill in keeping the fight going."

26. ♜xh4 ♖xg5 27. ♜h1 ♗e6 28. ♖d5

28. ♖xd6 loses to 28... ♜d8: e.g., 29. ♖xa6 ♜d1+ 30. ♘a2 ♖c1 31. ♖xb5 ♗d4 and mate follows.—Knoch

28... ♜d8 29. ♖b7

This penetration is hard to meet, but Reshevsky finds the right way.—Knoch 29... ♖e3 30. ♗d3

White cannot avoid losing a second Pawn, but he handily makes the best of it.—Knoch

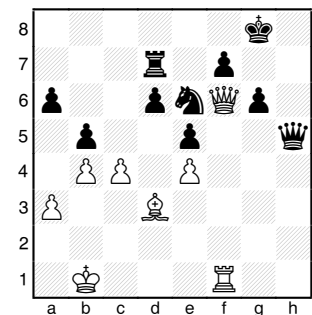
30... ♗c5 31. ♖e7 ♖xf3 32. ♜f1 ♜d7

Black's last is his only move.—Knoch

33. ♖h4

The end-game after 33. ♖xe5+ dxe5 34. ♜xf3 f5! is hopeless for White.—Knoch

33... ♖h5 34. ♖f6+ ♘g8 35.b4 ♗e6 36.c4



Knoch calls this "a fine counter-action:" White's Queen-side pawns become active, while his pieces tie Black's forces to the defense of the King. FRITZ prefers 36. ♖f2, a sample line being 36... ♗f4 37. ♖b6 ♗xd3 38.cxd3 ♖e2 39. ♖b8+ ♘g7 40. ♜h1 ♖xd3+ 41. ♘b2 ♖d4+ 42. ♘a2 ♖d2+, but Black still has a strong plus.

36... ♗f4 37. ♗c2

FRITZ much prefers 37.cxb5.

37...bxc4

Knoch questioned this move and recommended 37... ♖h8, but even better was 37... ♖h3 with a decisive attack on both White's a-pawn and his Rook.

38. ♗a4

Better, but still insufficient, was 38. ♜f2 ♖g4 39. ♘a2 ♗h5 40. ♖f3 ♖xf3 41. ♜xf3 d5 42.exd5 ♜xd5 43. ♜c3 f5 44. ♜xc4.

38...c3

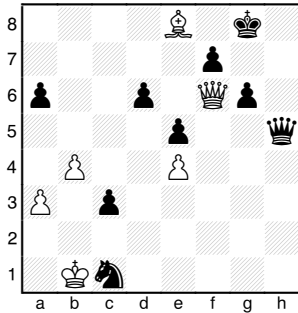
FRITZ claims 38...♞e2 was much stronger.

39. ♖c1 ♜e2

Black gets more with 39...♞f3 40. ♔a1 ♖b7 41. ♙c2 ♞g2 42. ♞h4 ♔g7 43. ♖h1 ♜h5 44. ♖c1 ♞d2, according to FRITZ.

“After 39...♖b7 40. ♖xc3 Black could easily lose,” says Kmoch, though FRITZ still gives Black some advantage.

40. ♙xd7 ♜xc1 41. ♙e8!



And with this move, White saves the game. He now threatens to take the Knight (41. ♔xc1 loses to 41...♞e2 42. ♞g5 ♞b2+ 43. ♔d1 c2+)—Kmoch

41...♜e2 42. ♞xf7+ ♔h8 43. ♞xg6 ♞h1+

Acquiescing to the draw. The endgame after 43...♞xg6 44. ♙xg6 ♜d4 is no good for Black because of the vulnerability of his Rook Pawn (it probably is tenable though).—Kmoch

44. ♔a2 ♜c1+ 45. ♔b1 ♜b3+ 46. ♔a2 ♜c1+ 47. ♔b1 ♜b3+ 48. ♔a2 ♜c1+ Draw

FRITZ did a two-hour blunder check on this game and found nothing.

Sicilian Richter-Rauzer

Peter Lapiken

GM Nicolas Rossolimo

Long Beach, U.S. Open 1955

Annotations by Mike Murray

1.e4 c5 2. ♜f3 ♜c6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♜xd4 ♜f6 5. ♜c3 d6 6. ♙g5 e6 7. ♞d2 a6 8.O-O-O ♙d7 9.f4 ♙e7 10. ♙e2 ♞c7 11.g4

My database search found a number of games from this position. Two of the more interesting ones:

White won in Robert Byrne – Liberzon, Biel 1976, after 11. ♙f3

O-O-O 12. ♜b3 ♙e8 13. ♞e1 ♜d7 14. ♙xe7 ♜xe7 15. ♞f2 ♜b6 16. ♖d3 ♙c6 17. ♜d4?? e5 18. ♜de2 exf4 19. ♜d5?! ♙xd5 20. exd5 ♜a4 21. ♞d4 ♞d7 22. ♜xf4 ♜f5 23. ♞a7 ♜h4 24. ♜e6 fxe6 25. dxe6 ♞c7 26. ♞a8+ ♞b8 27. ♙xb7+ ♔c7 28. ♞xa6 ♞xb7 29. ♞xa4 1-0.

On the other hand, Black got a quick point in Kaplan–Lombardy, Amsterdam 1974, after 11. ♜b3 O-O-O 12. ♙xf6 gxf6 13. ♙h5 ♙e8 14. ♞e3 ♖g8 15. ♞h3 ♔b8 16.f5 ♞c8 17. ♖d2 ♖g5 18. ♖f1 ♙d7 19. ♙xf7 exf5 20. ♞xh7 ♖h8 0-1.

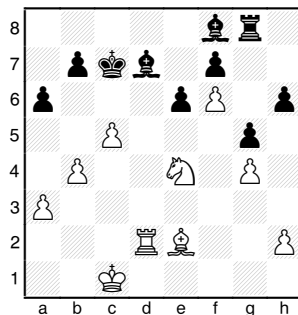
11...h6

In most recent games, Black immediately castles on the Queen-side.

12. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 13. ♜b3 g5 14.e5

Possible is 14. ♞xd6 ♞xd6 15. ♖xd6 ♙xc3 16. bxc3 gxf4.

14...dxe5 15.f5 O-O-O 16. ♜e4 ♙e7 17.f6 ♙f8 18. ♞e3 ♜b4 19.c3 ♜d5 20. ♞a7 ♞b6 21. ♞xb6 ♜xb6 22. ♜a5 ♔c7 23. ♖d2 ♙c8 24. ♖hd1 ♖xd2 25. ♖xd2 ♖g8 26. b4 ♜d5 27. ♜c4 ♙d7 28. ♜xe5 ♙e8 29. a3 ♜b6 30.c4 ♜d7 31. ♜xd7 ♙xd7 32.c5



The theme of the rest of the game is established. White tries to keep Black bottled up, and Black tries to break out. If Black succeeds, his two Bishops and Rook will be very dangerous.

32...♙c6 33. ♜g3 a5 34. ♔b2 axb4 35. axb4 b6 36. ♖c2 bxc5 37. bxc5 h5

Black has to move his Bishop in order to activate his Rook, and this temporary pawn sac is the only way to do it.

38. ♔a3

White evidently seeks to reinforce the c-pawn, but this doesn't work. Why not take the Pawn?

Less effective is 38. ♜xh5. After 38... ♙e4 (A finesse preventing White from

walling off c6 by ♙b5) 39. ♖c3 ♔c6 and the c-pawn falls as Black unravels his position.

Best seems 38. g4h5 when something like 38...♙d5 39. ♙b5 ♖h8 40. ♙e8 ♖h6 41. ♙xf7 ♖xf6 42. ♙g6 can follow.

38...hxg4

FRITZ prefers 38...h4, with the idea of 39. ♜h5 ♙h6, when the Rook gets into the action and the c-pawn is indefensible after the Bishop goes back to f8.

39. ♙xg4 ♙h6 40. ♙h5 ♖a8+ 41. ♔b4 ♖a4+ 42. ♔c3 ♖f4 43. ♖a2 ♖xf6 44. ♖a7+ ♙b7 45. ♜e4 ♖f5

Allows White to liquidate into a drawn position, but after 45...♖f1, White has 46. ♜d6.

46. ♖xb7+ ♔xb7 47. ♜d6+ ♔c6 48. ♜xf5 exf5 49. ♙xf7 ♔xc5 Draw

When I first got to know Dr. Lapiken back in the early 1960s, I asked him if he'd ever played Fischer. He replied to the effect that, yes, he had lost badly to Fischer when the latter was only a child; he played the opening poorly and though he wriggled and squirmed, Fischer didn't let him off the hook. Lapiken didn't volunteer to show me the game.

I looked it up in the first edition of Frank Brady's *Profile of a Prodigy*, where Brady referred to Lapiken as "the giant-killer of master chess." The game was dropped from the revised edition.

It's from the fourth round of the 1956 U.S. Open. Fischer had just won the U.S. Junior, and his potential was widely recognized, but he as yet had no memorable successes in adult tournaments. Lapiken was a respected master, so this game must have been considered an upset. Fischer scored 8.5-3.5 in that tournament, going undefeated. His five wins, and seven draws did not presage the later Fischer approach to an open tourney!

King's Indian Attack

Bobby Fischer

Peter Lapiken

Oklahoma City, U.S. Open (4) 1956

Annotations by Mike Murray

1. ♜f3 ♜f6 2.g3 d5 3. ♙g2 ♙f5 4.O-O e6 5.d3 c6 6. ♜bd2 ♜a6

This might make an awkward first impression, but had already occurred twice in grandmaster practice: Tsvetkov–Smyslov, Amsterdam 1954, and Reshevsky–Evans, New York 1955.

7.a3 ♖c5

Smyslov and Evans each played 7... ♙e7.

8.c4 b5?

This clinker, leaving c6 unprotected, gives White play on the diagonal and, since it allows White to exchange Black's Bishop on f5 rather than on g6, also weakens the d-pawn.

Lapiken had to be aware of these general considerations; my guess is that he was being provocative. He once told me that he no longer kept up with opening theory and tried only to know enough "book" to get out of the book.

Zaitsev–Korelov, USSR 1962, continued more thematically: 8...a5 9.b3 ♙e7 10.♙b2 h6, providing the light-squared Bishop with a nice retreat square and letting the Knight stay on c5 a while longer. 9.♗d4

A good move, but fairly obvious. In more usual positions (without the c6-pawn hanging), if White wants to trade off Black's light-squared Bishop, he has to play 9.♗h4 ♙g4 10.h3 ♙h5 11.g4 ♙g6 12.♗xg6 and this entails some loosening of White's position, with less damage to Black's pawn structure. Here, White forces the exchange on f5 and Black gets disjointed.

9...♙d7 10.♗xf5 exf5 11.♗b3

Putting pressure on the weakened queenside. FRITZ, after an hour's think, likes 11. b4 a little better. Fixing Black's Pawn weaknesses by exchanging either on b5 or d5 seems a reasonable alternative, now or on the next few turns.

11...h6

A waste of time, giving White virtually a free move. Black needed to get developed. Better was 11...bxc4 12.dxc4 ♗fe4 13.cxd5 ♙xd5 14.♗d4 ♙e7 15.♙e3 ♙f6 16.♙c1 ♙d8 17.f3. Also playable was 11...♗xb3 12.♙xb3 bxc4 13.dxc4 ♙e7 14.♙d1 ♙d8, leaving White with a much smaller advantage than in the game.

Northwest Chess

12.♙e3

Fischer combines pressure with simple development

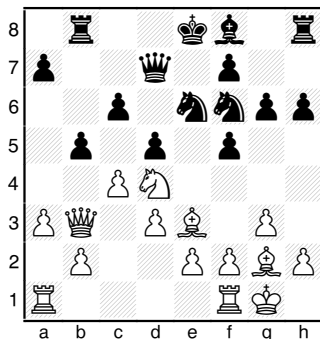
12...♗e6

With White's dark-squared Bishop developed, 12... ♗xb3 is much worse than earlier. For example, 13.♙xb3 dxc4 14.dxc4 ♙e6 15. ♙fc1 ♗e4 16.♙c2 ♙e7 17.g4.

13.♗d4 g6

Protecting the Pawn, at the cost of a position like Swiss cheese. 13...♗xd4 14. ♙xd4 ♙e7 seems more natural, although, after 15.cxb5 cxb5, White has a clear edge with his two Bishops, initiative, and better pawn structure.

14.♙b3 ♙b8?



Lapiken's recent pawn moves have loosened and worsened a probably defensible position. Now he makes an outright error and Fischer pounces. Either 14... ♗c5 15.♙c3 bxc4 16.♗c2 ♙e6 17.dxc4 or 14...bxc4 15.dxc4 ♗c5 16.♙c2 ♗ce4 17.cxd5 leave White with a nice plus, but no immediate win.

15.♗xc6!

Crunch!

15...♙xc6 16.cxd5 ♗c5

Probably hoping for 17.dxc6? ♗xb3 18.♙ad1 ♙d6 19.♙xa7 ♙a8 and Black has more than recovered. The alternative 16...♙d7 17.dxe6 ♙xe6 18.♙xe6+ fxe6 19.♙xa7 might lose a little less badly.

17.♙c3 ♙d6

On 17...♙b6 18.b4 ♙d8 19.bxc5, Black is two Pawns down and paralyzed.

18.♙xc5 ♙xc5

After 18...♙d8, White has 19.♙e5+ ♗d7 20.d6.

19.♙xf6 1-0

Now, if 19...♙g8 20.♙e5+ snags the other Rook. So Black resigns.

International Master Raymond A. Weinstein, born in 1941, was 1958 US Junior Champion when this game was played. He later played in five US Championships, finishing third in 1960-61, behind Fischer and Lombardy. One of the great chess tragedies, he suffered from mental illness and was institutionalized in the mid-1960s, reportedly murdering another inmate.

This, along with the earlier Hailparn game, was cited by GM Evans in *MCO-10's* section on the Albin.

Albin Counter-Gambit

Raymond Weinstein

Peter Lapiken

Rochester, U.S. Open 1958

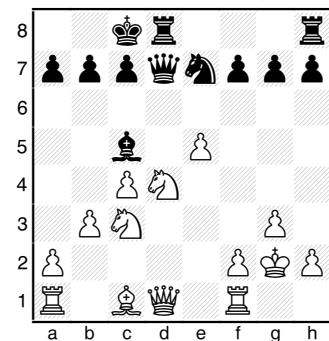
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.♗f3 ♗c6 5.g3 ♙e6 6.b3

This straightforward defense of the c-pawn sets Black few problems. 6.♗bd2 or 6.♙a4 are sharper.

6...♙d7 7.♙g2 O-O-O 8.O-O ♙h3

Black has all he could reasonably hope for: opposite-side castling, White has holes in his King position after the Bishop exchange, and Black's h-pawn is ready to roll. All for a pawn.

9.e3 ♙xg2 10.♙xg2 ♙c5 11.exd4 ♗xd4 12.♗c3 ♗e7 13.♗xd4



White's best chance is to simplify and retain his pawn. FRITZ suggests 13.♙g5 ♙he8 14.♙xe7 ♙xe7 15.♗xd4 ♙xd4 16.♙xd4 ♙xd4 17.♙ad1 ♙c5 18.f4.

13...♙xd4 14.♙b2

Safer is 14.♙c2. After the text, Black can pick up the Queen for Rook and Bishop.

February-June 2006

14... ♖c6+ 15. ♔g1

15. ♖f3 ♖xf3+ 16. ♔xf3 ♕xc3 17. ♕xc3 ♖d3+ drops a Bishop; on 15. ♔h3 ♖e6+ 16. ♖g4 ♕f5, White has no answer to the threat of ... h5.

15... ♕e5

Why does Black avoid the obvious 15... ♕xf2+ 16. ♖xf2 ♖xd1+ 17. ♖xd1?

16. ♖h5 ♕g6 17. ♕b5 ♖f6 18. ♕xe5 ♕xe5 19. ♕xa7+ ♔b8 20. ♕b5 ♖d2 21. ♕c3

After 21. ♖ad1 ♖hd8 22. ♖xd2 ♖xd2 23. ♖xh7 c6 24. ♕a3 ♕f3+ 25. ♔h1 ♕g5 26. ♖h5 ♖xf2, Black has a nice plus.

21...g6 22. ♕e4

White has nothing else. This works if Black plays 22...gxf5, but, unfortunately, after ...

22... ♖e7

... White's Queen has nowhere to go that defends against ... ♕f3+ followed by ... ♖xe4. So, White has to give up the Queen for Rook and Knight.

23. ♖xe5 ♖xe5 24. ♕xd2 h5

This move or next, Black should play 24... ♖e2 25. ♖ad1 (forced) ♖d8 26. ♖fe1 ♖d3 and the threat of ... ♖c2 forces White to give up both Rooks for the Queen, leaving Black with a relatively clean material advantage of Rook for Knight and pawn, e.g., 27. ♕e4 ♖xd1 28. ♖xd1 ♖xd1+ 29. ♔g2 ♖a1 30. ♕c3 f5.

25. h4 ♖f5 26. ♖fe1 g5 27. hxg5 h4 28. ♕e4 hxg3 29. ♕xg3 ♖xg5 30. ♖ad1 ♖d8 31. ♔g2 ♖xd1 32. ♖xd1 c6 33. ♖e1 ♔c7 34. ♖e4 ♖g6 35. ♖e2 f5 36. f4 ♖g4 37. ♖e5 ♖xf4 38. ♖xf5 ♖g4 39. ♖f2 ♔b6 40. ♖f5 ♖d4 41. ♖f2 ♔c5 42. ♖f5+ ♔b4 43. ♖f2 Draw

A draw was agreed at this point. Black can never break through.

“White emerges from the opening in this game with a battered Pawn structure. He does a fine job subsequently of creating complications, but tournament winner Benko unravels them with equal dexterity and wins. It's a good game, scintillating and pleasant to follow.”—Hans Kmochn, in the December 1961 *Chess Review*. Most

of the notes which follow are taken from that article.

Noteworthy is the respect Kmochn affords Dr. Lapiken, albeit in a losing effort.

Sicilian Closed

Peter Lapiken
GM Pal Benko

San Francisco, U.S. Open 1961

Annotations by Hans Kmochn

1.e4 c5 2.g3 g6 3. ♕g2 ♕g7 4. ♕e2 ♕f6 5. ♕bc3 ♕c6 6.d3 d6 7.O-O O-O 8.h3 ♕e8 9.f4 f5 10. ♕e3

Now White threatens to get a good game with 11.d4.

10... ♕d4 11. ♕f2

White is preparing for 12. ♕xd4, but his whole plan works out poorly. A better method of dislodging the Black Knight is 11. ♖d2 and 12. ♕d1 (11... ♖a5 12. ♕c1) as is usual in these positions.

11... ♕c7 12. ♕xd4 cxd4 13. ♕e2 e5 14.c3

Now White incurs weaknesses in his pawn formation. 14. ♕e1 first is better.

14... dxc3 15. bxc3

15. ♕xc3 costs a Pawn: 15... exf4 16. gxf4 fxe4 and 17... ♖xf4.

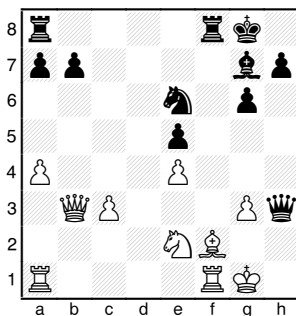
15... fxe4 16. dxe4 ♕e6

Black clearly has the edge.

17. fxe5 dxe5 18. ♖c2 ♖c8 19. a4

Dr. Lapiken strives for complications. He is a dangerous opponent in a wild position. No one can blame him for not trying to hold this game in a steady positional way.

♕xh3 20. ♕xh3 ♖xh3 21. ♖b3+ ♕e6



In this case, walking into the pin is, by way of exception, strong. White must watch out for the possibility of ... ♕g5.

22. ♕c5

After 22. ♖xb7, Black proceeds with 22... ♖ab8, followed possibly by 23... ♖b2. The immediate 22... ♕g5 is not so good because of 23. ♕c5.

22... ♕h6! 23. ♖f5

Hopeless for White is the alternative 23. ♕xf8 ♕e3+ 24. ♖f2 ♖xf8 25. ♖af1 ♖f7 with 26... ♕g5 threatened. With the text, however, White gets complications going.

23... gxf5 24. ♖xe6+ ♔h8 25. ♖xe5+ ♕g7 26. ♖d5 ♖ad8 27. ♖xb7

White has achieved a lot. He needs now but little more to reach safety, be it by recovery of the Exchange or by the almost complete elimination of enemy pawns.

FRITZ recommends the Queen sacrifice as a better effort in a lost cause. However, after 27. ♕xf8 ♖xd5 28. ♕xg7+ ♔xg7 29. exd5 f4 30. ♖a2 (30. gxf4 loses either the Knight or the Rook) 30... ffg3 31. ♕xg3 ♔f8 32. ♖f2+ ♔e7 33. ♖f3 ♖g4 34. ♔f2 ♖xa4, White's still busted. —Murray

27...f4!

But now justice strikes. Black resumes his attack with irresistible force and wins quickly. The threats are obvious. 28. ♕xf8 ♖xf8 29. ♕xf4 ♖xg3+ 30. ♕g2 ♕e5 0-1

I (Mike Murray) left Missoula for Seattle in February of 1968. In the month before I left, Dr. Lapiken and I played a series of clock games at tournament time control (40 moves in two hours) — not a formal match, but we took the games seriously. I was a low-rated NW Expert at the time. I've annotated this game with the help of FRITZ8.

Black Knights' Tango

Peter Lapiken
Mike Murray

Missoula 1968

Annotations by Mike Murray

1.d4 ♕f6 2.c4 ♕c6

The Kevitz-Traikovich Defense, nowadays called “The Tango.” I used to do very well with it against strong players. Long after I quit playing, IM Georgi Orlov published his monograph and later

his book on it, and recently Richard Palliser has published another; so I suppose it's lost most of its surprise value.

3.d5 ♖e5 4.♗d4 d6

Orlov and Palliser each recommend 4...♗g6, retaining the option of developing the Bishop at c5 or b4.

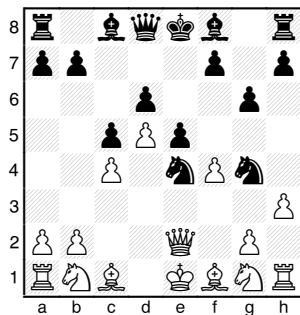
5.e4 c5 6.♗e3 g6

After the game, Lapiken suggested the fanciful 6...g5!? Book is 6...e6, but the fianchetto also has to be reasonable.

7.f4 ♖eg4 8.♗e2 e5 9.h3

Doc says, "Show Me!" Capturing *en passant* was a prudent alternative.

9...♗xe4!



10.hxg4

10.♗xe4 seems playable 10...♗h4+ 11.♔d2 ♖f2 12.♗e1 ♗g3 13.♖h2 ♗h6 14.♔e2 ♗xh2 15.♗xf2 ♗xf4 16.♗xf4 ♗xf4 17.♗xf4 exf4 with a Rook and two Pawns for two minors.

10...♗g3 11.♗f3 ♖xh1 12.g3 ♖xg3

There was no rush to get something for the Knight. 12...♗g7 was better, since if 13.♗xh1 ♗xg4.

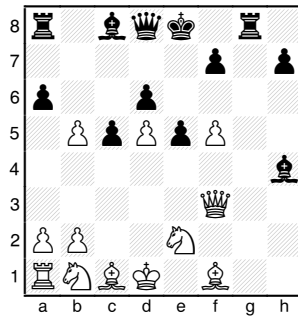
13.♗xg3 ♗g7 14.f5 gxf5 15.gxf5 ♗f6 16.♗f3 ♗h4+

It was tempting to force the King to move, but better was 16...♗g5 17.♖d2 ♗xd2+ 18.♗xd2 ♗h4+ 19.♗f2 ♗xf2+ 20.♔xf2 ♗xf5 21.♖f3 and Black has the material edge.

17.♔d1 ♖g8 18.♖e2 b5 19.cxb5 a6

Trying to open it up before White can consolidate. It's a strange position — Black is sacrificing and attacking on both wings, while White's King calmly strolls about in the center—Dr. Lapiken was never afraid to put his King at risk. FRITZ thinks things are about equal.

Northwest Chess



20.b6 ♗d7

The b-pawn eventually becomes a bone in the throat, and Black should have just snatched it up with 20...♗xb6.

21.♖bc3 ♗b5?

There was still time to grab the Pawn with 21...♗xb6.

22.b7 ♖b8 23.♖xb5 axb5 24.♖c3 b4

24...♖xb7 25.♗xb5+ ♔f8 26.♗h6+ ♔e7 might have been a little better, but Black's game is deteriorating.

25.♗b5+ ♔e7 26.f6+

The point is to gain a tempo by attacking the Bishop, but the immediate 26.♖e4, putting extra pressure on Black's King, is even better.

26...♗xf6 27.♖e4 ♖g1+

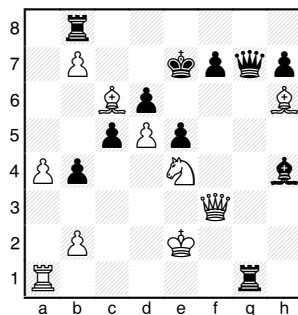
No better was 27...♗h8 28.♗c6 ♖g6 29.♗g5+ f6 30.♔e2 fxg5 31.♖f1 and Black is totally helpless.

28.♔e2 ♗h8

Or 28...♗h8 29.♗g5+ ♖xg5 30.♖xg5.

29.♗c6 ♗g7 30.a4 ♗h4 31.♗h6

Black can't take the Bishop, because the Rook hangs, but this move throws away White's advantage. Correct was 31.♗h3, when it will be hard to fend off the Queen and the passed Pawn.



31...♗g6?

February-June 2006

For a serious attack, the Queen and Bishop just aren't enough. Black needs to keep the Rook on the board. Good chances were offered by 31...♖g2+ and if, e.g., 32.♔d1 (FRITZ found 32.♔d3 ♗g6 33.♔c4 ♖g4 34.a5 ♖xe4+ 35.♔b5 with a slight edge, but who'd ever play this in a real game?) 32...♗g6 33. ♗e3 b3.

32.♖xg1 ♗xg1 33.♗f5

Now, it's all over unless Black can turn a few checks into something good. I couldn't find anything. Thirty-six years later, neither could FRITZ.

33...♗e1+ 34.♔d3 c4+ 35.♔xc4 ♗e2+ 36.♔b3 ♗d3+ 37.♔a2 ♗c4+ 38.♔a1 ♖xb7 39.♗xb7 b3 40.♗c6 1-0

Here's a rather uneventful game against the Northwest's own Mike Franett.

King's Indian Attack

Peter Lapiken
Mike Franett

Chicago, U.S. Open 1973

1.e4 c5 2.♖f3 e6 3.d3 ♖c6 4.g3 g6 5.♗g2 ♗g7 6.O-O ♖ge7 7.♖e1 d6 8.c3 O-O 9.d4 e5 10.dxc5 dxc5 11.♗e3 b6 12.♗c1 ♗c7 13.b4 ♖d8 14.bxc5 bxc5 15.♗a3 ♖e6 16.♖g5 ♖xg5 17.♗xg5 ♗e6 18.♖d2 ♖fd8 19.♗f1 f6 20.♗e3 ♗f8 21.♖c4 ♖c8 Draw

A brace of losses to the well-known correspondence player, Ignas Zalys, who won a couple of Golden Knights (correspondence) tournaments years ago.

King's Indian Attack

Peter Lapiken
Ignas Zalys

Worcester (MA) 1964

1.g3 g6 2.♖f3 ♗g7 3.♗g2 ♖f6 4.O-O O-O 5.d3 d6 6.♖bd2 ♖bd7 7.a4 ♖b8 8.e4 e5 9.♖c4 ♖c5 10.b4 ♖e6 11.c3 b6 12.♗c2 ♗b7 13.h3 ♖h5 14.♗b3 ♔h8 15.♖e3 ♗e8 16.♖e1 f5 17.exf5 gxf5 18.♖f1 ♗f7 19.♖b1 ♖f6 20.♖h4 ♗xg2 21.♖xg2 ♖be8 22.♗d1 ♖d5 23.♗d2 f4 24.c4 ♖e7 25.g4 ♗g6 26.♗c1 ♖g5 27.♔h2 ♖xh3 28.♔xh3 ♗h6+ 29.♖h4 ♖g6 30.♔g2 ♖xh4+ 31.♔g1 ♗g6 32.f3 h5 33.♔f2 hxg4 34.fxg4 e4 35.dxe4 ♖xe4 36.♗b2 ♗xb2 37.♖xb2 ♖xe1 38.♔xe1 ♖e8+ 39.♔d2 ♗e4 40.♔c3 ♖f3 41.♖f2 ♖e5 42.♗d4 ♗e1+ 43.♔c2 ♖f8 44.♖xf4 ♗e2+ 45.♖d2 ♖xf4 46.♗xf4 ♗xg4

47. ♖f8+ ♘h7 48. ♖b8 ♖g7 49. ♘b3 ♖f7 50. ♘c3 ♘c6 51. ♖b7 ♖g7+ 52. ♘b3 ♖g3+ 53. ♘b2 ♖e5+ 54. ♘c2 ♘xb4+ 0-1

Philidor

**Ignas Zalyš
Peter Lapiken**

Lincoln, U.S. Open 1969

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 ♘f6 4.♘c3 ♘bd7 5.♗c4 ♗e7 6.h3 c6 7.♗e3 ♖c7 8.a4 O-O 9.♖d2 b6 10.O-O ♗b7 11. ♗e2 a6 12.♖fb1 d5 13.exd5 cxd5 14. dxe5 ♘e4 15.♘xd5 ♘xd2 16.♘xc7 ♘xb1 17.♘xa8 ♘c3 18.bxc3 ♖xa8 19. ♗d4 ♖c8 20.♘d2 ♖c7 21.♗d3 ♘c5 22.♘c4 ♘xa4 23. ♘xb6 ♘xb6 24. ♗xb6 ♖xc3 25.♗d4 ♖c7 26.c3 ♖c8 27.♖b1 ♖c7 28.♖a1 ♖c8 29.f4 f6 30.♗xa6 ♗xa6 31.♖xa6 fxe5 32.♗xe5 ♘f8 33.♘f2 g6 34.♘f3 ♘f7 35.♗d4 ♘e8 36.♘e4 ♘f7 37.g4 ♖c7 38.♖a7 ♖c6 39.♗e5 ♖c4+ 40.♘d3 ♖c6 41.c4 ♘e6 42.♗d4 ♗d6 43.♘e4 ♖xc4 44. f5+ 1-0

Next is a nice game against long-time USCF bigwig Marshall Rohland.

Sicilian Closed

**Peter Lapiken
Marshall Rohland**

Snowmass/Aspen, U.S. Open 1968

Annotations by Mike Murray

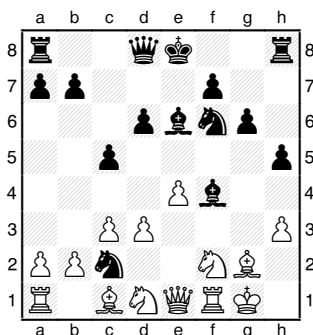
1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4. ♗g2 ♗g7 5.d3 d6 6.f4 e5 7.♘h3 ♘f6

The Knight is probably more effective on e7. For example, 7...exf4 8.gxf4 ♘ge7, or 7...♘ge7 immediately.

8.O-O ♗g4 9.♖d2 ♘d4 10.♘f2 h5 11.h3 ♗e6 12.♘cd1 exf4 13.gxf4 ♗h6 14.c3?!

Did Lapiken just blunder a Pawn?

14...♗xf4 15.♖e1 ♘c2?



But Black wants more. After 15... ♗xc1 16.♖xc1 ♘c6, does White have

enough compensation?

16.♖e2 ♘xa1 17.♗xf4 ♗xa2

The point, thinks Black. This appears to win another Pawn and provide an escape hatch for the Knight. Better was 17...♖a5, but it's ugly after 18. ♗xd6.

18.♘e3 ♘b3 19.♗g5

The stinger. White threatens to pile up on the pinned Knight with ♘d5, or ♘h1, or both. Black is busted.

19...♘a5

To protect d5. Unfortunately, a piece drops, and the Knight is still pinned. The rest is slaughter.

20.b4 cxb4 21.cxb4 ♘c6 22.♖xa2 ♘xb4 23.♖a4+ ♖d7 24.♖xb4 ♘h7 25.♘d5 O-O 26.♗h6 ♖fe8 27.♖d4 ♖e5 28.♗f4 ♖ee8 29.h4 b5 30.♗h3 ♖d8 31.♗g5 ♘xg5 32.♘f6+ ♘f8 33.hxg5 ♖e7 34.♘d7+ ♘g8 35.♖xd6 a5 36.e5 a4 37.e6 a3 38.exf7+ ♖xf7 39.♖xg6+ 1-0

Here's a miniature which Lapiken lost to former Washington State Champion Viesturs Seglins.

Scotch

**Viesturs Seglins
Peter Lapiken**

Snowmass/Aspen, U.S. Open 1968

Annotations by Mike Murray

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 exd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♗b4 6.♘xc6 bxc6 7.♖d4 ♖e7 8.♗d3 d5

8...♗c5 9.♖a4 ♘g4 seems better.

9.O-O c5 10.♗b5+ ♘f8 11.♖d1 ♗xc3 12.bxc3 dxe4 13.♗a3 ♖b8??

A blunder. After 13...♘g8 14.♖e2 ♖e5 15.♗c6 ♖b8 16.♖fb1, White has only a slight edge.

14.♗xc5 ♖xb5 15.♖d8+ 1-0

**Some Mike Murray
Memories**

One Hansen's (the Missoula chess players' hangout) anecdote which I remember:

Lapiken occasionally had back problems, and this particular evening, it was obvious he was in some discomfort. He sat ramrod straight in his chair and prac-

ticed extra precise and controlled movements when it was his turn. He was playing somebody pretty good, possibly Wally Albert, and a spectator who shall remain nameless (except his name was John Hammond) stood behind Lapiken, engrossed in the game. Unfortunately, the spectator had a fresh cup of hot coffee. As said spectator became more and more engrossed in the game, he leaned further and further over Lapiken's shoulder, eventually tilting the cup enough that a stream of the hot liquid poured down Lapiken's back. Lapiken jerked up and away, which, of course, was the wrong thing to do with a bad back. We helped him remove his suit-coat, which had taken the brunt of the coffee, while the spectator sputtered and stammered profuse apologies.

Ever the gentleman, Lapiken, teeth clenched in pain, said only, "It's.... all.... right.... Just.... get..... away.... from.... me."

An hour later, it was pretty much forgotten.

Another anecdote, nothing special, just something I remember:

Doc and John Hammond and I carpooled to the Montana Open in 1966, which I believe was in Billings. We took Lapiken's car. I don't believe John knew how to drive or if he did, neither Doc nor I wanted to let him. It was a long drive back after a five-round weekend Swiss. I was wasted and Lapiken ended up driving the whole way. I remember complaining to him that, since I was almost 40 years younger than he, why was he the one with the endurance? He just laughed, but was obviously pleased.

Michael Jensen Memories

I grew up in Missoula when Dr. Lapiken was here and would be more than happy to send you a few things I have relating to him. As of two weeks ago, I am Montana's current State Chess Champion. Back then, I would go down to a back room in Hansen's Ice Cream parlor as a boy where Dr. Lapiken and the other chess greats gathered to play on weekends on huge glass-covered chessboards. Dr. Lapiken would dress up in a suit and some would smoke cigars, etc. Occasionally, I got to play him, which

was a big thrill for me. He was a most impressive person that I greatly respected. I believe that I do have some of his game scores from a 1965 Montana State Tournament that he won. (I was Junior Champion that year.)

References and sources:

Mechanics Institute Newsletter by John Donaldson #260 & 263

Tom Kalaris tkalaris@msn.com

Mike Murray, Port Townsend formerly Montana

Jack O'Keefe jokeefe@webtv.net

Mike Jensen, Montana

Bill Lynch sscarff@montana.edu

Various *Washington Chess Letter* and *Northwest Chess Letter* and *Northwest Chess*

California Chess Journal 2005.3 (Fall 2005) article by John Donaldson

California Death Index on Ancestry.com website

The Shkurkin Far East Files, 6025 Pink Arbor, San Pablo CA 94806-4147, website has the following:

- * On July 16, 1942, in California, a Certificate of Naturalization 4906691 was issued to Peter Petrovich Lapiken, then 35 years old.
- * A Membership Book and Working Card for the Building Service Employee's Union Local 87, San Francisco, California, 1942, was issued to Peter Lapiken.
- * Army of the United States Document appointing Private Peter P. Lapiken, 39025469, to be Corporal (Temporary), Battery B, 52nd F.A. Tng. Bn. Dated 5 November 1942.
- * Certificate. "Headquarters Western Defense Command and Fourth Army. Counter Intelligence Corps. This is to certify that Peter P. Lapiken has successfully completed the course of instruction in the C.I.C. Preliminary Training School." Dated 21 March 1943.
- * Extract from Special Orders 1141 dated 12 June 1943 on PPL's graduation from the Seventh Course at the Military Intelligence Training Center, Camp Ritchie, Maryland.
- * Extract from orders of Hq European T of Opns USA, dated 13 May 1945, posting 2nd Lts AUS to EAD. [PPL is on the list.]
- * Shipping Ticket to Antwerp Belgium from Lt. P.P. Lapiken: 1 ea Can Meat, 1 ea Knife, 1 ea Fork, 1 ea Spoon.

[No date.]

- * Restricted list of personnel in the US Group Control Council (Germany) (Rear) dated 12 August 1945. [Peter P. Lapiken, 2nd Lt. is among those listed.]
- * Extract from Special Orders 1145 dated 23 August 1945 from Headquarters US Group Control Council (Germany). [One of the orders includes PPL.]
- * "Office of Military Government for Germany (US). Formerly US Group Control Council (Germany). Pass 115." Issued to Peter P. Lapiken, 2nd Lt., 30 October 1945. With photograph.
- * Extract from Special Order 17 dated 7 January 1946 from Headquarters, Switzerland Leave Center, US Army, concerning seven-days leave (furlough) for American personnel. [PPL is among those granted leave.]
- * Extract from Special Orders 137 dated 13 February 1946, Office of Military Government for Germany US. [The list includes PPL.]
- * Appointment of PPL to Second Lieutenant, Military Intelligence as of 4 April 1946, dated 5 December 1946.
- * "War Department General Staff. Intelligence Division. Memorandum for All Military Intelligence Reserve Officers." July 1946.
- * "Headquarters Sixth Army. Memorandum for All Military Intelligence Reserve Officers." Dated 20 December 1946.
- * Navy Department. Resignation Document of PPL dated 26 November 1948. Describes PPL as an Assistant Professor of Russian in US Naval School (Naval Intelligence) at Anacostia DC, born 7.7.1907 in Riga, Russia. Original and a copy.
- * Undated letter from War Department General Staff Intelligence Division, asking PPL to fill in Personal History Statement.
- * Undated official letter from the White House with expression of gratitude to PPL for the service in the Armed Forces.
- * Letter from Veterans Administration in San Francisco dated 1 May 1946, denying PPL's claim for disability pension based upon active service in the US Armed Forces in World War II.
- * "Notification of Transfer of Records" re Disability Compensation of PPL, dated 6 December 1950. Records forwarded to Los Angeles.
- * "Honorable Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States of

America of Peter P. Lapiken O2 026 392 2d Lt MI USAR," dated 1 April 1953.

- * "Enlisted Record of Lapiken Peter P."
- * Black and white negative photocopy of Official Transcript of Record, University of California, Berkeley, of PPL for 1940-1941.
- * University of California, Program of the Final Examination for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy of Peter Petrovich Lapiken, Grad. (Harbin Institute of Oriental and Commercial Sciences) 1931. Slavic Languages and Literatures. Tuesday, June 11, 1953.
- * Degree of Doctor of Philosophy Conferred by the Regents of the University of California, Berkeley, to PPL on 18 June 1953. Original and two Xerox copies.
- * list "Publications of Peter P Lapiken," 3 typewritten copies.
- * Folder "teacher:" complete, detailed Curriculum Vitae PPL. Describes formation, interests and work. Different official documents, connected with the teaching work at the different universities, including on a constant work at the university Montana as Assistant Professor, The University of Montana, State Capitol, Helena.

"The American Contract Bridge League Certificate of Life Master to Dr. Peter P. Lapiken" 1969 and accompanying letter.

Mike Murray Game Data BASE

PPL-Kaufmann (Hollywood 1954)
 Rivise-PPL (Hollywood 1954)
 Meyer-PPL (Hollywood 1954, blindfold)
 Fischer-PPL (US Open 1956)
 Lux-PPL (USA 1962)
 PPL-Rohland (US Open 1968)
 PPL-Burger (US Open 1968)
 Seglins-PPL (US Open 1968)
 Wallach-PPL (US Open 1968)
 PPL-Willis (US Open 1969)
 PPL-Franett (US Open 1973)
 PPL-Hudson (US Open 1973)
 Timm-PPL (US Open 1973)
 Hulse-PPL (US Open 1973) ■