

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

NO. 15

AUG. 10, 1943

WVCA NAMES 5 MORE DIRECTORS

The West Virginia Chess Association, in its post-card ballot completed July 31, named FIVE more directors.

Of course, the members voted only for four but we found ourselves in a jam on the director-at-large and, rather than take another ballot, which probably would have ended in another tie, we simply declared both candidates elected!

Results of the poll:

CABELL COUNTY: Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, 2; H. Landis Marks, 1.

HARRISON COUNTY: William Challinor, 3; M. F. "Hap" Allison, 1.

KANAWHA COUNTY: Harold W. Liggett, 4; William F. Hartling, 2.

AT LARGE: Reid Holt 2, Capt. B. W. Devericks 2.

We present herewith the entire new list of officers for the 1943-44 year:

President, A. W. Paull, Wheeling; secretary-treasurer, Gene Collett, Pittsburgh; and directors as follows: Cabell county, Rudd T. Neel and Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, both of Huntington; Harrison county, Ray H. Griffin and William Challinor, both of Clarksburg; Kanawha county, Walt Crede and Harold W. Liggett, both of Charleston; at large, J. P. Altmeyer of Wheeling, Capt. B. W. Devericks of Ft. Knox, Ky., and H. Reid Holt of Charleston.

(Holt's current designation is Charleston which would make him a member of the Kanawha county group. At the time the ballots were mailed, however, he was listed as living at Richwood and therefore was in the "at large" group. Since he spends more time out of than in Charleston, we feel he may safely continue as an "at large" director for the current year.)

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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

As this bulletin goes to press, play is just getting under way in the United States Chess Federation's national championship tournament. Although we will be unable to furnish full coverage, we hope to be able to present next time a brief story of the meet, and possibly one of the outstanding games.

WE WONDER WHAT'S BECOME OF HARTLING?

Mail sent to Bill Hartling at his formerly reliable Charleston address is returned to us unclaimed. Will any member having the new address please rush us a post-card so we'll know where to send his current copy of the Bulletin?

MAKE WVCA CHECKS PAYABLE TO 'GC

Banking rules are stricter in Pittsburgh than in Clarksburg and we have experienced some difficulty in cashing checks made payable to the West Virginia Chess Association, since we maintain no account under that name. Our only option is to open an account under that name or to ask members to make checks payable to the secretary personally. As the account will entail additional expense to the association, we prefer the latter plan if it is satisfactory to the members. Do we hear any complaints?

AND NOW IT'S MAJOR HUMPHRIES!

Although, mysteriously, we get no word from the good doctor himself, we hear from friends in Clarksburg, where he furloughed recently, that Bob Humphries of the Army Medical Corps has been promoted from captain to major! Congratulations!

KOLTI COMING TO PITTSBURGH

Word comes from Honorary Member George Koltanowski that he has accepted an invitation to direct the Pennsylvania State Chess Tournament here over the three-day Labor day week-end. Which means, we hope, that we'll be able to get together then for a

FINANCIAL STATEMENT--JULY 20 TO AUGUST 10

	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Bal.</u>
Bal. on hand July 20 (see Bull. 14)			\$37.95
Bull. 14 (80 copies 8 pp) mimeo work \$1.64 stamped envelopes \$1.19		\$2.83	35.12
Post cards, runoff election for directors		.40	34.72
Purchases for yearbook: 2 quires (48) typing stencils \$5.00, 6 artwork stencils 92¢, 5 reams paper \$4.59		10.51	24.21
Correspondence with members		.26	23.95
Commissions from books and magazines sold	\$5.00		28.95
Dues, 4 at \$1 each, Buschke, Scofield, Erhard and Ford, \$4; 3 at 50¢ each, Church, Jamison and Mosier, \$1.50	5.50		34.45
Balance in general fund Aug. 10 \$34.45, balance in correspondence tourney fund \$2.50.			

NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

We had hoped our 1943-44 membership list would climb to 50 in time for this bulletin but it had only 20 days to do it so perhaps we asked for too much. Effective with this issue, 1942-43 members who failed to renew are being cut from the list--much to our regret, of course. If you know any old member who has failed to renew for the current year, please ask him to do so at once. We would like to continue everyone's sub to the bulletin but...

The designation "new" after a member's address indicates a new member; the others are renewals.

- 40 Dr. Albrecht Buschke, 15 West 56th Street, New York, N. Y.
- 41 G. Vincent Scofield, 1112 Highland Road, Edgewood, Charleston 2 (NEW)
- 42 W. M. Erhard, 201 Webster Street, Clarksburg
- 43 Layne H. Ford, Box 534, Grafton
- 44 Jesse Church, 1824 Odell Avenue, Charleston
- 45 R. L. Jamison, 1207 Virginia Street, E., Charleston 1
- 46 Cliff Mosier, in care of The Gazette, Hale Street, Charleston

ADDRESS CHANGES

- A. B. Gilliland, 1233 Park Avenue, Charleston 2
- Sam Abrahams, Box 404, Huntington 8
- Frank B. Wisinski, 445 West Main Street, Clarksburg
- R. L. Jamison (see list of "New Members and Renewals" above)

TOURNEY GAMES GO OUT TO PLAYERS

Honorary Member Koltanowski has completed annotations of the 20 Clarksburg tourney games selected for use in the 1943 Yearbook and copies of these games, together with the annotations, are now being mailed out to the members (see Bull. 14, page 4). We trust each player will complete his annotations and comments on the games and return them to the secretary at the earliest possible moment. Work on planning pages and cutting stencils for the Yearbook cannot begin, of course, until all this material is assembled. If any member does not desire to take part in this portion of the Yearbook program, we hope he will return the games to us promptly in order that we may get on with the work. But we are hoping that will be unnecessary, hoping that every player will cooperate to make this the best Yearbook feature ever.

Dr. Albrecht Buschke, whose New York bookstore specializes in chess books and magazines, has offered to pay the association wholesale price for 10 or 15 copies of the 1943 Yearbook, which will be sufficient to allow the association to make a small profit on the transaction; in other words, to lower the association's cost in production of the book. We consider this to the advantage of the organization and have accepted the offer.

Still hanging fire is a plan to mail copies of the new Yearbook to secretaries of all state chess associations, probably about 20 in number. This would result in some good advertising for us, and perhaps would produce results in the form of yearbooks in other states.

GAME ENDED

A SHORT SHORT STORY
BY WALT CREDE

The ack-ack puffs were no longer around them. They were over the Channel now, flying in close formation. Seven of them. Seven coming back. And six missing. And then suddenly there was the rocky Britain coast, looming out of the evening mist, a bare outline, becoming ever more distinct with the passing of each moment. Then their base. . . They came in one at a time, their landing-gear down, wheels touching the smooth concrete runway; pilots taxiing the huge bombers out of the way, making room for the others, coming in.

The curly-headed navigator of the Brooklyn Bum, lead ship of the flight, dropped to the ground with the others of the plane's crew; he stood there beside the belly of the plane, nervously watching the rest of the flight land. His crew-members moved away, leaving him standing alone. He lighted a cigarette, puffed rapidly, then flicked the long butt away. The last ship was down, and there was no Gaunt Lady. She was missing.

How long he stood there, his eyes watching the eastern sky, staring hard in the coming darkness, ears straining to catch the sound of motors not there--how long he stood there like that he did not know. At his feet were numerous cigarettes, not half-smoked; lighted for an instant, then cast aside. No one came near him. Men watched him stand there beside the Brooklyn Bum, and shook their heads. He was hoping, they knew; hoping against hope. . . The night had settled over the field when at last he turned toward his quarters, his shoulders sagging, his head bowed. He entered the room he shared with Jonesey, a room equipped with two cots, a table, two chairs. He snapped the light-switch, slumped down on his bed, sat there staring vacantly, head-in-hands, at the cot opposite. Minutes passed. He stirred, fumbled in his pockets for a cigarette, found he had none. He got to his feet wearily, went to the table, where he picked a near-spent butt from the ashtray, lighted it.

With his hands thrust deep into his pockets, the butt dangling between his lips, he stared down through the smoke at the chessboard on the table. Chessmen were scattered about the board; it was an end-game position, a game not completed. His hand moved toward the White Queen, lifted her to King's six. He smiled wryly--it was mate-in-two from that position, forced.

"Oh, Jonesey . . . "

He strode to his cot, snapped off the light, flung himself down. He sobbed bitterly . . .

Hands were on him, rough hands, shaking him awake. He sat up blinking. The light was on. A man in uniform was standing in front of him.

"I say, old fellow, I thought you ought to know. The Gaunt Lady. She's just coming in. Sounds a bit like two of her motors are dead. But she's coming in. She radioed. I thought you ought to know."

... GAME ENDED ... BY WALT CREDE (Continued from preceding page)

He was off the cot and running across the field, running hard. A plane had just landed. When he came close, he could see it was the Gaunt Lady. She was a wreck, holes all through her. Her pilot was already on the ground; seeing the youth running toward the plane, the pilot went to meet him, put his arms around the youth's shoulders.

"Jonesey?"

The pilot nodded. "A piece of ack-ack got him. He--he died soon afterward. His last thoughts were of you, though. 'Tell Curly,' he said, 'tell Curly--I--win. Tell him--Queen--to--King's--six.'"

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VOICE OF THE MEMBERS

Rev. W. M. Erhard, Clarksburg: "Since I am unable to play in tournaments of the West Virginia Chess Association, I doubted the advisability of continuing in the organization. However, as a means of encouraging the movement, I am glad to renew my membership and to send you herewith a check for yearly dues. You deserve every possible kind of support in your work."

(Your support is appreciated, Bill. I trust members will take note of the peculiar circumstances. Rev. Erhard is an enthusiastic chesser yet the nature of his calling makes it impossible for him to participate in state meets whose playing days have invariably included Sunday. It is quite likely we have in the state other chess-playing ministers who are kept from the tourney because of the Sunday session. Offhand, no solution occurs to us--particularly at this time when we have to get our tourney thru as quickly as possible and when the nose-to-grindstone requirements of war work make it impossible for most of us to get away from our jobs except over the week-end. Does anyone have a suggestion to offer?)

Richard C. Grimm, Charleston: "The Grimms really enjoyed this last Bulletin. It's a very interesting one with lots of pep...We're doing a little down here for the WVCA, too. Notice how the NEW members are coming in after a little work. We'll hit 100 or bust...I'll be seeing you Sept. 9 for sure. I want to play you a game or two this time... Score in the Manahan-Grimm match (July 24) is 3-3 and 4 games to go."

Layne H. Ford, Grafton: "I have just mailed my renewal to Ray Griffin so you can start sleeping at nights...Just at the time the annual voting was held, I was transferred unexpectedly to the Philco Airborne School, Philadelphia, where I am studying for eventual assignment to Air Corps. Some Signal Corps men are attached to it; I hope to advise, not work, but I am afraid it's work...My phone at my room is Baldwin 5111 in case you should get thru here in the next couple months."

(See next page)

Frank B. Wisinski, Clarksburg: "Didn't get a chance to look you up while in Pgh again last week. However, I'm back in Clarksburg now for an indefinite stay as I have been released from the Army and am now in the Reserve Corps. Saw Bill Challinor and Ray Griffin and played a couple of games with them."

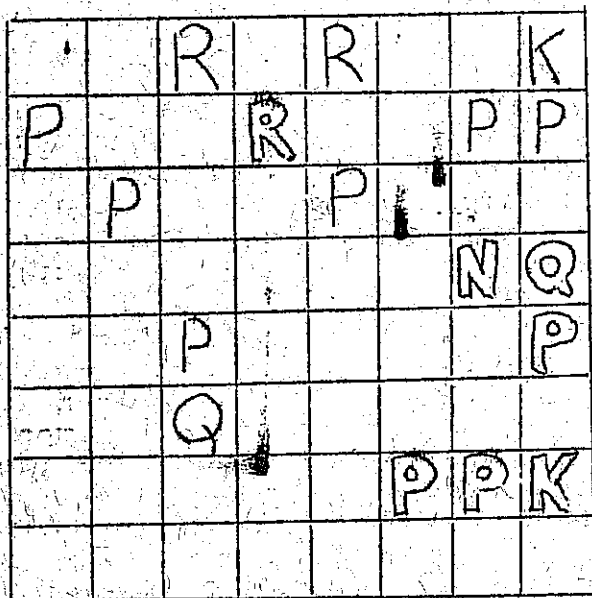
Walt Crede, Charleston: "I dunno, but it appears as though Charleston will be able to get its annual city tourney under way this fall. Sometime in September. I have been doing a little scouting around and have found, with little or no trouble, eight players who are interested; and I think that with a little effort from the point of high-pressure publicity this humble number can be increased to 15, maybe even 20! Taking stock, Charleston has well over the century mark in chessers, so that number would not be impossible. I can remember the time when as many a 35 or 40 took part in the chess league here--back in '35. It may be history will repeat itself after the war. I hope so. If anything comes of the present scheme, I'll let you know....Now don't get sore. I know you're pretty darned busy. But here is a suggestion. Do you think it would be possible to cut the length of the Bulletin to 4 pages, and issue it once every two weeks, instead of once a month? This will throw chess at the members more often, and will perhaps keep them more interested. You know 'absence makes the heart grow fonder'--yeah, of something else....Along with this idea, another comes: have each W.Va. chess center vote to elect a WVCB reporter to send you news, the balloting to be done by mail, the returns via 1¢ p. c. mailed to you. What think you?...Dr. Ernest Wolff, 510 Fifth ave., Montgomery, with whom I'm in a couple of corres. games, tells me he's joining the WVCA in the next few days. I think Dick Manahan will be a member before long, too. All the NEW members from these parts are due to the splendid efforts of guys like Dick Grimm, Hal Liggett and Charlie Chrislip. They all work at Carbide, South Charleston, and always have a form of tournament going during lunch at the plant."

(Replying to Idea No. 2 first, we've been trying to get an official reporter from each chess center for the last year, but without success. I very much doubt whether an election would have the desired effect, as reporters are born not made, but if each center wants to designate someone, it's okeh with me. I think however, Walt, you've been doing a swell job with Charleston, so why change? Will you accept my designation as the official reporter for Charleston and go ahead? I would like to hear from some of the other chess centers on this idea....On Idea No. 1, the only objection I could see would be that it would push up our cost considerably I'll do the work if the members will support the plan financially. Since our bulletins averaged only about 5.5 pages per issue last year and the new plan contemplates a total of 96 pages per year--semi-monthly publication--this would add \$3.50 to \$4 to the mimeographing bill. Biggest increase would be for postage which totaled \$13.74 for Bulletins 2 to 3--twelve issues--and likely will run about \$14.50 or \$15.00 this year, figuring a larger membership and no personal delivery of bulletins to Clarksburg members. In other words, issuance of a semi-monthly bulletin of four pages would cost us about \$20 a year more than the present monthly bulletin averaging 65 to 70 pages a year. Though we now have a sizeable cash balance in the treasury, most of our yearbook materials paid for--see financial report--and good expectations of more money yet to come, I do not believe our budget would stand \$20 additional expense. In fact, at our present rate of expenditure, I think we'll come out just about even next summer. HOWEVER, if you, Walt, can sign up donors to the extent of \$20 to insure a semimonthly bulletin of 4 pages I'm willing to address an additional 1,000 or 1,200 envelopes, fold and stuff that many extra bulletins and print some 2,500 additional pages. Which I think is a fair offer if I ever made one. P. S. Don't probe these estimates too carefully; I find some of them are based on a press-run of 75 copies, some on 100 copies, tho I believe the estimated \$20 increase in expense is not exaggerated; if anything, the actual cost would run slightly higher.)

Bob Jamison, Charleston: "Sorry I have held up dues payments of three people--Jessé Church, Cliff Mosier and myself. I started to mail my dues before I went on
(See next page)

WANT TO ENTER A PRIZE CONTEST?

BLACK



WHITE

This is an end-game position in the Hurt-Grimm encounter at Clarksburg. Hurt (White) has just played 24 Q-R5 threatening QxPmate. To avert this Grimm played 24...Q-K4ch, 25 P-N3 P-KR3, 26 N-E7ch K-R2, 27 NxQ Resigns. Of course, Dick might have held out longer had he foreseen the fork.

The puzzle we are offering is this: Suppose instead of 24...Q-K4ch, Grimm had played 24...P-KR3. What is the outcome? Does White win, lose or draw?

For the best correct solution received by the secretary with a postmark Aug. 31 or earlier, we offer a choice of the following: (1) membership in the WVCA for anyone you designate, (2) membership in the U. S. Chess Federation, (3) 4-month trial subscription to Chess Review, or (4) any \$1 chess book or credit of \$1 toward any more expensive book you may select.

In the diagram, the outlined men are white, the solid men black.

So put on your thinking-cap!

VOICE OF THE MEMBERS (continued from preceding page) ...

my vacation, and Jesse and Cliff asked me to inclose theirs. I got into a last-minute rush and forgot 'em. Inclosed \$1.50 for the three of us. Cliff and I plan to send along another 50 cents later, as an added contribution; we think the dues should remain at 50 cents."

Ray Griffin, Clarksburg: "The Philadelphia Inquirer has reduced the size of the Sunday paper and cut out the chess column. The Christian Science Monitor's columnist is in the Army but they are keeping the column going with a new writer named Allen. They call him 'one of the country's leader problem researchers' and, being a problem fiend his column seems to be mainly freak problems. In the two weeks he has written it he has given only one game and no end-games. But he does give some news...Chevalier's last column thanks the readers for the news and games they had sent him and said he hoped they would do the same for Allen. Our W. Va. affair is too old to be news; I did think a little of sending the Werthammer-Hartling game as the one between the first and second-place winners but after seeing a couple of Allen's column I decided strongly that he wouldn't want a game...I believe I told you Dr. Werthammer has the same two Tarrasch books I have--but both in German instead of only one."

(To which we might add that we have a note from Dr. Buschke that Dr. Werthammer has just laid in \$25 more worth of chess books. If there are any of you boys who are in hope of wresting the title from the worthy doctor in 1944, you'd better begin brushing up!...Too bad about the Inquirer's column becoming a war casualty. But we believe the columns will be back after the war--bigger and better than ever!)

Harold Heisey, Springfield, O.: "Enjoyed the July Bulletin very much. Am playing a three-game series for our city title. Results so far: Latum 1, Heisey 1."



WANT TO PLAY A CORRESPONDENCE GAME WITH A MASTER? Honorary Member George Koltanski charges \$2 per game, six games for \$10, and gives you a complete annotation at the end of each game. His address: 15 Washington Place, New York 3, N. Y. This should be a good chance to get your game in shape for 1944!