

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

NUMBER 17
NOV. 20, 1943

THE EDITOR APOLOGIZES

A long siege of severe colds which now appears to be over (or maybe I've just got used to it) coupled with an aching and otherwise ailing tooth (now happily departed) kept your editor not precisely bedfast but definitely subpar the last couple of months. This resulted in the vanishing of the Oct. 10 Bulletin and the delay of the November issue.

There is little an editor can say under such circumstances except, "I'm sorry." And many thanks to those who inquired.

NEW ADDRESS FOR THE BULLETIN

Temporarily, members are asked to address the editor's mail to Gené Collett, The Associated Press, Box 504, Pittsburgh 30, Pa. We hope to have a home address in Pittsburgh by our next issue.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE WVCA

Capt. and Mrs. B. W. Devericks are the parents of a five-pound 14-ounce son, William Camden, their first child, born Thursday, November 11 (Armistice Day), in Union Protestant Hospital, Clarksburg. With a pair of chess players for parents, what a formidable opponent young Bill will be a few years hence! Congratulations from the West Virginia Chess Association!

Felicitations are in order also for Eddie Foy who now boasts "SK10" (storekeeper first class) as his naval title. Members will recall he was an SK3C only a few months ago. Continue your excellent progress, Eddie!

HOW THE TOURNAMENTS ARE FARING

Chessmaster I. A. Horowitz, editor of Chess Review, won the U. S. Chess Federation Championship and the N. Y. State Chess Championship by finishing first in a field of 16 at the annual state congress held at the Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse, N. Y. Horowitz had 14 points--13 wins, 2 draws--with A. E. Santasiere, New York, close behind with 13½--12 wins, 3 draws. The rivals met in the final round separated by a half point. Horowitz needed only a draw to finish first but Santasiere needed a win. The game was a draw.

In the New England tournament at Boston, Santasiere won his three preliminary games and five final-round games without a loss or a draw, duplicating the 1942 achievement of Weaver Adams of Boston. Adams did not play this year.

Latest word we have from the Charleston City Chess Tournament is the score for the first seven rounds with these leaders: Irving Lowens 7-0-0, Walt Crede 6-1-0, Dick Grimm 3-1-2, Dick Manahan 3-1-1, A. B. Gilliland 3-2-0, Jesse Church 2-2-1, Alan DuVall 2-2-1. Other entrants have less than 500 percentage.

WORLD BLINDFOLD MARK BETTERED?

(Ray H. Griffin, Clarksburg, sends us the following clipping from the New York Times for Oct. 18.)

Upon his return from a chess exhibition at Hazelton, Pa., George Koltanowski, former Belgian master, learned of the recent performance

CONTEST NO. 2 CONTINUED

Our Contest No. 2, offered in the Sept. 10 Bulletin, was complete with misprint (the usual accompaniment of chess contests and one which we strove diligently but futilely to avoid). The mistake was first called to our attention by Johnny Hurt and apparently proved too utterly confusing for some of the other solvers. Johnny guessed the correct move intended: 25...Q-KB4 instead of Q-KN4. It would seem to be the fair thing to do to rerun the contest, with the conditions stated correctly, and let everyone have a crack at it again. As follows:

BLACK

		R	R		K
P		R		P	P
	P		P		
				N	Q
	P				P
	Q				
			P	P	K

WHITE

The position is shown herewith (immediately after White's move 24 Q-R5):

About this position, Hal Liggett suggested-- "Black's best move is 24...Q-B7, 25 N-B7ch K-N, 26 N-R6ch K-R, and White draws by perpetual check. If Black takes the N, he loses by 26 N-R6ch PxN, 27 Q-B7ch K-R, 28 Q-N7 mate. If after 26 N-R6ch K-R, White plays 27 Q-B7 Q-N3 wins for Black."

But Dick Grimm says: "If after 24...Q-K4ch, 25 P-N3, Black had played 25...Q-KB4, 26 N-B7ch K-N and White should now play 27 N-R6ch PxN wins or if 27 N-N5 Q-N3 and I think Black is safe. If I'm wrong here, I would like to know how White wins or draws."

This is a tough situation but ^{that} is only the more reason why our members should want to test their wits on it. Questions to be solved are:

Since there is only one "best" move (if that many), is it the one suggested by Hal, the one preferred by Dick--or some other move? Do either of the moves--or any other move--give Black a chance to win or draw? In other words, starting after 24 Q-R5, the position shown in the diagram, what is the logical outcome of the game with best play on both sides?

Those who already have been so good as to send in solutions may have them back for further analysis if they'll drop a postcard to the editor--or may let them stand if satisfactory. Those who were perhaps misled by the typographical error in the Sept. 10 issue and thus failed to send in answers are invited to get into the swim.

For the best solutions received with a postmark Dec. 10 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) four-month trial subscription to Chess Review, or (4) any \$1 chess book or credit of \$1 toward any more expensive chess book you may select.

Johnny Hurt, who had White in this contest game (Dick Grimm was Black), writes:

"Never expected a game of mine to excite such interest."

The Hurt-Grimm match will be Game No. 16 in the 1943 West Virginia Chess Yearbook and, with inclusion of the prize answers, should have some exciting annotations!

VOICE OF THE MEMBERS

Eddie Foy, SK1C, Auburn, Ala.:

"The inclosed dollar is for the West Virginia Chess Association. Credit it to both Anthony and me. The State Association seems to be doing all right--especially with things as they are throughout the world--and let me congratulate you, again, and all those who have assisted you on the work being done.

"Recently, I was home on leave and had a fine time. I was fortunate enough to attend the first round of the Charleston city tourney, held at the home of John Hurt, three times champion of Charleston and also winner of the first W. Va. State Chess Tournament. I was the guest of John and his wife for dinner and I had a most enjoyable evening. Besides Hurt, my old friends, Reid Holt, Jesse Church and Walt Crede were present for the opening of the city tournament. Then, too, there were some new players whom I had never met before. War or no war, the quality of Charleston chess has deteriorated little--if any!

"While in Charleston, I learned that Arthur Maloy is in the Navy (Seabees). Recently, I also learned that John Hurt, too, is now in the Navy; so, he, as well as Maloy and the writer, will have to wait awhile before getting the chance of again winning the city title. For a real chess tournament, just wait until we hold our big VICTORY TOURNAMENT--in about 1947! The State Tournament for that year should be a good one, too.

"While on my leave, I ran into another of the old members of the Charleston Chess Club: Jerry McGrew, now Lt. McGrew, Army Air Force. And, last year, I unexpectedly ran across Lt. Simms, Chemical Warfare Division, U. S. Army--well known to many of Charleston's older chess players as John Simms, who played in both tournaments and matches in the 'good old days.' Also, recently, I read of the fine work done by Col. Donald Adams with the U. S. Engineers in Ireland--another Charleston chess player!

"Things here at Auburn are about the same. Plenty of work; but that is a good thing. Still, there are no indications that I will be moved at all soon. But one never knows. The weather is nice down here: As I write, I can hear mocking birds singing outside, nearby. There are many in the South but I never heard them before last year. I like to hear them sing, their voices so clear and strong.

"Best wishes for yourself, 'Gene, and all the other members of the West Virginia Chess Association and all my chess friends."

George Lewis Morrison, Toledo, O., formerly of Charleston (in reply to a letter soliciting renewal of his WVCA membership):

"Thanks, 'Gene. Have been transferred here, and am too busy to think about chess. We'll skip it for this year. Good Luck!"

"N" FOR KNIGHT

Chess Review has asked its readers for their opinions on the substitution of "N" for "Kt" in game notations. We believe this a good move and thoroly agree with Reader L. F. Oakley, Steubenville, O., who says: "Sometimes due to poor light, imperfection in printing or a too hasty glance, one can easily mistake the Knight and King squares and their moves."

FINANCIAL STATEMENT -- AUGUST 10 TO NOVEMBER 20

	<u>Recd</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Bal.</u>
	\$	\$	\$
Bal. on hand Aug. 10 (see Bull. 15)			\$34.45
Bull. 15 (80 copies 6 pp) mimeo \$1.23, stamped envelopes \$1.03		2.26	32.19
Bull. 16 (75 copies 4pp.) mimeo \$0.80, stamped envelopes \$1.04		1.84	30.35
Correspondence with members		.83	29.52
2 additional reams paper for Yearbook		1.92	27.60
Award Prize Contest No. 1		1.00	26.60
Memberships & renewals: William Schaeffer 50c, Mrs. Ludwig Frank \$1, Dr. Ernest Wolff \$1, Mrs. B. W. Devericks \$1	3.50		30.10
Contributions: Cliff Mosier \$1, Eddie Foy 50c, Anthony Foy 50c	2.00		32.10
Balance in general fund Nov. 20 \$32.10; in correspondence tourney fund \$2.50.			

ADDRESS CHANGES

Dr. Albrecht Buschke, 15 West 56th St., New York 19, N. Y.
 Gene Collett, The Associated Press, Box 504, Pittsburgh 30, Pa.
 Capt. B. W. Devericks, c/a Post Engineers, Ft. Knox, Ky.
 Edward M. Foy SK1c, USNR, Disbursing Office, Naval Training School
 (Radio), A. P. I., Auburn, Ala.
 George Koltanowski, 150 Nassau St., Room 2207, New York 7, N. Y.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

50 Mrs. B. W. Devericks, 317 Sumner St., Clarksburg, W. Va.

CHESS NEWS IN NEWSPAPERS

Because of the limited amount of newsprint available, most newspapers have had to limit or eliminate the amount of space devoted to chess. In Huntington, Member Sam Abrahams has partially solved this problem thru the medium of the Sunday Herald-Advertiser's "The Reader Speaks" department. Here is Sam's latest "letter to the editor," which speaks for itself regarding the possibilities of this section of the newspapers as a chess medium and also for Sam's ability as an OCI (Office of Chess Information) operative:

"Editor, The Herald-Advertiser:

"In conversations with prospective members that they take up chess playing, we are oftentimes told that it is too deep and subtle a game for the average person; that it does not afford relaxation or recreation; that it engrosses valuable time which ought to be devoted to more important pursuits.

"We tell such skeptics that anyone can learn to play chess, and can learn to enjoy it, but all cannot become experts; that any activity of the mind is bound to serve a purpose, when the subject being considered is intelligently handled, and that chess, contrary to popular misunderstanding, is a very absorbing and exciting pastime; that once a student acquires a knowledge of its intricacies, he will become an enchanted and enthralled devotee.

(Continued on next page)

CHESS NEWS IN NEWSPAPERS (continued from preceding page)

"Chess has a tendency to make people think. It has all the qualities that are good, and none at all that are bad. It is reputable; it is dignified. It costs nothing to play. It is a game of pure skill only. No financial consideration is required to enhance the interest of the players. It is a game of ideas or wits, and, best of all, it is a game for ones of average intellect.

"Ernest Reel, noted chess writer of Milwaukee, graphically described the game as follows:-

"Chess prevents brain fag, and the busy man becomes oblivious to care. The lawyer clears his mind of cobwebs; the doctor forgets the woes of mankind; the engineer revels in its intricate combinations; the student uses it as a mental punching bag, and the artist admires its beauty. Chess teaches resourcefulness, foresight, caution and circumspection, qualities that have their corresponding rewards in the game of life as they do in the game of chess."

"The members of the YMCA Chess Club will cheerfully give instructions to ones sincerely interested in learning to play our Royal Game, the most intellectual of all recreational pastimes. The club meets on every Thursday night at the 'Y' at 7:30.

"YMCA CHESS CLUB,
"Sam Abrahams, Secretary."

MEMBERSHIP GOAL A LONG WAY OFF--THOUGHTS ON THE YEARBOOK

It doesn't look as if we are moving very rapidly toward our 75 membership goal this year. Mrs. Devericks' renewal this month brings the total to date to 50--exactly two-thirds of the way. There seems no doubt we'll exceed our 56 membership of last year, but we won't get to that 75 figure unless there's a speed-up somewhere along the line. (In November of last year, we reported 49 members, just one less than on the same date this year.)

Somehow I feel the fault for the lag lies principally with your secretary. As you all know, for the last year I have been working and living in Pittsburgh; my family in Clarksburg, pending the sale of our house there. Within the last week we have consummated that sale and the only thing left to do now is to obtain quarters in Pittsburgh, which I hope will be within the next week or two. Finding a house in war-busy Pittsburgh is not the world's easiest job, but I am hoping it will not cause too great a delay.

Early in December, therefore, I hope to be installed in Pittsburgh, complete with typewriter, mimeograph machine and other equipment necessary to my labors on production of the Yearbook.

Meanwhile, I have already laid out the typescript for the first 10 or 12 pages, using a new style of arrangement for the games. The effect, I find, is quite pleasing and, I believe, will be satisfactory to the members.

What I started out to say is this: Last year our big spurt in membership occurred after issuance of the Yearbook. Think it will repeat?

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