

Fourth Annual Tournament

War probably cut attendance sharply but even at that Charleston matched the 12 entries at Clarksburg in 1941.

Feature was the re-emergence from his lair of Landis Marks of Huntington, often referred to as "the uncrowned chess king of West Virginia," who at last acquired a crown by romping thru the 1942 meet without the loss of a game. His quiet ways and modest smile made him a favorite with all those who met him for the first time as he had long been with his old acquaintances.

Walt Crede said in his Charleston Daily Mail column: "Landis was two or three laps ahead of the entire field--shows how good he is. And because he is good, every member of the clan who knows the difference between a Pawn and a Queen will be gunning cleverly for his pelt. Oh, he'll know no peace, you can rest assured of that...The Idoubt if he'll let it worry him."

In a letter from Pres. A. W. Paull comes both commendation and a warning for the new champ: "Mr. Marks is the best player in West Virginia, I think, except Mr. B. E. Stover, of this city, who, I believe, is his equal, if Mr. Stover was in practice." Will you please, Pres. Paull, see that Mr. Stover gets in practice in time to oppose Mr. Marks in '43?

Homer O. Peterson, of Delaware, O., former chess champion of Ohio Wesleyan college, who has appeared at the Clarksburg club at its last three Wednesday night sessions, murdering the boys with monotonous regularity, reports he once played 57 games with Landis Marks and ended up two games in arrears. Mr. Peterson also has a high respect for Mr. Stover's play, as well as that of T. E. Cobb of Huntington, and thinks we should manage in some way to get both of them out for the '43 tourney.

Financial Report of Tourney

Harold Liggett, chairman of the Charleston tourney committee, furnishes this report of the tourney finances:

Received 13 tournament fees: Paull \$2, Marks \$2.50,
Liggett \$4.50, Crede \$4, Martin \$4.50, Hartling
\$4, Hurt \$4, Griffin \$2, Collett \$2, Challinor
\$2, Jeffries \$2.50, Heisey \$2.50, Morrison
\$4.50; total.....\$41.00
Expended: 13 membership fees to state association
\$.50, \$6.50; rental Kanawha hotel \$7.50; prize
awards, Marks \$9, Liggett \$6, Crede \$4, Martin
\$2.50, Hurt, Hartling & Collett \$1.50 each,
Griffin and Challinor \$0.50 each; total.....\$41.00

Prizes, in War Savings Stamps, are being mailed to winners with this bulletin. Congratulations to each and every one! (It was decided, due to the metal shortage, to dispense with the awarding of a trophy this year.)

Method of Playing Tournament

Pres. Paull paid his entry fee but was unable to attend. This left 12 entries. These were divided into 4 groups of 3 players each. Each group played a round robin, winner going into the Championship Flight, second into the Consolation, and third into Class A. The Kirk-Holland system was used to break ties. This system provides in the event of a tie a player shall receive 4 times his own score, the score of all opponents he defeats and half the score of opponents he ties. If there is still a tie and the tied players drew their match, the player who had the Black men in the game is declared winner.

There was a drawing for color and opponents at the beginning of each day's play. There was no seeding, all names being drawn by lot.

Where a replay was necessary (as it was on two occasions), the players merely replayed their original schedule with colors reversed.

Results of the various rounds are given on a separate sheet at the end of this bulletin.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Financial statement covering period from organization meeting until beginning of play in Charleston meet (but not including membership fees and dues collected at the tournament):

Receipts: Total \$9.50, coming from 19 memberships: William Challinor, B. W. Devericks, Layne H. Ford, Gene Collett, Ray H. Griffin, Dr. R. T. Humphries, Ernest Johnson, all of Clarksburg; Walt Crede, Edward M. Foy, William F. Hartling, all of Charleston; A. W. Paull, E. S. Campbell, H. M. Russell, J. P. Altmeyer, B. E. Stover, Thomas Sweeney, all of Wheeling; John F. Hurt of Huntington, A. P. Taylor of St. Albans and Parkersburg, Reid Holt of St. Louis, Mo.

Expenditures: Postage and stationery, association business, 51 cents; association bulletin No. 1, printing and mailing, 55 cents; 1942 tournament announcements, printing and mailing, \$1.44; scoresheets for 1942 tourney, 50 cents; total expenditures, \$3.00.

Balance on hand June 27, 1942: \$6.50.

Since then the association has received another \$6.50 from membership fees and dues, and has incurred some additional expense, but this will be reported at a later date.

Six of the directors named at the '41 business meeting accepted office: Altmeyer, Sweeney, Hurt, Crede, Hartling and Taylor. The Clarksburg club chose Challinor and Johnson as directors. No additional directors accepted office although one of those nominated, Bonner Gillespie of Clendenin, expressed considerable interest in the state association...It had been planned to hold the '42 meet in Huntington but after John Hurt's return to Charleston, the idea fell thru and eventually the event was transferred to Charleston.

The Inclosed Ballot

There never seemed time to hold a business meeting at Charleston so we are driven to the expedient of conducting one by mail. Officers are to be elected and a number of other matters decided. The secretary has collected as many of these matters as possible and has included them on the inclosed ballot.

Who gets the ballot? All 1941 and 1942 members of the association, as well as some 40 or 50 other state chess players on the secretary's mailing list. It goes to everyone receiving a copy of this bulletin.

Who may vote? All who paid entry fees to the 1942 tourney are automatically members of the association and eligible to vote. Others should fill out the inclosed membership or renewal form and mail it to the secretary together with their ballot and 50 cents, which is the annual dues. We are hoping a large number of West Virginia players will enroll. The fee is a small one but we hope it will do much to further chess in West Virginia. Membership entitles the holder to copies of all state association bulletins and to a copy of the association's 1942 yearbook (for more about which see later in this bulletin).

When may one vote? All ballots post-marked July 20 or earlier will be counted. From those in far-distant spots or where it has been necessary to forward mail (as to boys in service) a little additional time will be allowed. We hope to have results ready for announcement by August 1. And we hope, and we trust not in vain, that our membership will have hit 50 by that date.

Who are eligible to hold office? All 1941 and 1942 members, of course. Should a 1941 member be elected who fails to renew his membership this will disqualify him and the post will go the person with the next highest number of votes.

How to vote for directors. --Election of directors posed something of a problem. Last year we nominated 11 and only 6 accepted. The two named by the Clarksburg club brought the total to 8. After mulling the problem over, we arrived at this plan:

- (1) The two organized chess clubs in the state will each name two directors. Other players in the association will name four more directors, giving organized and unorganized groups equal representation in the association.
- (2) Therefore, only members residing outside Kanawha and Harrison counties will vote for directors on the ballot and they vote only for persons residing outside those counties. The Clarksburg and Charleston clubs are asked to hold their elections within the next 10 days, if possible, and report immediately to the secretary.
- (3) By the association's 1941 ruling, not more than two directors may be named from any one county, so members will please vote for not more than two from one county.

The 1941 members of the association are listed in the secretary-treasurer's report on page 2. The additional 1942 members will be found on the "Results of the Tournament" sheet.

A stamped self-addressed envelope is being inclosed for the use of each member and prospective member. Please use it, even if only to mail back a note, "I'm not interested." But we're hoping you'll say, "Here's my 50 cents; count me a backer of West Virginia chess!"

About the Yearbook

Last year your secretary planned to issue a yearbook on the 1941 tourney. Response of the members to the idea was so unenthusiastic, however, that he lost his own enthusiasm for the idea. This year, however, in view of conversation with members at Charleston, I feel there is a definite demand for a yearbook. If the members will permit, therefore, I will go ahead with the work, considering it a part of my 1941 duties--and I hope it will become an annual institution with the association.

The plan: 16 pages, 8½x11 inches, with illustrated cover (Bill Challinor of Clarksburg has promised to do the picture). It will be mimeographed. We hope to get the book out in late August or early September. Each member will receive a copy. My estimate of the cost is \$6 to \$8, not including mailing costs. This will just about drain the present treasury, so we'll need a lot more members to get in financial shape for next year. Spread the good word in your town.

We'll need a lot of games annotated for the book. If you are willing to help with this work, please indicate as much on your ballot and tell how many games you are willing to take. First come, first served, as long as they last.

Other Association Business

Some of the Charleston players suggest Clarksburg for the '43 tourney. We're willin' but feel the other cities should be allowed to speak before anything is settled. For the good of chess, the tourney should visit as many cities as possible.

Landis Marks urges a round robin tourney for next year. "No elimination tourney is fair," says he. And we agree. But is it possible? With 12 or 13 players it would require three days to get off the games. Could players spend 3 days at a meet? What if we got more than 13 players? Would it be possible to hold some sort of pre-tourney elimination matches by towns and send only so many players from each? This gets us back to elimination but of a different type. Let's have your opinions.

Most of the other matter on the ballot is self-explanatory. Please fill yours out and return by the next mail, if possible. And until next bulletin time --

Yours for better chess and more of it,


Sec.-Treas. W. Va. Chess Association