

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

NUMBER 32

APRIL 10, 1945

REID HOLT ALIVE, IN GERMAN PRISON CAMP

We reported sadly last month that Pfc. Reid Holt, of Charleston, was missing in action. We were happy to receive the following letter from Reid's wife, Garnette, under date of April 3:

"After three months of alternate hope and despair, we received word from Reid on Easter Sunday.

"It was only a card, written January 9, and I'm still fearful of what may have happened since then, but am humbly grateful for that news.

"He said he was well, had no wounds and was being treated fair. The camp he is in is near Mulhberg, which is near the Czech border. I can write him but can send no packages until I get official notice from Washington. However, I doubt if anything will get to him now.

"He was in Germany when reported missing. His new division was in our thinly-held line in the Ardennes. Those green troops that had never been under fire were no match for the crack Nazi divisions that hit them.

"Reid loved to go on hunting trips and always had such poor luck that it became a family joke. In one of my letters, I wished him good hunting. He began his card with: 'I didn't do so good on that hunting you wished for me; Jerry was too good.'

Garnette gives Reid's prison camp address but says she feels it would be useless for his friends to try to write, so we are not publishing it.

The news that Reid is alive and well, even on January 9, is highly cheering. The words, "Missing in action," are so harsh and chill. With the Americans at the gates of Berlin, and Germany collapsing under the weight of her own sins, we may hope that it will not be long before Reid can write us himself--as a free man again!

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MORGANTOWN CLUB GOING STRONG

Bill Schaeffer reports sessions of the Morgantown Chess Club still going strong. They had 20 players out the other evening, including a number from Preston county. Bill and Milford Mott took advantage of the occasion to sign up three of them for WVCA membership. Welcome, boys!

VISITORS AT 125 MERITT

Two chess visitors called at The Editor's home in the last month... One was L.A. Scholpp, who lives only a half mile from us but works for the Firestone people. We discussed chess publications, as he plans to start one for his own Akron club. The other visitor was William O. Hulby, algebra teacher and director of the chess club at Carrick high. We happily crossed pawns with both of them and hope for return visits.

EXCHANGES, OR, THE ADVENTURES OF DENKER

Most of the amateur chess magazines arriving this month have articles dealing with the tour of U.S. Champion Arnold S. Denker. He didn't make West Virginia but no doubt our members will be interested in his ups and downs. I was.

Both V.E. Vandenburg's Lansing, Mich., and Ed Treend's Detroit bulletins report on Denker in Detroit March 2. Van traveled over and was one of the victims. There were 30 simultaneous games, the champion winning 28 and drawing 2.

On March 12 he played in Akron, winning 38, losing 1, drawing 1, and next day, Bill Byland's Pennsylvania State Chess Federation Bulletin reports, he played 42 at the Pittsburgh Downtown YMCA, winning 35, drawing 6 and losing 1 (to two high school boys, consulting).

AND A BANNER NIGHT IN CLEVELAND!

Denker's banner night, however, was March 10 at Cleveland, says Joe Dorsey's Cleveland Area Chess Bulletin. There he was startled out of a year's growth to find 85 addicts with boards and men awaiting him. It was the biggest simultaneous ever put on in Cleveland and the biggest ever played by Mr. Denker and, for all we know, may have set a new U.S. record. The final count showed the champion had won 67, lost 12 and drawn 6, and the fact that he was able to continue his tour after such a tremendous amount of chess in one night speaks well for his stamina.

Among the Cleveland winners was Mrs. M.L. Warren, author of the articles on the White Chess Collection used in the WVCB from time to time. It was reputed to be the first time Mr. Denker had ever lost a game to a woman and Mrs. Warren confides it was the first time she ever defeated a champion--so they're even!

OTHER NEWS FROM THE EXCHANGES

Van's Lansing Chess Club Bulletin reports 37 players on the Club's Ladder showing rapid growth of this new group. Van has been named president.

Two new exchanges are on our desk this month, the Indiana Chess News and the bulletin of the Firestone Chess and Checker Club at Akron, Ohio.

The ICN has 9 mimeographed pages this month, and is edited by Leslie E. Dunkin, Box 117, South Bend 24, Ind. It is chockful of state news about chess. Coming up is the fourth annual Indiana tourney on Sunday, May 13, at the Logansport YMCA.

The Akron bulletin, whose first number came out ~~March 15~~ is edited by our Pittsburgh neighbor, L.A. Scholpp, who is a week-end Pennsylvania-to-Ohio commuter. The club conducts a Ladder similar to that of the Detroit club, explained by Ed Treend in the November WVCB.

Our list continues to grow from month to month in the exchange department. One of these days, we will furnish a list of all the chess magazines we are now receiving, their editors, and other pertinent data.

APRIL 6, 1944

PROBLEM PAGE

EDITED BY
YOUR EDITOR

ANNOUNCEMENT COMING UP!

On this page next month, we hope to present an announcement of importance to every solver, as well as our readers generally. Get set!

No. 28

BY TOM SWEENEY

PROBLEM LADDER --INCLUDING FEBRUARY

Standings, up to and including Problem 24 (number in parentheses shows points awarded on February problems --Nos. 22, 23 and 24):

Thomas Sweeney (3), 25; Arthur Brenneman (3), 24; Bob Crean (3), 22; Gene Collett (0), 17; John F. Hurt, Jr. (0), 8.

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

MATE IN TWO

SOLUTIONS TO MARCH PROBLEMS

No. 25 --N-K5. No. 26 --1 PxR(N) ch K-K3, 2 BpxB(N) ch KxP, 3 P-K8(N) ch K-N3, 4 P-B8(N) ch QxN, 5 PxQ(N) mate. No. 27 --R-N4.

No. 29

BY P.A. BOORER

Sweeney says of No. 25: "May I point out what I would consider a serious flaw in this composition? Most composers believe every man used must be essential and integral to the solution. Here it seems any one or all of these pieces could be omitted without changing the solution or introducing a new mate: The Black B and the two White P's on KB file."

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

MATE IN TWO

A. Brenneman calls No. 26 a Knight-mare. Tho for obvious reasons we did not say so in last month's bulletin, this problem is dedicated to C.H.L. Schuette, editor of En Passant, official organ of the Pittsburgh Downtown Y Chess Club, who recently warned his readers: "No problem showing the promotion of five pawns to five knights will be tolerated." (Bulletin 28, p.9.)

No. 30

BY F. GAMAGE

No. 27, the solvers say, was the toughest of the lot. In fact, not all solved it! It was from the Australasian Chess Review (1939).

DR. BUSCHKE'S NEW LIST

Dr. Albrecht Buschke, dealer in chess books old and new, has just issued a four-page mimeographed list of some 70 or more items dealing with chess problems, ranging from 25 cents to \$22.50 --something to fit every purse. If you have not received a copy of this catalog, you may obtain it by writing to Dr. Buschke at 50 East 11th Street, New York 3, N. Y. Be sure to tell him you a fellow member of the WVCA. (Send problem answers to Gene Collett, Editor)

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

MATE IN TWO

DR. BUSCHKE -- CHESS COLLECTOR

Readers who enjoyed Dr. Buschke's two articles in the February and March issues of the Bulletin--one on collecting chess autographs, the other dealing principally with the Cook Collection of chess books in the Princeton University Library--have expressed a desire to hear more of the doctor's work in these fields.

Dr. Albrecht Buschke came to the U.S. a few years ago from Berlin... He had been a lawyer in Germany but his hobby was chess and he brought with him one of the finest European chess libraries in private hands.

Since arriving in America, he has continued to add to his collections. His chess books number some 3,000 and he has more than 2,000 items in his autograph section (see Bulletin 30, pages 7 and 8).

"The number of items was estimated at 1,500 in 1938 but I found this to be rather conservative," writes Dr. Buschke. "Since then I have discovered that some of the autograph envelopes for one person contain as many as 50, 100 or even more items. I believe the 2,000 mentioned in my article in 'Hobbies' is still a rather low figure.

BACKS OF SCORE SHEETS BECOME NOTE-PAPER

"To this autograph collection I have been able to add occasionally since I came to America. There are now, for instance, 10 very interesting letters from William Steinitz to Harry Nelson Pilsbury, written on the backs of the scores of the games Steinitz played against Schiffers in Rostov in 1896.

"The scores are not in Steinitz' handwriting, but apparently were scored by a secretary. However, there are annotations in the masters' own peculiar penmanship. On 10 out of 11 scoresheets, Steinitz had written letters to Pilsbury, advising him of the progress of the match as well of the status of negotiations for a return match with Emanuel Laker which, as you know, took place later that year in Moscow.

"Some of the letters refer also to a projected book, apparently a compilation of the games played in the four masters' tournament in St. Petersburg in the winter of 1895-6. It seems Pilsbury and Steinitz had the idea of publishing the games with their notes.

MAYBE A PAMPHLET ON THE STEINITZ LETTERS

"Unfortunately, nothing came of this idea, but it is interesting to know such a plan existed. Some of the remarks are especially worthwhile because of their typically Steinitzian flavor--such as the comments he made concerning his young conqueror, Emanuel Laker. I hope I may some day be able to reproduce these letters in facsimile form as a special pamphlet."

Perhaps we will be able to persuade Dr. Buschke sometime to do an article on those letters for us. It was an exciting period in the chess world and the letters, written under the tension of an important match, should bring back much of the flavor of these days a half century ago.

The American scene gave the doctor a chance to supplement and document his collection with many native items, including one outstanding

group--about a dozen Capablanca letters written to the Philadelphia chess sponsor, Shipley.

"These cover about every period of Capablanca's life," writes Dr. Buschke, "especially the 1925 Moscow tournament when the great Cuban felt run down.

"Also I have acquired a lot of Emanuel Lasker's letters to Shipley, throwing light on the rather sad affair of the cessation of Lasker's chess magazine...

THE BOOK THAT LASKER NEVER WROTE

"There is also one letter in this lot which shows Lasker at one time had the idea of writing a book on Paul Morphy, and I believe if the chess world had known about the plan, it would have done everything possible to help Lasker realize it. It is too bad this comes to light only now. It is probable that the publication of Maroczy's book on Morphy prevented the much too modest Lasker from writing on the same topic at about the same time."

Dr. Buschke says he still is at work on a Gesamtkatalog of all chess works published before 1850. In this he is cooperating with and has the cooperation of such organizations as the Cleveland Public Library, the Princeton University Library, the Library of Congress, and the Huntington Library, all of them much interested in the project.

REGISTRATION OF RARE CHESS BOOKS

Also under work in Dr. Buschke's chessic laboratory is a registration of all rare chess books in libraries and private collections in the United States--the criterion of rarity being that not more than 10 copies of the book must be known to be in existence. He has asked private collectors to write him, giving size and character of their libraries.

As for the books in Dr. Buschke's collection, we will have to wait for a scholarly article from his own hands to cover this important subject. The volumes range from the early 15th century (a Latin Cessoles MS dated 1419) down to 1945. Cessoles is represented by some Incunabula editions, the very rare Spanish (Reyna, Valladolid, 1549) and some 15th century manuscripts.

VARIATIONS NOT YET IN THE BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Most of the chess writers of the 16th to 18th centuries will be found represented by several copies of the first and most important later editions and the doctor has variations not listed in the bibliographies.

His mimeographed list of chess periodicals runs page after page, and some of the items are very rare. He has not only a fairly complete set of the important tourney books but original scores from some of them.

Americana includes such items as the first American printing of Benjamin Franklin's "Morals of Chess," in the December, 1786, Columbian Magazine; Paul Morphy's short-lived chess column in the New York Ledger (1859-60); a complete set of Morphy's and Fiske's Chess Monthly (1857-61), and a nearly complete set of Alain C. White's Christmas Books

JOHNNY HURT AT THE PENNSYLVANIA OPEN - II

Jacob Levin won the Pennsylvania State Open, a 1½-point knockout affair, held at Philadelphia, Johnny Hurt writes.

"In an elimination tournament of this kind, the order in which the players finished, except for top man, doesn't mean much," says Hurt. "But the others came in, roughly, about like this: DiCamillo, Dreher, Shaffer, S.Sklaroff, Hurt, B. F. Winkleman, and so on down for 24 players.

"Two of the games I played have appeared in the paper here, both fair, even though they were ones I lost! -- the ones to Dreher and Sklaroff. Still, the only other game they used for the paper was the deciding game between DiCamillo and Levin, so I feel highly complimented. I was sorry not to get to play Levin and Winkleman.

"Looks like I'll be here till June, anyway. My wife is with me now, so I won't be playing so much chess...I have read four chess books lately, and feel that my game is improving."

Last month, we gave the scores of Johnny's games against Shaffer and Dreher. Herewith we offer his games against Sklaroff and Mankain (notes by Hurt, at our request):

QUEEN'S PAWN OPENING

	<u>MANKAIN</u>	<u>HURT</u>
1	P-Q4	N-KB3
2	N-KB3	P-Q3
3	P-QB4	B-N5
4	N-B3	QN-Q2
5	P-K4	P-B3
6	P-KR3	B-R4
7	B-K2	Q-B2
8	P-QN4	P-K4
9	P-Q5	BxN
10	PxB	B-K2
11	B-N	R-N
12	B-K3	N-R4
13	Q-Q2	B-B3
14	R-QB	R-Q
15	P-QR4	N-B
16	P-R5	Q-N
17	B-Q	N-N3
18	B-R4	N-K2
19	PxP	PxP
20	N-Q5	K-B!
21	NxN	BxN
22	BxBP	P-Q4
23	P-B5	PxP
24	Q-B3	R-Q6
25	Q-B4	B-R5
26	QxKP	RxBch
27	QxR	N-B5
28	Q-Q2	NxP

29	R-N2	N-B5
30	R-R2	B-N4!
31	K-B	N-K3
32	Q-K6ch	QxQ
33	PxQ	BxR
34	R-R4	N-B5
35	Resigns	

I start slow and finish strong.

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ALEKHINE'S DEFENSE

	<u>HURT</u>	<u>SKLAROFF</u>
1	P-K4	N-KB3
2	P-K5	N-Q4
3	P-Q4	P-Q3
4	P-KB4	P-QR3?
5	N-KB3	N-QB3
6	P-B4	N-N3
7	P-Q5	N-N
8	B-K3	B-N5
9	QN-Q2	QN-Q2
10	B-K2	P-K3
11	QPxP	BxP
12	O-O	B-K2?
13	PxP	KBxP
14	N-Q4	B-QB4?
15	P-B5!	Q-R5
16	QN-KB3?	
16	PxB wins	

16	...	Q-K5
17	PxB	QxBch
18	K-R	PxP
19	N-B2	

19 NxP looks good.

19	...	Q-R3
20	P-QN4	B-K2
21	N(B3)-Q4	O-O-O
22	P-B5	N-Q4
23	P-B6	N-K4
24	PxBch	KxP
25	BxBch?	

25 P-N5 double plus.

25	...	KxB
26	Q-K2ch	K-N2
27	QxN?	

27 Q-N5ch would offer some chances.

27	...	B-Q3
28	N-B5	BxP
29	Resigns	

In this game, I start strong but blunder on the 16th move, and can't recover.

WAGNER SEES 50,000 AS U.S.C.F. MEMBERSHIP GOAL

Elbert A. Wagner, Jr., president of the United States Chess Federation, sends us this note with the April 1 number of his Monthly Letter:

"I have been too completely swamped to reply as yet to your open letter although it is my intention to do so at the earliest opportunity. Meantime, the within will give you some idea as to how I feel on the subject of membership."

Mr. Wagner refers to an Open Letter to USCF Officers (Bulletin 31) in which we urged the organization to set its sights on a membership goal of 50,000 or 100,000 and urged strongly that the USCF has a need for its own official organ. We are happy to find ourselves entirely in accord with Mr. Wagner on the subject of membership. He says:

BIGGEST U.S. CHESS PROGRAM IS NOW UNDER WAY

"The USCF has embarked boldly upon the largest chess program ever undertaken by an organization in this country...If prudence alone dictated our course, we should still be standing on the shore wondering whether the voyage should be made..."

"But there is an abundance of power in the chess clubs and chess players of the United States, much of it yet untapped, to carry out successfully the enterprises which are in progress. Actually, the larger ventures which are being planned have not yet been announced, but they are in process nonetheless."

"...Our growth in the past year and a half has been encouraging. But this is only the faint beginning. A normal Federation membership should not be less than 50,000. We shall not reach that figure in 1945, but momentum should accelerate rapidly this year, and the attaining of our full size and strength is not as far off as the first thought might suggest..."

CHESS FOR THE YOUTH OF AMERICA

"...Our junior program is not measured in terms of national championships. It is here that chess has its greatest opportunity to prove of real worth, to answer a social need. It would be absurd to forward chess as a nostrum for every adolescent problem. Yet it is certain that wholesome recreation is a necessary ingredient of healthful growth, and we know that youngsters need only be shown how to play, and that from there on the game's own charm will hold their interest."

"A chess club in every high school is a breath-taking prospect. Estimate the number of high schools in your own state. The figure will run from the hundreds to thousands..."

"Much work must yet be done to develop chess activities in the many corners of our country where interest in the game is still dormant. Nearly half of the states still lack an active state organization, and hundreds of cities, large and small, are without a chess club."

Do you want to have a share in the expansion of chess in America? It is easy--just send your \$1 membership to Paul G. Giers, 2304 South Avenue, Syracuse, N. Y. And if you have an extra five-spot to devote to it, select five young chess-playing friends and enroll them as members!

BIRTHDAY PROFILES

(Next month's profiles will cover birthdays between May 15 and June 14. If this hits yours, send material to the editor at once.)

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APRIL 18 - BOB CREAN

Robert Boniface Crean bounded into the West Virginia Chess Association at the last state meet and promptly proceeded to become one of its most active members. He finished eighth in the tourney; then turned his attention to the task of composing and solving problems, in which field he has become a leader.

Bob was born April 18, 1915, in New York City, studied in Los Angeles City College, the University of California at L.A. and Columbia University, graduating with a chemistry B.S. He is employed as a chemical engineer by E. I. du Pont and Co., Inc., Belle, W. Va.

"Ever since I started grammar school, I wanted to learn chess," says Bob. "In my last year, the opportunity came. One of my buddies learned the moves from another buddy, who had learned them from another buddy, and so on, for several buddies back. In lieu of chessmen, we wrote the names of the pieces on milk bottle caps.

"Surprisingly enough, I was taught the correct moves of the pieces. The method of checkmating, tho, left something to be desired. It seems when the King was in check, he had to move, regardless of the manpower in his vicinity. Even capturing the checking piece was forbidden. This made it legal to check one King with another. An interesting game!

"At Belmont high, Los Angeles, I was fourth man two years on a five-man chess team. We were third in a nine-school league and won a letter --a large affair with a knight in white leather stitched over it.

"College interrupted my pursuit of the Black King. I finally settled down here with du Pont. The Charleston Daily Mail had a chess column Sundays and in it appeared the name of a boy I had worked with in a TNT plant in Illinois--Bob Dexheimer. After that I showed up at the Canton restaurant as often as shift work allowed, to permit myself to be badly trounced by just about every one in Charleston.

"I like chess more than the results of my games and original problems would indicate. But if I should be cast up on a desert isle and had my choice of partner in a lonely existence--a beautiful blonde or a good chess player, I would choose...both! Incidentally, I score all my games. At present, I don't have time to go over many of them but I expect they'll be good reading--some day after this war is over."

Bob's "Beautiful blonde" is, of course, purely hypothetical. He is happily married and he and his missus, Maxine, have a daughter, Patricia Michelle, born December 6, 1944.

Bob already is vowing to improve that eighth place he got in the '44 state meet. "When will it be?" he asked in a current letter.

(Address: 1524 Lee Street E., Charleston 1, West Virginia.)

APRIL 26 - HARRY BERRY, JR.

One of the youngest--if not the youngest--members of the West Virginia Chess Association is Harry Anderson Berry, Jr., of Oak Hill, Fayette county, a student in Greenbrier Military School at Lewisburg.

He was born April 26, 1928, at Thurmond, W. Va., and so will be only 17 this birthday, despite which he is in his third year of membership in the Association. He plans to start to college next year, probably Washington and Lee University at Lexington, Va.

"It was through the chess articles in the Charleston Daily Mail that I became interested in chess," Harry writes. "I hope Mr. Crede will derive some satisfaction from the fact that he started me playing the game. I read one of his articles one night, got interested and received a chess set from my Mother the next Christmas. I now have two sets, of which I am very proud.

"The friend who actually taught me to play is in the Army now. When we got started, it wasn't long before he and I had a lot of people playing around home. It has died down somewhat since then; I came up here to G.M.S. and he went to the Army. None of us was very good and I guess the other folks just didn't get the bug like we did.

"Up here I have played a lot. There isn't any team or club but a lot of the fellows play, and I have played several faculty members. I guess no one has thought of trying to organize a club.

"Most of my chess playing is in the winter-time. Comes summer and my thoughts turn to golf.

"I hope some day to enter a state tournament although I know I likely wouldn't win a game."

(Address: 316 Main Street, Oak Hill, West Virginia.)

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MAY 5 - EDWARD I. TREEND

Edward I. Treend, of Detroit, is another of our out-of-state members who liked our Yearbook and Bulletin, and joined up to help out with the good work. He has been a real active, aiding in many ways with our publications, including the stenciling and printing of two pages of the November, 1944, Bulletin.

Ed was born May 5, 1896, at Chicago, Ill., attended the University of Chicago and is now an accountant for the Detroit Edison Company. He is married and has two children, Portia Ruth, 20, a sophomore at Michigan State College, East Lansing, and a son, Edward Earle, 10.

He learned chess from fellow high school students when he was about 16 but has played most of his games since 1930. He reads practically all the chess magazines and has a collection of 200 chess books, with an emphasis on the rare and unusual. He also has an exceptionally fine collection of clippings on the game, in album form.

Ed played twice in the Michigan State Tourney and twice held the championship of the Edison Chess and Checker Club at Detroit, of which he has been an officer since 1937, being secretary all years except one as president and one as vice president. He has been secretary-treasurer of the Michigan State Chess Association four terms and is now serving his second term as a director of the United States Chess Federation. He has been associated with the magazine Chess since its inception and for the last two years has been in complete charge of its American affairs.

For the last we have saved the best. Treend has been editing an amateur chess publication--the bulletin of the Edison Chess and Checker Club--since 1937. So far as we know, this is the oldest amateur chess magazine in the United States. Any challengers?

(Address: 12869 Strathmoor Avenue, Detroit 27, Michigan.)

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MAY 6 - MRS. LUDWIG FRANK

This is the lady who through no fault of her own caused your Editor the greatest embarrassment in his entire chess publishing career--Mrs. Ludwig Frank, of Charleston.

The Editor was in the throes of getting out the 1942 Yearbook and a big (for those days) issue of the Bulletin when Walt Crede sent in Mrs. Frank's membership. Taking one fleeting glance at the name, Ye Ed typed it into the membership list as "Mrs. Frank Ludwig."

And like that it appeared--both in the Bulletin and the Yearbook. No sooner were the things in the mail, it seemed, than the letters of protest began arriving from Charleston members. We were snowed under!

We sat down and wrote an abject letter of apology to Mrs. Frank, and waited anxious days until her reply came--complete forgiveness and an invitation to dinner and a game of chess with Mr. and Mrs. Frank next time we're in Charleston. Could forgiveness be sweeter?

Mrs. Frank, whose first name is Gretel, was born in Nuernberg, Germany, lately a battlefield of this war. She graduated from the Lyceum there, prior to coming to the United States. She is married and has two children. She learned chess at 21 from a friend.

We haven't had a chance to accept that dinner and chess invitation yet but we warn Mrs. Frank plainly--we most certainly do intend to take advantage of it--and at some not too distant time!

(Address: 1570 Kanawha Boulevard E., Charleston 1, W. Va.)

COLLETT TAKES LICKINGS IN THE DOWNTOWN Y TOURNEY

The boys have ^{been} kicking your editor around in the annual tournament at the Pittsburgh Downtown YMCA. His score to date is 4-5-0, with two men still to be met--and both of them ranking in the top three in the meet. Which means, we predict, a final score of 4-7-0 for us, though we promise to go down fighting!

LETTERS AND SUCH LIKE

Prof. Victor Lemke, Morgantown, writes March 25: "For some time I've been squirming under the publicity Bill Schaeffer has been pouring over me. From his raves, you might really believe I've been wearing my legs off to the hips in a solo effort to organize the Morgantown Chess Club, and that I soon will challenge Alekhin for the World Championship.

"First--Bill should have most of the credit for getting the local club started. When we talked about organizing a club, Bill asked me for the use of my name in publicity because he himself hadn't lived in Morgantown very long. Although I've been promoting the Chess Club among the students and faculty members, Bill has done most of the hard work and should get the praise he deserves. Originally, I didn't care very much whether we had a chess club or not; I enjoyed the strenuous sessions with my friend and favorite opponent, Dr. Paul Brawner, and occasional matches with visiting slickers. Bill's contagious enthusiasm sold me the idea of forming a club.

"Bill's excessive praise of my playing has put me on such a big spot that I'm likely to get lost on it. To say that I am 'almost flawless' is nonsensical. I have neither the time nor the inclination to become an expert player. Overemphasis on chess would interfere with my other interests. Even a persuasive so-and-so like Bill can't talk me into traveling a couple of hundred miles to a tournament and then dripping sweat over a chess-board for a whole week-end. I like comfort at least as much as I like chess! If the tournament were held in Morgantown, I'd feel compelled to participate, but otherwise --POO!!"

(From the tone of Prof. Lemke's letter, we believe Bill almost has sold him the idea of playing in our next state meeting. Keep up the good work, Bill! And welcome to the WVCA, professor!)

ANTHONY FOY BACK ON ACTIVE DUTY

Eddie Foy, Norfolk, Va., writes March 23: "My brother Anthony has been discharged from the hospital and is back on duty. I only hope he has fully recovered. I wish he could get home; it would do him a world of good...

"I have not played any chess for quite a while, and I surely must be rusty. I am glad John Hurt did so well in Phila...I hope chess continues to stay alive in West Virginia, as I want to get in some games when I get back home --some day."

WORDS OF PRAISE FOR THE BULLETIN

We mailed January, February and March numbers of the Bulletin to Eric Hassberg, brilliant young problem editor of Chess Correspondent and received from him a letter, a few lines from which we print herewith, not exclusively in self-praise we hope but somewhat with the idea of letting WVCA members know how others feel about our official organ:

"I had seen the WVCA about a year ago, when it was still pretty irregular, and am really amazed how it has improved since. I should say that it seems to me probably the best mimeographed chess magazine in
(Turn to next page)

NEW MEMBERS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

- 71 Joe Renak, Lock Drawer A. Reedsville
 72 William E. George, Lock Drawer A. Reedsville
 73 Ed. Watkins, Arthurdale
 74 Prof. Victor Lemke, 903 Rawley Avenue, Morgantown

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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WVCA FINANCIAL REPORT - MARCH 11 TO APRIL 10, 1945

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LETTERS AND SUCH LIKE (continued from preceding page)

the States, and I could hardly imagine how it could be further improved. It is interesting, varied, in short has a little bit of everything.... I will see that I find space to include a note about the WVCA in the next Correspondent. I hope only to be able to give it the praise it deserves."

ABOUT THE 1945 STATE TOURNAMENT

Bob Crean, Charleston, asks: "Any news about the next state meet? I'm going to begin agitating pretty soon."

It was almost unanimously agreed, in the poll of members last summer, that we would hold our next state tournament as a three-day affair over the Labor Day week-end of 1945. The opinion was so general we have not gone to the directors for a vote this spring.

Is there any sentiment for an earlier meet? Our own idea was for a leisurely five or six-round tourney, a couple of games each day, and get a start for home early Monday afternoon, ready to tear into our work the next day. What say the rest of you? Dissenting voices will please stand up and be counted. Just drop a letter or card to the Editor; if there is any show of interest in or sentiment for an earlier meet, or for a meet of two days only, we'll ask the directors to vote immediately.

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