

# WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

NUMBER 34

JUNE 10, 1945

## DIRECTORS ASKED TO PICK '45 TOURNEY SITE

### PFC REID HOLT FREED FROM HUN PRISON CAMP

Pfc. Reid Holt, of Charleston, who was reported missing in the Battle of the Bulge (March Bulletin) is a free man again after a time in a German prison camp. The joyful tidings come from his wife Garnette who writes June 3:

"I've been trying to write you for three weeks--that is how long it has been since I heard that Reid is safe. The news came in a letter from him; I didn't receive the official War Department telegram until today.

"He was liberated April 24 and was in a field evacuation hospital in Germany. Early in May he went to a hospital in England and I hope that he is in this country tonight. He wrote May 22 that he expected to leave that week and the radio announced today that 9,000 men arrived in New York. He may be among them.

"I don't think there's much wrong with him that plenty of food won't cure; he said he just couldn't seem to get filled up.

"I am so happy; I can scarcely wait till Reid gets home!"

We all rejoice with you, Garnette, in the good tidings; and we hope Reid is soon, if not already home to stay! And if so, Reid, we hope you will be all recovered and rested up in time to meet the gang at the State Tournament come Labor Day.

The time is coming around for another Annual State Tournament.

The members voted last spring to hold the 1945 meet the Labor Day week-end. The place and other arrangements remain to be decided.

Ballots will be mailed out to directors within the next 10 days, asking their decision on (1) place of the meet, (2) whether a two-day or a three-day meeting shall be held this year, (3) whether we are to continue using the Swiss System inaugurated last year.

Members will be informed of the directors' action in the next bulletin and a call will be sent out to determine probable attendance.

Last summer we asked members to indicate where they would like the 1945 tourney to be held. We told them their ballot was not binding on the directors; that it was simply an expression of their opinion! Members were asked to give a first and second choice.

First choices were: Charleston 8, Huntington 4, Wheeling 2, and Clarksburg 1. Second choices were: Clarksburg 6, Huntington 5, Wheeling 2, Charleston 1. Of total mentions, Charleston and Huntington got 9 each, Clarksburg 7 and Wheeling 4.

As members know, the tournament was held in Charleston last year. We have never held it in the same city twice in succession. Some of us feel that, for the good of the Association, it should go to a new city.

(Turn to next page)

city each year. That, however, is a matter to be decided by the board of directors, and we will attempt to present it to them impartially.

A few letters on the subject have appeared in recent issues of the Bulletin, and others are appended herewith, including messages from members at Wheeling and Morgantown. Will Huntington, Clarksburg and Charleston members write us at once, so that their position may also be laid before the board? The new letters:

A.W. Paull, Wheeling: "I hesitate to suggest Wheeling as a place of meeting. As you know, the location is not favorable so far as the distance from the other cities in the state is concerned. If, however, it is decided to hold the meeting here, we will do the best we can to entertain the players who come. There are only three in the city who are playing chess to any extent: Mr. Russell, Mr. Altmeyer and myself. We are pretty bad, for the more we play, the worse we play, and we do play quite a lot."

William Schaeffer, Morgantown: "Noting considerable current discussion as to the battleground for the '45 WVCA Tourney, the Morgantown Chess Club suggests that Morgantown be considered as a site both fitting and appropriate. If the action is now in order, Bro. Collett, the MCC respectfully invites the State Tournament to the University City, and we shall feel highly honored if our invitation is accepted. It should be noted that a tournament here would have two timely advantages, both beneficial to the growth of the state outfit, namely: (1) The normal tournament turnout would be augmented by several Morgantown players, plus a number from Preston county, who have not yet got their feet wet in state competition and most or all of whom would be unlikely to travel any great distance to take part in their first competition. (2) The shindig would greatly encourage organized chess and its expansion in the Monongalia-Preston area during its growing-pains era."

Milford B. Mett, Arthurdale: "Regarding a meeting place for the '45 State Tourney, why not Morgantown? It is not far from Wheeling, Clarksburg and the other Northern West Virginia centers. If the meeting were at Morgantown, I know that Dr. C. Y. 'Choppy' Moser, Dr. Parke Johnson, Joe Rehak, Bill George, probably Ed Watkins, and myself, definitely, would enter. Besides the above Preston county crowd, Dr. Lemke, Bill Schaeffer, Dr. Brawner and three or four more of the Morgantown group would certainly enter if the meeting were in their own town. Probably we Prestonians wouldn't be able to produce a state champion but would enjoy the meet hugely. If the tournament were in Morgantown, it would give chess a real boost hereabouts. Possibly some players from Wheeling could be induced to come to Morgantown who could not go further. How about it?"

#### ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION?

If not, your \$1 membership fee will be highly welcomed and will do a world of good in promoting the USCF program. Sent it to Paul G. Giers, Secretary, 2304 South Avenue, Syracuse 7, New York. Remember, you get the USCF Yearbook with your membership.

#### NEED CHESS BOOKS -- NEW OR OLD?

Write to Dr. Albrecht Buschke, 80 East 11th Street, New York 3, N. Y. He can supply any book in print. Tell him you are a WVCA member.



## YE EDITOR VISITS THE MORGANTOWNERS

We went to Morgantown Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, to foregather with that live gang in the new Morgantown Chess Club. It wasn't their regular meeting night but they set up a special session in their meeting place, the art room of Morgantown Junior High. It's a swell place for a club-- tables of the right height and width for two games and places for 16 players. And there's more room in the hall for extra tables if the crowd gets bigger!

To our embarrassment, we discovered Newspaperman Bill Schaeffer, a guiding spirit of the organization, had run stories in the Morgantown papers for three days advising that Gene Collett, Secretary of the West Virginia Chess Association, was to make a personal appearance, in the flesh, etc., etc.; come on, come all!

### WE FLATLY REFUSE TO MAKE A SPEECH

After we'd got over a severe case of stagefright as a result of our Bill's pernicious publicity and persuaded the Morgantowners we'd never made a speech and didn't intend to start at the age of 44, everything went swimmingly. Bill got his revenge on us by beating us two out of three, but in all other ways, we had a lovely evening of chess. Few scores were kept. We did get a copy of a game in which Dr. Victor Lemke, Morgantown, downed Milford B. Mott, Arthurdale, but it vanished ere we got back home, so we can't even give you that. Anyway, we had fun and hope the Morgantowners will invite us back!

The boys asked several questions about the State Tournament and if the Association might be willing to take it to Morgantown. Mr. Francis Price of the Morgantown Junior Chamber of Commerce was present and said he would talk to the Jaycees about cooperating in case the meet does go to Morgantown.

### HEY, YOU CHESSERS! WANNA GO TO A TURTLE RACE?

Somehow we suspect Price of kidding us a wee bit. He said the Jaycees have an annual Labor Day event--a turtle race--and he would be happy to have the chess players as guests. Nobody cracked a smile, not even Frank. Anyway, we're willing to match our chessers against Frank and his turtles--and we'll bet the chess players move first!

Bill Schaeffer and his missus entertained us nobly at their home on Charles Street. Bill also made us happy by handing us another membership, the 10th he's given us from the Monongalia-Preston county area since he started his chessic campaign in early February.

### NOTE ON ACHIEVING A WVCA GOAL

These, combined with three new ones this month from New York and New Jersey, sent in by Eric M. Hassberg and Frank DeBlasio, and one from Washington, D. C., on the recommendation of N. P. Wigginton, make our 1944-45 membership 79--a record figure. Our best previous was for 1942-43 when we had 56.

We've reached Your Editor's goal of 75 members, by the way; suppose we'll ever achieve that figure of 100 once set for us by Walt Crede?

# POETICA REGUM

PROBLEM DEPT. EDITED BY  
FRANCIS J. C. DEBLASIO

(Kindly address all communications concerning this department--with self-addressed, stamped envelope for personal replies--to Francis J. C. DeBlasio, 353 Irving Avenue, Brooklyn 27, New York.)

## WHAT--NO PROBLEM PAGE?

Gene Collett asked me whether I preferred some page heading other than "Problem Page"--he must deal in the occult! I immediately grabbed at the opportunity to finish my sweeping job by changing it to "Poetica Regum." Meaning: Chess, which comes from the Persian word "shah" or king, is often called the game of kings. This page deals with the art of composing and solving chess problems, often referred to as the poetry of chess. So, the appropriate page heading seems to be "the art of the poetry of kings" or, briefly, in Latin, "Poetica Regum." Do you like it? If not, please suggest a better--even "Problem Page" will do.

## SOLVER'S LADDER (INCLUDING MARCH SOLUTIONS)

Tom Sweeney 28, Arthur Brenneman 26, Bob Crean 25.  
Note: Credits are given at one point per correct solution (the old system) up to and including Problem 30, after which the new system, as explained last month is in effect.

This is very special: The winner of the 1944 WVCB tourney will be announced next month!

## KEY TO APRIL PROBLEMS

No. 28: 1. Bb2 (1. B-S2). No. 29: 1. Qf3 (1. Q-BB). No. 30: 1. Pb5 (P-S5).

Note that we are giving answers in both English and algebraic notations this time, to accustom solvers to the new system. "S" is the symbol for Knight.

## PRESENT PROBLEMS

Nos. 34, 35 and 36 are simple but fine examples of echoed correction play, four-way play and model mates, respectively. Remember the deadline for solutions: Mid-night, August 10.

## SIMPLE TERMS

The arrangement of the men in a problem is referred to as the setting of the problem. A red-herring is a piece which has no function whatsoever in a problem. A hook is a key other than the intended one (or a no-solution). A defense is a Black move. A try is an only apparent key; it doesn't solve the problem. A good or close try is defeated (not cooked) by one, and only one defense!

No. 34 - ORIGINAL  
J. BUCHWALD, NEW YORK

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

MATE IN 2 7+5=12

No. 35 - ORIGINAL  
R. TUMP, MILWAUKEE

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

MATE IN 2 7+5=12

No. 36 - ORIGINAL  
THOMAS B. SWEENEY, JR.

		B				R	
			N	K			
P			N				
				K			

MATE IN 3 5+2=7

# ART IN ART -- AN ARTICLE ON PROBLEMS BY FRANCIS J. C. DEBLASIO

It is very true that problem composing is an art. But it is equally true that there is art in art. There are all grades of art--from the artless all the way up to the artful--whether it be in music, painting, sculpture, architecture, literature, poetry or problem composing!

That you WVCA composers have a natural aptitude for the art is self-evident. You prove this, beyond the question of a doubt, by the beautiful concepts you incorporate in your creations! You are learning fast and you need now learn only how to introduce a little artfulness into your composing art.

This trick, fortunately, is one which can be easily acquired; lack of it indicates not that the composer lacks ability, merely that he needs more experience. Of prime importance is to learn the difference between the good and the bad in the presentation of a problem idea. Towards this goal I will lead you--if I may--with helpful hints from time to time.

To show what a difference a change of presentation can make, I have taken three problems, chosen at random from the originals which appeared in the last year of the WCB, and have attempted a revision of them. Aside from eliminating inferior points, I have left the problems intact. They are presented at the right.

A. The original of this problem (1k4q1/p7/8/1S6/8/1R4r1/8/2K4Q) has a "brutal" checking key and no provision for checks (in the setting).

B. Its original (B7/6B1/4P3/K1kSpP31/lp6/lP3p2/2Pq1P2/3Rb2Q) has what composers call an "ugly" key--one which captures a piece other than a pawn.

C. Its original (2b1sB1k/K2SpQ2/2Rp4/5p2/5P2/6P1/2s2P2/2R1r3) has complete lack of economy; many of its men are red-herrings.

Note: All of the points of inferiority mentioned above may be tolerated--may even be unavoidable--under certain conditions, with the exception of the law of economy--to have even one red-herring in a problem is considered a crime!

I could tell you much more about these problems but I am going to reverse the procedure and let you tell me. Thus:

1. What is the key of A? of B? of C?
2. What are the close tries (if any) in A? B? C?
3. What defense defeats each close try in A? B? C?

As a reward for your effort you will get one point credit on the Solving Ladder for each correct answer that you send me by August 10. Fair enough?

Q	R					B
N						
	N					
		P				
P				K		
K	Q					R

MATE IN 2 (A) 7+4=11

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

MATE IN 2 (B) 9+7=16

						K
		N	B	K		
R				P		
					N	
R			R			

MATE IN 2 (C) 5+4=9



# CHESS IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

We have lately added to our list of correspondents N. P. "Wig" Wigginton, editor of *The Divan News*, official organ of the Washington Chess Divan, which has its quarters at 1741 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. We believe the following extracts from a letter of May 9 will interest every West Virginian:

"On May 1, the Washington Chess Divan was 9 years old. We have, now, 128 members, of whom 28 are on our Honor Roll, serving in the Armed Forces all over the world. A fairly accurate estimate indicates that, at one time or another, almost 400 chess-players have belonged to the Divan.

## DIVAN OPERATES ALL THE TIME--WINTER AND SUMMER

"The Divan 'operates' all the time, in effect. Until very recently, our special weekly meeting-night has been Wednesday. This month, for the first time, we've planned events for each Wednesday and Saturday evening, and that full schedule probably will continue thru June. We may ease up a little during July and August!

"Dues are \$7.20 a quarter, payable in advance; \$8 per annum for non-residents and enlisted personnel of the armed forces; and half the regular rate for school-boys. It costs about \$200 a month to operate the Divan in our present quarters. To this expense the *NEWS*, of course, contributes considerable.

"We've a pretty decent set-up, even if we are in the basement! Maybe 900 square feet of space, in a convenient, 'good' downtown neighborhood. The walls are quite spiffy--beautiful knotty pine panels; and we have them looking pretty clubby, adorned as they are with 110 chess pictures and photographs, mostly of our various activities thru the years. We have about 26 tables, not quite that many sets of men.

"We possess an utterly priceless electric 10-second clock, and eleven more or less trustworthy chess-clocks. Also a bookcase full of chess periodicals, and a fairly good library for practical purposes--about 40 books. And a wall-board, which is not just an ornament; a big easy-chair, and--of course!--a divan. That's about all. We've not recently begun to augment and refurbish our 'plant'--which is the only respect in which we're willing to concede any chess club on earth might outclass us now!

"We've got Human Assets galore--and they're the all-important consideration. No. 1 is the incomparable Reuben Fine--naturally. For three years, he's been part and parcel of the Divan, highlighting its program and activities, bringing us 'fame' and with it all, he is truly 'one of the fellows.' I should mention also Donald A. Murgidge, who is (if any one person is) the 'brains' of the Divan. And LeRoy Thompson is no weight-around-our necks, by any means!"

## LET'S NOT FORGET THE WIG WHILE DOING OUR REMEMBERING

Wigginton himself has played a big part in making the Divan what it is. For most of its eight years, he was secretary-treasurer of the club. Last January he was elected president and now all he has to do is look after the membership, direct the club's events and 'handle' the *Divan News*, which is a 16-page mimeographed monthly and the best local chess paper we have yet been privileged to see.

The Divan is Wig's hobby. "Actually," he says, "my chief contribution to the club has been my self-appointed task of trying hard to keep everybody--particularly Divanites--as Divan conscious as possible. I have been well rewarded for our efforts, but I guess you'd have to know the Divan first-hand to understand why, and how well."

# CHESSIC MAN OF THE YEAR -- LETTERS & STUFF

We want to nominate Charles M. Hardings, Minneapolis, Minnesota, as Chess' Amazing Man of 1945. We knew he edited the 4-page Minneapolis C. & C. Club News each week but not till he apologized for shortchanging us on a letter he owed us did he tell us--

"I carry 296 correspondence games, am treasurer of our club, do all the writing, hokto work, addressing, folding and so forth on the News, play 15 to 20 games a day over the board and, last but NOT least, I have to work for a living. Hohum! Nothing to do till tomorrow!"

When Our Missus read his letter, she said: I can tell you another fact about him. He's not married, or he wouldn't have time for all this chess."

The thought intrigued us. We queried Chuck. Answered he:

"So your Mrs. wants to know if I'm married. Tell her I said POSITIVELY and HOW."

"The 296 games may seem a lot to you; when I explain, you'll see the light. I work as a motion picture projectionist. While at work I have 15 to 20 minutes at a time in which I have nothing to do. This happens three times an hour, except for about two minutes when I put in new film. Everything else is automatic. During those free minutes, I do my correspondence chess--to pass the time.

"The Mrs. likes to see the shows and I do not so I park her in a show while I play chess at the club. In my postal chess, I get put on an average of 15 to 20 games a day and sometimes more as I'm a very fast player. I keep all my games on a paper diagram and play mostly from that, so a game a minute wouldn't be fast. Come on, Gene, and follow me for a few days!"

We STILL think 296 correspondence games simultaneously is a LOT OF CHESS!

## LIKES NEW PROBLEM EDITOR--ACQUIRES PROBLEM BOOK

Robert Crean, Charleston, writes May 30:

"Frank DeBlasio, our new Problem Editor, is going to do wonders for the Bulletin. Like you, I was tossed for a loss on the first few moves by the algebraic notation. But it isn't so bad and I'll get used to it in time. Guess I'll have to because I have recently come into possession of a book on problems and the whole thing is algebraic. Also I have purchased one of those stamping outfits you've seen advertised in 'Chess Review' for printing chess diagrams. I suppose you've seen 'em. Snazzy, aren't they? I have a few dozen odd problems I've been working on around here and it's much quicker to set up a board from one of these diagrams than from the Forsythe notation. No home is complete without a set of these stamps."

Lt. Cmdr. Thomas B. Sweeney, Patuxent, Md., writes briefly May 25:

"Good work on getting us such an excellent new Problem Editor...I was in Paris on V-E Day and go back there tonight. What a war!"

Cliff Mosier, Dunbar, W. Va., peeks into Charleston and reports May 22:

"Walt Crede is still running his little book store and Jesse Church working nobly overtime on his job on the home front. But so far as I know, there is very little chess being played around this part of the state. However, once an addict, always an addict, and we'll be back at it again when times ease up."



THERE ARE TWO J. HURTS

We asked Johnny Hurt, Charleston, now with the U.S. Navy, if he was the J. Hurt we saw reported as winning all the chess championships on the West Coast. He replied May 10:

"J. Hurt has been champion of Washington State. He is good. I have not met him and forget his first name--it is not John, however. He is a young man; I saw his picture in Chess Review once."

In a second letter, on May 25th, Johnny says in part:

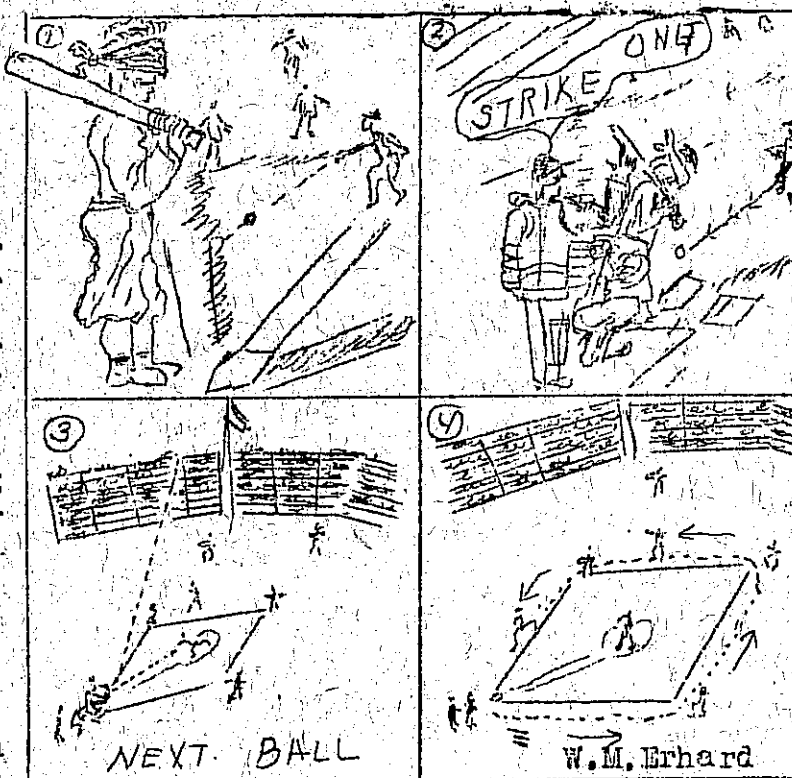
"Just a line as I'm leaving Philadelphia. My ship will be commissioned any day almost in Baltimore and I'll be going to the Pacific. My last day's play at the Mercantile Club gave me considerable satisfaction, as I won both of two games from Dreher, who you will recall defeated me in the Pennsylvania Open Tournament and finished third in that event. The openings I have enclosed. I played a session with Shaffer, winning one, losing one, drawing two, about a week ago. He was fourth in the meet. I have had a good time playing chess here and feel my game has improved, especially the end-game. I wish I could play in the State Tourney with you this year--maybe in a year or two. Give my regards to all the boys."

Here are the openings from the Dreher games. We like the second

in which Johnny has Black, better:

No. 1: Scotch Game. White, Hurt; Black, Dreher. 1 P-K4 P-K4, 2 P-Q4 PxP, 3 N-KB3 N-QB3, 4 B-QD4 P-Q3, 5 NxP B-K2, 6 N-QB3 NxN, 7 QxN B-D3, 8 Q-Q5 BxNch, 9 PxB B-K3, 10 B-N5ch and White goes on to win.

No. 2: Nimzodian Defense. White, Dreher; Black, Hurt. 1 P-Q4 P-K3, 2 P-QB4 N-KB3, 3 N-QB3 B-N5, 4 Q-B2 P-Q4, 5 PxP PxP, 6 N-B3 B-K3, 7 P-QR3 BxNch, 8 QxB QN-Q2, 9 B-N5 R-QB, 10 P-K3 P-D4, 11 N-K5 PxP, 12 QxP NxN, 13 QxN R-D7, 14 B-N5ch (if 14 B-Q3 RxBP, 15 B-N5ch K-B!) K-K2, 15 O-O Q-Q3 & Black wins, by control of the open file.



THE BLINDFOLD CHESS CHAMPION GOES IN FOR B A S E B A L L

CREDIT LINE

We want to thank Robert Crean for his fine work in cutting stencils for pages 4, 5, 6 and 7 of this issue, and pages 6 and 7 of the May number. Members

have doubtless noticed the smaller type and the improved appearance... Bob, who recently became the owner of a typewriter, has volunteered to do stencils for four pages a month. We appreciate this help in the big job of getting out the Bulletin!

TOO MUCH STUFF THIS MONTH

We had about enough copy for 24 pages, instead of 12, (this time so a lot has to go over until July. We have added several new exchanges & will list them for you next month.



# GAME FROM THE DOWNTOWN Y M C

Your Editor ended in a ninth-place tie with W. P. "Bob" Holbrook in the Pittsburgh Downtown Y Chess Club Tournament. In the May issue of *En Passant*, edited by C.H.L. Schuette II, the Collett-Holbrook game is given, with notes by W. M. "Bill" Byland. Bob got the jump at the beginning and retained the pressure thruout, playing a beautiful game. This contest will give West Virginians some idea of the strength of the Pittsburgh players. We reprint herewith from *En Passant*.

## ENGLISH OPENING

Holbrook Collett

- 1 P-QB4 P-K4
- 2 N-QB3 N-KB3
- 3 P-K4

One of the late Nimzovitch's favorites. While it should lead to no definite advantages for the first player, it is a welcome change from the more hackneyed variations.

- 3 ... B-B4

Better would be 3...B-N5 with the likely continuation 4 N-B3 N-B3, 5 P-Q3 P-Q3 with an even game.

- 4 P-KN3

The correct plan; pressure on Q5 is White's motif in this variation.

- 4 ... P-B3

4...N-B3, 5 B-N2 N-Q5 and only then P-B3 would lead to easier development for Black.

- 5 B-N2 N-R3

An interesting idea, aiming at control of Q4, and better than the routine 5...P-Q3. The loss of time involved is of little moment.

- 6 KN-K2 N-B2
- 7 O-O P-Q4

Indicated,....but opening the game usually favors the better developed side. Black should castle before undertaking positive action in the center.

- 8 BPXP PXP
- 9 PXP QNXP
- 10 NxN Nxn
- 11 P-Q4!

Thus White emerges from the opening with a definite, tho small, positional advantage.

- 11 ... PXP
- 12 NXP N-K2

To forestall the threatened N-N3.

- 13 N-QN5! Q-N3

And not the natural 13...QxQ, 14 KRxQ O-O because of 15 N-B7 R-N, 16 B-B4 and White has all the play: 16...N-N3?, 17 N-R6! Or 16.... B-KN5, 17 KR-QB.

- 14 Q-K2 O-O
- 15 B-KB4 N-N3
- 16 B-B7 Q-R3
- 17 KR-Q B-K3
- 18 P-QR4

Freeing the White Queen for other duty.

- 18 ... KR-K
- 19 Q-B3! B-QB

Forced. If 19... P-QN3, 20 Q-N7 wins the exchange after 20...QxQ, 21 BxQ or 20...B-QB, 21 QxQ, 20 B-QB?

Graceful but 20... Q-Q5! is much stronger. If then 20...L-N3, 21 N-Q6! R-B, 22 BxB QxB, 23 NxB QRxN, 24 QxP QxQ, 25 BxQ R-N, 26 R-Q7, with a pawn ahead, and a fairly simple win.

- 20 ... N-K4

Black's remaining chance. The "brilliant" 20...B-N5 is, of course, answered by 21 QxB QRxB, 22 N-B7, etc.

- 21 Q-Q5

Stronger than 21 Q-K4 B-KN5! which leads to nothing for the first player.

- 21 ... B-N3
- 22 N-B7 BxN
- 23 BxB Q-QB3??

An outright blunder, which loses at once. Of course, the Knight can not be protected (23...Q-KB3, 24 R-K or 23...Q-K3, 24 QxQ B or PxQ, 25

(See bottom next page)

# BIRTHDAY PROFILES

(Next month's Profiles will cover birthdays from July 15 to August 24. If this hits yours, send material to the Editor at once.)

--o--

## JUNE 26-LAYNE H. FORD

Most of us haven't heard from Layne Haldeman Ford for a long time. When the last word came, he was serving with the American Army in Italy. Layne has been with the Yanks a long while and likely will be in an early group of homecoming 85-pointers--unless his particular job is so important Uncle Sam has to keep him on.

Layne was born June 26, 1910, at Grafton, W. Va., a son of Gene W. and Ada Haldeman Ford. He received an A.D. degree from Davis and Elkins College and his LL. B. from Washington and Lee University. He was unmarried at last account. He was 25 years old when he learned chess "through practice and study."

He is a charter member of the WVCA, having joined at the organization meeting at the 1941 State Tournament in Clarksburg, the only one in which he participated.

At that time Layne was manager of the State Reemployment Bureau at Clarksburg and a member of the Clarksburg C.C. He is remembered by the boys there as a careful, deliberate player, who gave no queens away. Later, he was transferred to the Charleston office and then joined the U.S. Army.

Our last letter from Layne came while he was still in training in the U.S. Since then, his mother has renewed his membership each year, receiving his Bulletins at his Grafton address and forwarding them. Mrs. Ford said Layne wasn't getting to play much chess overseas but he was looking forward to many happy reunions over the board after he returns to the States.

(Address: Box 534, Grafton, West Virginia.)

### GAME FROM THE DOWNTOWN Y MEET (concluded)

RxN) but it can move away. After the indicated 23...N-N3 or Q2, 24 R-K R-F White would still retain a slight positional edge, in view of Black's Q-side, which has little prospect of successful development without some material loss.

24 BxN

Wins, of course, but 24 QxN! is much prettier, and even more forceful: 24... RxQ, 25 BxQ! or 24... QxBch, 25 KxQ B-R6ch, 26 KxB RxQ, 27 BxR, etc.

24 ... QxQ  
25 RxQ B-K3

26 R-B5

The rest is technique, and Black could safely resign here.

26 ... QR-Q  
27 BxQNP R-Q7  
28 B-QB3 R-QE7?  
29 B-K4 R-K7  
30 B-Q3 Resigns



## JULY 1 - WILLIAM CHALLINOR

Bill Challinor of Clarksburg, another charter member, is one of the WVCA's most loyal and active adherents. Members will recall his covers and frontispieces for the 1942 and 1943 Yearbooks and the many articles contributed for both the Yearbooks and the Bulletin. He is also by way of being the '44 Yearbook cover artist, if that somewhat "mythical" publication ever comes out.

Bill was born on July 1 of a certain year at Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire, England. For some reason, he declines to say what that certain year was, so that there seems no way of deciding whether he or A.W. Paul of Wheeling is the dean of West Virginia chess. And that is the only hint we intend to give you about Bill's age!

Challinor attended Glasgow Art School, Scotland, and Wedgewood Institute, Burslem, England. He has lived in the U.S. many years, working as engraver and designer for various china and pottery concerns. His last ~~few~~ years or so have been spent in Clarksburg with the McNicol Pottery Co. He is married and has no children living.

He was "Past 21" when he learned chess by reading an encyclopedia. Thereafter, he played in various clubs in the U. S. and abroad, the list of them reading like a gazetteer.

Around 1908 or '10, our records show, he was in the problem field, getting his first composition, a 3-mover, published, and winning first in a solving contest in the old Pittsburg Leader. From 1910-13, he was in correspondence chess, acting as referee and official games adjudicator for the Correspondence Chess League of America. He writes:

"Among the many good players I had the pleasure of crossing pawns with was Walter F. James of Sioux City, editor of Chess Correspondent. I played in two Scotch Gambit games with Walt. My address at that time was Nutter Fort, W. Va. Walt is now manager of the CCLA. At that time, Dr. Winchester of Santa Fe, N. M., was boss of the league. Both will remember me, I hope."

Telling of a vacation trip to Europe, Bill says:

"In London, I became a member of the British Empire Chess Club (it had more than 5,000 members). Miss Vera Menchik was the chief manager. I saw her every day during the six weeks I spent in London. I got instructions from her and played chess with her often. Her younger sister was an excellent player, also. I played tournament games with her. Our last match ended in a draw. We nearly always broke about even."

Many years ago, he played in the New York State Tourney at Syracuse. He participated in three W.Va. state meets, 1941, 1942 and 1943. He is a member of the WVCA Constitution Committee and has served as a director since the Association was founded. He was offered the presidency at the organization meeting, but refused to accept it. He edited the bulletin of the Clarksburg Chess Club about six months in 1943.

Bill can tell a thousand tales of chess, both of today and yesterday. We've been trying to persuade him to write his reminiscences for the Bulletin. Will some of you members add your pleas to ours? It will be a splendid and worthwhile feature.

(Address: William Challinor, Box 1082, Clarksburg, West Virginia.)

NEW MEMBERS OF THE WEST VIRGINIA CHESS ASSOCIATION

- 75 Rev. Julius Melegh, 537 Richwood Avenue, Morgantown, W. Va.  
 76 Stanley Chester, 457 Schenectady Avenue, Brooklyn 3, New York  
 77 J. B. Mulligan, 5 North Tyson Avenue, Floral Park, New York  
 78 Otto Oppenheimer, 25 Harrison Place, Irvington 11, New Jersey  
 79 Willard H. Mutchler, 4819 47th St. NW., Washington 16, D. C.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

John Hurt RT2/C USNR, AFG 11, "Samar," Baltimore Shipyards, Baltimore Md.

WVCA FINANCIAL STATEMENT -- MAY 11 TO JUNE 10, 1945

	<u>Recd.</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Bal.</u>
Bal. on hand May 10 (see Bull. 33)			42.74
Receipts: Memberships Melegh, Chester, Mulligan, Oppenheimer, Mutchler, \$1 each	5.00		47.74
Expenditures: Bull. 33 (100 copies 12 pp) mimeo \$3.00 postage \$1.86; gummed paper for Bulletin mailing list stickers 35c, two stencils for printing Bulletin mailing list 21c; stencil correction fluid for Crean's use 43c; postage corresponding with members \$1.06		6.91	40.83

MORE ABOUT BILL STANLEY

A letter from Bill Stanley, Charleston, arrived too late for use in his Profile last month, but here are some excerpts:

"I took my first chess whippings at the hands of my brother as a boy. Later, while working at Carbide & Carbon, Grimm, Andrews and Geo. Woo (charter member of the Charleston Chess Club and chemist at Evans Head Co.) gave me the fine points by beatings and good example.

"A mimeographed outline for beginners belonging to George Woo and put out by the Minneapolis Chess Club was my primer.

"You ask about my being born in China. My parents were missionaries with the American Board of Foreign Missions. I watched many games of Chinese chess and played some go--the game the Japanese are fond of.

"From what I remember of Chinese chess, the game is less flexible than European chess. A moat across the middle of the board slows the piece crossing it down one move. The king and two guarding pieces are confined to a quadrangle of nine squares.

"All I remember about go is that when I put down pieces the man showing me the game would go ahead and take my pieces off the board. The game is all pitfalls.

"My other hobbies are dabbling in water colors and playing the violin. My wife is a graduate of Manchester College, Indiana. We have two children now--Margaret Louise, aged two years, nine months, and Susan Ruth, aged six weeks."

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THE WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN is the official organ of the West Virginia Chess Association and is published about the 10th of the month at 125 Meritt Avenue, Pittsburgh 10, Pennsylvania. The Editor is Gene Collett, at the foregoing address. Subscription rate: \$1 for 12 issues which includes membership in the WVCA, as well as a copy of the Yearbook of the Association.

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