

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

NUMBER 40

DECEMBER, 1945

USCF DIRECTORS VOTE PLAY FOR U.S. CHESS TITLE OPEN TO ENTIRE COUNTRY

The Dec. 1 Monthly Letter of the United States Chess Federation reports that by a vote of 49 to 10, directors of the USCF have voted to open competition for the title, U. S. Champion, to the entire country.

Only player to be seeded under the new plan is the current champion, in this case Arnold Denker. The other 15 places will be open to competitive play in seven areas of the U.S. New York state will get three places, the other areas two each.

The Letter does not give the areas but, speaking from a brief glance at a ballot shown us by a director, we seem to recall West Virginia is in an area with Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Delaware and Virginia--or thereabouts.

TO BE PICKED IN A TOURNEY LIKE OUR OWN TRI-STATE

The entrants to the national meet will be chosen by some such tournament or tournaments as our own recent Tri-State Championship (West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania, held Armistice week-end in Pittsburgh).

USCF President Elbert A. Wagner, Jr., notes in his Letter that New York directors, whose players are strongly affected by the resolution, voted seven to three in its favor. This shows a strong feeling for the general good of the game. There is no doubt that opening the meet to players from all sections, while weakening it for a few years, will make it stronger than ever within a decade and will develop chess talents hitherto latent in the far recesses of the nation.

The playing of the tournament will be deferred until next fall to give all areas a chance to select their champions.

The Letter also reports that Paul R. Ellis won the USCF's fourth annual national amateur tournament with a score of 10-1. He won his individual match with Defending Champion Edward S. Jackson, Jr., who was second with $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$.

DEPT OF VITAL STATISTICS: Member and Mrs. John R. Hardesty of Morgantown are the parents of a son born October 19. This is the fifth child and second son. We trust John will give the youngster a Rook for teething purposes and begin the lad's chess education in time for him to be State Champion by 1960.

LAYNE FORD BACK HOME: A letter from Mrs. Gene W. Ford of Grafton (Oct. 31) told us her son and our fellow member, Layne Ford, was then at Fort Meade and expected to be discharged shortly. We have had no further word from Layne but hope we shall be hearing from him soon with something on his wartime experiences, chessic and otherwise. How's about it, Layne?

KOLTI IN WEST VIRGINIA

George Koltanowski, longtime world blindfold champion, played Monday night, Nov. 26, in Morgantown and Thursday night, Nov. 29, in Huntington. He was undefeated in simultaneous and blindfold play.

AT MORGANTOWN "Well, he came, he saw and he conquered, as per expectations," writes Bill Schaeffer. "It was a swell show. The gathering included Dr. Glenn Ashworth of Philippi, Ray Griffin of Clarksburg, and Milford Mott and young Ariel Robinson from Arthurdale. As we had 22 on the simultaneous boards, this leaves 18 from Morgantown, including a passel of University students. Everybody, including a sizeable crowd of spectators, was enthusiastic. Tony Constantine of the Morgantown Post was there to take a picture. Kolti won everything, including three simultaneous blindfold, and also gave us a N tour and a lecture. If he offers a similar tour next year, we'll want him again. He signed up 13 (I think) USCF memberships here. John R. Hardesty, Dr. Victor Lemke and Mason Bucklew--a new member of our club--worked hard to make the affair a success."

Milford Mott, Arthurdale, and Dr. Claude C. Spiker, Morgantown, both write, "Everybody enjoyed the evening very much," and Dr. Spiker adds: "Mr. Koltanowski's visit has considerably stimulated chess here, evident in larger attendance at Thursday's chess club meeting."

Here's the score of a Queen's Pawn Game which Kolti (White) played against Dr. Lemke (Black):

1 P-Q4 P-Q4, 2 N-KB3 N-KB3, 3 P-K3 P-K3, 4 B-Q3 B-Q3, 5 QN-Q2 QN-Q2, 6 O-O O-O, 7 P-K4 PxP, 8 NxP NxN, 9 BxN P-KB4, 10 B-Q3 P-K4, 11 B-B4ch K-R, 12 N-N5 Q-K, 13 PxP NxP, 14 R-K Q-N3, 15 RxN BxR, 16 N-B7ch and Black resigns.

AT HUNTINGTON "Kolti was a big success here," writes Dr. Siegfried Werthammer. "He arrived Tuesday night and could not get a hotel room. Finally he called me up so I could tell him the hotel where I'd made reservations for him. Wednesday afternoon Kolti and I played 8 quick games of which he won seven and I one. That night we showed him Huntington's night life and went to the Club Continental for dancing. I learned that his real hobby is collecting and telling jokes. We really had a nice evening...Of my chess ability, he thinks very little. He insulted me for my bad playing in at least three languages. So came Thursday afternoon and we played two quick games, which I won... Thursday evening he gave his exhibition. There were 40 players and spectators, a record for Huntington. Kolti's visit unearthed here several strong young players (of Trico-Mt. Nickel plant) who subsequently joined our club. That was one of our reasons for having Kolti and our expectations were fulfilled. He played 10 simultaneous and three blindfold games, winning all (including from me) and gave an excellent lecture, besides a N tour. Everybody was very much impressed, and everyone thinks Kolti is awfully nice."

Sam Abrahams writes the Huntington attendance was "much larger than we had anticipated" and many of the spectators didn't know much about the game," and adds: "Kolti won his first blindfold game by announcing mate in 3 and received hearty applause. The show will result in renewed activity for our club."

THE SELF-RECORDING CHESS BOARD

George Koltanowski dropped around to see us while he was in Pittsburgh for an exhibition at the Downtown Y and told us about Arthur W. Fey (pronounced fie), chess inventor, of Hazleton, Pa.

Mr. Fey's latest and most amazing invention--one which we are sure will soon be found in use at chess tourneys and clubs all over the world--is the self-recording chess board. And it is just that. You simply play your game and the board records your moves for you!

When the idea popped into his mind, Mr. Fey felt he had the mechanical skill to carry it out. Already he had to his credit the invention of a 10-second chess clock--a real boon to speed chess players. The clock is simple in construction and inexpensive to make. A bell rings every 10 seconds, notifying the speed chess player of his turn to move.

THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE

When, however, Mr. Fey told his friends about the idea, they looked at him half-pityingly and said, as one man: "Impossible!" All except one, George Koltanowski.

"When I told Mr. Koltanowski about the idea," reports Mr. Fey, "he said, 'It is absolutely practical and a marvelous idea!' With this assurance from so great a man, I went ahead with greater zeal than ever."

That zeal carried him through 1,000 hours of painstaking experimentation.

"Many ideas had to be discarded and replaced by better ones in the year and a half I worked on it," said Mr. Fey. "And I had some trouble finding the time to work on it because my bit in the war effort occupied most of my spare moments. My own game got sort of neglected while I worked on the automatic recorder."

BUT MR. FEY DID IT, ANYWAY

Today the chess recorder is a reality. Mr. Fey's model has been set into a table which looks just like any other chess table--and is the same, except for this difference: the player has but to press slightly with his chess man on two squares--the one on which it stands and the one to which it is moved--and a clever mechanism in the table records the moves in algebraic notation on a tape--similar to an ordinary adding machine tape. This record of the game score is available just as soon as the game is ended.

Imagine the advantage of this table for use in tourneys, providing the director with an immediate and accurate record of play the minute the game is over! Particularly imagine its value at speed chess where the players move every 10 seconds and do not themselves have time to record their moves!

Every serious player would be helped by being able to play his games on such a board. He could concentrate on his play, forgetting all about scoring and still, at the end, have a record of the match.

Mr. Fey was 53 years old the 12th of this month. He was born in Hazleton where he is now a successful merchant. The play of chess--he is a member of the Hazleton club--and his mechanical experiments in a tiny workshop in his home are his main recreations. He has been a follower of the game since he was 14, when he learned to play from enthusiasts at the Hazleton YMCA. He plays each year in the Pennsylvania state meet but says with a grin, "I haven't won the state championship yet!"

POETICA REGUM

PROBLEM DEDICATED BY
FRANCIS J. DE BLASIO,
358 IRVING AVE., SKLYN 27 N.Y.

DEDICATION

This, our first Christmas issue is whole-heartedly dedicated to Alain White--the Einstein of problem chess!

"To Alain White" is a lovely testimonial volume which serves as:

"A Tribute from his friends on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday--March the third, 1945." (Long may his radiant light shine over us all, and guide the problem chess world!--WVCB editors.)

It is edited by Edgar W. Allen and Eric M. Hassberg.

This is the latest and best book, both typographically and textually, of Mr. Frank Altschul's magnificent and very famous Overbrook Press series. In a note of thanks Alain White describes the excellent testimonial volume, which covers practically all the branches of the chess problem field, in his inimitable "poetic" prose--witness: "The complete surprise, the perfect timing, the promise of so beautiful an example of bookmaking, the messages and problems of a very large number of my chess friends, presented with all the editorial skill of Eric Hassberg and Edgar Allen..." and "...the first complete copy has reached me, and all this feeling of appreciation and delight returns to me once more, as it will time and again when I pick up this utterly enchanted book. I cannot thank all these kind friends in person--the founder of the Overbrook Press, who turns one's dreams into unique editions--the editors, with their skill and accuracy and infinite patience--the President of the British Problem Society, F. F. L. Alexander, who could not be discouraged from gathering the greetings of his countrymen even by the destruction of his home during the Blitz--and all the composers who have joined in sending their works and their memories..." Personally, we are spellbound by this rich fount of never ending delectation--we constantly luxuriate in it!

For the Yuletide fanfare we give our selection from this superb "tome":

No. 64 is a scintillating "Self-mate in 2"; it is an excellent Third Degree, dedicated to all concerned with the making of the book--up to 4 points for key and complete main variations.

No. 65 is the "65" frontispiece problem in the book.

No. 66 is a milestone--beautifully showing a new and complex theme introduced by Eric Hassberg--he has named it the Alain White Theme!

No. 67 is a delightful "Mate in 2" fairy problem--up to 4 points for key and complete solution.

No. 68 is a masterful task "Maxi-selfmate in 2"--up to 4 points for key and complete solution.

No. 69 is a "Retrograde Analysis" composition; its composer claims that both White and Black have lost the right to castle in this setting--5 points for proof of this statement.

No. 70 is a task mutate with White and Black battery interplay.

No. 71 illustrates the relatively new Allen Theme.

No. 72 is a "fair sex masterpiece" by the wife of one of the editors of the "collection"--and, it is the only feminine creation therein!

SOLUTION TO OCT. PROBLEMS

No. 46: 1. Pd6. No. 47: 1. QxP. No. 48: 1. Sd3. No. 49: 1. Rb3. No. 50: 1. QxP. No. 51: 1. Ra6. No. 52: 1. Se6; (a) 1-threat; 2. Sc5ch; (b) 1-Rd5; 2. Sxf4; (c) 1-Bd4; 2. Qxe5ch; (d) 1-Be3; 2. Sg3ch; (e) 1-Bg1; 2. Kxg1; (f) 1-Rc7 (or e7); 2. Qf5ch. No. 53: 1. Qh1; (a) 1-threat; 2. Qxe4ch; (b) 1-Rxh1; 2. Sb8; (c) 1-Sxh1; 2. Bg5; (d) 1-Bxh1; 2. Sxd3ch; (e) 1-Pxd2 (or c2); 2. Qxalch; (f) 1-Bxf5; 2. Qxc6; (g) 1-Bg2; 2. Sxd3ch. No. 54 (8-P1K2S2-1P6-3p2pp-RP1kplp1-3P2R1-5PQ1-8) is badly cooked because of a misprint--its BP on g5 should be on h4--full credit will be given for key cooks, and variations sent in within the next two months.

SOLVER'S LADDER (INCLUDING SEPT. SOLUTIONS)

Gene Collett, Robert Crean, Thomas Sweeney, 75; Victor Shortino, 68; Bertrand

MAY YOU ALL HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A JOYOUS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR — THROUGHOUT!

No 64 ALAIN WHITE SUMMERVILLE, S.C.

	S			R		
	S	P	P		P	
	S		K		B	
	P	P	R		B	Q
		B	P	K		
			P		P	P
			P		P	
				Q		

SEE TEXT (9+14)

No 65 C.B. COOK DALLAS, TEXAS

	P	R		P	P	P
P				P		
P	R	S		K	S	Q
R			B			P
F			P			S
	P	B		K	S	

MATE IN 2 (13+10)

No 66 ERIC M. HASSBERG BKLYN, NEW YORK

S				Q		
					P	
			B	S		B
K	S		S	R		
	R		P	K		
			R		P	
				B	R	

MATE IN 2 (8+9)

No 67 T.R. DAWSON CROYDON, ENGLAND

G				B		
			Q			
K			G			
	Q					
	P	B				
G		K				
						R

SEE TEXT (8+3)

No 68 PHILIP R. ROTBERG JAMAICA, NEW YORK

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

SEE TEXT (5+8)

No 69 MANNIS CHAROSH BKLYN, NEW YORK

R	S	B	Q	K	S	R
P	P	P		P		
			P			P
		S	P		P	
	P	P	P		P	
B	B	Q	K			R

SEE TEXT (11+14)

No 70 FRANCIS DE BLASIO BKLYN, NEW YORK

R						Q
	R			R	B	
S	S					
	P					
B		P	P	B		
K			K	Q		R

No 71 EDWARD L. DEISS COVINGTON, KENTUCKY

S	P	K	S		P	
P		Q			P	
K			S	R		
			P	S	P	
	R	P	B			
R	R		P		Q	
		B	B			

No 72 HILDE A. HASSBERG BKLYN, NEW YORK

	B			Q	B	
	S	R	B	Q		
				S	P	
R	S		K		P	
	K		S		P	
	P					
	P					

CHESS COLUMNS IN U.S. NEWSPAPERS - BY DR. ALBRECHT BUSCHKE

(REVISED TO NOV. 1, 1945)

- ATTLEBORO SUN, Attleboro, Mass. Editor: Hy Fine. This column, "Attleboro Chess Notes," pertains mainly to chess events of the Attleboro area, with rather detailed reports on the progress of local tournaments. It occasionally has book reviews but games or problems occur hardly ever. Seems scheduled for weekly publication but is sometimes omitted from the paper.
- AUFBAU (German language paper), New York, N. Y. Editor: S. Birnbaum. A fortnightly column with reprinted and original chess problems; occasional notes about events in the New World Chess Club.
- BROOKLYN EAGLE, Brooklyn, N. Y. Editor: Hermann Helms. One of the oldest columns in the U.S., edited since 1893, with small interruptions, by the Dean of American Chess. Every column contains expertly written articles on local, national and international events, as well as a problem. The space devoted to this column has been curtailed by war-time restrictions; it is hoped it will be reestablished soon in the extensive form in which it was published every Thursday before the war.
- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, Boston, Mass. Editor: Frederick R. Chevalier. This column is famous for its expert handling of chess problem matters. The part devoted to chess news makes a collection of this column, over a number of years, a real source of up-to-date information on the game.
- CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER, Cleveland, Ohio. Editor: David Robb. Both chess and checkers receive attention in this column. Much local chess news is printed as well as occasional items of national and international interest. Games and reprints of problems, and occasionally original problems, are published weekly.
- COURIER JOURNAL, Louisville, Ky. Editor: Merrill Dowden. A new column, the first issue of which appeared Sunday, October 28, 1945.
- LOS ANGELES TIMES, Los Angeles, Calif. Editor: Herman Steiner. This column, edited by an International master (only winner for his side in the 1945 radio team match between the U.S. and the Soviet Union), consists of news, games and problems, but does not carry much original matter. Mr. Steiner ably selects interesting articles on opening theory from chess magazines, such as The Australian Chess Review, and reprints such articles over a number of weeks, much to the benefit of his readers who are not subscribers to such magazines.
- MILWAUKEE JOURNAL, Milwaukee, Wis. Editor: Averill Powers. Founded by Ernest Olfe, former secretary of the U.S. Chess Federation, this weekly column is now conducted by Averill Powers. It brings local news, articles, problems, games and end-games, in a form well suited to the reputation of Milwaukee as being the city in the U. S. where chess is taught in schools.
- MILWAUKEE SENTINEL, Milwaukee, Wis. Editor: Robert Schmidt. So far, only one column (May 23, 1945) has come to our knowledge. Under the title, "Pawns and Kings," a general principle--neglecting to castle--is illustrated by an analysis of the game between Nimzowitsch and Alapan (18 moves!) played at Carlsbad 1911.
- MINNEAPOLIS JOURNAL, Minneapolis, Minn. Editor: O. A. Holt. Under the name, "Pawn Pusher," this weekly column is devoted almost exclusively to local chess and checker news, plus productions of local problem composers.

NEW YORK POST, New York, N. Y. Editor: H. R. Bigelow. The only chess column in the U.S. published oftener than once a week; it appears Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. The Saturday column contains problems. A permanent ladder tournament is maintained. The names of the ladderites and their standings are published in the Wednesday edition, and news and other interesting items are published Saturday and Monday. This was the outstanding chess column before the war but suffered seriously from the paper shortage. Readers hope it can be reestablished in its old form when it stretched occasionally over three or four half-columns. It has the special distinction of having been edited, about 35 years ago, by one of the greatest in chess, Dr. Emanuel Lasker, and it is no small achievement by Mr. Bigelow that for about 20 years he could keep up his predecessor's high standards.

NEW YORK SUN, New York, N. Y. Editor: Hermann Helms. The contents of this column are similar to those of Mr. Helms' column in The Brooklyn Eagle, with the exception that the Eagle devotes more space to Brooklyn chess events and that, of course, the very conscientious journalist Helms does not use the same wording for stories covering the same event published also in another newspaper or in the American Chess Bulletin. The column in the Sun originally was handled by Mr. Helms' coeditor of the American Chess Bulletin, Mr. H. Cassel.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, Philadelphia, Pa. Editor: Isaac Ash. Devoted mostly to Philadelphia and Pennsylvania chess events. Games and problems, mainly reprints, are published every week. This column was founded by Pillsbury and, after his death, was conducted almost 40 years by Walter Penn Shipley, a well known Philadelphia lawyer.

PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, Providence, R. I. Editor: Walter B. Suesman. Chess news of Rhode Island and nearby Massachusetts, as well as regular reporting about the USCF and national and international events. In January, 1945, an interesting series of articles, "Chess Play," was started. Each column usually contains a game and two cleverly selected problems (including end-game studies and end-game positions from practical play). Contrary to the attitude of some chess editors, even in our day, Mr. Suesman gives meticulously the sources of problems and thus makes his column the more valuable and reliable. (D.W.Fiske, in his "Chess Colonnade" of 1861, would have called some other columns "edited with a pair of scissors.")

SACRAMENTO UNION, Sacramento, Calif. Editor: J. B. Gee. Mostly local chess news; also a few games of Russian chess events not published elsewhere, were printed in this column from A. Buschke's chess collection.

SCHENECTADY UNION-STAR, Schenectady, N. Y. Editor's name not known. Occasional reporting of Schenectady chess news.

WASHINGTON POST, Washington, D. C. Editor: Willard Mutchler. A weekly chess column devoted mostly to Washington chess items--and we know what that means! Unfortunately, the space devoted to this column has been curtailed considerably due to the paper shortage, and it can be hoped that it will be reestablished after the war.

NOTE: Every effort has been made to bring the foregoing list of chess columns up to date. Likely, however, there are still omissions and errors. Will any reader having additions or corrections for the list please send them to either Gene Collett, 125 Meritt Avenue, Pittsburgh 10, Pa., or Dr. Albrecht Buschke, 80 East Eleventh Street, New York 3, New York? Dr. Buschke is now preparing an article on the history of chess columns in the U. S. which we hope to have the honor of publishing in an early edition of the Bulletin.

FOR THE RECORD — BY H. REID HOLT

(Editor's Note: H. Reid Holt, one of West Virginia's strongest players, is back in Charleston after having been a Nazi prisoner, furloughing at home, going back for a brief hitch in the states. He reports Dec. 5 he is taking up a new job soon and hopes it will allow him enough time to engage in chess activities. The following extracts from a letter Reid sent the editor Sept. 18 tells of his war experiences.)

--o--

For the record: I left America Oct. 21, hit France Dec. 4, the Siegfried line Dec. 10, was captured Dec. 19, returned to Allied military control April 24, spent six weeks in hospitals in Germany and England, and reached America again June 22 via an LST. The LSTs are slow and wobble quite a bit but I enjoyed every minute of the return trip.

Around the first of April my group, working for an open-pit coal concern at Sandersdorf, some 80 miles south of Berlin, received eight American Red Cross packages. The parcels had been prepared for Christmas. Three men shared each package. Ours had a nice portable chess set. By swapping my share of certain other items, I secured the set and brought it back for Edward, my son.

CHESS IN A POW CAMP

I played five games on the set while a prisoner. The first game was with our last guard. He was a man of 58 whose wife was in Gestapo hands because she was a Jewess. He was a man of innate decency--worthy of being an American. (I met one such other man in Germany. The rest are a truly hopeless bunch. The guard had been a prisoner of the Yanks in the last war during the closing weeks.) I beat him easily.

During the last week of captivity, when all work parties in the vicinity of Leipzig had been rounded up and marched northeast in an attempt to avoid the oncoming Russkies and Yanks, I played and defeated a young Serb twice and a Russian twice. The Russian was the best of my opponents.

I was quite surprised that I could still formulate combinations. Malnutrition does things to one mentally, as well as physically. None of my companions at Sandersdorf could play chess nor was in fit shape to begin study of the game.

LIKE A DEMILLE CLIMAX

Until the attempt was made to get us clear from rescue by comrades-in-arms, all nationalities on work parties had been kept segregated. At the finish, about 5,000 Americans, British, French, Poles, Serbs and Russians were kept together in a temporary camp about midway between Torgau and Wurtzen. The 69th Division drove to Wurtzen and rested there, awaiting the Russians. Our air force was quite active, aiding the Russians to reach and take Torgau.

So there we sat and starved while the very ground at times reeked from American bombs exploding a few miles away and Russian cannon shelling the Heinies. When it became apparent the Huns could not hold off the Russkies, the prison commandant marched us and his men to Wurtzen where they became captives and we became free men again. Quite a Cecil B. DeMille finish.

After being discharged from a hospital near London, I spent about three months in London. I didn't try to contact any English chess club. Perhaps I missed a great--no doubt my only--opportunity, but chess was furthest from my thoughts at that time.

I have been in and out of Charleston all summer. Haven't made any effort yet to contact chess friends of former days as I wanted every possible moment with my family. We had some rare fun, too. There'll be plenty of time for chess later.

It is only by God's grace that I have returned alive and in good condition. I am very grateful to Him for sparing me and for strengthening my family through the dark months. I feel that my wife Garnette should wear the medals in my family; I am prouder of her than of anything I did as a soldier.

VOICE OF THE MEMBERS

Edward M. Foy, Okinawa (Nov. 14): "I have been to Japan with the occupation forces. Even had a liberty in Wakayama, a city which suffered heavily from our bombers. We arrived at Okinawa the second morning after the worst typhoon in 20 years had struck here. We missed the worst of the storm but even out at sea, where we were, we caught some of the typhoon. The ocean can be mighty rough at times!...Anthony got home for good last month, after 52 months in the Army. I have had nearly 46 months in the Navy. I don't know when I'll be home; the men of my rank (disbursing storekeeper) are needed badly at present. But I'll be back one of these days; I can wait...Hope to see you at the 1946 State Meet--if not sooner. We are going to have a VICTORY Tournament, aren't we?"

John Hurt, Shanghai (Oct. 24): "From here it looks as if I might return to the fold by Jan. 1. Send my mail from now on to Charleston. Please give Harold Liggett my congratulations. I recall my only loss in the first state tourney was to him--should have known then it would come about!...Incidentally, I wish to correct something: The first state trophy is on my mantel at home--a very pretty cup, too...Not only was I delighted to see the big turnout at the state meet but I noted 10 cities were represented--a record for this event...I've won three tourneys on shipboard, one a rapid transit 10-second affair." (Nov. 3): "We played chess against the Jewish Refugee Chess Club here with five Army fellows completing our team. We won by one point--four wins, three losses and one draw. Navy played Army three boards Tuesday night. We won 4-2. I won one and lost one. Return match next Tuesday on board our ship."

Ray H. Griffin, Clarksburg (Oct. 15): "On the subject of chess problems: There was a writer who didn't have Mason's brilliant epigrammatic style and didn't write as strongly on the subject as Mason, but his remarks seem to be to the same general effect: 'On Made-up Combinations and on Combinations Arising in the Course of a hard-fought Game...To construct positions according to the motifs discussed above and thus to invent surprising combinations is as easy as telling a fairy tale. The reader may do so for practice, but is earnestly requested to do only a little of it...But there are masters in the art of composing a combination who follow their own methods, and who perhaps work with no method except their fertility of invention...But for all that, it is only

the hard-fought game which produces the profoundest and most precious ideas... Not too much, therefore, must the adept of Chess give himself over to the charms of constructed combinations. Rather should he strive to trace and to master the combinations in the hard-fought game! The author--evidently just another one of those guys you write about, who didn't like problems because they didn't know enough about chess to solve them. His name--Dr. Emanuel Lasker (Manual of Chess, pp. 183, 184.)"

(Editor's Note: The joker in Dr. Lasker's comments seems to lie in his use of the word "adept," which the dictionary defines as "an expert, one fully proficient in an art." As we are not and have never claimed to be an expert at chess, we assume Dr. Lasker does not object to us piddling around with problems to our heart's content. Besides, and this is a point Member Griffin might give prayerful consideration, there are adepts at problem solving and composition, as well as at the playing of chess. And if anyone doesn't believe the construction of a beautifully, properly constructed problem is an art, he has only to have a try at it! In fact, if Mr. Griffin really believes the "composing of made-up combinations" is as easy as telling a fairy tale (quoting Dr. Lasker) we are willing to challenge him to compose, at any time within the next six months, a problem good enough to merit publication on the Bulletin's Problem Page. And we warn him that this is a dark, deep plot: we believe if he is willing to go to that much trouble to find out what chess problems are all about he will, like ourself, become a confirmed solver!)

"SHOEMAKER, STICK TO YOUR LAST!"

No less than five members and readers came down on us flatfooted for our innocent (or, better, ignorant) remarks on p. 15 of the September Bulletin that we thought Sammy Reshevsky had a win on the 18th move in his first game against Smyslov in the radio chess match. We recommended 18...P-N3. Even Sammy himself in the current issue of Chess Review remarks: "If 18...P-N3, 19 Q-K3! Q-R5, 20 Q-R6 and Black's attack is over."

The five who let us having it personally, however, did not include Sammy, but were Former State Champion Landis Marks of Richmond, Va., Chess Master Albert S. Pinkus of Brooklyn (who himself played in the radio match, splitting even in two games with Lilienthal), Chess Editor Rose Hurvitz of Washington, Chess Columnist J. B. Gee of San Francisco, and World Blindfold Master George Koltanowski. (You see the caliber of people it takes to put me in my place!)

"You do Sammy an injustice," says Landis. "Had he chosen the move 18...P-N3, Smyslov would have won more quickly. The Russians play a stout game and Smyslov is a grandmaster who had obviously lured Sammy into a prepared variation. If you expect to find a forced win against a grandmaster on the 18th move, you are looking for a rare bird!"

"Reshevsky must have considered the move and rejected it as unsound," declares Mrs. Hurvitz, explaining Smyslov's correct line (see above). Her comment: "I guess the Russians were just too strong for our team."

"Your note to the Reshevsky game is all wet," asserts Pinkus. "The whole variation is well known in Europe. I saw the analysis in a Russian magazine in 1943 and it is reviewed in toto in Schachmatnoy (Jan. 1945.)" (Sorry, Brother Pinkus; we haven't got Schachmatnoy on our exchange list, yet!)

Gee's commentary was equally good but, unfortunately, his post card evades us at the moment, and we're not going to risk another rebuke by quoting it from memory.

Most devastating of all, however, was Kolti's reaction. Fixing us with a glittering eye and leveling an accusing forefinger, he proclaimed dramatically:

"Shoemaker, stick to your last!"

Which, hereafter, we firmly intend to do!

CORRECTIONS OF GAME SCORES PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN

The 1945 State Tournament Games, Sept. Bulletin, pp. 17-20, corrected by Ray H. Griffin, Clarksburg:

"Liggett-Hartling, note to move 18: A White move is missing. The first part of Kolti's note, I believe, should read: "...more difficult by 18...QxQ, 19 BxQ R-K8ch, 20 N-B N-K4!, 21 B-Q3 NxB, 22 PxN B-B4!..." and so forth, inserting the White move 22 PxN.

"Werthammer-Grimm, note to move 6: 10 NxP seems to require NxNP to avoid ambiguity. Same game, note to move 13: 15 P-QR4 B-K. It seems the Black move should be B-N as B-K is impossible."

Editor A. R. Phillips in the Nov. 24 Cleveland Area Chess Bulletin suggests these revisions of the Tri-State tourney scores in the November WVCA, pp. 5-7:

"Werthammer-Patrick: 27 Black R-KB. 37 White N-K6ch. 40 White B-R3ch
Byland-Patrick: 33 Black K-R. 55 Black Q-Q5ch."

Editor Phillips also questions the last few moves of the Werthammer-Cohen game. We believe this discrepancy is cleared up by correcting White's 32nd move to read QxB(R4).

POSTAL MEETING OF WVCA DIRECTORS

In a meeting by mail, WVCA directors voted to (1) appropriate \$10 from the treasury to pay West Virginia's share of prizes in the Tri-State Tourney Nov. 10-11 at Pittsburgh, (2) authorize Gene Collett, WVCA secy., to act for the association in helping set up a similar meet for '46, and (3) approve a suggestion that the '46 meet be held in Ohio, with Cleveland accepted as a suitable city. We will have further news on the Tri-State in later issues.

LEAGUE TALKED AT MORGANTOWN EXHIBITION

Discussions started at the Koltanowski exhibition Nov. 26 at Morgantown looking to formation of teams in North Central W. Va. It was suggested a Clarksburg-Philippi team be formed with four players from each city and a similar Morgantown-Arthurdale team with four from each place. The teams would meet for play at some central point.

The idea is an excellent one. Even a four-man team from each town might be considered. In any form, team play should serve to stimulate chess interest throughout the entire area.

CHESS PAPER IN TEXAS

Brand new is the Texas Chess Association Letter, the first issue of which, dated Dec. 1, has just arrived. J. C. Thompson, 702 Monte Vista Drive, Dallas 10, who back in the '30's edited the Western Chess Magazine, one of the finest of the amateur publications, apparently is trying to conceal the fact that he is back as an editor. His designation of his production as a "letter," however, will fool no one who knows his previous work. We wish him a world of success in his new venture!

The first three-page mimeographed (or multilithed) issue is packed with news of Texan activities, including a two-week exhibition tour by Koltanowski the last half of January, stories on various local clubs, and a page of advice on organizing club activities for 1946.

Mr. Thompson (who is a WVCA member, by the by) mentioned the Letter is being sent to "a select group of chess leaders" in Texas. We believe its contents will be of interest to all members of the TCA and hope he will soon extend his mailing list to include the others.

A. BUSCHKE'S "CHESS NEWS FROM RUSSIA"

Also hot off the press are the first issues of WVCA Member A. Buschke's new magazine, Chess News From Russia. The first numbers--Nov. 10 and 25--contained 20 mimeographed pages including nine games from Russian master play, most of them, perhaps all, previously unpublished in English, in addition to articles on Soviet developments in the openings and informational matter on Russian players, tournaments and chess history.

As Dr. Buschke says at the outset: "A justification for this new publication seems hardly necessary. Since the Russian representatives in the widely publicized and splendidly organized Radio Match dealt the strong USA team such a crushing defeat (15½:4½), it has become clearer than ever before the apparent lack of information on Russian achievements in chess in the Western world is not excusable any longer."

Chess News From Russia is fascinating reading and to the American player who does not read Russian likely will prove an invaluable aid in grasping what the Soviets are driving at. Recommended both for the serious player wishing to improve his game and keep abreast of current developments, and for the fan who wants to learn why the American team took it on the chin.

The price is \$2 a year (24 issues). And charter subscribers will receive the first four issues (November and December) as a bonus, giving them 14 months for the price of 12. Sample copies, 10 cents each. (No. 2 is the best to date if you order but one.) Address: Dr. A. Buschke, 80 East 11th Street, New York 3, N. Y.

GETTING BETTER AND BETTER AND BETTER

We can't help uttering a brief word of praise for the fine work being done by Charles M. Hardinge and A. R. Phillips in their recent issues of the Minneapolis Chess & Checker Club News and the Cleveland Chess Bulletin, respectively. Both are chockful of good reading and are serving their members splendidly!

BIRTHDAY PROFILES

(Only birthdays we have to report this month are those of which we published full sketches last year so we are giving each a brief up-to-dating paragraph. Next month's Profiles will cover Jan. 15-Feb. 14 birth days. If this hits yours, please send in material at once.)

--o--

DEC. 16--H. LANDIS MARKS--joined 1942. State champion 1942. Currently undergoing hospitalization at Richmond, Va., and looking for chess players there. (Address: Box 1514, Richmond, Va.)

--o--

DEC. 28--HAROLD W. LIGGETT--joined 1942. State champion 1945, and therefore first winner of the Morgantown Junior Chamber of Commerce Challenge Cup. Finished sixth in Tri-State Tourney at Pittsburgh. 1945-46 WVCA director for Kanawha County, his fourth consecutive year as a director. Now busy with organization of a South Charleston chess club. (Address: 110 Central Ave., South Charleston 3, W. Va.)

--o--

JAN. 11--DR. SIEGFRIED WERTHAMMER--joined 1942. State champion 1943, 1944. Finished second to Hal Liggett in the 1945 State Tourney and second to Martin Q. Ellenby of Dayton, Ohio, in the 1945 Tri-State meet (Ohio, Pennsylvania and W. Va.) Dec. 10-11 at Pittsburgh. 1945-46 WVCA director for Cabell County. (Address: 917 Fifth Ave., Huntington, W. Va.)

NEW MEMBERS OF THE WVCA AND RENEWALS

- 56 L. A. Scholpp, 415 Suncrest Street, Pittsburgh 10, Pa.
- 57 Dr. A. A. Seletz, Medical Arts Building, Charleston 1, W. Va.
- 58 Robert Jamison, 1207 Virginia Street E., Charleston 1, W. Va.
- 59 Cliff Mosier, c/o Times-Advance, Box 67, Dunbar, W. Va.
- 60 Ken Mosier F2/C, USS Sandpiper, FPO, New York, N. Y. (NEW)
- 61 Tyson E. Cobb, 509 Jefferson Avenue, Huntington 4, W. Va.
- 62 E. E. Allie, 514 Ninth Avenue, Huntington, W. Va.
- 63 Mrs. Richard Grimm, 5412 Ohio St. SW, South Charleston 3, W. Va.
- 64 A. W. Fey, 29 West Juniper Street, Hazleton, Pa. (NEW)
- 65 J. M. Bucklew, Sr., 732 Richwood Avenue, Morgantown, W. Va. (NEW)
- 66 1st Lt. Roy P. Hapke, Jr., 267 Grant Ave., Morgantown, W. Va. (NEW)

ADDRESS CHANGES

William E. George, 357 Antenor Street, Pittsburgh 10, Pa.
 Thomas B. Sweeney, Jr. Hawley Bldg., Wheeling, W. Va.
 Tyson E. Cobb, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Grimm (see above list)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT--NOV. 11 TO DEC. 10, 1945

	<u>Recd.</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Bal.</u>
Bal. on hand Nov. 10 (see Bull. 39)			42.44
Receipts: 1945-46 dues, Marks, Scholpp, Seletz, Jamison, C. Mosier, K. Mosier, Cobb, Allie, Mrs. Grimm, Fey, Hapke, Bucklew, \$12; 1946-47 dues, A. Fey, E. Foy, \$2; commission on chess book sold 50¢	14.50		56.94
Expenditures: Bull. 39 (120 copies 10 pp. printed one side) mimeo \$3.57, postage \$2.26; bulletins returned postage due 6¢; mending tape 10¢; contribution to 1945 Tri-State Tourney prizes \$10; rental typewriter Dec. 7-Jan. 6, \$3; correspondence WVCA business \$2.73		21.72	35.22

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT OTHER CHESS PAPERS

The Austin Chess & Checker Club, 5600 W. Lake St., Chicago 44, plans to start a club bulletin about Jan. 1... The Edison Chess & Checker Club, Detroit, has changed the name of its paper, edited by WVCA Member Edward I. Treend, from the Communication to En Passant and has blossomed out with a printed masthead. The name is the same as C.H.L. Schuette II's Pittsburgh club paper but we suppose there's room for two of them!

Rev. Julius Paal won the '45 Metropolitan Pittsburgh Championship, 6-1, losing his only game to the defending champ, WVCA Member Wm. M. Byland who scored $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ to end in a second-place tie with Bob Reel, former two-time Wisconsin titlist. Robt. W. Wilson, Pittsburgh Downtown Y champion, was fourth with 4-4... I.A. Horowitz will lecture and play simultaneous chess Jan. 8 at the Downtown Y.--En Passant (Pittsburgh).

Lansing is meeting 11 other clubs, all members of the Michigan Chess Association, in correspondence games... On Nov. 30, Lansing club lost to Jackson, Mich., in over-the-board team play, $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$; return match Dec. 14. On Oct. 27, Lansing drew Edison club, Detroit, 3-3. WVCA Member Edward I. Treend played board 3 and won his game.--Lansing Chess Club Bulletin.

Nov. 17, Keystone club, Toledo, defeated Edison club, Detroit, 9-7. Treend, at board 1, lost.--En Passant (Detroit).

Nov. 18, Gary defeated South Bend, $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$... Oct. 14, Indianapolis defeated Purdue University, 16-4.--Indiana Chess News.

Oct. 12, Reading, Pa., won from the Lancaster, Pa., Red Roses, 14-1.--Red Rose Clatter.

Oct. 21, Wisconsin defeated Illinois, $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$.--Minneapolis Chess & Checker News.

Columbus players are carrying on a "Chess for Veterans" program at Fletcher hospital in nearby Cambridge... Brooklyn Chessnuts Club of Cleveland makes weekly visit for games with vets in Crile hospital.--Cleveland Chess Bulletin.

POSTSCRIPT ON CHESS COLUMNS (SEE PAGES 6 AND 7): Dr. A. Buschke post-cards (Dec. 7): "Today's mail brings clippings of a new chess column which started Nov. 18, 1945, in the Boston Herald, with Wald L. Waters of the Boylston Chess Club (Boston) as editor. The first issue begins, 'This column will be devoted to chess played in New England among the various clubs and individuals.'... I find the new Courier-Journal column is ably continuing the Louisville chess tradition (Alex Cohen and so forth) and adding items of local interest, including Louisville's chess past, with generally interesting material."

BULLETIN!!! Three new memberships and a renewal reach us too late for inclusion in our formal report this month. They are from Dr. Glenn Ashworth of Philippi, W. Va., his son and daughter, Eric Glenn and Katherine Emaline, and Dr. Ernest Wolff, formerly of Montgomery, W. Va., now of Cleveland, Ohio.

APOLOGIES TO ALL: Sorry to be so late this month but due to the Yule mails crush, our new supply of mimeo paper, mailed from Clarksburg, was sadly delayed. We hope its quality makes up for the waiting.

 THE WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN, official organ of THE WEST VIRGINIA CHESS ASSOCIATION, is published about the 10th of each month by Gene Collett at 125 Meritt Ave., Pittsburgh 10, Pa. Subscription: \$1 for 12 issues. Single copy: 10 cents. Make checks payable to Gene Collett.