

# WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

NUMBER 42

FEBRUARY, 1946

## STEINER AND EUWE WIN LONDON TOURNEY SECTIONS

Herman Steiner of Los Angeles, with a score of 9-2, and Dr. Max Euwe of Amsterdam, Holland,  $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ , won first prizes in Sections A and B, respectively, in the International Chess Masters' Tournament completed late in January in London.

The story of the meet is contained in New York Times clippings forwarded by Dr. Siegfried Werthammer of Huntington.

Steiner, who was the star of the American side in the radio chess match the U.S. lost to Russia last fall, came thru with a record of 8 games won, 2 drawn and 1 lost. He drew with Karel Opocensky of Czechoslovakia and Dr. P. M. List of London and lost to Dr. Ossip S. Bernstein, Franco-Russian expert from Paris.

Fourteen-year-old Arturito Pomar of Spain was in a sixth-place tie with  $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ .

In Section B, the U.S. champion, Arnold S. Denker, finished third with a score of 7-4, one point behind Martin Christoffel of Switzerland, 8-3. Dr. Euwe, who held the world championship from 1935 to 1937, lost a game to P. Devos of Belgium and yielded a draw to I. Koenig of Yugoslavia.

Dr. S. T. Tartakower, winner of the recent Hastings Victory Tournament, ended in third place in Section A with a score of  $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ . In the Hastings event, Denker, Steiner and Euwe were tied for third with scores of 7-4.

Although a Russian delegation was more or less expected at both London and Hastings, no Soviet player appeared at either meet.

The final standings were:

### SECTION A

Steiner 9, Dr. Bernstein 8, Dr. Tartakower  $7\frac{1}{2}$ , Opocensky 7, H. Gombek of Britain 6, L. Prins of Holland and Pomar tied for sixth  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , Dr. List 5, W. Fairhurst and R. J. Broadbent of Britain tied for ninth 4. J. Stone of Britain  $2\frac{1}{2}$ , S. Friedman of Czechoslovakia 2.

### SECTION B

Dr. Euwe  $9\frac{1}{2}$ , Christoffel 8, Denker 7, Sir George Thomas and G. Abrahams of Britain and Koenig in three-way tie for fourth  $6\frac{1}{2}$ , R. H. Newman of Britain and A. Medina of Spain tied for sixth  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , W. Winter and C. Wood of Britain and Devos in three-way tie for ninth  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , Francisco Lupat of Portugal  $2\frac{1}{2}$ .

# CHESS FACT AND FANCY

The 47th annual United States Open Tournament will be held July 8 to 20 at Pittsburgh with WVCA Member William M. Byland as chairman of the tournament committee. Sessions will be held in a hotel.

This will be the first time in many years that a national chess event has been within easy traveling distance of West Virginia players. Dr. Siegfried Werthammer of Huntington, our 1943 and 1944 champion, is considering play, and we are hopeful 1945 Champion Hal Liggett, ex-Champs Walt Crede, Bill Hartling and Johnny Hurt, and such other strong players as Eddie Foy and Bill Devericks, to mention only a few, will be on hand to try their openings. Maybe we can even talk Landis Marks into coming up from Huntington; we feel certain he'd give any of the entrants a run for their money.

Anthony E. Santasiere, who won the Open title in 1945, had made no definite announcement but is expected to be on hand to defend his honor. Chairman Byland, fifth at the Peoria meet last year, is expected to have another shot at the title. Beyond that, it's a little early to say who will be there.

## "MASTERS' LEAGUE"--OR DID YOU KNOW?

Did you hear about the new "Masters" League? We know very little of it, really, our name somehow having been overlooked when they sent out the invitations (and the publicity releases, if any), but we know Ed Lasker is at least the titular head of it. Rumor hath it (as the rural weekly putteth it) that the "masters" plan to hold sort of a U.S. title fight of their own, mebbe in competition with the U.S.C.F.

Just WHO are the "masters" in this country and what call do they have to come barging out with a plan for championship play of their own? A genuine lineup of U.S. Masters likely would contain the names of Fine, Reshevsky, Horowitz, Kashdan, Denker, Steiner and Pinkus.

Of these, Fine and Steiner are almost certain to be sent to the U.S. National Championship this fall from the West Coast area. Denker is seeded automatically, as the 1944 champion. Reshevsky should be a natural from the New England zone. This leaves only three to be entered from New York City and environs, and under the USCF plan, NYC is entitled to three entrants. What is all the shooting about?

We realize the above setup does not include the name of George Koltanowski who is now an American citizen and who, we believe, is eligible. Guess you'll have to get into tourney play and prove yourself, Friend George!

## WE HEAR IT HAS BEEN DONE BEFORE

Practically on the same subject, we hear that on May 18, in Los Angeles, Herman Steiner, the section A winner at London, will begin a 10-game match with Arnold Denker, official USCF champion, for the U.S. Championship.

This bit of news did upset us when we first heard it, as we have felt the tourney decision on the title should be final. However, we recall that the year the tourney play ended in a draw, Reshevsky and Kashdan battled it out in match play--25 games, we think it was. And Bill Byland tells us Reshevsky and Horowitz once played a challenge match for Sammy's title. And as Bill says, "If the champion wants to stick out his neck and risk his title in match play, who forbids?"

### RETURN OF THE F. I. D. E.

Elbert A. Wagner, Jr., president of the USCF, reports reorganization of the International Chess Federation (F.I.D.E.), whose work was kayoed by the war, is under way. Dr. A. Rueb of The Hague, president and a founder, will call delegates to Zurich in July or August. In the meantime, the 44 affiliated national groups will have a chance to study the proposed setup outlined by Dr. Rueb.

Play is to be resumed for the F.C. Hamilton-Russell trophy which is understood to be in Buenos Aires where with the U.S. (four times a winner) unrepresented, it was won by a German team.

Dr. Rueb proposes to divided F.I.D.E. into five zones: Western Europe; Eastern Europe, including Palestine; North America; South and Central America; and Southern "Far East," including Australia and eventually South Africa and the East Indies. Heretofore, Europe has been represented by 25 units, South and Central America by 14, North America by 3, and Asia and Australia by 1 each. Russia, which has never been a member, is being urged to join under the new setup. Switzerland is proposed as the seat of the federation, which formerly met in Holland.

### SLEUTH HELMS DISCOVERS THE PAPERS

Judging from the beautiful letters in the recent issue of American Chess Bulletin, there was something a trifle erroneous about Chess Review's report that a Dutch protest caused withdrawal of Alekhine's invitation to the English tournaments. How does H. Helms get access to all these secret files? Must have a flock of under-cover agents at work!...

The Firestone Chess & Checker Club bulletin (Akron, O.) digs up this intriguing and provocative quote from "The Romance and Drama of the Rubber Industry" by Harvey Firestone, Jr.: "Sumatra is a strange place. The native women do the hard work and the native men play chess, at which some of them are said to be as skilled as the great masters of the western world." Hmmm! Guess we'll wait till all the precincts are heard from before we concede the election!...

Chess Review (\$3 a year, 250 W. 57th St., New York 19, N.Y.) seems to have been chosen as the "wailing wall" for opponents of the USCF's new zoning plan for the US Championship bout. Big names (inspired?) are letting the USCF have it zingo, despite the heavy majority which approved the new plan. Seems rather silly to us for the boys to do the dark and dire without giving the setup a fair try. If it's lousy, USCF can fix. We predict if everyone will keep his shirt on, the plan will get 100 per cent approval after it has had a fair trial...

Whatever became of the USCF plan for a magazine of its own? Seems to us it is needed NOW, if ever, as a forum for members' opinion during this period of postwar reconversion. The USCF is too big to be without a voice of its very own... Let's get action on this important project!

# POETICA REGUM

PROBLEM DEPT. EDITED BY  
FRANCIS J. C. DE BLASIO  
358 IRVING AV., BROOKLYN 27, N.Y.

The USCF has announced the following (its first) International Composing Tourney for orthodox, direct-mate problems:

No. 1: Two-movers, limited to 3 entries from each composer (a joint composition counts as an entry from each composer).

No. 2: Three-movers, a composer may submit as many entries as he wishes (joint entries also may be submitted).

First prize \$20, second \$15, third \$10, in each tourney. Honorable mentions and recommendations to be given at discretion of judges, Geoffrey Mott-Smith and Kenneth S. Howard. Entries should be diagrammed in triplicate with full solution on each diagram but with composer's name and address on one sheet only. Should be mailed to Dr. P. G. Keeney, 613 Taylor Av., Bellevue, Ky., to reach him by July 31, 1946.

Honored problems will be published in the 1946 USCF Yearbook.

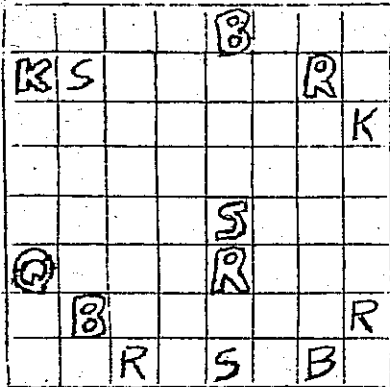
PRESENT PROBLEMS: For this month we offer an all-orthodox batch of masterpieces from the "To Alain White" book. Answers will be received until April 10. (Note: The original of No. 88 is cooked; credit for elimination of the flaw goes to Horace R. Bigelow, chess editor of the New York Post 20 years.) These problems are the last to be offered on the current solvers' Ladder. NEXT MONTH WE WILL START THE 1946 WVCA SOLVING CONTEST.

SOLUTIONS TO DECEMBER PROBLEMS: No. 54 (Mowry's version): 1 Ra6 (a)... Pb5, 2 Qxe4ch, (b) 1...Ph3, 2 Qf1, (c) 1...Pxd3, 2 Rxc4ch, (d) 1...Pxc3, 2 Qxc3, (e) 1...Pe3, 2 Pxe3ch (unfortunately this pretty waiter is cooked by 1 Kc6 or d6 while our misprinted version has the additional cook of 1 Qf1). No. 64 is another misprint, sorry; its WB at c4 should be a BB (solvers may have until April to submit solutions--with additional credit for cooks in the misprint). No. 65: Bc3. No. 66: Sd4. No. 67: 1 Ra1 threat 2 Ga6 mate (a) 1...Qa3, 2 Qa4 mate, (b) 1...Qa7, 2 Qa6 mate, (c) 1...Qc5, 2 Qb5 mate. No. 68: 1 Pc7 (a) ...Qc5, 2 Fg1, (b) 1...Qg1, 2 Ra7, (c) 1...Rxp, 2 Rcl, (d) 1...Rg3, 2 Ra3, (e) 1...Rh4, 2 Ra4, (f) 1...O-O, 2 Ra8 (the mates are simple if it is remembered that Black can make only the geometrically longest move at all times and that the hypotenuse of a right triangle is longer than its sides; this excellent composition is by Philip L. Rothenberg--we beg his forgiveness for distorting his name on the December page). No. 69: Ba1 came from Black Pf7, making 5 captures on the way, all on white squares. Since only 5 White men are missing, White Pa2 must have taken a Black piece at b3. This could have been only the Black Ph7 which promoted at h1 without any captures. Therefore, White cannot castle. The White Pg3 took the original Black Bf8. New, of the five White captured pieces, one must have been the White Pf2, which must first have promoted at f8 and have passed f7 and forced the Black K to move. Therefore, Black cannot castle. No. 70: 1 Qg2 threat 2 O-O mate (or ch if KR random), (a) 1...RxB, 2 KxRch, (b) 1...BxP, 2 KxBch, (c) 1...Pxpch, 2 KxPch, (d) 1...Pc2, 2 Bd4ch. No. 71: Sd5. No. 72: Qh7.

SOLVERS' LADDER (INCLUDING NOVEMBER SOLUTIONS): Thomas Sweeney 132, Gene Collett 126, Robert Crean 115, Victor Shortino 107, Bertrand Mulligan 79, Arthur Brenneman 71, Otto Oppenheimer 70, E. J. Eddy 19.

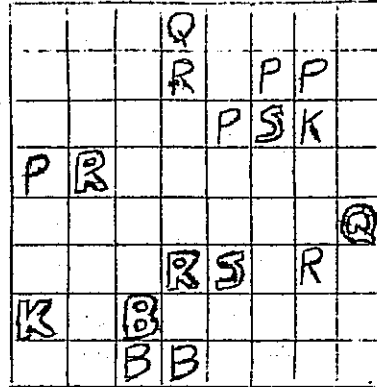
NOTE: Our No. 62 has two unforeseen cooks: 1 Kg2 and 1 Se2ch. Hence, we change its setting from 5Q2-16-3P1B1P-5K2-2S2S1P-8-5K2 to 16-4S2S-16-3P1B1P-3-5K2. Its new key is 1 Qh7. Now it has a minimum of only six men and its key is even less chaotic.

No. 82 C.S. KIPPING  
WEDNESBURY, ENGLAND



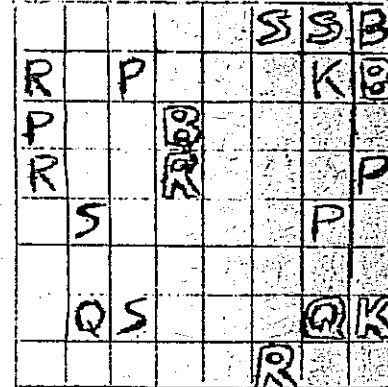
MATE IN 2 7+6=13

No. 83 GAIMNS MANSFIELD  
GLASGOW, SCOTLAND



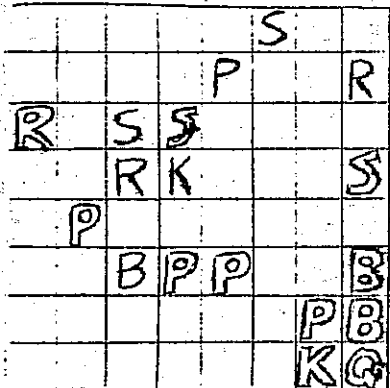
MATE IN 2 7+10=17

No. 84 GEOFFREY MOTT-SMIT  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



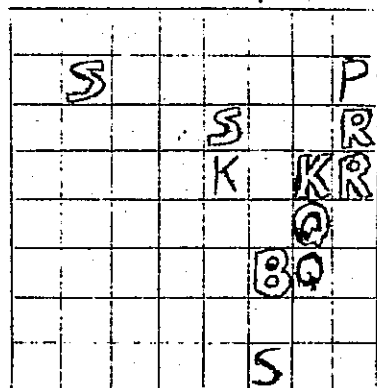
MATE IN 2 8+11=19

No. 85 FREDERICK GAMAGE  
BROCKTON, MASS.



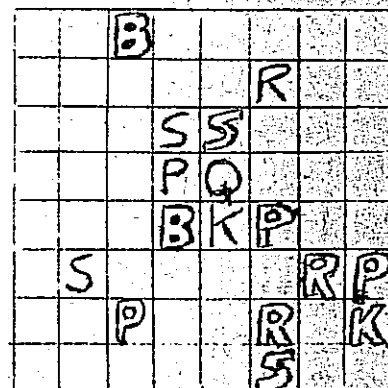
MATE IN 2 11+7=18

No. 86 OTTO WURZBURG  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.



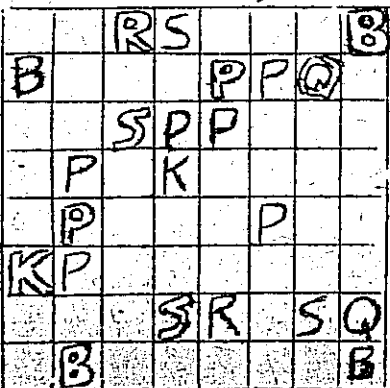
MATE IN 2 7+4=11

No. 87 F.F.L. ALEXANDER  
LONDON, ENGLAND



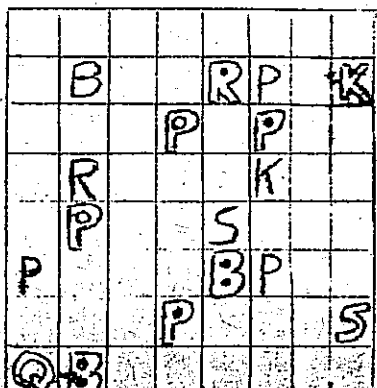
MATE IN 2 10+6=16

No. 88 JULIUS BUCHWALD  
NEW YORK, N.Y.



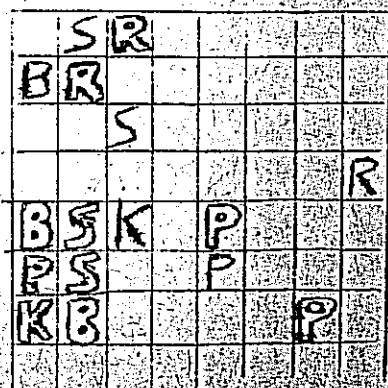
MATE IN 3 9+13=22

No. 89 KENNETH S. HOWARD  
EAST ORANGE, N.Y.



MATE IN 3 10+7=17

No. 90 WALTER JACOBS  
ARLINGTON, VA.



MATE IN 3 10+6=16

## PROBLEM LETTER BY TOM SWEENEY:

"The challenge to show why his Nos. 62 and 63 (see WVCB, November) are improvements of my originals Nos. 60 and 61 has been accepted by our problem editor," writes Solver-Composer Tom Sweeney, winner of the 1945 WVCA Solving Contest.

"Alas and alack, I concede the cook in No.61 which, of course, ruins it. However, I do not concede that a key move is at fault simply because it takes a flight square away from the defending K. If this is being 'hit on the head,' then how describe the 90% of problems which have appeared on the page in which even before White's first move, Black finds himself already knocked down in a corner with nowhere to turn? I contend these absurd restrictions imposed by the classicists upon themselves have removed the chess problem too far from chess play. The problemist today, knowing what not to try, can eliminate at a glance 50% of the moves a chess player would have to consider. But, as in any art that removes itself too far from life, someone always comes along with a virile swagger and, to the horror of the cultists, gives new life and blood to their art. I predict that in due course, true modernists will show that a key move may be a capture, a check, or any other type of aggressive move, without any loss of beauty. How difficult is it to solve? This should be the basis of its merit. The modern problemist is not modern. He has merely gone to seed.

"Our problem editor tacitly admits his key in No.63 is forced and has changed its setting so I'll pass comment on this attempted improvement of my No. 61. However, I take violent issue with his statement his No.62 is 'far superior' to my No. 60. It cannot be superior to anything for it has the cook Kg2. Furthermore, my original concept of an apparently freed K, if KxB is allowed, is destroyed by the two additional White flanking Ps in No.62. Also it seems to me the preponderance of 8 white pieces to 1 black is unjustified in so simple a theme. The idea of a switchback key I discarded in the original composition; it seemed trite.

"By comparison with any of these, Mr. Brennehan's No.59 on the same page is sheer genius."

## ANSWER BY PROBLEM EDITOR DEBLASIO:

"1. I have revised my cooked problems.

"2. The switchback key can be shown in so many forms and manners that it never loses its enchantment.

"3. Flight-taking and checking keys are both ugly and ancient; they were used almost exclusively in the crude problems of a few centuries ago but as time went by, the compositions got more complex and polished until today good compositions must have very subtle keys (yet sometimes a checking key is the predominating factor; we'll print such a one soon).

"4. A problem is not meant to be an end-game; it is meant to show a chessic concept in a simple, pure or poetic form. The concept is so complex it could never occur in an actual game.

"5. The number (or lack) of flights of the Black K depends solely upon the theme shown--and therefore has a minor, if any, effect upon the beauty or ugliness of a problem; the condition is symbolic of problems found in all walks of life which must be met and solved, not as we wish them to be as we actually find them under the actual differing conditions.

"6. Struggle, the essence of the game, is entirely absent from the problem, in which both Black and White work hand in hand to produce one or more variations which have beauty or complexity, or both. The problem is a symphony in chessic combinations and strategies."

## ATTENTION, ALL MEMBERS!

A few days ago we sent out letters to the officers and directors of the West Virginia Chess Association, calling attention to the fact that we must either build up our membership to a greater figure or curtail our activities for the rest of this year. A glance at the treasurer's report for the last three or four months will show why this is. Our expenses are running about \$10 or \$11 a month, meaning we'll have costs of about \$60 or \$65 for the rest of the period, not counting the Yearbook we hope to publish, whereas we have only about \$35 to meet them.

This is likely the fault of your secretary who anticipated expansion of our membership to around 125 this year, possibly more. Instead, our total to date last month, with the year half gone, was 72, which was 11 short of our 83 members last year.

We have asked the officers and directors to campaign immediately for additional membership so that our program may not languish, despite additional expenses.

Though it has been only a few days since the letters went out, we have received encouraging response--three members from Monongalia county, two from Huntington, one from Wheeling (in addition to an unsolicited contribution of \$4 from ex-President A.W. Paull, for which thanks). Letters come, too, saying that drives are under way in Clarksburg and Charleston and that memberships will soon be on the way. Both Huntington and Morgantown promise additional members.

There is no reason in the world, however, why all this work should devolve upon the officers and directors. Every member should consider it his duty to enroll additional West Virginians in our association.

Because the year is now well under way, we are asking that, effective immediately, new members be signed at the rate of 75 cents. This will buy them a membership to Labor Day, 1946, including seven issues of the Bulletin and the 1945 Yearbook. Also it will permit all our current memberships to wind up as of the same date.

If every member would sign one additional member, our financial worries would be over. Some cannot, however, and some will not. If you, therefore, feel the urge to do your share, don't stop at signing a single member; get all you can. After all, it is your Association!

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## LETTERS AND SUCH LIKE

Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, Huntington (Feb. 4): "H.D. Burke of this city has just signed as a WVCA member and will prove a very welcome addition to our Association. He's a 29-year-old chemical engineer with International Nickel Co. who learned the game when he was 13. While in Wisconsin University, he played in the Wisconsin State Championship with excellent results--a very strong chess player. It will be especially of interest to you that he is a noted problem composer and solver. A composition of his once adorned the front cover of Chess Review."

Harold W. Liggett, South Charleston (Jan. 25): "Our Carbide and Carbon (South Charleston) Chess Club has been organized. Two meetings to date, with attendance of about 18. We intend to meet every other Monday,

starting Feb. 3 at the South Charleston Recreation Center. Officers are H.W.L., president; Richard Grimm, vice president; Frances Hughes, secretary-treasurer."

N. P. Wigginton of the Washington (D.C.) Chess Divan (Jan.25): "Your Johnny Hurt of Charleston and the Navy was a visitor at The Divan a couple of weeks ago. He seems a nice chap and well able to take care of himself on the 64 sqs. We wish he could have tarried awhile...The Divan has new quarters, at 2445 Fifteenth St. NW. They're scrumptious beyond comparison with any setting we've had before. A room on the first floor of a nice apartment house, virtually in the 'heart' of the city; about 700 sq.ft. of space, a very useable rectangle. There are 6 windows on the west side, equipped with venetian blinds and drapes. A big fireplace, with a wide mantel, is at the far end of the room. Beautiful hardwood floors, sound-absorbent ceiling, walls paneled half-way up with knotty pine and crinkly cream-colored plaster above. Two flourescent light fixtures provide the best illumination we've ever had." (Feb. 6): "We had a short-notice visit from the hero of the London tourney yesterday. Herman Steiner is an old friend of ours and when he phoned from NYC suggesting an exhibition in the Divan, we dood it. He won 23 and lost 4 in 5 hours and 15 minutes."

Honorary Member George Koltanowski, writing from Pampa, Tex.(Jan.21): "Terribly pressed for time--19 exhibitions in Texas alone. We'll be in Pittsburgh Feb. 20 and 21 and my wife and I will be out to pay you a visit; we'll be leaving the night of the 21st for New York. Looking forward to seeing you!"

Rev. Wm. Erhard, Wheeling (Jan.29): "I am enclosing a cartoon which may throw some light on the seriousness of playing chess. El Haken Bi' Amr Illah of Egypt, as shown in the picture, considered chess a capital crime, punishable by death. Some moderns differ with him. Cotton Mather used to say that a minister ought not to take time to play chess but he took lots of time for his favorite recreation of burning witches. Another oddity: While passing thru Monongahela City, Pa., the other day I noticed a street named 'Chess.' Can any of the brethren match that? (The looks of the thoroughfare were not too much credit to the royal game.)"

Wm.Schaeffer, Morgantown (Feb.12): "Am inclosing membership for Thomas Hughare of this city. Tommy is president of the local Junior High School Chess Club which now numbers some 13 or 14 members."

#### CCLA VOTES WALT JAMES OUT

We have seen in print somewhere, though the item eludes us at the moment, a notice that Walt James of Sioux City, Iowa, long-time secretary and manager of the Correspondence Chess League of America, was voted out of office in the recent election, and that the society's headquarters has been moved to somewhere in New York state.

We hold no membership in the CCLA and therefore have no right to comment on its affairs. We cannot forebear from mourning the passing from this field, however, of one of its most active and enthusiastic workers. We have exchanged our publication for Chess Correspondent for several years and, on a few occasions when we asked favors of Walt, we found him willing and ready to oblige us.

It is our hope that under its new management the CCLA will continue to do as much for correspondence chess as it has done in the past and that it will be able to continue with as fine a magazine as Walt James, by the sweat of his brow, got out for the membership.



## A COUPLE OF GAMES

Here are a couple of games readers may find interesting. Dr. Siegfried Werthammer sends one from the Hastings Victory Tournament, suggesting members may find particularly exciting the smashing victory of 85-year-old Jacques Mieses (who played in the first Hastings tourney in 1895) over Martin Christoffel (who was second in Section A of the London Masters' Tournament last month)... Tom Sweeney forwards a short game with Plane Commander Hamilton, of which he says: "Nothing for Kolti and the boys to worry about but I've done worse with my eyes wide open. Thought you might be amused." Of his 7 BxPch, Tom comments: "I knew it was win quick--or else." The game was played blindfold (see story below.)

<u>SWEENEY</u>	<u>HAMILTON</u>	<u>CHRISTOFFEL</u>	<u>MIESES</u>	<u>CHRISTOFFEL</u>	<u>MIESES</u>
1 P-K4	P-K4	1 P-QB4	P-QB4	17 QR-Q	Q-R
2 P-KB4	P-Q3	2 N-QB3	N-QB3	18 K-N	R-K3
3 N-KB3	B-KN5	3 N-B3	N-B3	19 Q-Q3	R-Q3
4 B-QB4	P-QB3	4 P-KN3	P-QN3	20 Q-B2	RxR
5 O-O	N-KB3	5 P-Q4	PxP	21 RxR	Q-B3
6 PxP	PxP	6 NxP	NxN	22 P-N3	P-K3
7 BxPch	KxB	7 QxN	B-N2	23 Q-Q3	N-N5
8 NxPch	K-N	8 P-K4	P-N3	24 B-B4	P-KN4
9 NxB	B-QB4ch	9 B-N2	B-N2	25 P-B3	Q-B4ch
10 K-R	NxP	10 O-O	O-O	26 K-N2	Q-B7ch
11 Q-KB3	N-Q3	11 P-K5	BxB	27 K-R3	QxRPch
12 N-K5	Q-K	12 KxB	N-K	28 KxN	RxBch
13 P-Q4	BxP	13 Q-K4	R-B		
14 Q-QN3chl	N-B2	14 B-N5	P-B3		
15 NxN	N-Q2	15 PxP	NxP	And	
16 N-R6mate		16 Q-K2	R-B3	White	
				Resigns	

## IN THE DARK ON SAMAR

Interested in Johnny Hurt's games played aboard his ship, the Samar, Tom Sweeney, now convalescing after an attack of pneumonia at the home of his father in Washington, D. C., sends in a little note about something that happened to him on the island of Samar, in the Philippines (likely the island for which the ship was named--right, Johnny?):

"We happened to have a crew on that trip three members of which were chess enthusiasts and while we were lying around in our tent one afternoon with nothing to do but wait for the sun to go down, a couple of us hit upon the idea of a blindfold chess game. We played lying on our cots. The only one with ambition enough to be sitting up wrote down the score to settle any arguments that might arise. That's the only reason I have the score but I'm rather proud of it because this was one of the few times I have been able to carry a blindfold game through to a successful conclusion without having to take back a move or check with the board to settle the sort of disputes that arise when amateurs attempt this kind of play. We finished the 16-move game in about 25 minutes...

"I don't wish to brag but I think you asked for chess news from your members around the world and I might be able to add something to the record. During my nine months at the Naval Air Station at Patuxent, Md., there was quite an active chess group. We maintained a ladder of sixteen

players with the positions being challenged all the time. After three or four months, I finally larded on top of the ladder and held my position for the rest of my stay there.

"I would have felt pretty good about this if about once every two weeks I had not had to pass through the Azores where I played a guy on the island of Terceiro who would beat me every time.

"He was an odd character from the backwoods of Georgia, a lieutenant who was known to all his friends as 'Colonel' and whose principal occupations seemed to be raising hogs. He could beat everyone on the island in poker, backgammon, gin rummy, checkers and chess. I never succeeded in beating him at anything."

## GOOD NEWS AND BAD FROM OTHER CHESS PAPERS

We finally found that item about the CCLA (the one we reported missing in the article on p. 8 of this issue). It appears both in Cleveland Chess Bulletin and Leslie E. Dunkin's Chessfully this month. J. W. Jenkins has been named the new CCLA secretary after an election reported as "hotly contested." The new second vice president reported as W. J. Byland apparently is our own Wm. M. Byland of Pittsburgh (how could there be two, eh, Bill?). Editor Dunkin comments: "The removal of the headquarters of the CCLA from Iowa to New York, evidently also Chess Correspondent, leaves Chessfully as the only chess publication with general circulation published in the U.S.A. west of New York State." The new secretary, Mr. Jenkins, lives in Newark, N. Y. (not New Jersey, pray note).

First issue of the Austin Chess Bulletin edited by John A. Nowak for the Austin Chess & Checker Club, 5600 W. Lake St., Chicago 44, Ill., has just arrived. The editor says, "First edition complimentary--10 cents a bulletin thereafter," but we're hopeful he'll put us on the exchange list for this newsy, beautifully-printed, 4-page mimeographed paper.

En Passant (Detroit), organ of the Edison Chess & Checker Club, edited by WVCA Member Ed Treend, offers this problem: "The competitors of the Rockwood Chess Congress are organized into two sections. In each section, each player plays one game against each other competitor in the section. This meant, last year, 165 games. This year there is one more competitor in each section. How many games must the secretary arrange?"...Members of the Edison club have been asked to take part in a 1,000-board England-America correspondence match being promoted in England.

Divan News (Washington): M. C. Stark won the 1945-46 Washington Chess Divan championship, 6-2. Four players tied for second...The Divan invited young Geo. Kramer, N.Y. State champion, in for a week-end of chess, setting up three events. George knocked off the first two easily, winning a special rapid transit event against the club's roughest, 8-2, and next day playing a four-hour simultaneous, winning 16, losing 3 and drawing 2 (his first serious exhibition!). The final hazard was too much. He lost a clock game to the Divan's young star, Hans Berliner, in 24 moves.

Cleveland Chess Bulletin: Twelve Cleveland schools are participating in match play at present and the Cleveland Chess Association is planning a city junior championship tournament for this summer. This is a splendid project and right in line with USCF aims...We're afraid the Bulletin got off the track a little with the following comment: "To merely learn the moves of the knight over the 64 squares without touch-

ing the same square twice would take years for an average player, if he could learn to do so at all." We hope no one will take offense if we say this seems to us a trifle naive. There are thousands of known variations of the "knight's tour" and some of them are so symmetrically simple that a child of average intelligence can memorize them in a few minutes.

En Passant (Pittsburgh): Koltanowski will give an 8-board blindfold at the Downtown Y Club the night of Feb. 21.

Pennsylvania State Chess Federation Bulletin: The 1946 Pennsylvania state meet will be held the Labor Day week-end at Reading...The Franklin Club won the Philadelphia League championship 17-7.

Firestone Chess & Checker Club bulletin: Koltanowski will give a simultaneous at the club Feb. 19...We don't want to chide capable Mr. L.A. Fickes, editor of the Firestone paper, but would suggest his Latin need dusting, else how he arrive at "Poetry in Chess" as a translation of "Poetica Regum"? (We know how; we just wonder if he agrees!) Anyway, thanks for the ad. And best regards to the Akron chessers.

Minneapolis Chess & Checker Club bulletin: The 49th annual Minnesota State Chess Association will be held Feb. 22-24 at Minneapolis. This is a dual meet, as a "minor" tourney is held simultaneously for beginners and others who do not wish to try for the title.

Chess News From Russia keeps getting better and better. Only kick we have is we haven't seen any copies since Jan. 10 and we're beginning to wonder if the publisher, Dr. Albrecht Buschke, 80 E. 11th St., New York 3 N.Y., has forgotten our existence. They arrived like clockwork heretofore but the last two issues are overdue. The Jan. 10 number has a feature some of our members may like: a reprint of 24 end-game studies by Russian composers. (Sample copy, 10 cents; by the year, \$2.)

We might make the same comment on Chess Correspondent. Last number we saw was November. Anyone know if it is still publishing or gone into a long silence since the crew tossed the pilot overboard?

## BIRTHDAY PROFILES

(Only birthday, we have to report this month is one, on which we published full sketch last year so we are giving only a brief up-to-dating paragraph. Next month's Profiles will cover March 15-April 14 birthdays. If this hits yours, please send in material at once.)

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FEB. 21--JOHN F. HURT, JR.--charter member of the WVCA. First state champion (1939). Sixth in Pennsylvania Open at Philadelphia 1945. Won 3 shipboard tourneys while in Navy same year, played with Navy team in numerous encounters. Has played strong opponents in Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Wheeling, Huntington, Baltimore, Washington and other cities. Just home again after a long hitch in the Navy. (Address: P.O. Box 891, Charleston 23, W.Va.)

### MORE CHESSERS RETURNING HOME

WVCA Director William Challinor, Clarksburg, postcards as follows (Feb. 3): "Dr. Robert Humphries and Sam Darrall have left the Army and are both back in Clarksburg. I don't believe the doctor has managed to find a suitable office yet."

NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

- 73 T. Lundberg, 5626 Bell Ave., Dallas 6, Tex. (NEW)  
 74 E. Grant Cole, 901 Charles Ave., Morgantown, W. Va.  
 75 Lindsay Brewer, 421 McLain Ave., Morgantown, W. Va. (NEW)  
 76 H. M. Russell, Home for Old Men, Warwood, Wheeling, W. Va.  
 77 Lake Brown, 216 West 11th Ave., Huntington, W. Va. (NEW)  
 78 H. D. Burke, 3273 R. F. D. 2, Huntington 2, W. Va. (NEW)  
 79 Thomas Hughart, R. 4, Box 258, Morgantown, W. Va. (NEW)

NEW ADDRESSES

- Gene Collett, 125 Meritt Ave., Pittsburgh 27, W. Va.  
 H. Landis Marks, P.O. Drawer 448, Huntington, W. Va.  
 John F. Hurt, Jr., P.O. Box 891, Charleston 23, W. Va.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT JAN. 11 TO FEB. 10, 1946

	<u>Recd.</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Bal. on hand Jan. 10 (see Bull. 41)			33.09
Receipts: Memberships at \$1, Lundberg, Cole, Russell, Burke, Brown and Hughart, \$6; membership at 75¢, Brewer; donation, A. W. Paull, \$4; total receipts	10.75		43.84
Expenses: Bull. 41 (140 copies 8 pp.) mimeo \$2.24, postage 2.37; postage, correspondence, \$1.37; rental typewriter Feb. 7 to March 6, \$3; total expenses		8.98	34.86

KATHARINE CORNELL'S FAVORITE STORY

(Sam Abrahams sends in a clipping from Elsa Maxwell's Party Line, a column syndicated by Press Alliance, which reads:)

One of the best and most charming stories that Katherine Cornell tells is the one about the two old ladies in England, who were very aristocratic and of excellent position--but extremely poor. They lived in Bayswater, the Washington Square of London. When the present King and Queen were married, the old ladies received invitations because their names were on Lady Strathmore's invitation list dating back for years and Queen Elizabeth never forgets friends.

So they were invited, but could not possibly attend the wedding because they did not have the proper clothes and were too poor to buy them. However, they decided to send a present, and they got together 12 shillings (about \$2 American money) and started rummaging about antique shops, looking for a present. They chanced upon five pieces of chess. Tho it was not a full set, these five ivory pieces were so charming they couldn't resist them. They didn't know what they were for, but they bought them, wrapped them carefully and sent them on with their best wishes.

People who send gifts and are known to the Royal Family are invited to see the presents. These two little old ladies mustered up their courage and, dressed in their rusty black dresses and moth-eaten furs, went to Buckingham Palace. They saw gorgeous jewels, emeralds, rubies, etc.

But under a separate glass case on a pedestal, set apart from the other gifts, with a printed card beside it, they upon their own wedding present, and read to their astonishment, "These are the five missing chessmen from one of the oldest, finest and most precious sets of chess in the world." They had been lost for over 200 years and museums all over the world had been searching for them. The little old ladies made their courtesies and went home, bewildered, bedazzled, but happy.