

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

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NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAN REVISED

On the theory that a bad compromise is better than a good civil war, the United States Chess Federation, by a 51-5 vote of its directors, has revised the setup for this fall's National Championship play, as follows:

- (1) Fifteen players will be chosen from regions of the U.S. as previously planned, three from New York area, two from each of the others.
- (2) To U.S. Champion Arnold S. Denker, seeded in the original plan, has been added six other seeded players: Reuben Fine and Herman Steiner, both of Los Angeles; I.A. Horowitz, I.I. Kashdan and Albert S. Pinkus, all of New York City, and Samuel Reshevsky of Boston.
- (3) Entrants will be increased from 16 to a possible 22.

The plan is for 1946 only. By 1948 the USCF hopes to have the tourney on something more than an impromptu basis.

We see no reason, if there was to be more seeding, why the names of Arthur W. Dake, George Koltanowski, Anthony Santasiere, A. C. Simons and possibly others should not have been added to the list.

A publicity release from the USCF says "as the result of a hurried meeting in New York City between officials of the USCF and of the Association of American Chess Masters, a compromise was agreed upon." We feel there was too much haste both in submitting the original plan as well as in abandoning it once the directors adopted it.

May we again renew our long-standing suggestion that the USCF needs a magazine of its own, published regularly and as often as possible, in which such ideas can be cussed and discussed by the membership before they are submitted to vote? Several thousand heads are better than one and such a situation as the present one could have been avoided had members only had a chance to talk things over. Which would have saved the USCF getting itself into a mess and the chess world into an uproar.

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THE FACTS ABOUT WALT JAMES AND THE CCLA

In our last issue we saw fit to administer a gentle slap to the Correspondence Chess League of America for doing what we called "throwing the pilot overboard." Our comment was based on stories appearing in chess magazines to the effect that Walt James had been voted out after "a spirited election" (and at least one of the articles was written by a correspondence player who should have known the facts).

Our friend, Montgomery Major, editor of the USCF Yearbook, writes us however (March 4), that the earlier accounts did justice neither to Walt nor to the CCLA and he has given us permission to quote from his letter to show the true state of affairs. This we are very happy to do.

both because it adds additional facts, and because it shows all the principals in a much better light. Mont writes:

"In justice both to the CCLA members and Walt James I thought you should get the story of the changes there in more detail. There was a hot contest in the last election; but is not just either to the CCLA or to Walt to say they dropped the pilot like Wilhelm dropped Bismarck. It is possible and quite probable that James would have won the election, but just before voting time he withdrew his name because of an illness which had kept him in the hospital two months and which prevented his attending to his secretarial duties. It is this illness which explains the failure of the Chess Correspondent to appear on schedule.

"Walt is still seriously ill and it may be quite some time before he is able to resume his activity in the chess world. For those of us who have worked with him thru the years this is sad news, for he was one of the most industrious and always one of the most cheerful and self-sacrificing toilers in the world of chess. His work, however, will endure in the CCLA which was a rather disorganized and weak organization some 20 years ago, when he first laid hand to the throttle. Its present strength is the best tribute that could be made to Walt's ability as an organizer and as a salesman in the world of chess."

FEBRUARY ISSUE OF C.C. APPEARS

In this connection, we wish to report also that we have just received the February issue of Chess Correspondent, with James W. Jenkins of Newark, N. Y., acting temporarily as editor in chief, and consider it a highly workmanlike job, notwithstanding the handicaps which he encountered in preparing his copy for the printers.

Most of the customary material appears, along with some new, and the editor hopes to have his communication lines reestablished and everything running smoothly in a month or two. There are some minor slips, notably the duplication of one article in its entirety in two different parts of the magazine (for which the printer likely was wholly responsible) but generally it is a fine job.

The issue includes a poem addressed to Walt James urging him to get well; an article by Anton Y. Hesse, new president of the league in which he attributes Walt's illness to his whole-hearted devotion to the work of the CCLA; and a message from Walt himself, dictated from his sickbed, in which he said:

"If I were able, I would write much more to the members than I can say here. I want to congratulate every newly elected officer and director and wish them success in their work for the League. I cherish the many years of happy association with them and, regardless of any differences over policies in recent months, I seek their continued friendship. I want to get well so that I can renew my membership and begin playing with them again. I am very grateful for all they have done and hope to be of some service to them in return for their kindness to me. I hope everyone will do his part to make the League prosper in every way. There must always be a CCLA."

BULLETIN -- ALEKHINE DIES!!! Lisbon, March 24.--(AP)--Dr. Alexander A. Alekhine, 53, world chess champion, was found dead today in his hotel room at Estoril, near here. Physicians said his death was due to angina pectoris. A native of Russia, Alekhine had played in international matches since he was 16. Lately he had been working on his memoirs.

CHESS COLUMN ELIMINATED—THEN REINSTATED

Maybe we ought simply to ignore this incident but it has an object lesson which may be helpful elsewhere, particularly to chess clubs which have experienced difficulty persuading editors that their newspaper really needs a good chess column.

Early in March, a New England newspaper, rather than meet expenses of about \$5 a week for collecting materials, notified its chess editor, a leading chess official of his state, it had decided to drop his column.

And drop it the paper did. But--when the column failed to make its regular Sunday appearance, such a howl went up from readers that the chess editor was quickly summoned back to the presence, the column was reinstated, and the paper gladly okehed the expense account.

This, of course, is not quite enough, as anyone who puts out a chess column knows. The columns are of definite value to the paper. There is usually no one on the staff who has the time or ability or knowledge to handle the material. Services of an expert are required. Services of an expert should be paid for.

We do not know the financial arrangements connected with most of the columns. One midwestern editor, we hear, gets \$75 a month for four columns. That begins to sound like reasonable compensation. Chess columnists should get the idea out of their heads that a newspaper is doing them a favor even to print the column.

Maybe we should conduct a symposium on the subject, find what is going on. Perhaps classification of the information (with no names mentioned) would clarify the atmosphere and permit chess editors to get the financial recognition they so justly deserve.

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WEAVER W. ADAMS ON TOUR

Weaver W. Adams of Dedham, Mass., writes (March 18) he'll pass thru the Central States on tour late in March or early in April. Adams, Ventnor City and New England champion and author of "White to Play and Win" and the more recent "Simple Chess," likely will give a show at the Pittsburgh Downtown Y Club the final details were still in the making at this writing.

DR. WERTHAMMER IN NEW YORK

Dr. Siegfried Werthammer, Huntington (March 17): "In New York for a couple of days (reading a paper in Atlantic City Tuesday). Saw Dr. Buschke and picked up scores of the Hastings and London Tournaments. Inclosed is a copy of a game Denker won from the London Champion." The game with splendid notes by Ziggy will be found elsewhere in this issue. We are hoping Ziggy soon will give us a paper on his chessic experiences, both in the United States and abroad. We are sure every WVCA member would enjoy such an article. We hope also for other London and Hastings games, with Ziggy's notes, for future Bulletins.

POETICA REGUM

PROBLEM DEPT.
EDITED BY
FRANCIS J. C. DEBLASIO

THE 1946 WVCA PROBLEM SOLVING CONTEST IS HERE!

This announces the opening of the third annual West Virginia Chess Association Problem Solving Contest, open to all readers of this page, wherever they may reside.

The contest problems begin with this issue and will continue thru the remainder of 1946--March to December--10 issues of the Bulletin.

High scorer at the end of the 10-month period will be awarded one year's possession of the West Virginia Challenge Solving Cup, which must be won three times for permanent possession. This honor was won in 1944 by Solver Tom Sweeney of Wheeling, W. Va., who in the current standings holds a four-point lead over his nearest competitor for the 1945 title.

The 1946 contest starts with a very likely set of creations. Your Problem Editor's youngest brother makes his debut with No. 91--a dainty tidbit. He has just returned from India but not without a scratch--he was bitten by the composing bug. Nos. 92 and 93 are from two more Brooklyn aspirants who have made good. Both are enthusiastic debutantes. The lovely No. 94 shows that this problem page is going to far places. Nos. 95, 97 and 98 are exceptionally fine studies by three well-known composers. No. 96 serves as an object lesson. A 37-year-old (the number 37 is a magic prime, by the way) doctor makes his debut with No. 98, which is a beautifully simple but intriguing offering.

SOLUTIONS TO JANUARY PROBLEMS

No. 73: Qa5. No. 74: 1 Sf5. No. 75: Ke7. No. 76: QRe5. No. 77: Bg1. No. 78: Qe3. No. 79: 1 Qg8 threat 2 RxSch (a) 1...Sd2 (or SxS), 2 Rb5ch, (b) 1...Sd4, 2 Sd3ch, (c) 1...B along c1-h6, 2 Pd8(S), (d) 1...B along f6-d8, 2 Qglch, (e) 1...Bh6, 2 Qg4. No. 80: 1 Qh6 threat 2 Sf2ch, (a) 1...Ke4, 2 Qe3ch, (b) 1...Pg5, 2 Qg6ch, (c) 1...Qd3, 2 Se3ch, (d) 1...Qe4, 2 Sg4-e5ch. No. 81: 1 Rg1 Bh2 (or e7), 2 PXP, (a) 1...B else (or Pf2), 2 QXPch, (b) 1...PXP, 2 RXP, (c) 1...Kh5, 2 Qf5ch, (d) 1...K else, PXPch.

SOLVERS' LADDER (INCLUDING DECEMBER SOLUTIONS)

Thomas Sweeney 163, Gene Collett 159, Victor Shortino 116, Robert Crean 115, Otto Oppenheimer 90, Bertrand Mulligan 79, Arthur Brenneman 71, E. J. Eddy 19. (Note: Two additional cooks, 1 Qg1 and 1 Qh1, have been found in No. 54.)

ABOUT THE 1945 WVCA YEARBOOK

Gene Collett has asked the Problem Editor to prepare a small section for the 1945 WVCA Yearbook to represent our problem department. We have, fortunately, been able to obtain a special surprise for this section which we know all our solvers will enjoy.

Sorry, we can't tell you any more about it now. But just keep your eye peeled for that 1945 Yearbook!

NO. 91 ORIGINAL
BONIFACE DEBLASIO
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

		B	S		
			PP		
			K		
		K	P		
B		B			R

MATE IN 2 (6+4)

NO. 92 ORIGINAL
IGNATIUS HAAS
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

			RB		
		PRPQ			
P		K		K	
		PS			
S	P				
		S	S		
		R			

MATE IN 2 (9+7)

NO. 93 ORIGINAL
ROBT. LEVINSO
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

	R				
				S	B
P	R			B	
KS	K			S	
			P		
B					

MATE IN 2 (8+4)

NO. 94 ORIGINAL
J.J.P.A. SEILBERGER
THE HAGUE, HOLLAND

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

MATE IN 2 (10+6)

NO. 95 ORIGINAL
E.J. EDDY
BRISTOL, ENGLAND

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

MATE IN 2 (7+10)

NO. 96 ORIGINAL
FRANCIS J.C. DEBLASIO
BROOKLYN, N.Y.

					S
		B	P	R	
	R	R			K
P		P			P
R					PP
P		PK			
	Q	B	B	S	S

MATE IN 2 (10+11)

NO. 97 ORIGINAL
OTTO OPPENHEIMER
IRVINGTON, N.Y.

				K	
	S	B			
		S	P		
			K	P	

MATE IN 3 (4+3)

NO. 98 ORIGINAL
DR. ALBERT C. NEISSER
MT. VERNON, N.Y.

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

MATE IN 3 (9+5)

NO. 99 ORIGINAL
H.C. MOWRY
MALDEN, MASS

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

MATE IN 3 (7+9)

LETTERS AND NOTES

Capt. B. W. Devericks, Ft. Knox, Ky. (March 14): "Of course, you can get one letter which is for publication and I will salve my conscience for cruel treatment which I have given one Chess Editor by sending you this none too reliable gossip. Dear old OQ-3 is now equipped with chess players as well as kabitzers. I list the following in the first classification: Maj. Klein of Pittsburgh who beats me 9 out of 10, Lt. Harrison of New Orleans (some relation to Morphy, I hope) who beats me 7 out of 10, Lt. Col. Weetman of California who very easily takes me 3 out of 5 (oh, well, make it 4 out of 5 if you insist), and one Sgt. Carmichael from New Hampshire, unfortunately not a resident of OQ-3, who takes me about 2 out of 3. Eventually, if this keeps up, I'm going to feel very discouraged."

(A few days later a second letter came from Bill Devericks, inclosing WVCA memberships for most of the players mentioned above--see New Members Section--along with several others, including Col. Percival of Indiana, W. O. Morgan of the state of Washington, Lt. Stevenson and Lt. Leathers both of Ohio, and Mr. Tibbits, a Kentucky civilian. Thanks, Bill, for your one-man membership drive; it puts us within one of our 1945-46 membership goal.; Who wants the honor?... Regarding Bill's report about everybody he plays beating him 99 out of 100, we want solemnly to warn Clarksburg players that this letter sounds like Bill is getting ready to head for home and is starting to get the players into the right psychological mood of over-confidence so he can wallop them soundly. Our advice to them: Beware!!!)

Montgomery Major, Oak Park, Ill., editor of the USCF Yearbook (March 10): "Due to a slight domestic turmoil (i.e., the birth of a five-pound, 12-ounce daughter), I didn't get a chance to answer your letter sooner... I don't believe a word of it but the story of the two old English gentlewomen and the missing chessmen in the February Bulletin is a nice tale just the same."

(Congratulations on the new arrival!... The story to which Mont refers is a reprint on the last page of the February WVCB. We're curious about the yarn, too; does anyone who happens to have read it know whether it has any claim to authenticity?)

Waldo L. Waters of Melrose, Mass., a WVCA member who has just been elected president of the Massachusetts State Chess Association, writes (March 15): "Later on, I shall apprise you of a plan to get the various chess associations to push chess forward to a popularity never before achieved in this country. We are working toward that end here in our association and when the groundwork is laid and the program begins to take shape, I shall see that you are fully informed."

(Waldo also tells us that Weaver W. Adams has just published a new book, "Simple Chess," dealing with variations of the Vienna Game. "And a very nice job, too," Waldo adds. He says Weaver and Harry Lyman played a five-game match at the Boylston, Mass., club to test the book's theories with the result that Harry won three games and Weaver burned the midnight oil rewriting a page of the book. Weaver said it was the first time he ever met an opponent who played five consecutive games of perfect chess," Waldo adds.)

Edward M. Foy, Charleston (March 16): "Re your query about our State Tournament for next fall, if Huntington wants the meet, it likely should go there, with Wheeling as second choice. Of course, we can't very well decide until we know what cities want the meet. Any bids yet? I am sure Charleston and South Charleston will send strong representations to the meet. I will be there, of course, if it is humanly possible; and I also hope to get to Pittsburgh during the National Open in July...We are now trying to bring the Charleston Chess Club back to its prewar status but it will take time and I doubt if we can ^{get} back into our full routine before fall. We have a nice place to meet for the present--at the K. of C. club rooms...Reid Holt is still going to school in Huntington, getting home over the week-ends, but probably will be back with us in two or three weeks. Hal Liggett and the South Charleston players seems to have developed quite a lot of chess enthusiasm and I look for a fine club there. They have some quite promising youngsters, too. Johnny Hurt and I were down there last week."

Bill Schaeffer, Morgantown, writes (March 5) that sponsoring a chess club in a University town has its ups and downs. Because of the many conflicting activities, he points out, attendance waxes and wanes. The boys are doing all right in Morgantown, tho, with 9 to 11 players turning out for club sessions. All those who attended the fine State meet they put on last fall know that the MCC has a corps of live, peppy players who may be depended on to keep their town on the map. "There are a lot of chess players in this burg," says Bill, "if we could ever get them all together. Lots of chess is played at the frat houses, for example. We're expecting, or at least hoping, for a big turnout when the fall semester opens."

Arthur W. Fey, Hazleton, Pa. (March 16): "I have received a letter from Paul Giers, secretary of the USCF, saying he would like to see the Chess Game Recorder (see WVCB, December, 1945, page 3) demonstrated in Pittsburgh at the National Open Tourney in July. And, better yet, Friend George Koltanowski tells me he will be glad to demonstrate the board there for me! George and his wife stayed with us Sunday and Monday, leaving by auto for Richmond, Va., Tuesday morning. George gave a free exhibition for wounded vets in Richmond on Wednesday afternoon plus a regular exhibition in Richmond Thursday night, then left for exhibitions in Atlanta, Ga., and Florida. Then he leaves by plane for appearance in Cuba and anticipates another in Venezuela. George gets around!...Had a letter from B.H. Wood of Chess, the English magazine, asking the price of five of the chess recording tables. He has me in a spot as I'm awaiting arrival of relays needed to make the recorder work from light sockets instead of batteries. So I'll have to write him accordingly...Had an inquiry about the recorder from St. Petersburg, Fla., this morning. There seems to be a lot of chess interest in the U.S."

J. C. Thompson, Dallas, Tex. (Feb. 16): "A number of changes need to be made in the USCF, I feel. The constitution needs revising so that progressive ideas can be submitted to the members, giving them an actual voice in the affairs of the Federation...But we've got to hang together and keep working toward a better organization, especially in view of the 'rule or ruin' attitude of some of the masters."

A. W. Paull, Wheeling (Feb. 26): "You can have the tournament in Wheeling any time you want."

(This seems almost an answer to Ed Foy's question on page 7. There has been considerable talk about a Victory Tournament in Wheeling, just as soon as the war was over. We didn't have proper time to plan for such an affair last year and besides the Japs hadn't quit yet. So 1946 would appear to be the logical year, now that most of the boys are back. Let's have opinions from some more of the members.)

L. A. Scholpp, Pittsburgh, a WVCA member and a USCF director, sends along a copy of a letter he mailed to USCF Secretary Paul Giers on Feb. 24, suggesting the following, among other, changes in the method of holding the National Championships: "Seed into the Championship all former holders of the title. They have demonstrated their ability by winning in former years and should be admitted without further play...Seed all American winners of the U.S. Open. This will definitely raise the level of the Open...Seed all winners of the Amateur Tourney only after it becomes a truly national event...Form within the ranks of the USCF a grand masters' rating committee."

(We dunno about the Amateur but we can go along with Br'er Scholpp on the rest of his suggestions providing he makes it "all future winners of the National Open." And a very neat way of doing the seeding, we might add; make it automatic and give the boys a chance to qualify in the Open, if they wish, and failing there, to fall back on the regional meets. This would make the selections purely automatic and eliminate all the belly-aching. As a proviso, we would suggest a 10-year limit on the National Championships and a five-year limit on the Open for purposes of seeding.)

WITH OTHER EDITORS

Latest issue of Dr. Albrecht Buschke's "Chess News From Russia" has no solution to the problem of the mysterious absence of the Russian chess masters from the London tournament nor have we heard any reasons given anywhere else. Five were reported on the way; none arrived. Wherefore? A feature of the Feb. 10 issue of this magazine is a three-page table showing what participants in Russian chess championships have done in tournaments from 1920 down to the present time. No one else approaches the six first places won by the current champ, Botvinnik. CRFR is \$2 a year, 10 cents for a sample copy. Write Dr. Buschke at 80 East 11th St., New York 3, N. Y.

Firestone Chess and Checker Club bulletin, Akron, Ohio: Early in March the Firestone club defeated the Mahoning Valley Chess Club at Youngstown 10 to 2...Koltanowski gave a simultaneous for the club Feb. 19, winning 19, drawing 1 and losing 1.

Austin Chess Bulletin, Chicago: Herman Steiner played at the Austin club, winning 23, drawing 1, losing 2. And we pass this quote along without standing sponsor for it: "Did you know that early Hindus often wagered fingers and arms on the outcome of a match?"

Cleveland Chess Bulletin: Mrs. M. L. Warren has this to say about George Koltanowski's bride of a few weeks ago: "Most of you chess fans saw George Koltanowski at one or more of his remarkable exhibitions but

you probably didn't know there was a charming and talented Mrs. right there, backing him up...I surmised that they were newly married which proved correct. I believe three months is still 'newly married.' She travels with him and is what you call a partner in chess. She does his correspondence for him which is no small matter. Her fine sense of humor must help him equally well; for instance, they had to arise at 5 o'clock on a nice, cold winter morning in Columbus to get a bus which should have arrived in Cleveland in time for him to keep his appointments. Three buses broke down and at one time a three-hour wait in the country was necessary. Instead of complaining, she entertained him, keeping him in a good spirits as possible during such a delay. We salute you, Mrs. K.!" Kolti played eight blindfold boards at Cleveland, winning 5, drawing 2, losing 1; and on another night, playing 38 boards simultaneously, yielded only 1 win and 7 draws.

En. Passant, Detroit: I.A. Horowitz played 20 boards at the Detroit Chess & Checker club, yielding only one draw. Answer to "chess congress" problem quoted in the WVCB last month: "The secretary would have to arrange 191 games. There must have been 10 and 16 players last year as only a combination of these two will provide a total of 165 games. Hence there will be 11 and 17 competitors this year, making a total of 191 games to be played."

Chessfully, South Bend, Ind.: Leslie E. Dunkin announces withdrawal of Chessfully immediately but his reason for quitting likely is the weirdest so far to make its appearance: "Adieu to you! Much of the personal enjoyment and satisfaction from playing chess and trying to help promote chess is lost when it walls for meeting and overcoming 'politics.' The increasing appearance of this, ranging from personal scheming by individuals to pressure or steam-roller efforts by groups and larger organizations, has led to the decision to discontinue Chessfully the end of 1946." Weirdest, also, is the plan for quitting: Subscriptions will be discontinued as they run out. No new subs will be taken. Exchanges will be discontinued, even for the rest of 1946...We hate to doubt any man's stated motives but we'll bet if Dunkin really broke down he'll simply tell us he didn't realize the work there was in getting out a chess paper, that after he got well under way he got tired of it, and so he just decided to quit "first chance he got." Heavens Katy, Les! This political scrap in the higher chess brackets is made to order for the chess magazines! Why not chip in your two cents' worth instead of cashing in your chips? (The decision must have been sudden as the March issue, which contains the announcement, also contains numerous requests for folks to send in their \$1 a year subscriptions. And--behold a beautiful note of unconscious irony: Dunkin's chess quotation for the month is Tarrasch's gem, "Chess, like love and music, has the power to make thinking people happy.")

Lansing (Mich.) Chess Club bulletin: "Recently we heard about the blind chess team, featured by the Overbrook School for the Blind in Philadelphia. Playing with special pieces--whites and blacks distinguished by pointed and round tops, respectively--the team apparently does all right for itself. A special chess board is used with the black squares slightly raised."..."Chess Review now uses the letter N for Knight instead of Kt."

The Pawnshop (new name for the Minneapolis Chess & Checker Club bulletin): George S. Barnes won the Minnesota state championship Feb. 23-25 in Minneapolis. Robert Ott was runnerup, W. F. Jones third and L. P. Narveson fourth.

Wisconsin Chess Letter: The February issue of this excellent publication is the first to appear since last August. Though the Letter does not say, the hiatus is perhaps accounted for by the death of Editor Fritz Rathmann's father, Otto Carl Rathmann, Sr., on Jan. 8, 1946, at the age of 68. The whole chess world mourns with Fritz at the death of his father, one of the game's most energetic promoters. The next issue of the Letter will be a memorial edition in his honor...A Milwaukee manufacturer is making a chess clock with two dials operated from a single clock. The object is to overcome the objection to most chess clocks in which one clock runs faster than the other, giving the player with the slow clock an advantage...Announcement is made of a new chess magazine, first issue scheduled to come out this month, chess news from all over the world, \$2 for 12 monthly issues; address Global Chess Digest, 4124 South Austin Street, Milwaukee 7, Wis. (which is Editor Rathmann's address, by the way)...The WCL reproduces entire the August, 1945, issue of the Pittsburgh paper, En Passant, and hints it may perform a similar service to its readers later on other mimeoed chess publications.

En Passant, Pittsburgh: George Koltanowski, in a blindfold show Feb. 21 at the Downtown Y, won 5 and lost 3, against the toughest competition the club could offer. Winners were Pittsburgh Champion Paal, former Wisconsin Champion Reel, and H.C. Lowe of Avalon...Kolti's tour about the country had added 750 USCF members up until this date...Editor C.H.L. Schuette II devotes more than a page to an editorial under the heading, "The Chess Masters Are Angry," in which he takes Fine, Lasker and others to task for their (now successful) revolt against the USCF National Tournament plan. The editorial, a philippic if we ever saw one, and we have seen one, is printed at full length in the current Cleveland Chess Bulletin which, astoundingly, attributes it to the pen of Bill Byland, editor of the Pennsylvania State Chess Federation Bulletin, who assures us, none too happily, that he was NOT the author. The Cleveland boys may be able to pacify Bill but we eagerly await the next issue of En Passant to see what Editor Schuette says. Oh, Cleveland boys! (What's going to happen to them!!!)

Pennsylvania State Chess Federation Bulletin: Reading defeated Lancaster Feb. 8 at Lancaster 9-3...The Lehigh Valley Association won over Germantown Y Jan. 20 at Philadelphia 8½-2½.

Readinger Chess-Nut, Reading, Pa.: Reading defeated Coatesville Y, 4-2.

Divan News, Washington, D. C.: Ex-member Reuben Fine, now in California, plans to visit the club in July...The Washington Chess Divan was nine years old March 1.

WORK ON USCF CLUB MANUAL UNDER WAY

We are happy to report that work on the long-awaited USCF Club Manual is well under way. Lucius A. Fritze of Elgin, Ill., J. C. Thompson of Dallas, Tex., N.P. Wigginton of Washington, D. C., and W. W. Winans of Rochester, N. Y., all USCF directors, have accepted posts as Associate Editors and are hard at work on planning and writing the volume. Publication date is uncertain, depending upon the amount of time required to prepare the manuscript and get it thru the printer. USCF Secy. Paul Giers plans to mail a questionnaire soon to all members clubs in the U.S., as well as other interested and knowledgeable persons, asking their advice and aid in the work, thus assuring that the clubs get what they want and need. Current plans are to make the book so thorough and complete that not only every club but every chess player will make the volume a "must" for his chess library.

A DENKER VICTORY FROM THE LONDON MEET

We asked Dr. Siegfried Werthammer of Huntington, 1943 and 1944 West Virginia Champion, to annotate the game which Arnold S. Denker of Forest Hills, N.Y., U. S. Champion, won from G. Wood, the London champion, in the B section of the recent London Tournament. The game, a Meran variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined, follows:

WOOD	DENKER
1 P-Q4	P-Q4
2 N-KB3	P-K3
3 P-QB4	N-KB3
4 N-B3	P-B3
5 P-K3	

If B-N5, Denker would have had the same position Botvinnik had against him in the famous radio match. P-K3 is more solid.

5 ...	QN-Q2
6 B-Q3	PxP
7 BxP	P-QN4

This move initiates the Meran Defense to the QGD, one of the most ingenious defenses in this opening. It leads to sharp games in which anything can happen. White gets a strong attack by pushing the center P and Black counters by advance on the Q's wing.

The defense is an invention of Rubinstein who used it first against Grunfeld in the International Chess Tournament in Meran in 1924.

(Meran--or Merano as the Italians called it after the territory was taken from Austria after World War I--is a beautiful, warm oasis in the Alps, surrounded

by high mountains. I was there in 1924 as a young boy, recuperating from rheumatic fever. I remember visiting the tournament and seeing the players, tho I didn't understand very much about tournament chess. It was the first international tournament our friend Koltanowski played in. He was then 19; more about him later on.)

8 B-Q3	P-QR3
9 P-K4	P-B4
10 P-K5	PxP
11 QNxP	PxN
12 PxN	Q-N3

This is a variation of the Meran Defense, first played by Keres. It seems to rehabilitate the defense which was thot, for a time, to give White the advantage.

13 PxP	BxP
14 Q-K2	P-N5!

White's Q wing is under pressure.

15 O-O	B-N2
16 B-KB4	O-O
17 KR-K	

In a game Koltanowski-Werthammer, Kolti played 17 N-K5 KR-Q??, 18 BxPch! KxB, 19 Q-R5ch and Black (poor me) resigned. This was one of 10 simultaneous games Kolti won in

Nov. 1945 in Huntington, W. Va.

17 ...	R-R4!
	Firms the center.
18 P-QR3	PxP
19 RxP	KR-R
20 KR-R	RxR
21 PxR?	

RxR should have been played. Now follows a beautiful endgame: White is helpless.

21 ...	B-QR3
22 BxB	QxB
23 QxQ	RxQ
24 K-B	P-K4
25 B-Q2	P-K5
26 N-N5	P-K6!
27 B-N4	

PxP loses a piece.

27 ...	P-K7ch!
28 K-K	

28 KxP P-Q6ch loses the R.

28 ...	P-Q6
29 R-B	B-N7
30 R-B8ch	K-N2
31 R-Q8	RxP!!
32 N-B3	

32 BxR B-B3 mate.

32 ...	R-R8ch
33 K-Q2	R-Q8ch
34 K-K3	B-B8ch
35 K-K4	P-Q7
36 K-B5	P-K8(Q)
37 NxQ	PxN(Q)
38 BxQ	R-Q4ch!
39 Resigns	

A nice finish. For if White plays K to K4 or N4, N-B3ch wins the R.

BIRTHDAY PROFILES

MARCH 20--ALBERT S. PINKUS. Joined WVCA 1944. Pinkus, a stockbroker, was born Mar. 20, 1903, is married and has a son, Lawrence, 1 year old. Learned chess at 17, picking it up in Hartford (Conn.) YMCA. Famed as a chess analyst. In his early twenties won two important tournies: Hallgarten, 1925, and Junior Masters', 1927. In 1932, embarked on series of 10 expeditions to jungles of British Guiana and Venezuela collecting zoological and botanical specimens. Returned to New York 1939 and finished fourth in American Chess Federation Congress that year. In U.S. National Championships tied for fourth in 1940, tied for third in 1942 and was fifth in 1944. Played seventh board in the USSR-USA radio match (1945) drawing both his games with Andrea Lilienthal. Takes all American chess magazines and number of foreign. Owns 2,000 chess books; has been collecting many years. "I need about 75 more tournament books and I will have all published," he says. (Address: 1700 Albemarle Rd., Brooklyn 26, N.Y.)

APRIL 5--RICHARD C. GRIMM. Joined WVCA 1942. Finished seventh in 1945 State Tourney at Morgantown, 1945-46 director WVCA from Kanawha county. (Address: 5412 Ohio St. SW., Charleston 3, W. Va.)

APRIL 8--RAY H. GRIFFIN. Charter member WVCA. Tied for eighth in 1945 State Tourney. 1945-46 president of the WVCA. (Address: 303 Greaney Building, Clarksburg, W. Va.)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT--FEB. 11-MARCH 20, 1946

	<u>RECD.</u>	<u>PAID</u>	<u>BAL.</u>
Bal. on hand Feb. 10 (see Bull. 42)			34.86
Receipts: Memberships at \$1, Pariseau, Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. Simpson, Shinkle, Mrs. Smith, Hughes, Peterson, Winans, Waters, Boylston Chess Club, Percival, Weetman, Klein, Leathers, Morgan, Harrison, Stevenson, Tibbits \$18; memberships at 75c, Cornwell, Weiss, \$1.50; 1946-47 memberships at \$1, Devericks, Mrs. Devericks \$2; contribution Devericks \$2; total receipts	23.50		58.36
Expenditures: Bull. 42 (150 copies, 12 pp.) mimeo 3.52, postage 2.56; correspondence, 2.24; rental typewriter Mar. 7-Apr. 6, \$3; Bates stapler for use on bulletins \$6.60; total expenditures		17.92	40.44

NEW MEMBERS

- 80 Roland E. Pariseau, 65 Coe St., Woonsocket, R.I.
- 81 Mrs. Carl O. Schmidt, Kenwood Place, Wheeling, W. Va.
- 82 Mrs. Leana Simpson, c/o A.G. Hubbard, Leatherwood Lane, Wheeling, W. Va.
- 83 Mrs. Cedric Smith, Elmwood, Wheeling, W. Va.
- 84 G.E. Shinkle, Box 82, Huntington, W. Va.
- 85 J.R. Hughes, 531 Bridge St., Huntington 1, W. Va.
- 86 A.J.A. Peterson, 69 Andem St., Providence 8, R. I.
- 87 Waldo L. Waters, 1165 Franklin St., Melrose 76, Mass.
- 88 Boylston Chess Club, 48 Boylston St., Boston, Mass.
- 89 Wm. W. Winans, Jr., 751 Harvard St., Rochester, N. Y.
- 90 Frank Cornwell, 315 North Erie St., Wheeling, W. Va.
- 91 Murray S. Weiss, 415 Main St., Wheeling, W. Va.
- 92 Col. H. C. Percival, c/o Post Surgeon's Office, Ft. Knox, Ky.
- 93 Lt. Col. H.R. Weetman, c/o TAS, Ft. Knox, Ky.
- 94 Maj. P.B. Klein, c/o Civilian Personnel Branch, Ft. Knox, Ky.
- 95 Lt. Earnest B. Leathers, c/o USDB Midwestern Branch No. 2, Ft. Knox, Ky.
- 96 W.O.S.F. Morgan, c/o Post Signal Office, Ft. Knox, Ky.
- 97 1st Lt. A.G.D. Frederick L. Harrison, c/o Military Personnel, Ft. Knox, Ky.
- 98 1st Lt. Charles B. Stevenson, c/o Post Treasurer, Ft. Knox, Ky.
- 99 Harold P. Tibbits, R.F.D. 4, Elizabethtown, Ky.