

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

NO. 52

JANUARY, 1947

WILLARD MUTCHLER, CHESS EDITOR, DIES

We have just received the sad word of the death of Willard Mutchler, chess editor of the Washington Post since 1923 and a member of the West Virginia Chess Association the last three years. He succumbed to a heart attack January 7 at his home in Washington, D. C.

Only 43, Brother Mutchler was one of the outstanding figures in the world of chess. His place will indeed be difficult to fill.

A letter from N. P. Wigginton, also a member of the Washington Chess Divan, says:

"It is an awful shock to all of us, and a terrible loss to chess here. I knew no finer man. He was an inspiration to me always. Only now do I realize how heavily I leaned upon his sound advice and depended upon his understanding and warm encouragement. Because of his first thrombosis, four years ago, he was practically forced to retire from the 'active' chess scene. As a result, there are many who do not know him personally, or understand what he has meant to chess here, aside from his column and particularly to the Divan."

Willard Hammond Mutchler was born October 5, 1903, in Easton, Pennsylvania, and became interested in chess there when he was 14. He was a graduate of George Washington University.

Willard was a man of wide and diversified interests. Officially, he was a metallurgist at the National Bureau of Standards, engaged since 1921 in corrosion research on metals used in aircraft. He had published numerous papers in this field and his work was of great use to the United States in World War II.

For more than 25 years he was closely associated with practically all of the chess activity in the District of Columbia, particularly from the promotional end. A highlight was a tourney he conducted in 1941 in the capacity of Washington Post chess editor. A total of 100 players competed for a \$250 carved ivory chess set and the event was publicized all over the country.

For about five years (1923-28) Willard was top man on the ladder of the Capitol City Chess Club at Washington. He directed several District of Columbia Chess tournaments from 1930 to 1940.

An omniverous chess collector, he subscribed to most of the American and some of the foreign chess magazines, and had more than 500 chess books, some of them rare. One unique item included in his library was a collection of photostatic and original copies of practically all chess articles published in the newspapers of Washington since 1821.

Willard leaves his wife and an eight-year-old daughter, Mary Kennedy Mutchler, to whom goes the heartfelt sympathy of all chess players everywhere.

MEMBERS INTERESTED IN CHESS PROBLEMS are asked to read the article on page four. Their help is needed in deciding whether the annual Solving Contest, conducted by the WVCA the last three years, is to be continued, and in what form.

MORE ABOUT THE "LITTLE CHESS PAPERS"

Our article about "The Little Chess Papers" last month has created a little comment, has brought in some new information, and we hope, will bring still more data.

Dr. Albrecht Buschke, New York, editor of Chess News From Russia, wrote Dec. 9:

"Congratulations upon the stirring article on local chess bulletins. I hope it will help. I have never received a copy of the Federal Chess Club News Letter (in spite of sending my CNFR in exchange every two weeks), or of the Austin CCG News, the Ohio State Chess Association Bulletin, the Lansing CC Bulletin, and others. You might note that Mr. Isaac Ash mentioned in his chess column in the Philadelphia Inquirer early in December the new bulletins of the Franklin Chess Club and the Mercantile Library Chess Association, both in Philadelphia. I wrote for both but have received no answer from either...I hope to let you have soon (?) a list of most (1) of the chess magazines published abroad. I exchange with quite a few of them and learn almost daily of new ones--in Palestine, Yugoslavia and other countries far away."

Thanks a lot; we're writing to Mr. Ash for more data and, we hope, copies of the Philly papers. We certainly hope Dr. Buschke will send the foreign magazine listing and believe members will be interested in seeing it in the pages of the WVCB, if Dr. Buschke will give us permission to publish it.

Montgomery Major, editor of the USCF's official organ, Chess Life, Oak Park, Ill., wrote to ask if we had seen Vol. I, No. 1, of Caissa's Claron, issued January, 1947, by the Brooklyn Chess Club and edited by Albert Sheftel and Jack W. Collins. We have not. If we may have the address, Mont, we'll write for exchanges. And thanks!

Our story last month said we had not seen Chess Notes, official organ of the Germantown YMCA Chess Club (Philadelphia) since September. We are now happy to report we have the December issue before us. Reason for its non-appearance in October and November was the illness of its editor, Walter Hall, 2451 No. Hancock Street, Philadelphia, Pa., who spent a part of the two months in a hospital. "However," says Walt, "we're back in the groove again and with the capable assistance of Art Ford we intend to bring you regular newsy notes on club doings." Welcome back, Walt!

Our friend, A. R. Phillips, writes he has given up the editorship of the Cleveland Chess Bulletin in order to devote his time to other chess activities. The CCB is now being edited by A. E. Martens, 1374 W. 117th St., Lakewood 7, Ohio. Onetime editor Joe Dorsey, who for the last year and a half, had handled distribution, has given up the work because of the added duties of a new job. We trust Cleveland players appreciate the yeoman work Joe did for Ohio chess and that they erect some sort of a memorial to him; he deserves it. We'll reserve our tribute to Br'er Phillips until his retirement; he'll be active in the chess world for many a moon to come!

Phillips says the Ohio Chess Association Bulletin likely will have four issues during the coming year. Two were published during 1946.

KOLTANOWSKI IN PHILLY

"Chess Notes" reports that George Koltanowski played at the Germantown Y club at Philadelphia Dec. 4, winning 22 and drawing 4. The lucky (or good) four were W. L. Arkless, John Seibert, Saul Wachs and Dale Shrader...The Philadelphia Chess League, with seven teams competing, is now conducting its annual round-robin meet for the city championship. The Germantown Y club has two teams entered, five other groups one team each...The Germantown club has a campaign on to raise \$250 to buy sets, boards and clocks.

FEBRUARY--NATIONAL CHESS MONTH

February, 1947, has been designated National Chess Month for a nationwide drive to arouse general interest of players thru a concerted program of special activities and to give a tremendous boost to membership in the United States Chess Federation, according to a letter just received from W.M.(Bill) Byland of Pittsburgh, vice president of the USCF and chairman of National Chess Month Council.

Each state is represented on the council. West Virginia's member is our state champion, Dr. Siegfried Werthammer of Huntington.

Byland emphasizes that the USCF membership goal cannot be left to a few but that every chess lover must do his share, by enrolling himself and by enrolling others, in an all-out effort to unite all chess players in our national organization.

To spur the membership drive, the USCF has offered prizes as follows: For enrolling three new members, one free membership to the worker; for enrolling five new members, a one year's subscription to Chess Life, the bi-weekly chess newspaper; for 10 new members, a \$5 set of Gits plastic chessmen; to the three members enrolling the largest number of USCF members during February, a life membership in the USCF.

The first 1,000 new members received during the month will get the 1945 Yearbook in addition to the usual benefits, which include the 1946 Yearbook.

For a supply of membership forms, write W.M.Byland, 3244 Latonia Avenue, Pittsburgh 16, Pa.

You can get into the swing yourself by mailing your \$1 membership fee to Edward I. Treend, United States Chess Federation Secretary, 12869 Strathmoor Ave., Detroit 27, Mich. Treend, who is a WVCA member, also will be happy to receive your sub to Chess Life--it's worth the \$2 they're asking for it, and more!

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TY COBB NAMED CABELL COUNTY DIRECTOR

Secy-Treas E. Reid Holt reports that Tyson E. Cobb of Huntington was named Cabell county director of the WVCA in the runoff mail election held in December.

NEWELL BANKS AT HUNTINGTON

Newell W. Banks, world champion blindfold checkers player and chess expert, played at Huntington Nov. 28, meeting 23 players, 8 at checkers and 15 at chess, simultaneously. He won all checkers games. At chess, he lost to Tyson E. Cobb and drew with State Champion Dr. Siegfried Werthammer and Rudd T. Neel.

This was Banks' second visit to the Huntington Chess Club. In April, 1931, he defeated all opponents at chess except H. Landis Marks, who obtained a draw.

CHARLESTON HIGH SCHOOL CHESS CLUB

Resuming activities after a wartime lapse of four years, the Charleston High School Chess Club has organized with Ed Holt (son of WVCA Secy-Treas Reid Holt) as president Ray Johnson vice president, and Larry Kinamon secretary. The club meets each Friday afternoon. Later in the year, a club tournament will be held.

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT AT CHARLESTON

Word comes that plans are maturing for a Charleston junior championship, open only to high and junior high school students. Sessions were scheduled to get under way late in January or early in February.

CHARLESTON C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP

The Charleston Chess Club will start play in the city championships late this month. Plans are for five preliminary round-robin sections, each qualifying two players for a round-robin finals. If enough are interested, a special tournament will be held for persons who have never participated in a tournament before.

POETICA REGUM

Edited by F.J.C. DeBlasio,
358 Irving Av., Brooklyn 27, N. Y.

No. 151 Original
Sheldon S. Myers
Norwood Ohio

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Mate in 2 6 / 4

No. 152 Original
Julius Buchwald
New York New York

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Mate in 2 9 / 7

No. 153 Original
R. Prytz
Copenhagen Denmark

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	Q	S	K	P	P
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Mate in 3 7 / 4

SOLVERS' LADDER (INCLUDING SEPT. SOLUTIONS): Gene Collett 108, Bertrand Mulligan 92, Victor Shortino 26.

SOLUTIONS TO OCTOBER PROBLEMS: No. 133 Sb1 (this problem was submitted by E. Feigin but was composed by I. Han of the same city--we beg forgiveness). No. 134 Be7. No. 135 Sc2. No. 136 Qc4. No. 137 Qc8. No. 138 Pc8 (Q or B)--cooked by Se6. No. 139: 1 Rg4 (a) 1...PxR, 2 Qc5Pch; (b) 1...Pf4, 2 Ba2--there are some unavoidable short-mates and duals. No. 140: Qe7 (a) 1---threat 2 Qe4 mate; (b) 1...BxR, 2 Sc3ch; (c) 1...QxR, 2 Qc6ch; (d) 1...SxR, 2 Sd4ch--this has some short-mates, duals, also. No. 141: 1 P-Pe.p.ch PxPch, 2 QxPch Ke8, 3 Qf6mate--cooked by 1 PxR ---, 2 Qg7ch ---, 3 Ph8 (Q or I) mate, which is eliminated by shifting the setting one file to the left and adding a BB at h7.

ABOUT THE 1947 SOLVERS' CONTEST: This month finds the WVCA problem dept. at the cross-roads. We ended our third annual contest in December with only 3 solvers listed and but 2 of these active. Obviously the WVCA cannot devote 2 pp. of its monthly bulletin to the exclusive service of 2 members. Even one page would be too much.

Officials of the WVCA have asked us to continue the dept. until the March issue, when the '46 contest winner will be announced. Meanwhile, the annual solvers' contest will be continued on a purely tentative and experimental basis.

If you are at all interested in problems, write us, telling us about it. We hope you will join in our contest this year; the dept. will be discontinued unless there are enough solvers to make it worthwhile. However, there may be members who solve problems but do not submit their solutions. If they would like the dept. continued, we would like to hear from them; their letters will be considered in making the final decision.

We want readers to point out to us also what they consider the best features of the dept. in the last year and those which they consider of least interest.

We have an interesting and informative letter from Tom Sweeney, who won the solving contest in '44 and '45, suggesting we run fewer problems so that anyone may find time to compete and that we run more problems by our own WVCA members even if their productions are not as good as those of outsiders. We invite opinions on these matters.

Meanwhile, we are publishing only three contest problems this month, in order that all may find time to participate. Answers may be submitted until March 10. If the contest continues, these answers will count toward the '47 championship, to run for a full year. If the response is insufficient to warrant continuing the dept., the contest will be considered closed as of December, 1946, and the '46 award will be the last.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

H. Reid Holt, 164 Sunset Drive, Charleston 1, W. Va., is executive secretary-treasurer of the West Virginia Chess Association. To him should be directed all communications dealing with the affairs of the association, including membership enrollments (the fee is \$1 a year, which includes subscription to the Bulletin).

NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

82 C.H. Best, 18 Oakdale boulevard, Pleasant Ridge, Michigan (NEW)
83 Ray Martin, P.O. Box 117, South Charleston 3, West Virginia (RENEWAL)

TREASURER'S REPORT TO DEC. 31, 1946:

Balance turned over to Treasurer Holt by retiring Treasurer Collett	\$56.51
Membership dues received	2.00
Total receipts and old balance	<u>\$68.51</u>
Disbursements:	
Bulletin expenses--Typewriter rental, 2 months \$6; mimeographing two issues \$4.67; postage and insurance, \$1.43	12.10
Balance on hand December 31, 1946	<u>\$56.41</u>

(Treasurer's reports will be published quarterly hereafter, as of March 31, June 30, September 30 and December 31, if this plan is satisfactory to the members.)

THE WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN is edited by Gene Collett at 125 Meritt Avenue, Pittsburgh 27, Pa. To him should be directed all matter intended for publication and all publications intended for exchange. Subscriptions should be sent to Treasurer Holt, whose address is given above. The \$1 fee includes a year's WVCA membership.

HOROWITZ AT CHARLESTON--STATE'S BIGGEST SIMULTANEOUS

I. A. Horowitz, editor of Chess Review and one of the leading American masters, played 39 opponents simultaneously Friday night at the Charleston Catholic High School Cafeteria, under sponsorship of the Charleston and Carbide clubs. He won 36, lost to State Champion Dr. Siegfried Werthammer of Huntington, and drew with Edward M. Toy and Former State Champion John Hurt, both of Charleston.

So far as can be learned, it was the biggest simultaneous chess exhibition ever held in West Virginia.

CARBIDE CLUB PLANS ANNUAL TOURNEY

The Carbide Chess Club of South Charleston is maturing plans for its annual tournament, to begin in the near future.

WHERE THEY MEET

At Charleston: The Charleston C. C. meets each Wednesday night about 8 p. m. in the Knights of Columbus club rooms, 1117 Quarrier Street; the Carbide C.C. meets each Monday night in the Recreation Center in South Charleston.

WITH WIGGINTON AT WASHINGTON

N.P. Wigginton, Washington, D. C., writes (Jan. 10): "George Koltanowski was here Nov. 30. After a most enjoyable talk, he played 16 boards, losing 3 and drawing 5 in about 3 hours. He comes again Jan. 26 for an eight-board blindfold... We plan a great program for Chess Month in February. Al Pinkus, I hope, will be our 'guest-star.'"

LEVIN TO PLAY AT CLEVELAND--AGAIN

Jacob Levin of Philadelphia won the Area No. 3 finals at Cleveland last August and went on to finish fourth in the National Championships, will return to Cleveland next month for a two-day siege of simultaneous play.--Cleveland Chess Bulletin.

1946 IN REVIEW AT CHARLESTON

BY
EDWARD
FOY

The year 1946 witnessed an upswing in chess interest in Charleston and South Charleston. The Charleston Chess Club, which practically "folded up" during the war years, was revived and once more took its place as one of the leading chess groups of the state. The Carbide Chess Club of South Charleston, a new organization, became one of the most active in West Virginia.

Activities during the year included the Carbide club tournament, won by Dick Grimm, and the Charleston club tourney, won by Reid Holt. Both events employed the Swiss System.

Harold Liggett, 1945 State Champion, gave a simultaneous exhibition at the Charleston club, and Former State Champion John Hurt put one on at the Carbide club. The 1946 State Champion Dr. Siegfried Werthammer of Huntington also gave a simultaneous for the Charleston club.

The Charleston group held two rapid-transit meets, in the spring and fall, with Bill Hartling, former state champion, winning both and Al DuVall capturing runner-up honors on both occasions. The South Charleston group also had rapid transit play. In a summer invitation tournament, sponsored by the Charleston club and including some of the strongest players of the Kanawha Valley, Edward Foy finished first, one point ahead of John Hurt.

In the spring, the Charleston and Carbide clubs met in two matches. The first ended $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $8\frac{1}{2}$ but the Charleston group won the second, 14-7.

The two clubs sponsored the Kanawha Valley Chess League, with four teams from each group. The Aces--Bill Hartling, Frank Branner (C), John Wiles, T. A. Snyder and Fred White--won all seven league matches and the first Valley team championship. The Marshall team finished second.

George Koltanowski gave an exhibition of simultaneous play at South Charleston in November, winning 31 and drawing 3.

At the West Virginia Championships at Clarksburg over the Labor Day weekend, Al DuVall of Charleston was runnerup. The title was won by Dr. Werthammer for the third time in four years.

WEAVER W. ADAMS TO TOUR FEB. 1-JUNE 15

Weaver W. Adams, well know author, lecturer and professional chess player, will be on tour Feb. 1-June 15, according to a letter just received from him. His route will be roughly as follows: Feb. 1-Mar. 15, New England & New York City; Mar. 15-May 1, New York to Los Angeles via Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Dallas and El Paso; May 1-June 15, Pacific West Coast to Seattle and return via Chicago. Weaver's rates are extremely reasonable and he puts on a good show. Those who might be interested should write him at once at 258 Highland Street, Dedham, Massachusetts for full details.

"RESHEVSKY THE INVINCIBLE"

Under the above heading in his column in the Christian Science Monitor, our friend, Fred Chevalier, has the following to say:

"Since 1936, when he barely outscored A.C. Simonson in the first National Championship, Reshevsky has not lost a single game in the championship. In 1939, he lost to Horowitz and Bernstein; in 1938, he was undefeated, while Fine, having lost to Santasiere and Kanauer, trailed by a half point. In 1940, Fine again missed the championship when he failed to carry thru when Reshevsky had a losing game, but Reshevsky did not lose. In 1942, against undefeated, Reshevsky shared top honors with Kashdan, whom he later defeated in a match $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$, losing two games and winning six. In 1944, neither he nor Kashdan played, and Fine, again runnerup, lost to Arnold Denker, who thereby won the championship... In the tournament just concluded, Reshevsky had clinched first place before the last round was played. This made his final game with Kashdan, an anti-climax, with fireworks!"