



WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

NUMBER SEVEN

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MAN OF THE MONTH

Our personal nomination for the Man of the Month in the West Virginia Chess World is none other than our Wheeling president, A. W. Paull.

On Nov. 20 we received the following communication from him:

"The enclosed envelope was returned today so I guess there should have been a street address, for evidently the West Virginia Chess Bulletin is not known to the post office authorities, notwithstanding its importance as a publication."

Inclosed was a smaller envelope postmarked Nov. 14 and addressed to the West Virginia Chess Bulletin, Clarksburg, W. Va., which had been returned to the sender, Mr. Paull. Opening this envelope we found a check for \$5 and a note which read:

"A very slight token of appreciation from the stuffed shirt president to the live-wire secretary."

Bearing in mind the fact that Pres. Paull put on the state tournament almost single-handed one year, we considered his use of the term "Stuffed Shirt" to be something of a misnomer, and believe all members will agree with us, even if business has kept him from the tourneys the last two years. Anyway, we wrote him a letter of appreciation, telling him he had just snatched the WVCA out of the red ink, and got back this message:

"...If you need a little help once in a while to keep the publication going, please let me know and I shall be glad to help out...."

Shall we declare Pres. Paull the Man of the Month by acclamation?

NEW WRINKLE FROM KOLTI

When Honorary Member Koltanowski was in Clarksburg last month, he showed us an amusing little game played with chess men and board and a pair of dice. He recommends it for an occasional one-night social tourney--just to give the weaker players a chance to whop the stronger ones. It's a lot of fun and a tournament with 20 to 30 players can be run off in a couple of hours. The rules:

- (1) The men are placed on the board as for chess. Which player gets which color is immaterial.
- (2) At the start of the game, each player rolls his die. High scorer gets first play. Thereafter, the players roll alternately.
- (3) Moves on the board are decided by the roll of the die. If 1 comes up, a pawn is moved; 2, a bishop; 3, a knight; 4, a rook; 5, the queen; 6, the king.

(4) A player must move when able to do so. If he is not able to move as indicated by the fall of his die, he loses his turn to play.

(5) Object of the game is to capture the opponent's king rather than to effect checkmate. Thus a king or both kings may remain in check several moves before a capture is effected. A player may move his king into check if he desires. A king may be moved on a square adjoining the opposing king if a player wishes to take this risk.

(6) Castling may be done under the ordinary rules of chess (though I have never seen it done--usually the king has to be moved before the bishop and knight can be got out of the way).

(7) Capture of opposing king ends the game.

DR. BUSCHKE JOINS UP--LIKES YEARBOOK

We reported in Bull. 6 that Dr. Albrecht Buschke, 15 West 56th street, New York City, had inquired about placing our yearbooks on sale in his store. We wrote him, telling him only a few were left and that we were hoarding them for new members. Result: Dr. Buschke is now a new member. In his letter sending his membership fee, he said:

"I have the impression that you underestimate the importance of having just efforts of local chess promotion like yours publicized as widely as possible...I think we are all working for the same cause, you in your way, I in mine, and with this in mind I want to make all chess publications...well known to the general public--even if it is not possible to get enough copies afterwards for those who are interested (and there are certainly more, outside of W. Va., than you probably believe)...For the first time in the history of American chess, I was able to convince the U. S. Chess Federation in 1940 to include a 'current chess bibliography' in the Yearbook for 1940, and I tried to get hold of every title published, however elusive and in however small edition printed. Bibliography being a science, one has to try to be as exact as possible, and Yearbooks such as yours and other local publications are of utmost importance for the history of local American chess, to which, incidentally, even an M. A. thesis recently accepted by not a lesser University than Columbia was devoted...Under these circumstances, you will understand how necessary it is, just in order to avoid that your labor of love is futile, to preserve attempts like yours for posterity in listing them in catalogs and bibliographies."

We felt most of Dr. Buschke's enthusiasm would vanish after he had seen our amateur effort at book publishing, but anyway, since he was a member, we sent him his copy, along with all the back numbers available of the West Virginia Chess Bulletin and a few copies of the Clarksburg Chess Bulletin (published weekly). Imagine our astonishment to receive the following too-generous letter from Member Buschke:

"Best thanks for...the Yearbook, which indeed is a swell job. It would be wonderful if only three or four of the other State Chess Associations had anything similar; this would help me greatly in my rather difficult job as the Editor of the Yearbook of the U. S. Chess Federation. But, as far as I know, no other State Assn. has anything even by far comparable, and in order to convince them that they all should have such records, you should rather print a second edition of the Yearbook for distribution among secretaries of other State Associations than to 'destroy the plates.' In any case, I shall certainly mention this wonderful and exemplary job in my 'Chess Bibliography for 1942' in the 1942 Yearbook of the USCF--so far, we are still working on the 1941 Yearbook."

Stover is a strong player but doesn't seem as much interested in the game as he used to be."

(With only a little urging, Peterson sent us one of his Wheeling games, a tussle with Pres. Paul. Here it is, with Peterson's notes:)

FRENCH DEFENSE
Wheeling, 1942

PETERSON PAUL

- 1 P-K4 P-K3
- 2 P-Q4 P-Q4
- 3 N-QB3 N-KB3
- 4 B-N5 PxP
- 5 NxP B-K2
- 6 NxN

Not 6 B-Q3? NxN.
7 BxB QxB, 8 BxN
Q-N5ch and Black
should win. This is
an important trap to
learn.

- 6 ... BxN
- 7 B-K3 -O-O
- 8 B-Q3 N-QB3
- 9 N-KB3 K-R

Avoiding the trap.
If Black tries to win
the QP, he loses at
least a piece if not
the Q. 9...NxP,
10 NxN BxN, 11 BxB
and now if QxB,
12 BxPch wins the Q.
This is another im-
portant trap to learn
and it is surprising
in how many games it
comes up. It is par-
ticularly tricky when
it is complicated this
way.

- 10 P-QB3 Q-K2
- 11 P-KR4

P-KR4--the key move
to the attack when
Black castles early in
the French Defense and
neglects to advance
his QBP to break up
White's game.

- 11 ... R-K
- 12 N-N5 P-KR3

P-KN3 was more to
the point.

- 13 Q-R5 R-KB

Black apparently
does not see the ava-
lanche about to fall.
K-N would have pro-
longed the game.

- 14 N-K4 P-K4
- 15 P-Q5 N-Q
- 16 BxKRP ExB??

Overlooking the
check with the N, P-KN3
should have by all
means been played. Then
would have followed
17 Q-B3 B-N2, 18 B-K3
P-N3, 19 P-R5 K-N,
20 PxP PxP, 21 Q-N3
Q-B2, 22 Q-R2 QxQ,
23 Q-R7ch K-B2,
24 N-N5ch K-K, 25 BxPch
and White wins. Other
variations follow the
same pattern.

- 17 QxPch K-N
- 18 NxBch Resigns

CHESS IN CLARKSBURG
(Report by Collett)

We were able to re-
port last month on
Clarksburg's big No-
vember chess feature,
the appearance of Hon-
orary Member Kolt-
nowski of Milwaukee,
world blindfold
champion, in a simul-
taneous and blindfold
show. Expenses of the
meet totalled \$23.75
with ticket sales
bringing in \$16.50
(we held tickets to
50 cents per player).
Members felt the
pleasure they derived
from the meet plus the
advertising value of
Kolti's appearance were
well worth the club's
small outlay of \$7.25
from the treasury.
Kolti is a real enter-
tainer and will well
repay any club which
has him as its guest.

Another Clarksburg member, Frank Wisniski,
left for the Army during the month and still
another, Bill Walker, withdrew for 16 months to
attend a war industry class. (We think it sil-
ly to call them defense classes now.)

Lt. A. M. Bookstein, a member of the Medical
Corps at the local induction center, has attend-
ed two meetings of the club. He plays a nice
game and is a welcome visitor.

One of our members, M. F. "Hap" Allison, our
city champion, lives 2 or 3 miles out of town
and gas rationing may keep him from club meet-
ings this winter. We're hoping he'll work it
out some way so he can attend.

Lee Rogers has been absent from meetings of
the Knight Club (group of Clarksburg players
who hold meetings each Wednesday morning be-
cause they work at night) because his whole
family is down with chicken-pox.

Capt. Devericks was home on a 10-day furlough
and got to attend one CCC meeting and two KC
meetings.

Remember the note in the State Yearbook in
which we referred to Ray Griffin as having the

best collection of chess books in Clarksburg, possibly in West Virginia? We meant a player's collection and the remark still stands. However, our new member (WVCA), Dr. Buschke of New York City, who deals in chess books and magazines, knows only one kind of a collection--the kind an avid bibliophile piles up after years and years of collecting, including rare volumes and first editions. Result: Ray got a letter asking for a catalog of his collection!!!

The Clarksburg Danish Gambit Tourney is drawing to a close. "Hap" Allison is well in the lead with a percentage of .833 and looks as if he could breeze home. Next player, Ray Griffin, has .643. Hap has only four games to go in a 16-game schedule.

HUNTINGTON

CHESS IN HUNTINGTON (Report by Sam Abrahams)

Nothing in chess circles here is happening that is of any particular interest to the other chess-playing localities. From a one-time flourishing chess club, our active membership has dwindled to but half a dozen players.

Chess started in Huntington in August, 1930, when the following mentioned pawn-hunters, who had been playing at various homes, decided to form the Huntington Chess Club and meet once a week at a downtown hotel:

W. Page Pitt, president; Rudd T. Neel, vice president; Landis Marks, secretary; T. E. Cobb, treasurer; Dr. A. R. Halley and Dr. Homer Dubs, both of Marshall college; Dr. Loke Polen, E. S. Allie, J. G. Ramsey, Sam Abrahams, R. F. Adams, the Rev. T. A. Symington, the Rev. J. C. Crenshaw, P. Larry Richards, Jay A. Yagel.

Not long after this club was formed, it was decided to move playing quarters to the YMCA, and the name of the club was changed to the YMCA Chess Club. It was believed that an expansion program could then be undertaken, but surprisingly, it did not materialize.

(Abrahams adds that the diversion of chess players to the bridge table apparently held ^{back} growth of the chess club. He wrote about this problem to Ernest Reel, famed chess author of Milwaukee, and received a letter dealing with the comparative advantages of chess and bridge. The letter is too long for use in this issue but we hope to crowd it into a later number. Meanwhile, we trust Sam will continue to report some chess news as it crops up from time to time in Huntington. For instance, how about some news on where Landis Marks is now? Did he get into the Merchant Marine as he had hoped? Is he playing any chess? Is Huntington playing off a city championship this winter? Such a meet could be held in the homes, or at the "Y" over a period of weeks and would go a long way toward keeping chessie interest aroused in the city.)

CHESS IN CHARLESTON (Report by Walt Grede)

Letter dated Nov. 20: "Right now it looks like the Charleston club is gonna fold for the duration. Members won't come out. But even so, guess I'll keep right on turning out the column, even if it kills me! Let chess completely die in Charleston and it would take nothing short of a blitzkrieg to blow it to wakefulness."

Letter dated Dec. 3: "Well, the club has folded. Meetings are to be held from time to time in homes. We're gonna try to have some of the soldiers boys here as guests; I'll try to keep 'em advised thru the column. A lot of them like chess and have nowhere to play now... What with gasoline rationing, it looks like the '43 meet for the state championship is out..."

(This is only a suggestion but I think the Charleston club should try to hold its membership together thru the home meetings that are planned. You don't have to have a clubroom to have a club. If the organization is kept intact and small dues are collected regularly to build up the treasury, the club will be in a position to resume public meetings at the propitious moment.)

VOICE OF THE MEMBERS

Rudd T. Neal, Huntington: "I want to compliment you on the fine Yearbook and bulletins. I do very much appreciate your interest and effort. West Virginia chess folk are fortunate."

J. S. Church, Charleston: "Why not organize a state chess team to play some out-of-state team?—unless the war takes all the boys." (What do members think of the idea? We assume Jesse means a correspondence tourney since the limitations on travel would make the other sort of play almost out of the question. Will all those who would like to play on a state correspondence team drop a card to the editor at once? Also let us have some ideas as to the sort of match we should seek and how to get in touch with a team in another state.)

Dr. R. L. Humphries, Atlanta, Ga.: "I received the West Virginia Chess Yearbook and enjoyed it very much."

CORRECTION FOR THE YEARBOOK

Roy H. Griffin reports discovery of another typo in the Yearbook. It is on page 34, Game 15, note (m). The note should have read "...v NxB NxBxch, 9 KxB Q-R5ch regains piece and pawn." The White move "KCB" was omitted from the text. Will members please correct their copies?

COLLETT TO PITTSBURGH

As we near the end of typing on this bulletin, we receive word to report for duty Sunday, December 13, at the Associated Press office in Pittsburgh, Pa. This presents a problem as to the continuance of the State Bulletin. Will members who would be willing to take over the task and who have access to typewriter and mimeograph get in touch with the secretary at once? Your secretary is willing to carry on for a time, of course, but his present vantage point, he is unable to foresee what conditions will be in Pittsburgh, or whether he will be able to carry on for long. Arrangements to transfer the editorship, therefore, should be made at the earliest moment.

As soon as we learn what members are qualified and willing, we will place their names before the directors for a selection.

We consider the Bulletin vital to the continuance of the WVCA and believe every member should turn his thoughts to the question of whether he is the one qualified to carry on the job. (PLEASE CONTINUE TO SEND MAIL TO MY CLARKSBURG ADDRESS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.)

PRIZES FOR STATE TOURNEY

Dr. Buschke, who apparently believes the state tourney can be held in 1943 regardless of transportation difficulties, suggests that if the members desire to award book prizes rather than cash, he will match each \$10 worth of books ordered from him with an additional \$5 worth of book prizes. The matter will be referred to the board of directors.

AN ADDITIONAL LIST OF IMPORTANT CHESS BOOKS STILL IN PRINT

This list is offered by Dr. Buschke, who comments: "Note that this list contains publications of all the four Chess Champions of the World who have lived in our times. Two of them died recently; the other two are now under the Nazi heel. This list contains, besides, some of the most important publications in chess literature for the past 20 years, such as Nimzowitsch's 'Chess Classics' and Reti's unfinished but still admirable 'Masters of the Chessboard,' as well as a book by Frank J. Marshall (Champion of the United States from 1909-1934, undefeated) and the very few tournament books published in recent years."

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| <u>ALERKIN, A.</u> (Chess Champion of the World, 1927-1935, 1937 to date): | |
| My Best Games of Chess (1908-1923) | \$1.69 |
| My Best Games of Chess (1924-1937) | 3.50 |
| <u>CAPABLANCA, R. J.</u> (Chess Champion of the World, 1921-1927): | |
| Chess Fundamentals | 1.69 |
| A Primer of Chess | 2.50 |
| The Immortal Games of Capablanca (by Fred Reinfeld) OUT SOON! | 3.00 |
| <u>CHERNEV, I.</u> Curious Chess Facts | .75 |
| <u>EUWE, M.</u> (Chess Champion of the World, 1935-1937): | |
| Chess Strategy and Tactics | 2.75 |
| From My Games (originally published at \$2.75, now only) | 1.49 |
| <u>LASKER, Emanuel</u> (Chess Champion of the World, 1894-1921): | |
| The Fourteen Games Played in the Match Between Paul Keres and Dr. M. Euwe, Holland, 1939-40. Annotated; notes to games 5 and 9 especially contributed to this edition by Dr. Emanuel Lasker--his last chess contribution | .75 |
| <u>GROVER, K. M., and WISWELL, Thomas:</u> Chess | 1.00 |
| <u>MARSHALL, F. J., and MACBETH, J. C. H.:</u> Chess Step by Step | 1.50 |
| <u>MICHELL AND HILD:</u> Complete Guide to the Games of Chess and Checkers | .49 |
| <u>NIMZOWITSCHE, A.:</u> My System (a popular edition of this famous chess classic, promised by an English publisher, will not be published for the duration) | 3.75 |
| <u>REINFELD and CHERNEV:</u> Chess Strategy and Tactics | 1.50 |
| <u>RETI:</u> The Masters of the Chessboard | 3.00 |

TOURNAMENT BOOKS:

Ventnor City 1940, \$1.00 Ventnor City 1941, \$1.00

Ventnor City 1942, \$0.50

The three Ventnor City tournament books together 1.75

Winnipeg 1941 (Canadian Championship, another Yanofski victory) 1.25

Last call, says Dr. Buschke, very few copies left of--

Reuben Fine's "Basic Chess Endings." One of the 500 copies of the first and limited edition, every copy signed and numbered by the author. The few remaining copies of this limited edition still offered at

\$3.50

in other words for the price of the regular trade edition. Dr. Buschke says the price will be raised to at least \$5 after Dec. 31, 1942.

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