

PRESIDENT CUTHBERT URGES RENEWED EFFORT FOR WVCA

To Members of the West Virginia Chess Association:

It is with sincere pleasure and appreciation that I accept the presidency of the Association for the coming year. I shall do everything I possibly can to advance the interests of the Association and of Chess in West Virginia.

What I am able to do personally will be of little effect or importance without the active support of the membership. Accordingly, I request your full cooperation in the further of a program including:

I. Better support of the WVCA and the Bulletin. Both merit it-- both need it. Organized chess in West Virginia would be a poor thing indeed without the Bulletin, but the Bulletin starves on a one dollar per member budget. It needs more money due to increasing costs, and I appeal to each of you who can to become Sustaining Members. Try to get more members, too.

II. Personal activity of each member to advance Chess. Become an evangelist for our game, teach others to play, find people who already play but aren't active, enroll them in your local club and in the WVCA. This is self-rewarding activity; the more players, the more each of us can play and the more enjoyment we have.

III. More interclub contacts and matches. Intercity matches stir up interest and bring new memberships to the WVCA, new friendships between chess players. I ask that each club in the state hold at least one intercity match this year, across the board, by ham radio, or by any other suitable means.

IV. Revival of inactive clubs. In some cities clubs have become inactive; I appeal to members in those cities to take steps to revive them.

V. New clubs. Such cities as Beckley, Bluefield, Fairmont, Grafton and Parkersburg are certainly large enough for organized chess. To members who have chess-playing friends in any of these, won't you urge them to form clubs and help them to do it?

Yours for more and better chess in West Virginia.

W. R. CUTHBERT

LETTER FROM SAM ABRAHAMS

Sam Abrahams writes from Room 203, Antlers Hotel, San Bernardino, Cal. (a new address) on Jan. 25: "I was at Tucson for nearly four months. The climate there is beneficial for many sick persons but it did not benefit me much. I want to thank the membership for having made me a life member. I miss chess very much. It was my only hobby."

FROM EDDIE FOY'S CHARLESTON COLUMNS

STIRRINGS AT BECKLEY

State Chess Co-champion John Hurt, Jr., gave a simultaneous exhibition at the Beckley Elks Club recently. Hurt played 13 simultaneous games in one round and 8 in another. Out of the 21 games played, John won 16, lost 3 and drew 2. Sixteen-year-old Andy Hoke, a Beckley high school student, won one of the games; other winners were Dr. R. L. Haugh of the Beckley hospital and Harlow Warren, Beckley advertising man. Dr. R. G. Broadus and R. L. Hoke played draws. R. D. Kemp, H. C. Houtz, Jim Houtz, Dr. J. G. Anderson, D. D. Ashworth, Jack Nelson, C. A. McDaniel and J. S. Larrick also took part in the simultaneous exhibition. The affair lasted four hours. The Beckley press reported the match and carried a photograph, too.

With that chess interest evident at Beckley, there will soon be a chess club there--is there has not already been one organized. Hurt has helped to stir up chess interest in Beckley and reports finding a fine group of chess enthusiasts there. Possibly Charleston and Beckley can meet in a match or two later. There are Beckley players already members of the State Chess Association, too.

AL DUVALL HEADS CARBIDE CLUB

Allen H. DuVall was elected president of the Carbide Chess Club of South Charleston late in January. Hugh Allison was named vice president and Kingsley Hughes became the new club secretary. Harold Liggett was chosen tournament director with David Marples as assistant. The club executive committee will consist of these men plus Jim Schilling, as past president, and Ray Martin.

The Carbide club's annual tournament was scheduled to get under way early in February. It is not restricted to Carbide employees although outsiders may not carry off the club trophy. This year's field probably will be the strongest the tournament has ever boasted. Besides defending champion Al DuVall, out to make it three straight, there will be ex-West Virginia champions Harold Liggett and Bill Hartling, as well as Dick Grimm, Jim Schilling, Ray Martin, David Marples, Kingsley Hughes, and others. It is probable the fight will narrow down to Hartling and DuVall, with Liggett and Grimm having outside chances. Fourteen entries were expected.

CHARLESTON CITY CHAMPIONSHIP

The Charleston City Championship also was slated to get under way this month. The plan called for a title event and a players' tournament to be held simultaneously, with each person deciding the event he would enter. The meet likely will not have so large a field as in some former years but, just the same, some of the state's strongest players will take part. This is West Virginia's oldest tournament still being conducted. The first Charleston chess championship tourney (of this series, at least) was held about 17 years ago and with the exception of three "tournament-less" years, has been held annually down to the present time. In the 14 championships, John Hurt, Jr., has won five times (including the past two years), Arthur Maloy, Walt Crede and Edward Foy twice each, and Lowens, Bill Hartling and Mike Wren once.

Hurt, Maloy, Hartling and Hurt (with a total of 10 city titles among them) are entered and the field also includes the redoubtable DuVall, Reid Holt, Edwin Faust and others. Yes, this year's City of Charleston chess tournament will have strong entrants (Hurt is also

state co-champion) but there will be competitors not so strong, also, and the players' tournament is especially for that class.

HERMANN HESSE EXHIBITION CANCELED

The tri-state champion, Hermann Hesse of Bethlehem, Pa., arrived in Charleston too late to play in a scheduled simultaneous exhibition Friday night, Jan. 23. However, he did get in some games Saturday against John Hurt, Jr., at the home of the latter--and Hesse was just a little too tough. Wish we had him, permanently, in Charleston. Hesse was accompanied by Woody Young of Allentown, Pa., not so strong as Hesse but strong enough to make things very interesting for Charleston players. We (Eddie Foy, that is) played some games with him, as did Ed Faust. Hesse may come back in the spring when he can look forward to better driving weather than he encountered on his recent trip.

INTERNATIONAL MEET IN NEW YORK

Reuben Fine of California won the International tournament held in December in New York City with a score of 8-1. He lost no games and yielded draws only to Herman Pilnick of the Argentine and Arthur Bisguier of New York, the U.S. junior champ. Scores of other competitors were:

~~Najdorf~~
~~Najdorf~~, Buenos Aires, $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$; Pilnick, and Dr. Euwe, Holland, 5-4; Horowitz and Kramer (George), both New York City, $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$; Bisguier and Kashdan, New York City, 4-5; Denker, New England, 2-7; and Steiner, California, $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$.

Fine went into the final round with a one-point lead over Najdorf. Should he have lost and the visiting master won, the two would have been tied for first. After 13 moves, Fine offered Horowitz a draw but the latter--to his credit--declined and the game continued, with Fine eventually winning the game. We would like to commend Horowitz playing on, instead of accepting a draw in this situation. It was the sportsmanlike thing to do--and it gave Najdorf a "run for his money" in the final round.

We understand that Reuben Fine and Mendel Najdorf are now engaged in a match. The score we heard last was: Fine 2, Najdorf 0.

IN THE MAIL-BAG:

Kingsley Smith, Clarksburg (Dec. 31): "Inclosed is \$6--of which \$5 is for sustaining membership in the WVCA and the extra \$1 just for the heck of it."

Wm. Schaeffer, Washington, D.C. (Jan. 22): "Still playing chess about once a week, either at the club or in living-room sessions with a neighbor. Didn't enter club tourney because haven't been able to attend too regularly... George Clark is well. We haven't chessed for some time--he's so busy studying radio and with other hobbies."

Secy. Reid Holt, Charleston (Jan. 31): "Just notice the new members from Beckley. That's Johnny Hurt's work. First thing we know he'll have a club organized there!... Let me know West Virginia's share of the trophy for Ray Sachs and I'll send the money along to you or the person entitled to it. I haven't heard from Phillips or Byland yet."

(Editors note: Both Ray Phillips and Bill Byland, of the Ohio and Pennsylvania chess associations, respectively, have agreed to be responsible for a share of a trophy honoring Ray Sachs for his gallant second-place stand in the recent Tri-State at Wheeling.)

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WEST VIRGINIA CHESS ASSOCIATION President: Wm. R. Cuthbert, 1104 W. Washington Ave., Wheeling, W.Va. Secretary-Treasurer: H. Reid Holt, 629 Churchill Drive, Charleston 4, W. Va., to whom should be sent all letters on Association business, including memberships and WVCA subscriptions. Publicity Director of the WVCA is Edward M. Foy, No. 4 Arlington Court, Charleston 1, W.Va. He should be sent, within 24 hours, results of all tournaments, club elections and other worthy chess news of the state.

NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS

- 65 Donald C. McDonald, Lock Box 603, Grand Forks, N. D.
 66 Rudd T. Neel, 1505 Sixth Ave., Huntington, W. Va.
 67 G. Everett Shinkle, P.O.Box 82, Huntington, W. Va.
 68 Tyson E. Cobb, 509 Jefferson Ave., Huntington, W. Va.
 69 Layne H. Ford, P.O.Box 534, Grafton, W. Va.
 70 Rainer Sachs, 2177 South Overlook Rd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio
 71 Kingsley S. Smith, 337 Washington Ave., Clarksburg, W.Va. (SUSTAINING MEMBER)
 72 E. B. Miller, 7 Marshall Ave., Elm Grove, Wheeling, W. Va.
 73 W. R. Collett, RD 2, East View, Clarksburg, W. Va.
 74 Harlow Warren, 320 North Kanawha St., Beckley, W. Va.
 75 Dr. R. G. Broaddus, 208 Woodlawn Ave., Beckley, W. Va.
 76 Dr. J. s. Blagg, 620 Montrose Drive, So. Charleston, W. Va.
 77 Andy Hoke, Snuffer Apts., Beckley, W. Va. (JUNIOR MEMBER)
 78 Dr. Thos. J. Sasser, 824 Fifth Ave., Huntington, W. Va.
 79 Sam Abrahams, Room 203, Antlers Hotel, San Bernardino, Calif. (LIFE MEMBER)
 80 A. Schoenfeld, 1582 Jackson St., Charleston, W. Va.
 81 Dan Lowder, 309 Brooks St., Charleston, W. Va.
 82 T. T. Mills, 426 Park Ave., Cadiz, Ohio

WVCA ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT--SEPT. 1, 1947, TO AUG. 31, 1948

Balance Sept. 1, 1947 (see Oct. 1947 Bulletin).....	\$ 8.04
Receipts: Regular membership dues \$80.75, sustaining membership fees \$28, sale of books \$8; total receipts.....	\$116.75
Expenses: Bulletin, typewriter rental \$36 (less \$16 refunded from use of typewriter for other purposes); stencilling and mimeographing \$69; postage mailing Bulletins \$20.16; total Bulletin costs, \$109.16; prize money for 1947 Tri-State Tournament \$10, WVCA election expenses \$1.24, sundry postage on Association business \$9.57; total expenses....	\$129.97
Reserve: 1948-49 dues paid in advance \$4; amount owing Bulletin editor for expenses \$3.02; total reserve.....	\$ 7.02
Actual balance Aug. 31, 1948.....	\$ 1.84

ARE YOU READING?--

Those three fine American chess magazines--American Chess Bulletin, Chess Life and Chess Review? If not, you're missing half the fun of the American chess scene. Each has its distinctive features and something for every chess player of whatever skill or inclination. Keep in touch with the best in chess through the best of chess literature!

NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND DEPARTMENT

WE ALWAYS WANTED A RUDDY COMPLEXION!

Art Plueddemann, editor of the Firestone Chess & Checker Club Bulletin (Akron), sends us this post card (Jan. 20):

"You should know better! RAINER Sachs is correct--as that 'usually authoritative source (hmmmm!)' had told you. Because you read a (rubber) stamp that was wrong you the W.Va. Chess Bulletin in an awful pickle. How will you get out of this one?

"A.R.P. (Still Authoritative)"

The rubber stamp to which Art refers is one which Ray uses in putting the return address in the corner of his envelopes. It said "RANIER" and we logically assumed that was Ray's name. This time we went to the real authority on the name and got this post card from Ray Sachs (Jan. 31):

"Art Plueddemann is right, it's RAINER, an old Austrian name. I really can't blame you for not knowing how to spell the name since I've been living on intimate terms with it for 16 years and still can't pronounce it in English. I always rrrroll the rrrrrs so that everyone asks me whether it's Lainer! * * * I'm sorry I didn't tell you the rubber stamp was wrong."

Hmmm! Just goes to show you that you can't depend on anything these days. If you can't believe a rubber stamp, what can you believe? Hmmm!?

AND HERE'S MORE CHEEK COLORING!

Eric M. Hassberg whose "Best American Chess Problems of 1946" was reviewed last month post cards us Jan. 20 (the same day!):

"Received today WVCB containing the review of my book...Unfortunately an error crept in: It is \$1.50, nor \$1, as stated. Could you please correct, to save embarrassment?"

There it is, folks. The problem book is \$1.50, nor \$1. If you've ordered one already, send Eric another 50 cents. If you haven't, and want one, the address is Eric M. Hassberg, 757 Manhattan Ave., Brooklyn 22, N. Y.

THE WHEELING CLUB TOURNAMENT

President Wm. R. Cuthbert of Wheeling writes Jan. 25:

"The Wheeling club tournament is over. It was a time limit affair, the intention being to have each member play two games each week throughout the period of the tournament, with absentees forfeiting games if not played within a week after the schedule date.

"Due to extremely spotty attendance this rule was not invoked since regular attendants at meetings would have had as many forfeits --unplayed games--as a ship would have barnacles after three years in the tropics--nearly.

"So only games actually played were scored, with games played and scores varying widely, as you will see from the following results:

"E.C. Bottome 4-1, A. Charnock 0-4, W.R. Cuthbert 7-0, A.C. Dobbs Sr. 2-3, W.M. Erhard 5-4, T.T. Mills 1-0, A.W. Paull 1-2, C.H. Ritter 0-2, Mrs. Cedric Smith 1-1, B.E. Stover 2-1, T.B. Sweeney 0-1, M. Wallace 1-1, P. Wisniewski 1-5.

"So endeth the tournament as of the scheduled closing date Dec. 19."

WVCA YEARBOOK IS MAILED OUT

The long-promised 1945-47 Yearbook of the West Virginia Chess Association has finally been completed and is being delivered to members with this issue of the Bulletin.

It is a volume of 87 pages, 8½x11 inches (same size as the Bulletin) and includes, among other things, 45 games from three W.Va. tournaments (1945, 1946 and 1947), 31 games played by WVCA members in other tournaments during the period, 11 games chosen by members as "my best"--a total of 87 games in all. Most of them are annotated--by such fine analysts as George Koltanowski, Milton Finkelstein and our own Games Editor, Dr. Siegfried Werthammer.

And if a game per page of the Yearbook isn't enough, it also has 28 pages of West Virginia chess history, a bibliography of West Virginia chess publications, nine problems picked by Eric M. Hassberg as the best published in the Bulletin, a four-page "Who's Who" on West Virginia chess players, and numerous other features.

AN EDITION OF 200 COPIES

An edition of 200 copies has been printed. The books are not for sale but are being mailed to all WVCA members and to the editors who exchange with the WVCB. (This is in pursuance of a long-standing custom of the Association.)

The book was published by use of funds contributed by members; obtained by selling chess books owned by members; and by selling previous editions of the Yearbook.

The amount of money so obtained is insufficient, by about \$20 to \$25, to meet the cost of publishing the book. (A complete financial statement will be published as soon as first mailing costs are determined.)

Those who already have contributed toward the publication of the book have done their share. If, however, any person who has not contributed in the past feels the urge to do so after reading the book, he has only to make out a check and mail it to Gene Collett, 125 Meritt Avenue, Pittsburgh 27, Pa. If donations should exceed the cost of the job they will, in accordance with our original plan for the book, go into a fund for the publication of future WVCA Yearbooks.

BUT DON'T THINK WE ARE BANKRUPT!

Please do not consider this an appeal for funds--it is merely an invitation to anyone who wishes to do so to share in this publishing venture. Even if no contributions are received, it is likely a number of these books will be left over at the end of our membership year and that these will, likely enough, prove salable for enough to enable the publisher to make out on his costs. So, if you haven't contributed and don't feel the urge, don't suffer any attacks of conscience. You haven't been marked in as a subject for a super-sales demonstration.

Our hope is that members will find enough of interest in the book to have made the large amount of work expended on it worth-while. You'd be surprised how often an editor, as he digs away at his job, wonders whether or not, after all, he isn't just wasting his time. If you think this one has, be sure to write and tell him so. Otherwise he'll take it for granted you think the Yearbook a swell job!