

VOICE OF THE MEMBERS

Tom Sweeney, Coral Gables, Fla.: "I'm stricken you are leaving. Your bulletins are like letters from home. I can just picture Bishop Paull enclosing that check in an envelope he knew was addressed in such a way that it would come straight back to him, and Judge Russell pushing that passed pawn, as he has so often done against poor me--relentlessly, mercilessly and almost axis-matically.... You have no right to quit, and as a member of the board of directors, I object to any attempt at resignation on your part... I hadn't played chess for ages but mere chance made my roommate here a real chess player. We try to avoid the temptation; it's hell on our work.... Jack Malone of 'Turner, Inc.', Third avenue, Pittsburgh, a good friend of mine, was a chess fan I started on this rocky road. Somehow he's squeezed into the A group of the national correspondence standing. Say hello for me if you ever look him up."

(Most certainly your editor will look Malone up and, if he's in the mood, take a few chessic beatings from him. That's our favorite pastime, taking drubbings. As Reid Holt once said, "Collett, you spend so much time putting out chess magazines and keeping records that you'll never amount to a hoot as a player." And since that gives a good alibi for the whoppings, we appreciated it, even though we know our chess is just as good--and as bad--as it would have been had we never stuck a finger on a type-writer key... We hope to be able to get out another issue or two of the state bulletin, when we hope someone will volunteer to take over; it wouldn't do for the editor of the West Virginia Chess Bulletin to be located permanently in Pennsylvania--after all, we hillbillies have some pride!)

Sam Abrahams, Huntington: "There's no news of interest to report for the bulletin. We haven't met at the club for several weeks. Our meeting night is on Thursday--one of them was Christmas, the other New Year's... As previously told to you, our attendances are very slim--due, of course, to wartime conditions."

Harold C. Heisey, Springfield, C.: "The hospitality of the West Virginia Chess Association at its 1942 State Meet at Charleston will always be one of my most pleasant memories... At present, I'm tied for first in our City Championship--two games to go."

(Good luck to you, Harold... Let us know how those other two games come out... And we're hoping we'll be able to hold that '43 meet--and that both Heisey and Collett will be present!)

Pres. A. W. Paull, Wheeling: "There is nothing particularly new in chess in Wheeling. Mr. Peterson has been sojourning here for about three weeks, and has cleaned us up as regularly as we have played. He is simply too good for us, and that is all there is to it. We wish you could run down from Pittsburgh in your spare time and give him his lesson, which I am quite sure you would be able to do."

(Reference is made to Reid Holt's comment--above--on our ability as a chess master. We got to play only one game with Homer while he was at Clarksburg and he won it so quickly it w sn't funny. No, Homer was too good, also, for the Clarksburg crowd, including some of the boys who beat us regularly. Har Allison was the only one who

CHESS IN CHARLESTON

POST CARD FROM WALT CREDE: "CHARLESTON CHESS IS AT PRESENT AT THE LOWEST EBB SINCE ITS FOUNDING. AS PREDICTED, THE CHARLESTON CLUB CLOSED ITS DOORS FOR THE DURATION, AND THUS FAR NO EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO GET INFORMAL MEETINGS AT MEMBERS' HOMES STARTED, AND THERE IS SOME DOUBT AS TO WHETHER THIS WILL BE TACKLED BEFORE SPRING. HOWEVER, I'M MAKING AN EFFORT TO PREVENT THE GAME DU ROYALE FROM DYING OUT COMPLETELY HERE. A CHALLENGE HAS BEEN MAILED TO THE CROWN CHESS CLUB OF DETROIT TO ENTER A CORRESPONDENCE MATCH AGAINST A CHARLESTON TEAM OF 15 PLAYERS. NO ANSWER FROM DETROIT AS YET, BUT FEEL EVERYTHING WILL BE O. K. THE COLUMN STILL GOING. FEEL THAT A WEST VIRGINIA TEAM SHOULD CHALLENGE SOME OTHER STATE, THE OFFICIALS OF THE WVCA TO PICK THE WEST VIRGINIA PLAYERS--SAY 10 OF 'EM. WHAT SAY?"

POST CARD FROM HAROLD W. LIGGETT: "STILL NO CHESS IN CHARLESTON--NOT EVEN A GET-TOGETHER OVER THE HOLIDAYS. OTTO LANG, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CHARLESTON CHESS CLUB, TOLD ME THAT ED FOY WAS HOME OVER CHRISTMAS (FROM THE NAVY)... RECEIVED A FINE LETTER FROM ANTHONY FOY (HAWAII), SAYING HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A COPY OF THE WVCA YEARBOOK, WHICH REALLY BROUGHT BACK MANY FOND MEMORIES AND HAPPY. HE HAS BEEN PLAYING SOME CHESS--EVEN TRYING TO ORGANIZE A TOURNEY IN HIS BATTERY OR REGIMENT... HAVE YOU PLAYED MY FRIEND, BOB SMITH?"

CHESS IN PITTSBURGH

YES, IN ANSWER TO HAL'S QUESTION, YOUR SECRETARY HAS PLAYED HIS FRIEND, BOB SMITH. IN FACT, HIS FRIEND BOB SMITH KNOCKED YOUR SECRETARY OFF FOR THREE GAMES IN A ROW. HAVEN'T MET HIM SINCE.

THE DOWNTOWN Y. M. C. A., WHERE GENE COLLETT IS NOW ROOMING, HAS A NICE CHESS CLUB. DUES ARE 500 A YEAR FOR "Y" RESIDENTS AND \$5 A YEAR FOR OTHERS, WHO ARE KNOWN AS "SOCIAL MEMBERS." NO ROOM RENT TO PAY. VERY ELEGANT ARRANGEMENT. (BETCHA CLARKSBURG FEELS JEALOUS--AND HOW ABOUT YOU, CHARLESTON? LIKELY THE HUNTINGTON CLUB HAS A SIMILAR SET-UP.

HOROWITZ IS TO PLAY HERE THE NIGHT OF JAN. 11. ONE OF THE NIGHTS WHEN I'LL BE WORKING, SO I'LL HAVE TO MISS IT. BUT I'LL GET A FULL REPORT--JUST TO LET YOU KNOW HOW GOOD THE PGH. CROWD IS.

I MIGHT MENTION THAT I HAVE JOINED THE CLUB AND AM NOW SLATED TO PLAY (DON'T LAUGH) IN THE "MASTERS" SECTION IN THE Y TOURNEY. WILL GIVE YOU A REPORT ON IT BUT AM FIRMLY CONVINCED COLLETT WILL BE FOUND ON THE BOTTOM.

THE Y CLUB HAS A LADDER, WITH 18 PLAYERS ON IT. TWO LADDERS REALLY AS SINCE THE TOP 10 ARE ON THE LADDER "A" WHILE THE OTHERS ARE ON THE LADDER "B." I STARTED AS NO. 19 ON THE "B" LADDER (THERE IS NO NO. 11) AND BY WINNING IN TWO ENGAGEMENTS AM NOW NO. 14. THE GOING IS ALREADY TIGHT, ALTHOUGH I HAVE TO GET TO NO. 10 TO REACH THE BOTTOM RUNG ON THE "A" LADDER. I ONLY HOPE I CAN REACH SOME SORT OF POSITION ON THE "A" LADDER IN ORDER TO UPHOLD THE HONOR OF WEST VIRGINIA'S HILL-BILLIES!

PARDON THE BREVITY OF THIS BULLETIN--MUST GET IT PRINTED!

GENE COLLETT, 304 WOOD STREET, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

could do any good with Peterson--Hap got a game or a draw every now and then. We tried to get Homer down to Charleston for the state tourney last summer, hoping for some real fireworks, but he had just breezed in from Ohio and, for some reason or other, didn't seem to feel he was eligible....Speaking of "running down from Pittsburgh" in my spare time, however, if you're serious, I might take you up on that sometime. I've been wanting to meet the Wheeling crowd for quite some time but never had the opportunity. Thursday and Friday are my days off. Would you like me to come over for an afternoon--or evening?... Try me if you think I'm fooling!)

Dr. Albrecht Buschke, New York City: "In the interest of W. Va. chess, I hope (and trust) that your stay in Pittsburgh will delay only but not spoil chess activities in W. Va. As to the Bulletin: better late than not at all--try by all means to keep up the good work for the cause of chess!"

While Mrs. Edith (H. H.) Marks, Huntington, is not a member, she has a son who plays a very outstanding role in West Virginia chess, so we feel sure all members will be glad to received this message from her: "Landis is working in Radford, Va., now. P. O. Box 1172. ...Hope you had a nice Christmas. Very best wishes for the New Year and all time."

Harold C. Heisey, Springfield (this is the second time but we forgot we had two messages from him): "Many thanks for the W. Va. Chess Bulletin and the Clarksburg Chess Bulletin. I enjoyed them both very much. I'm sorry to hear you are leaving West Virginia. Congratulations, though, on your call to Pittsburgh which I assume is in the nature of a promotion....You are correct in your analysis of the game I had with Jeffries."

(Maybe not exactly a promotion but a new job with a chance to go places if I really work at it. I'm so lazy, though, that I'll have to wait until much later to give a report on that.)

William M. Erhard, Clarksburg: "Glad to hear you're living at the Y. M. C. A. That is a great organization, and Clarksburg has missed much by not having one....Perhaps you have lived in a big city before. If not, you have a tremendous new world opening before you. I would be interested to learn of your experiences."

(This is the first big city life for us. As Mrs. Collett says: "The hayseed in our hair may prove bothersome for a while but we will let Pittsburgh worry about that. If they don't want to maintain a good street-cleaning department, they can just have grass growing on their streets. Didn't somebody back here a few years ago predict there'd be grass growing on the main street of every town in the U. S.? Maybe we've been sent along to make this come true so far as Pittsburgh is concerned....Anyway, we're taking to Pittsburgh like a monkey to peanuts.)

William Challinar, Clarksburg: "Attendance at our club has been very small. Only four out last week. Bill Jeffries came in for a few minutes to acquaint us with the fact that our Uncle Sam had given him the nod, and that he will leave for an airfield camp in Texas next week....Received two cards from Frank Wisinski, who is in a camp in

ADDRESS CHANGES

H. Landis Marks, P. O. Box 1172, Radford, Va.
 Sam Abrahams, P. O. Box 404, Huntington, W. Va.
 Gene Collett, 304 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

(Lt. T. B. Sweeney's current address is 1110 South Greenway drive, Coral Gables, Fla. His permanent address, however, continues to be Thomas Sweeney, 708 Hawley building, Wheeling.)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT--DEC. 10 to JAN. 10

	Rec'd	Paid	Bal.
Bal. on hand Dec. 10 (see Bull. 7)			\$10.28
Bull. 7 (70 copies, 8 pp.) mimeo work	\$1.54		
postage 75c, envelopes 26c		\$2.55	7.73
Postage--correspondence		.15	7.58

Balance in general fund Jan. 10, \$7.58. Balance in correspondence tourney fund Jan. 10, \$2.50. (There are six players in the tourney--who forgot to send in his 50 cents?)

We also have commissions from sales of magazines/and books of somewhere between \$2 and \$3. These are still in the hands of the dealers, however, and will not be reported in the financial statement until actually received in the treasury. (Just thought members would feel a little more comfortable if they know we have the money coming!)

CHESS IN CLARKSBURG

Members were forwarded last month a copy of the Dec. 11 bulletin of the Clarksburg Chess Club--sort of a souvenir copy, as it were, as it was the last one published by your own editor before he pulled stakes for Pittsburgh.

It explained that the Clarksburg bulletin had been taken over by William Challiner as editor and William M. Erhard as printer. Their first issue, dated Jan. 2, arrived the other day, and is a swell job. We note that the club finds the Hotel Gore a rather expensive meeting place now that membership has been cut down by military service and gasoline rationing. Plans are being made to move somewhere else, possibly to a church recreation room. As Erhard is a minister, he of course has his fingertips in contact with all such opportunities. It might be a worthwhile idea for following-up by other state clubs, particularly Charleston whose membership reduction drove the players from their public meeting place into private homes.

The Clarksburg club every three months issues a ranking of its members based on games played in the preceding 12 months. Each player is rated according to his percentage against each other member of the club and an average of these percentages is taken. The rankings are as follows for the 12 months ending Dec. 31, 1942:

Hap Allison, the club champion, .885; Ray H. Griffin, .682; William Challiner, .677; William Davis, .492; Lee Rogers, .473; William Walker, .444; William Erhard, .375; William Schaeffer, .255; Sam Allison, .218.

Did you ever see so many Bills in one chess club? And, of course, when Bill Devericks and Bill Jeffries were active members, instead of being in active service, all one had to do was go into the club and say, "Come here, Bill!" in order to start a second club.