

WEST VIRGINIA CHESS BULLETIN

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WE HEAR FROM CHARLESTON

Letter from Walt Crede on February 1:

"For several issues of the chess column, I've made attempts to get a correspondence match lined up for the Charleston players, and didn't have much luck until a couple of weeks ago, when a note came from Glen Nicholas of Alloy, W. Va. I immediately got the ball rolling and by the time this reaches you, the match--Charleston vs. Alloy--will be under way. The line-up:

<u>Bd</u>	<u>Charleston</u>		<u>Alloy</u>
1	Hurt	vs.	Wolff
2	Seletz	vs.	Morrison
3	Crede	vs.	Nicholas
4	Church	vs.	J. P. Engle
5	Andrews	vs.	M. Engle
6	Apgar	vs.	Colville
7	Lang	vs.	Fourney
8	Gilliland	vs.	O'Brien
9	Jamison	vs.	Forbes
10	Mosier	vs.	Arbaugh
11	John Carver	vs.	Lee

"Alloy is a small town close to Montgomery. These fellows work at a chemical plant there, and are proving to be real chessnuts. The ban on pleasure driving, says Nicholas, has caused them to start spending three or four nights per week on the game; the whole of which, say I, should turn 'em into a corkin' good team!...."

"Has any one been thinking about a picked West Virginia team playing in a correspondence match?"

(Walt sends us the address of Glen Nicholas and suggests that we send him a copy of the West Virginia Chess Bulletin. We'll do even better than that--we'll send Glen a copy of this issue for each of the 11 members of the Alloy correspondence team. The idea, of course, is that we will be glad to have these Alloy players and any other "chessnuts" there as members of the state association. The fee is 50cents a year which entitles the member to all bulletins for the rest of the club year as well as a copy of the West Virginia Chess Yearbook for 1942--as long as they last--we still have 9 or 10 of them left. The yearbook is a 50-page 8x11 mimeographed publication, containing articles on the history of chess in the state by Crede, H. G. Peterson and others and games from the 1941 and 1942 tournaments with commentary by Honorary Member George Koltanowski, international blindfold champion, and others. Membership fees are forwarded to Gene Collett, 302 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.... Crede is the third member to suggest a correspondence match, W. Va. against the players of some other state. The idea seems popular. All those who like to take part should drop a card to Walt Crede, Route 5, Box 274, Charleston. We'll leave it up to Crede to find the opponent.)

WHAT'S DOING IN CLARKSBURG?

Bill Challinor, editor, and Bill Erhard, printer, have got out a darned good issue of the Clarksburg Chess Club Bulletin, covering January activities, so we'll quote a little from it. Erhard also has contributed two excellent humorous cartoons on the subject of chess which serve to enliven the pages. Keep up the good work, boys. Here are some of the news notes:

"January 27 we met at the home ^{of} Rev. W. M. Erhard... with the addition of two visitors, namely, Miss B. Price and Mr. A. Monroe, both of Clarksburg. I must say 'en passant' that very probably Miss Price is the best lady chess player in Clarksburg. I must here mention that we have at least one other good lady player in Clarksburg, i. e., Mrs. Beverage of Stealey.

WHAT'S DOING IN CLARKSBURG (continued)

"On Jan. 6 (on account of our active membership being whittled to a near vanishing point), we decided to suspend for the duration the renting of a room at the Gore Hotel. We therefore appointed Ray Griffin as custodian of the Club's property and finances, the same to be frozen until the boys come home. (Oh, boy! What a homecoming that will be, eh?)

"About two weeks ago, I received a letter from... member Pvt. R. S. Randolph, Hqs. Co., Ft. Mason, San Francisco, Cal. Our friend Randolph proved his kindness to the club--a real sort of esprit de corps--by inclosing in his missive a donation of \$2.00 to be used to help the chess club on over the rough and stony road. Thanks very much, Randolph. Your two nice-looking greenbacks have been frozen with the rest of the valuables under the watchful care of Member Griffin. Randolph has been credited with this amount paid on account of future dues, which will begin about next Christmas, when we have finally scotched the Axis Wagon....

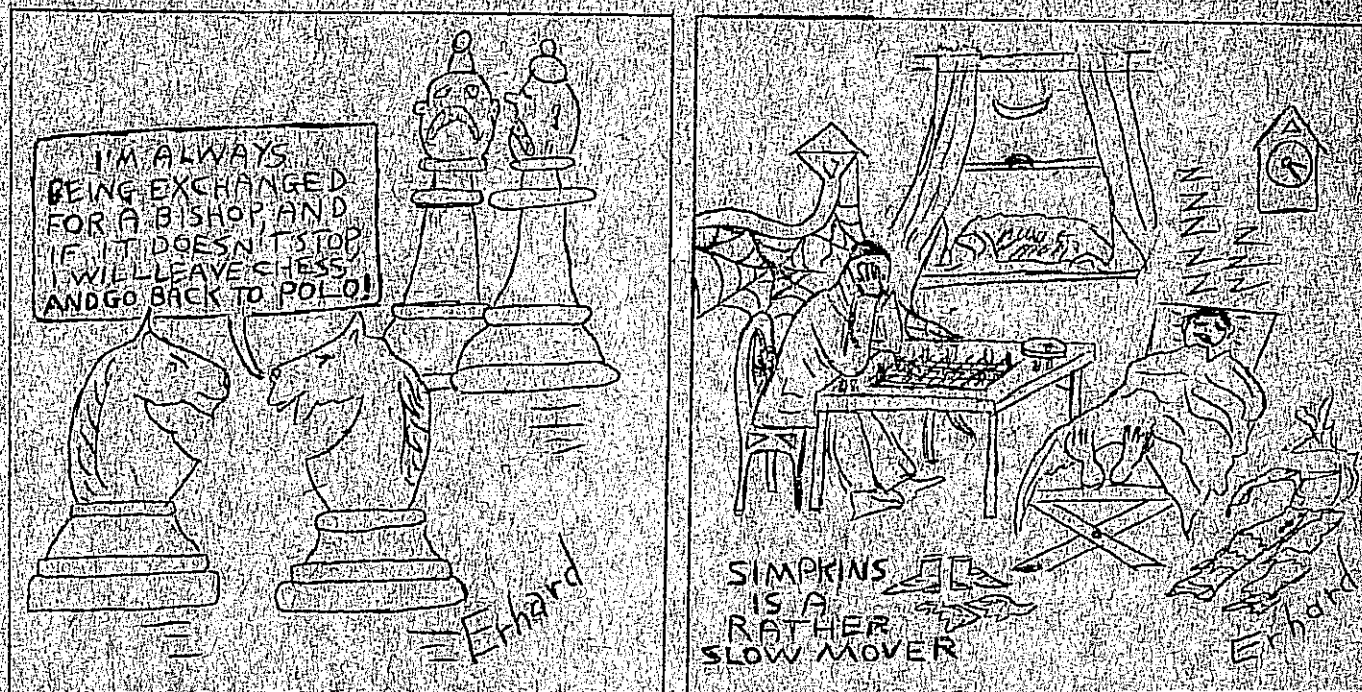
"Gene Collett tells us he has mixed it with the boys at the Pittsburgh Chess Club. One of the players... Bob Smith... very kindly and doubtless very forcefully, pinned Gene's ears back in three successive wins. Well, what about it? I myself have many times invaded Pittsburgh's chess 'cotes.' I have bent many ears back there, and many times have had my own ears shoved back, but that was in the old days when Pittsburgh was a real chess-playing town, had a good flourishing chess club and a bunch of very fine players.

"In 1908, Pittsburgh had three newspapers which produced, weekly, very fine chess columns. One of these, the Pittsburgh Dispatch column, was edited by Mr. William Napier, well-known international expert, and a former chess champion of England. Then there were well-known players, including Livingstone, Dolde, Isaacs, Long and George (the latter a Boston man formerly). It was the Pittsburgh Leader which published my first chess problem--a three-mover--35 years ago. Also I won my first solving tournament prize through the medium of the Leader's column. I once played Mr. George an 8-hr. session on an Xmas day in the Pittsburgh Chess Club. Mr. George, teamed with Sanders of East Liverpool, O., drew a consulting game against Jose R. Capablanca, the world champion."

(For the information of Bill Challinor: We still have a flourishing chess club in Pittsburgh and some very fine players--Bill Byland, who was third in the Pennsylvania state championship last year; Bob Smith, who is at the head of the club ladder, a rung above Byland, and many others. If any of the players Challinor lists are still around Pittsburgh, however, I have yet to hear of them. The note that Napier once edited a chess column in Pittsburgh is especially interesting. His "Background and Amenities of Chess"--do we have the title right?--are a genuine pleasure to read, though, unfortunately, they are now out of print and I do not own a set of them... I am sure the Pittsburgh boys will be glad to entertain you next time you are in Pittsburgh, Bill, and prove to you anew that Pittsburgh can still toss a mean pawn. How's about making it soon? We meet on Thursdays and Saturdays in the Downtown YMCA, 304 Wood Street.)

A letter from Challinor, dated Jan. 14, indicates that chess is still being played at the McNicol pottery in Clarksburg, where Bill works as a decorator:

"Of course, I have been playing lots of chess at the pottery every noon. I am training two new players, one of them a brother of Tommy Frye (Tommy is a WVCA member)... I have just heard from one of my pottery pupils, Pvt. Frank Audia, a recent draftee, who informs me he has played 4 games of chess in Oregon state, and that he won 3 of the 4."



Above will be seen our feeble efforts to reproduce Bill Erhard's two excellent cartoons in the current issue of the Clarksburg Chess Club Bulletin.

CHES IN PITTSBURGH

Your editor spoke out of turn in last month's bulletin when he said he was slated to play in the Masters' section of the Downtown Y chess tourney in Pittsburgh. He had been tentatively scheduled there but was so unhappy about it that the powers that be yielded and put him back in the Class A group, where he now has a win, a loss and a draw in the three games he has played, proving that he would have been lost beyond recall in the Masters' section. It's too early yet to get much indication of how the two sections will come out except that neither of them will be won by an ex-Clarksburger.

Horowitz came Jan. 14 but your editor was working that night and didn't get to meet him. In fact, he was here a couple of days but the news didn't get around; so..... One of the boys here got a draw; otherwise, Horowitz left with a clean record. We hear he plays a fairly good game... Bob Holbrook, Bill Byland and others send greetings to Frank Wisinski, a WVCA member who once played a lot at the Y.

AND HERE IS A LETTER FROM WISINSKI -- NEWS FROM THE CAMPS

Pvt. Frank Wisinski, Ft. Harrison, Ind.: "Received the W. Va. Bulletin and have a copy of the Clarksburg bulletin, also... Well, Gene, how do you like my old home town, and my old hangout at the Y? You'll be sure to get a lot of good competition there, I know. I played some of the gang there and they are tough. If you happen to meet Bob Holbrook there, say hello to him for me. He's a member of the Chess Club, and we used to tangle once in a while... If I get a furlough some day, I'll drop in and look you up."

A/C William J. Jeffries, San Antonio, Tex.: "Well--I'm in the army now. I thought I would send you my address and, perhaps, when you have time, you will drop me a line.. What little I have seen of the army is not at all what I had expected. So far, we are well housed, well fed, and have very little to do. Maybe they don't know there's a war on--huh?"

(Cheer up, Bill!--They'll soon rectify that that "very little to do" situation. Probably have done so, already, huh?)

LETTER FROM LANDIS (Jan. 8)

Landis Marks, Radford, Va.: "Happy New Year, 'Gene! Did the flood get you?... The Merchant Marine is under the USN now and the physical exam is just the same as for the Coast Guard or the regular services. They flunked me at Norfolk after passing me at Roanoke. It was a disappointment. The Ribbon Mill employs me as timekeeper, payroll clerk, bookkeeper, shipping clerk, file clerk and general factotum. We make -----."

(Sorry to cut you off there, Landis, but the Office of Censorship was looking over our shoulder. The item is interesting, however, and of quite a lot of service to our boys on the firing line, eh, Landis?... We escaped the flood but have been mowed down by the Pittsburgh chess players, so it's about even.)

A card from Dr. Buschke promises us a list of problem books for release in a later issue of the bulletin.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT--JAN. 10 TO FEB. 10

	<u>Rec'd</u>	<u>Paid</u>	<u>Bal.</u>
Bal. on hand Jan. 10 (see Bull. 8)			\$ 7.58
Bull. 8 (70 copies, 4 pp.) mimeo work 93¢, postage 74¢, envelopes 34¢		\$2.01	5.57
Postage--correspondence with members		.10	5.47

Balance in general fund Feb. 10, \$5.47. Balance in correspondence tourney fund Feb. 10, \$2.50.

We also have commissions of better than \$3 from sale of books and magazines, the money still being in the hands of sellers. Believe we shall write for it this month as the treasury is running pretty low. Other members wanting books will find some excellent bargains offered in the November and December issues of the bulletin.

ADDRESS CHANGES

H. Landis Marks, c/o Century Ribbon Mills, First & Berkeley Sts., Radford, Va.
A/C Wm. J. Jeffries, San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center, A.A.F.C.C., Sqd. 102, Flight I, San Antonio, Tex.

Pvt. Frank B. Wisinski, Co. I, Barracks #6, 3rd Fin. Tr. Bn., Ft. Harrison, Ind.

H. O. Peterson, Gen. Del., Canton, Ohio.

ODD AND ENDS, INCLUDING CARDS FROM OHIO MEMBERS

Card from Harold C. Heisey, Springfield, O.: "Many thanks for the last West Virginia Chess Bulletin which I enjoyed greatly. Played against Horowitz in Columbus recently. By some strange quirk of fate, Horowitz won. Incredible, isn't it? At present, I'm leading in our city championship. Will let you know when the crash comes."

H. O. Peterson, Canton, O. (Jan. 11): "The flood at Wheeling interrupted a very pleasant series of chess games between this member and the Wheeling players... Dropped a card to Wisinski, telling him how he might get in touch with the Indianapolis players... Hope to see my old chess friend, Mr. Hamilton, while I am in Canton. I once played a match with him for the Columbiana county championship, winning by the score of 4-3... I'm playing Smith of Pittsburgh my mail. He said he played you. He's good."

In the December bulletin, we said Bill Walker of the Clarksburg club had withdrawn from active membership for 16 months to attend a war industry class. It should have been 16 weeks, of course. I don't suppose anyone was misled by the error but, anyway, here's the correction--burdening the record, but keeping it straight.

See y'all next month! (Anybody want to be an editor? Drop me a line.)

Editor: 'Gene Collett, 304 Wood Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania