

## West Virginia Chess Bulletin Background Summary – Joe Barker

The website now contains our bulletins from the beginning in 1939 to the present. As far as I know this is the only state association bulletin in the U.S. that is this old and is this complete. Also included are the four yearbooks which provided a wealth of data. The time sequencing is from the earliest to latest date with the late Paul Sayre's list of the first 31 bulletins in front. If you read his list it will tell you what he was missing and how many pages each bulletin contained. He was very successful in hunting these bulletins as there are only 3 partial and/or missing bulletins: #1 (2 pages), #4 (pages 1, 2 as pages 3 and 4 he had recovered) and all of #14. If anyone out there would happen to have these, it would be greatly appreciated if you could photocopy them and forward them to us to complete this archive. Again, I want to thank Tom Bergquist, John Brewster, Mark Hathaway, and the Cleveland Library for their assistance in procuring copies of the bulletins that I did not have to complete this work. There are several things that need to be explained about the quality of this run. First of all, bulletin #173 appeared in two parts in a magazine called Chessman Quarterly which lasted about 3 issues and went "belly up". I am not sure why this happened as the editor at that time must have thought this was a good idea (it was not!). Additionally, you will run into an occasional page where the bottom line is badly faded. As many of these bulletins sat in a basement or were produced on mimeograph machines, the quality of some pages just is not what it could have been. I really enjoyed doing this, but I must admit that towards the end I was starting to get "burned out". The project was over 120 man-hours to complete and over \$750 for copying the two-page bulletin pages to one page copies to be able to get them thru the scanner. The scanning process was done with the help of my son, Rob, at his office and allowed the bulletins to be put in computer format (PDF) to load onto the website. In any event, you have the history of West Virginia Chess at your fingertips. There are a lot of interesting games and stories of a lot of people who are no longer with us. Please enjoy!!