

chess

Vol. 3—No. 10

digest

extends
to its subscribers

heartiest wishes
for

a merry christmas
and a
happy new year

25c

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PHYLLIS SEIDKIN
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
 GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI
 SENIOR EDITOR

MRS. NANCY ROOS, Los Angeles
 LOUIS YATES, San Anselmo
 Staff Photographers
 STANLEY G. BEHREND, Postal Games Editor

from the mail

EDITOR:

I have received the following authentic information which in my opinion merits your consideration, not only as an interested chess enthusiast, but as editor of an excellent chess magazine.

This information deals specifically with a petition of vital importance. It is now being circulated and the caption thereon reads as follows:

"PLEASE DESIGNATE BY SIGNATURE YOUR DESIRE AS TO WHAT TYPE OF TOURNAMENT YOU WANT CONDUCTED FOR THE CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN 1951.

One: Open Tournament

Two: Preliminary Tournament."

My last perusal of the aforementioned document shows thirty-six signatures. All of the thirty-six players, are unanimous in their sentiments and unhesitatingly voted for an OPEN EVENT. This decision obviously was not a surprise, for you will remember I stated this was the case at the meeting in San Francisco over last Labor Day weekend.

For your information and for those who may have interest in the matter, I am taking the liberty of listing some of the strongest players who signed the petition: Ray Martin, Arthur Spiller, Sven Almogren, Irving Revis, Philip Smith, Emil Bersbach, Morris Gordon, George Stevens, James Aquillan, L. Standers, E. Weiss, C. Geller, Robert Jacobs, Bill Bannina, F. Hazard, Robert Greene, Dr. Bruce Collins and Reed Newport.

What is more surprising is the unusual as well as fair attitude of Ray Martin and Arthur Spiller, California State and Open Champions respectively. By signing the above mentioned petition, these two gentlemen knowingly gave up their chances of being ceded, which you must admit is a marvelous gesture of good sportsmanship and in keeping with the wishes of the majority.

With this overwhelming support, an open tournament must be given priority in any consideration or deliberation by those who officially or unofficially handle affairs of this nature.

WILLIAM H. STECKEL
 Los Angeles

(What do the Northern and San Diego players think?—ED.)

monterey news

By ROLLA H. TAYLOR

The officers for the 1950-51 season are Dr. Chester L. Magee (Carmel), president; James H. Beans (Santa Cruz), vice-president; and Rolla H. Taylor (Salinas), secretary-treasurer.

The following schedule for tournament play has been set up:

1. Santa Cruz at Carmel.....	Dec. 12, 1950
2. Carmel at Salinas.....	Jan. 14, 1951
3. Santa Cruz at Salinas.....	Feb. 13, 1951
4. Carmel at Santa Cruz.....	Mar. 11, 1951
5. Salinas at Carmel.....	Apr. 10, 1951

The first match was played November 15, with a score of Salinas 3, Santa Cruz 4, as follows:

SALINAS		SANTA CRUZ	
1. Rolla H. Taylor.....	0	M. Gasse.....	1
2. George Oakes.....	1	E. B. Barrett.....	0
3. Wayne Pope.....	1	F. Pfyffer.....	0
4. Ray Andrews.....	0	C. J. Volmer.....	1
5. H. Fixler.....	1	J. Murphy.....	0
6. Ted Lang.....	1	James B. Beans.....	0
7. A. Lukavich.....	1	L. F. Johnson.....	0
8. E. Morga.....	0	I. Netoff.....	1
9. Elmer Hawkins.....	0	R. Maeth.....	1

5

4

Salinas White on odd boards

The league is purchasing a trophy to be awarded to the club winning the most league matches.

postal chess

By STANLEY G. BEHREND

Dear Postalite:

I have received many cards in the past few days from you concerning my appointment as Postal Chess Editor, the rating system, and hitherto-unrecorded results. Thanks a lot for them; for they are the pleasant part of an editor's job.

This column is not really mine; it is yours. For your games, your continued participation in postal chess, and your help in getting friends and acquaintances to play in CHESS DIGEST postal chess tournaments are the only things which will make this column a success. There are many advantages in playing postal chess, but probably the most satisfying is the formation of chess friendships throughout the country. A strange city is much less strange if you know that in that city is a person with whom you have previously played postal chess; lock him up, and you'll not only have a game "over-the-board," but the strangeness of the city will disappear.

There are several ventures planned for this column in the coming year. There are special tournaments, personalities (How about some snapshots and short biographies? Please!) and a "Names and Games" section. Here, again, your cooperation is required; this column is for your names and your games; so send them to me as soon as possible. The only restriction is that they should be postal games played in a CHESS DIGEST postal chess section. (Players' notes cheerfully used!)

Here's a game from section 50-A-V:

White: R. L. Shea, S.F. Black: Elliott Ball, Hayward

1. P-K4	P-K4	16. R-K2	N-K2
2. N-KB3	Q-B3(?)	17. R-N1	P-KB4
3. N-QB3	N-QB3	18. P-N5	Q-KB3
4. B-B4	P-Q3	19. R(N1)-K1	Q-KN3
5. P-Q3	P-KR3	20. Q-B3	P-KR4
6. N-Q5	Q-Q1	21. P-OR4	P-KR5
7. O-O	P-KN4	22. P-B4	PxP (e.p.)
8. B-QN5	P-OR3	23. R-B2	PxNp
9. B-R4	P-QN4	24. RxP	RxP
10. B-N3	N-OR2	25. KR-B1	Q-R4
11. R-K1	P-KN5	26. R-R1	QR6
12. N-R4	P-QB3	27. B-B7ch	KxB
13. N-QN6	QxN(N3)	28. Q-N5ch	B-K3
14. B-K3	Q-Q1	29. RxPch	NxR
15. Q-Q2	QxN	30. PxN	Q-N7 mate

We regret that the regular problem column was not received in time for publication in this issue. —Ed.

a dangerous game

By GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI

NOW don't shrug your shoulders, if I tell you that it is chess to which I am referring. You thought that it was an old man's game, a dry game, a difficult game — but dangerous? Let me tell you of an incident that will show you chess can be dangerous.

I had been touring Cuba and was just resting in Havana for a couple of weeks, taking life easily, when I decided one morning to visit Dr. Miguel Urrutia at his Mariñoa Clinic.

Miguel had been a very good friend of mine for many years but he had been too busy to come to Havana when I was there. He had written me three letters inviting me down to his clinic to do him at least the favor of playing one game of chess. We were old rivals and that morning I felt I would be a good match for him.

AS SOON as I entered the grounds with the well ordered pathway lined with great palm trees, I felt as if I had stepped into a different world. There seemed to be an extraordinary quietness about the place. Many patients were on the grounds, seated or standing, mostly apart from each other. One I noticed was running up and down holding a pail in his left hand and when he passed me I saw that the pail was empty. The patients all wore blue smocks, and some were followed by guardians who were dressed in white.

At last we reached the main building. I was shown into a well-furnished office on the ground floor. The young man who lead me in told me the doctor would be in immediately.

Within a few minutes Miguel came rushing in, dressed in his hospital overall, and almost swept me off my feet with his usual embraces.

"Chico!" he cried. "Why didn't you let me know you were coming? I would have taken the day off and we could have had a good time."

He did not give me much time to speak, but inquired about my health, my wife, my tour, my most recent book, and about my liking Havana.

AT LAST I got a question in. "Oh, yes," he replied. "You're right. This is a clinic to cure the weak of mind. But

don't worry. We have everything under control. By the way, let me order some coffee for us both."

With this he rang a bell. A minute later a young man, dressed in blue, came in and took the order for coffee.

As soon as the man went out, I inquired if he were a patient.

"Yes, but he is as normal as you or I most of the time. Several times a year he has a crisis and then we have to lock him up for several weeks. He feels it coming on and comes and tells me, always about two or three days ahead. When he is normal he helps serving."

At this point the subject of our conversation came in with the coffee.

While sipping the coffee, the doctor told me that he had a few more cases to attend to later but that we could start playing as soon as I was ready.

"And I hope you are in form," he added, "as I have something new up my sleeve for you."

"Come, come," I smiled. "Something new? Then let's get started."

THE TABLE was arranged with a board and chess men, and I pulled the black pieces.

Miguel, who had the white pieces, started off with the Queen's pawn. I had a struggle not to lose too much territory in the opening. By sacrificing a pawn, I had gained great liberty with my minor pieces and was certain of either regaining my sacrificed pawn with a reasonably good game or getting a terrific attack against my opponent's king. At this point, an attendant came in and said something to the doctor. Miguel excused himself, saying he might be gone for half an hour as they were having some difficulty with a patient.

"This gives you a chance to think," he said, "but you don't know what I'm going to play. I've got something now that you are not expecting, but I am going to keep it until I get back." With that he hurried out of the room leaving me lost in thought, trying to find out what his surprise move could be.

I studied the position intently, and I was just beginning to feel satisfied that Miguel had only tried to bluff me to keep me busy, when I sensed that I was not alone in the

room. I looked up from the board to see standing by the door, a tall man dressed in street clothes.

HE WAS surely over six feet tall, very broad shouldered, and dressed in a well cut blue suit and a red bow tie. His face made a deep impression on me. Everything seemed to be of extraordinary size. His nose was not long but seemed to spread over a great part of his face. His mouth seemed to reach right up to his ears, and they were lobbing over — his right ear having a large swollen appearance just as a prize-fighter's might. The eye-brows were thick and his eyes staring straight at me seemed very blue.

I arose from my chair.

"Please don't get up," a deep voice told me. Before I had time to tell him the doctor would be in soon he added,

"I have come to play chess with you," and coming to the other side of the table, sat down in the doctor's chair.

I was a bit confused as Miguel had not told me he was inviting anyone else to play me.

"But I - I am in the midst of a game with the doctor," I stammered.

THE STRANGER looked up from the board, was quiet for just a few seconds, and then said very calmly,

"But the doctor has sent me to finish the game for him."

"Oh," I replied. "That's a pity, because he has left you in a very tight hole. Let's start another game."

"No, NO," was the excited reply. "I wish to continue this game."

"As you wish," I replied. "But I warn you that you're in a tight spot. It's your move."

My opponent put his right hand on his queen, the last thing I thought he was going to move, and played so that a simple pawn of mine could take it. I really got a double shock. First of all the unexpected move, and the extraordinary largeness of his hands, covered with long, dark hair. I was nonplussed.

"Did Miguel tell you to make this move?" I asked. "Because I can take your queen with a pawn and there is not compensation for it at all."

HE DREW his heavy eyebrows together, lifted his huge body into an upright position, and staring at me, started talking very rapidly in English.

"It might interest you, my dear Sir, that I was once threatened in the same way in Oporto, Portugal. But my opponent went a step too far when he deliberately took my queen with a low down pawn. That, my dear Sir, is an insult from one gentleman to the other. The moment that man took my queen, I knew I was going to kill him. The insult was too humiliating."

He paused for breath and I smiled, thinking it a splendid joke to try to scare me from taking advantage of his blunder.

"After the game," he continued, "I invited my opponent to accompany me for a row. He foolishly accepted. He never came back. I left for the States the same evening."

I decided then I was playing with a madman. And whether joking or not, I had better not take his queen. Instead of that I took a pawn.

HE ALMOST jumped from his chair. Gesturing with both hands in the air, he shouted,

"So you dare to take a pawn!"

Then I was sure he was mad.

"I have a good mind to shoot you," he continued in a louder voice. "Just as I did Petrofsky in Pinsk. That low down fellow had the habit of sneaking off pawns from my board when I was not looking, but when I looked at the board at a certain moment, I noticed that all the pawns were gone. I then and there shot him just like I would any ravenous dog. In the uproar that followed, I made my getaway, and as I had my plane then, I flew straight to China." His voice midway had become much lower. The end came almost as in a whisper.

Then he took a rook of mine. He then leaned back and smiled at me, holding the captured rook in one hand and fondling it with the other.

I looked at him and his well-lined teeth now more than at the board. If only Miguel would come. This joke was lasting long enough for my liking. I had no interest in the game and wanted to lose as quickly as possible. So I played a pawn.

HE grabbed something else, holding the gains in his large left palm. We continued playing a few more moves when I was on the point of taking a rook of his. He, noticing my intention, caught hold of my hand very roughly. I quickly pulled it away, feeling a twinge of pain passing through my hand and up my arm.

"You better not take my rook," he whispered, leaning across the table. "Garcia Fernandez tried to do that in Mexico City last year. After the game we went dining together and I poisoned him with prussic acid. He died in great pain. It was blamed on the oysters he had. By the time they found out that was not so, I was in hiding. My friends bribed the officials and the case never came to court, so I was a free man."

Now I really wished he would win quickly, but I wished still more that Dr. Urrutia would turn up. I dared not make another move. I was trying to gain time to control my nerves when again I heard his voice.

"Don't lose your nerve, Sir, and move. I am not used to long waiting. I must still laugh at the time I played Dinga Dinn in Bombay many years back. He was a snake charmer and we had become friends during one of my visits to the bazaar district. He had begged me for some money. I took him to eat.

ONE night he came to my apartment and noticing a chess board he asked me if I would do him the honor of playing a game of chess. He mentioned that he had a wonderful chess board and pieces at his home. I went to his place and truly his set was delightful to see. We squatted on the ground. There was no chair in the place, not even a bed. The fellow slept on the ground in blankets. In the corner was his flute and a basket, in which he told me was a most dangerous cobra.

"Well, we played, and when he noticed that he was lost, he started to think a very long time before moving, thinking that in that way, I would lose the game. I saw through his little trick, so I knocked him cold, broke the flute, and taking the basket I went to the door, loosed the catch on the basket and threw it quickly into the room as I skipped out, closing the door behind me. Nobody knew how it had happened, but I never saw him again."

I played rather quickly now; besides I did not have many pieces left. When I had my king and two pawns left against his whole army, I decided to resign.

"Sir, you have played magnificently," I said. "I surrender to your greater knowledge of this kingly game."

Again he smiled at me, but to my horror he shook his head.

"You cannot do that," he said pleasantly.

"I have to mate you before you have lost. That is how I play chess."

UNHAPPILY I continued, praying that he would either mate me or that Miguel would come. After about ten moves when he could have mated me in about twenty different ways in one move, he played his queen back to knight two. It was then that my heart fell into my shoes.



For those who cannot play chess let me explain just this. All black can do is play pawn takes queen, checkmating the white king. Thus instead of losing, as I had hoped, I was forced to play pawn takes queen — winning the game. There was nothing else I could do. I thought as long as I dared then quickly asked him,

"Now tell me, what do you do if someone happens to mate you?"

Cold fury came into his eyes. He got up very slowly and leaning over the table, he said deliberately,

"Sir, nobody has lived to mate me yet. Do you see these hands of mine? I could wring your neck in exactly five seconds, and by Jehova I will do so, if this miracle of your mating me would happen now when I am so many pieces up."

Then he sat down again and began to laugh.

"Ha, ha, ha, ha-ha, ha, ha. There's nothing you have to fear. You can't mate me anyhow. Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha."

I WAS now beside myself. The only thing left for me to do was to make a run for the door. Now was the moment. I could stand it no longer. I jumped up and made for the door with a shout, when the door opened and in came Miguel. I threw my arms about him.

"Why, what's the matter?" spluttered Miguel, when he could free himself from my grasp. "What's all the excitement about?"

He then saw the man who had quietly remained seated at the table staring down at

the position. A gleam of understanding came into the eyes of the doctor.

"What are you doing here, Don Emilio?" the doctor said crisply. "Did I not tell you to wait in the ante-chamber until I came back to sign your papers of release?"

"I'm sorry," Miguel said, turning to me. "I know quite well what happened, and only my rush to get through my work made me forget that Don Emilio may have troubled you. He is quite normal except when he sees a chess board and plays at it."

I had sat down in an armchair near the door. I was speechless and was wiping my brow. How could I tell Miguel what I had gone through in the last three-quarters of an hour? Don Emilio, without a word or look for either the doctor or me, went quietly out of the room.

"BUT Miguel," I managed to say, "how can you let this man loose? He threatened to strangle me if I beat him, and he has told me how he killed so many of his opponents in cold blood."

Miguel made me feel very uncomfortable then by starting to laugh in the most hearty manner.

"Did you fall for what he told you? Don Emilio is one of the best actors the Cuban stage lost when he got his craze of killing people with his mouth. Chess always starts him off and especially when he sees a stranger. He has never traveled outside this country and has been coming to this institution for the last twenty years for the summer months.

"He couldn't kill a fly and has one of the sweetest dispositions you can imagine, but don't let him play chess. When he leaves here today, a hired companion will follow him around to see that nobody plays him.

"How I would have enjoyed watching your face when you played him!" And again he burst out laughing.

I felt far from in a laughing mood. I got up, went to the corner and took my hat, gloves, and cane.

"What about our game?" inquired Miguel anxiously.

"Miguel," I answered quietly. "I resign the game. You were right when you said you would have a surprise for me."

crackpot's corner

By C. M. CAPPS

Oakland

THE OTHER day, coming down Market Street in San Francisco, we met a friend of ours, a well-known chess enthusiast, who was acting rather peculiarly. He was weaving about the sidewalk in a queer, hesitating, but somehow rhythmic, motion.

He clutched our arm as we approached. "I think I'm going bats!" he croaked hoarsely. "These darned squares on the sidewalk -- I keep trying to jump like a knight."

We tried to reassure him. "It's nothing to worry about. Been concentrating too much on one thing. Just forget about chess for a couple of days -- relax, go to a show, or something."

"But I'm getting worried!" he persisted. "Lately, I'm getting a new feeling. I want to move sideways, like a rook!"

We talked soothingly to him for a few minutes, then started on. We had gotten a half a block when it happened. A screech of brakes, a thud -- and the screams of a couple of women passers-by.

We have been to the hospital to see him, and he's doing very well. Happier, too. Says he only wants to move one square at a time, now. Like a pawn.

* * *

WE UNDERSTAND that in New York you can buy chess sets piecemeal. A friend who has just returned from there said quite distinctly -- it does strike us as rather odd -- that one whole block is nothing but pawn shops!

* * *

SPeAKING of piecemeal, that reminds us of a project we have had in mind for some time. You know the crowd who dash into Mechanics' Institute in San Francisco on weekdays, to spend their lunch hours playing "patz?" They complain that they don't have time to eat. Well, we have just the thing for them, if we can find someone to finance it.

We propose to make chess sets they can eat. The pawns will be peanuts, the bishops, say, hot dogs -- and of course kings would be dessert; something like French pastries. When you capture a piece, you eat it. Play the game and eat lunch at the same time!

All gambits would probably be accepted.

a master amateur

By Dr. H. J. RALSTON

San Francisco

For sixty years, Dr. W. R. Lovegrove of San Francisco has been one of our strongest players.

Born October 24, 1869, he learned the game of chess at the age of sixteen, by studying the article on chess in the Encyclopedia Britannica. During the period 1886-1890 he strengthened his game by playing at the Mechanics' Institute in San Francisco, finally becoming so strong that in one tournament he gave odds to all the other contestants, yet still won.

He was the winner of the final Pillsbury National Correspondence tournament. In 1891 he won a match from Joseph Redding, who claimed the championship of the Pacific Coast, by a score of 7-1. Max Judd, who had been prominent in national chess circles, visited San Francisco about the same time, and Dr. Lovegrove won six games out of seven from him in casual play. Showalter also visited San Francisco, and although he had the edge over Dr. Lovegrove in casual play, lost no less than twelve games to him.

In 1893 Dr. Lovegrove visited Los Angeles, where he met and conquered Lipschutz by a score of 3½-½. In 1912, he played Van Vliet in London for a shilling a game, and won the only game played. Vienna, 1922, was the site of two games with the well-known master Dr. Tartakower. The master told Dr. Lovegrove he would pay him sixty thousand kronen if Dr. Lovegrove won, and would expect to receive forty thousand kronen if he won.

The first game lasted four hours, with Dr. Lovegrove the winner. Dr. Tartakower insisted on paying, which is highly unusual in play between masters and amateurs. So Dr. Lovegrove finally, but reluctantly, took the dollar. Next day they played even, and the master won his dollar back. He did not care to play Dr. Lovegrove any more, remarking that he couldn't make a living that way.

Paris, 1912, found Dr. Lovegrove beating Taubenhaus 10-1, for, theoretically, a dollar a game. One day in San Francisco, in 1913, Dr. Lovegrove met and defeated Kostich 4-0, again winning four imaginary dollars. Next day, Kostich won back some real dollars.

Dr. Lovegrove's greatest achievements were against the world champion, Dr. Emanuel

Lasker, and the American champion, Harry Pillsbury. In 1903 Dr. Lasker visited San Francisco on tour, and an exhibition game with clocks was arranged. Dr. Lovegrove defeated the great master, who was liberal in his praise of the local player. (We shall give this game in a later issue of "Chess Digest.")

Dr. Lovegrove's game with Pillsbury, played in 1904 in San Francisco, was also an individual exhibition game, played with clocks. Dr. Lovegrove won with a ferocious king-side attack. Unlike Dr. Lasker, Pillsbury was very much upset over losing. He could not believe that a mere amateur would be able to beat him.

The present writer is not alone in holding the opinion that Dr. Lovegrove, in his prime, was the strongest amateur in the world.

Here is the game against Pillsbury:

White: Dr. Lovegrove Black: Pillsbury

- | | | | |
|--|------|-----------|-------|
| 1. P-K4 | P-K4 | 2. N-KB3 | N-KB3 |
| Petroff's defence, which Pillsbury played frequently and with great skill. | | | |
| 3. NxP | P-Q3 | 7. O-O | N-QB3 |
| 4. N-KB3 | NxP | 8. P-B4 | N-B3 |
| 5. P-Q4 | P-Q4 | 9. N-B3 | O-O |
| 6. B-Q3 | B-K2 | 10. N-K5? | |

Played with the idea of disrupting Black's King-side, but has the disadvantage of giving up a valuable center pawn, not to mention subsequent loss of time.

- | | | | |
|-----------|------|-----------|-------|
| 10. . . . | NxP | 16. KR-K1 | P-KB3 |
| 11. BxPch | NxB | 17. N-Q3 | Q-Q2 |
| 12. QxN | PxP | 18. Q-B3 | B-B5 |
| 13. QxBP | B-K3 | 19. BxB | QxB |
| 14. Q-K2 | B-Q3 | 20. N-B4 | |
| 15. B-B4 | R-K1 | | |

Exploiting the weakening effect of Black's sixteenth move.

- | | | | |
|-----------|------|----------|------|
| 20. . . . | N-N4 | 22. Q-N4 | Q-Q7 |
| 21. Q-R5 | B-B2 | | |

Position after Black's twenty-second move.



23. KR-QB1! QxNP?

After this bit of pawn-grabbing, the game is hardly to be saved. 23. . . . N-K5 would have made matters difficult for white.

24. P-KR4 N-R2

Forced. 24. . . . N-K5 is met by 25. N-Q3, winning the exchange. After 24. . . . N-K3, 25. N/4-Q5 presents threats too numerous to mention, or to meet. White's attack now becomes irresistible.

25. N/3-Q5 QR-Q1

25. . . . BxN may have been a little better. 26. QR-N1 Q-Q5 27. RxBP P-B4 To guard the KNP.

28. QxP BxN 29. R/1xP!

Dr. Lovegrove carries on the attack with a precision worthy of the greatest master. If 29. . . . BxR, White mates in 2.

29. . . . K-R1 31. RxQ KxR

30. RxKNP QxR 32. NxB

Black, faced with three connected passed pawns bearing down upon his unprotected King, has to do something quickly. So --

32. . . . Resigns

* * *

Solutions to Hastings problems:

No. 1, by Berger: Key, K-N2, followed by 2. K-B2, 2. Q-R2, 2. Q-B2, 2. N-N5, etc.

No. 2, by Gold: Key, R-N2, followed by 2. Q-R3, 2. Q-B3ch, etc.

No. 3, by D. P.: Key, K-K7, threatening 2. K-B8, 3. Q-K8, 4. R-B4 mate.

off the chess(t)

By GEORGE W. FLYNN
Sacramento

THE Santa Monica Chess Club has taken to the air.

Via short-wave radio, they defeated the strong North City Chess Club of Philadelphia. As a reward, they had their picture took, and Arthur Spiller, Herb Abel, George Steven, Ray Martin, and Bill Steckel smiled victoriously from the pages of the last issue of "Chess Review."

But where was Herman Steiner, their most valuable member? Yeah, sure I know he and the Hollywood Chess Group are Santa Monica's bitter rivals -- but that's just the point. "Beat Steiner!" is the Santa Monica battle cry, and the incentive given by Herman and Hollywood plus a lot of good chess has taken them a long way.

How does genial Herman make people so mad, anyhow? Steiner and Reshevsky recent-

ly got into the biggest beef in chess over in Yugoslavia. Reshevsky got so burned up that he left the U.S.A. team high and dry before the World Team matches were over.

Now, we orange-eaters have to stick together and I was all prepared to bawl out one Sammy Reshevsky, no less. It looks to me like Sammy was the bad boy and Herman got the blame. But, what the heck, it's all over now, and besides it's the Christmas season "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men."

A SALUTE to Frank (Stonewall) Olvera and his newly organized Pittsburg, California, Chess Club.

Pittsburg is entered in the Central California Chess League and looks like a live-wire outfit. Their number-one player, Al Loera, is a pretty fair hand at pushing wood. His batting average at the annual North-South matches is .800 and, for those who have played in five or more matches, there just haint nobody done any better. Good luck, Pittsburg.

QUOTE of the Month: "Anyone who doesn't like chess probably eats crackers in bed."

HERE comes your Christmas present, courtesy of J. B. Gee -- a true Alekhine story, and I don't think it has ever been published.

It seems a Hollander was walking along the street one day when he saw the great Alekhine. The Hollander, being a chessplayer, was somewhat startled to see the champion of the world strolling casually towards him.

But he was even more astonished when Alekhine stared at him and finally stopped, saying, "Don't I know you?"

"No . . . that is, yes, in a way, you do know me," replied the Dutchman, "but that was in another city and a long time ago. You see, I played against you in a simultaneous match you held twenty-two years ago."

"Yes, of course, that's where we met," agreed Alekhine. "Let me see, it was a Queen's Pawn Opening, I believe, and you tried a Gruenfeld Defence. I played etc., etc., etc."

And while the Hollander listened incredulously, Alekhine called off, move for move, the game which they had played twenty-two long years ago.

How's that for a memory? As the Hollander stated, "There's class and super-class, that's all."

six traps in french defence

I

1. P-K4, P-K3; 2. P-Q4, P-Q4; 3. N-QB3, B-N5; 4. P-K5, P-QB4; 5. Q-N4, N-K2; 6. QxNP, R-N1; 7. QxRP, PxP; 8. P-QR3 (See



Diagram) 8. . . . Q-R4!; 9. R-N1, PxN; 10. PxB, Q-R7; and Black wins a rook.

II

1. P-K4, P-K3; 2. P-Q4, P-Q4; 3. N-QB3, B-N5; 4. P-K5, P-QB4; 5. P-QR3, PxP; 6. QxP, N-QB3; 7. Q-KN4, BxNch; 8. PxB (See Diagram) 8. . . . NxP?; (Q-B2 is correct)



9. QxNP, Q-B3; 10. B-KR6! and White wins the exchange as after 10. . . . QxB; 11. QxR, or 10. . . . NxB; 11. QxQ; or 10. . . . K-K2; 11. B-KN5!

III

1. P-K4, P-K3; 2. P-Q4, P-Q4; 3. N-QB3, PxP; 4. NxP, B-Q3; 5. B-Q3, N-K2; 6. B-KN5, O-O? (See Diagram) 7. N-B6ch!, PxN; 8. BxP, Q-Q2; 9. BxPch!, KxB; 10. Q-R5ch, K-N1; and now White mates with 11. Q-R8.



IV

1. P-K4, P-K3; 2. P-Q4, P-Q4; 3. N-QB3, N-KB3; 4. B-KN5, B-K2; 5. P-K5, N-K5; 6. BxB, QxB; 7. Q-N4, O-O; 8. B-Q3, NxN;



9. PxN, P-QB4; 10. N-B3, P-B5?; (See Diagram) 11. BxPch, KxB; 12. Q-R5ch, K-N1; 13. N-N5 and White wins.

V

1. P-K4, P-K3; 2. P-Q4, P-Q4; 3. N-QB3, PxP; 4. NxP, B-Q2; 5. N-KB3, B-B3; 6. B-Q3, N-B3; 7. NxNch, QxN?; (See Diagram)



8. B-KN5, BxN; 9. Q-Q2!, QxQP; 10. B-N5ch, and White wins the Queen.

VI

1. P-K4, P-K3; 2. P-Q4, P-Q4; 3. N-QB3, N-KB3; 4. P-K5, KN-Q2; 5. N-B3, P-QB4; 6. PxP, BxP; 7. B-KB4, N-QB3; 8. B-Q3,



Q-N3; 9. O-O, QxNP?; (See Diagram) 10. N-QN5, K-Q1; 11. B-Q2, P-Q5; 12. Q-K2 and White will win the Queen with 13. KR-N1.

san jose news

By FRANCIS CROFUT

The newly organized Spartan Chess Club of San Jose College scored a moral victory in taking three and a half out of the top five boards against the Young Men's Christian Association (San Jose) team, even though the total score was lost 1½ to 3½ in a fifteen board club match, played November 7.

The lineup follows:

SAN JOSE YMCA		SPARTANS	
1. Adams	1	Riser	0
2. Mueller	0	Slavich	1
3. Gaze	0	Kirby	1
4. Daugherty	½	Talcott	½
5. David-Malig	0	Pohlhammer	1
6. MacCarty	1	Innocenti	0
7. O'Shaughnessy	1	Osborne, L.	0
8. VanHooser	1	Hartman	0
9. Villarruz	1	Wood	0
10. Miller	1	Osborne, B.	0
11. Wildhofer	1	Seese	0
12. Mercer	1	Dimick	0
13. Burbidge	1	Hammond	0
14. James	1	Roakies	0
15. Lundberg	1	Payne	0
Total	11½	Total	3½

The Spartans then took on the Palo Alto Chess Club at their clubrooms on November 13 and were very happy to draw with the 1950 B division champions of the Bay Area Chess League.

Here is the lineup:

SPARTANS

1. Riser	½	Guthrie	½
2. Slavich	1	Kauffman	0
3. Crofut	1	Dana	0
4. Kirby	0	Erickson	1
5. Talcott	½	Hazz	½
6. Pohlhammer	1	Roslin	0
7. Osborne	½	Ricketts	½
8. Innocenti	1	Molton	0
9. Hartman	0	Kempnick	1
10. Wood	0	Avilla	1
11. Seese	0	Van Wore	1

Total

Here is a nineteen move gem played on board Number 8.

White: Molton Black: Innocenti

Ruy Lopez		Steinitz Defence	
1. P-K4	P-K4	6. P-QN3	B-Q3
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	7. B-N2	KN-K2
3. B-N5	P-Q3	8. N-B3	O-O
4. P-Q4	B-Q2	9. O-O	P-QR3
5. PxP	PxP	10. B-B4	

This wastes a move because of
 10. . . . B-N5 12. NxP
 11. B-K2 N-KN3
 Now Black overlooked winning a piece with BxB for if White attacks the queen with a NxN? Black does not take the queen but plays BxPch, followed by Q-R5 and White has no defence.
 12. . . . QNxN 14. B-R3?
 13. BxB Q-R5
 White should have played P-R5 here.
 14. . . . QR-Q1 15. N-K2
 And now Black's sparkling attack of five knight moves wins.
 15. . . . N-B6ch 18. Q-B1 NxBPch
 16. K-R1 NxRP 19. K-N1 NxBch
 17. R-K1 N-N5 resigns

utah report

By WILLIAM F. TABER
 Reno, Nevada

The Utah State Open Chess Championship Tournament was held at the Salt Lake City Young Men's Christian Association in November and met with great success.

This was a six-round Swiss system event with sixteen participants -- the eleven ranking Utah players, the four ranking Idaho players, and myself as the sole Nevada representative. Maurice Gedance of Las Vegas, Nevada, the 1950 Nevada Champion, was also invited but was unable to attend. Leading scores were:

	Wins	Losses
William F. Taber, Reno, Nevada.....	5	1
Lloyd Kimpton, Twin Falls, Id.....	4½	1½
Louis N. Page, Salt Lake City.....	4	2
Gaston Chappuis, Salt Lake City.....	4	2

Page placed ahead of Chappuis on Sonnen-Berger points.

This is the second Utah Open Chess Tournament. The first one was held over Armistice Day week end last year--and I was fortunate enough to win that one too. It looks like the Utah Open will become a permanent fixture; the Salt Lake City Club plans to

hold it every year over the week end closest to Armistice Day -- November 11.

Utah, Idaho and Nevada chess players are cooperating in inviting players from the three states for their tournaments. My best guess at this time is that the 1951 Idaho Open will be held at Boise in February, and that the 1951 Nevada Open will be held at Las Vegas in March.

chess ratings

Following is presented the first revised version of Northern California Chess Ratings, as of December 1, 1950.

Much important information has been supplied to the rating committee by various club officials, but a great deal more must be done in this regard before the ratings can be considered truly accurate. It is to be hoped that club secretaries throughout Northern California will supply detailed information concerning match and tournament play during the coming year. It is particularly important that the full names and addresses of players be supplied. In the rating list below it has been necessary to supply the initials of certain players whose surnames only were known to the committee. These initials are "N. N."—meaning no name.

Certain changes have been made in the rating system, as follows:

(1) The various ranks are International Master, National Master, Master, Expert, Class A, Class B, Class C.

(2) The credits to be used in calculating tournament co-efficients are 0.00, 0.00, 1.00, 2.00, 3.00, 4.00 and 5.00 respectively.

(3) No qualification is necessary for admission into Class C. Consequently, the last column of Qualification Table IV is to be disregarded.

(4) A challenge match between Expert and Master has been reduced to seven games. The time limit for such a match may not be more than forty moves in the first two hours, nor less than forty-five moves in the first two and half hours.

INTERNATIONAL MASTER

George Koltanowski

NATIONAL MASTER

A. J. Fink

MASTER

Bagby, Charles; Barlow, W. P.; Boyette, Leslie; Capps, Carroll; Falconer, Neil; Gee, J. B.; Gross, Henry; Hendricks, Wade; Konkel, Robert; Lederwood, Larry; McClain, W. G.; Meyer, M. O.; Nedham, Joseph; Pafnietieff, Walter; Pruner, Earl; Ralston, H. J.; Vedensky, D. N.

EXPERT

Adams, W. T.; Austin, N. T.; Bean, Sam; Donnelly, W. H.; Eudey, Mark; Flynn, George; Freeman, Russell; Hultgren, R. R.; Jackson, M. C.; Kondrashoff, Serge; Loera, A.; Lynch, Paul; Myers, James; Neilson, Dan; Pelouze, Fred; Popoff, Boris; Pico, N.; Prokoudin, Peter; Radaikin, V.; Rasmussen, Gunnar; Russ, Nick; Ruys, Frank; Sedlack, Charles; Slavich, Jerry; Sosnick, Stephen; Stamer, Chester; Stobbe, A. J.; Stroh, H.; Svalberg, Charles; Willson, R. P.

CLASS A

Anders, Ernst; Applegate, S.; Beck, I.; Bergtramm, N. N.; Berry, James; Berker, H. P.; Bourke, Alon; Bradfield, N. N.; Castellanos, A.; Chapman, A. R.; Christensen, Fred; Colby, K. M.; Cook, E. J.; Crofut, Francis; Cuneo, R.; Currie, Robert; Dana, E. T.; Davis, L. E.; Dienstag, J.; Dong, Fred; Edelstein, Harold; Egert, R. R.; Fuente, W. Goudswaard, Roland; Harris, N. N.; Henwood, N.; Heynen, C. M.; Holten, R.; Hubbard, P. T.; Jackson, F. B.; Jacoby, R.; Jaeger, N. N.; Johnson, A.; Johnson, Brand; Johnson, S. G.; Kerfoot, L. H.; King, Henry; King, H. S.; Krogness, L.; Kupla, Edward; Labrie, Ed.; Ledner, Emil; Ledoux, W.; Lee, Billie; Leeds, Wilber; Ledger, L.

Lutz, G.; Marianos, J. T.; Mattingly, M. E.; Maxwell, Robert; Miller, C. G.; Mausovich, Jerry; McNelis, W.; Meradjan, N. N.; Morsman, Frank; Mueller, E. H.; Nieder, D.; Olvera, F.; Paul, H. E.; Radaikin, M.; Rosenbaum, Herbert; Sander, Harvey; Schaefer, Fred; Sedlack, C.; Sloane, Thomas; Stokset, Soren; Smith, C. J.; Scagg, Ralph; Stone, William; Torczyner, J.; Traum, Paul; Trenberth, Robert; Van Gelder, S. A.; Wakefield, S.; Walters, R.; Wilson, C. R.; Wong, G.; Yue, Franklin; Yuke, D. J.; Zelig, N.

CLASS B

Abbott, Don; Aronstein, N. N.; Baker, R.; Behrends, Stanley; Benes, M.; Berkowicz, N. N.; Brown, E.; Brown, R.; Bufton, F.; Buschine, Andrew; Carroll, G.; Charash, M.; Chinn, Victor; Chung, Benny; Clark, Foster; Coldren, E.; Cole, G.; Cook, C. J.; Cook, Fred; Corlett, Harry; Craner, W.; Darancette, H. E.; Dasteel, Herbert, Sr.; Daugherty, L. H.; Davenport, M.; Dorff, H. L.; Dublin, Isaac; Feinstein, William; Fitz, John; Ford, Mrs. J. B.; Fredgren, J.; Gaize, Mark; Gerst, Gerard; Goldsmith, N. N.; Gonzales, R.; Haegedorn, Ed.; Hampton, N. N.; Horne, N. N.; Huang, Luc; Hultgren, Neil; Haneke, Carl; James, Thomas; Jarvis, W. J.; Jewell, Keith; Jong, Albert; Kalenborn, R.; Kallman, H.; Kineary, R.; Kirby, G. A.; Kirse, N. N.; Korshet, M.; Lacey, G.; Lee, Henry; Lieberman, Jim; MacCary, Stanley; Madden, N. N.; Manger, H. S.; Maxey, W. M.; Moore, M. K.; Norcia, Charles; Oakes, George; O'Shaughnessy, Howard; Pease, R. K.; Polissar, M. J.; Ralston, Leonard; Rickard, Ralph; Ricketts, Victor; Ritter, Krebe; Roslin, N. N.; Rourke, A.; Rupp, N. N.; Sampson, Scott; Sanders, M. A.; Saxton, Loyd; Saylor, Frank; Schott, N. N.; Schroth, Connor; Semer, J.; Shepperson, H.; Sherrill, Larry; Smith, Mrs. C. J.; Smook, R.; Snow, N. N.; Spaulding, S. E.; Stevens, William Swink, N. N.; Talcott, N. E.; Thackwell, H. L.; Thompson, Mrs. E.; Tom, Eugene; Trousdale, William; Van Hooser, George; Villarruz, Primo; Warner, N. N.; Wente, H.; White, N. N.; Williams, D.; Willows, J.; Wolff, V.; Wong, Ben; Wymann, Phillips; Yarwood, N. N.; Zell, W.

CLASS C

Barton, Diana; Buzer, A.; Burbidge, Arthur; Gaunt, Frank; Colescott, William; Cox, N. N.; Curtin, W. H.; David-Malik, J. M.; Fellers, F.; Fiez, H. George; Mrs. F.; Griffith, Wesley; Hanson, R.; Hayes, N. N.; Hultgren, Glen; Jeffers, Mrs. E. L.; Katen, M. N.; Katz, Patricia; Keller, Robert; Koivisto, R.; Lewis, Mrs. I.; Lundberg, Richard; Martin, D.; Mercer, Alex; O'Brien, Frederick; Saxton, Mrs. Isobel; Service, N. N.; Smith, Betty; Smith, W.; Smeyers, Mrs. L.; Stern, E.; Wildhofer, P. H.; Wood, N. N.

CORRECTION:

The diagram to last month's article "From Marienbad" should have been as follows:



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