

C H E S S * T I M E

A publication of the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club,
Santa Monica, California

Joseph Mill Brown, Editor

P-K4, ladies and gentlemen. This being our opening issue, it might interest us to know ourselves better than we do. There are slightly over a hundred of us, now, which is about seventy more than at the Club's beginnings shortly after the end of World War II. Home, at that time, was a shack but a few yards from our present quarters in Lincoln Park. The nucleus of that hopeful group still strikes a memory chord for us: Paul Wrangell, Paul Quillen, Ray Martin, Art Spiller. Another was Carl Budd, and the deceased George Stevens and William Steckel, who had come to us a four-time Pennsylvania champion.

As we go along, we hope there'll be a number of you, way out there in Chessland, with some contributions that will provide us with that most treasured of possessions: a history of ourselves.

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The British Chess Magazine for January 1967 has a panoramic view of Havana's Plaza de la Revolucion during a simultaneous display, held in conjunction with the XVIIth Olympiad: 6,840 boards. Also, a classic picture of Fidel Castro, never famous for being at a loss for words. Yet, even with world Champion Tigran Petrosian leaning over his shoulder to point the way, Castro is shown holding his head in bewilderment, just like all the rest of us potzers.

Incidentally, at the XVIth Olympiad, in Tel-Aviv, team captains and top boards were presented to the President of Israel. The Premier, Deputy Premier and Mayor of Tel Aviv all spoke at the opening ceremony. The drama at the final dinner was provided by the presentation to the winning team, made by the most distinguished living Israeli, David Ben-Gurion. Which caused British chess great, C. H. O'D Alexander to note "the honour done to the game by the way in which the event was treated: one was made to feel that it was worth while being a chess master."

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The scene of the XVIIIth Olympiad, in 1968, will be Lugano, Switzerland. (Save your nickels.)

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Some observations by Boris Spassky on the Piatigorsky Tournament (in a recent interview):

Best Games? Against Fischer in the first leg; Unzicker (West Germany) in the second. And the last with Donner (Netherlands).

Bent Larsen, of Denmark? Skilled in delivering tactical blows; profound knowledge of end game. Carried away, however, by his zeal and over-estimation of his chances. Like Fischer, one of the most brilliant Western players.

Bobby Fischer? "Fischer was very friendly towards the Soviet players. He follows Soviet chess literature closely and regards the accomplishments of the Soviet school of chess with great respect. Bobby was one of the first to offer his congratulations over my win in California."

(Which should disappoint those special souls who love to hate Fischer on general principles.--Ed.)

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Bobby Fischer, by the way, was quite taken with Santa Monica, and even contemplated (out loud) the premise of moving here from Brooklyn. Our Side, however, may have lost a fair prospect; Fischer went back to the snow and ice.

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Santa Monica's popular rating tournaments continue to march onwards and upwards. Each runs six rounds (one round every Monday night). In a good many of them, the winners were Those Least Likely. In the one ended February 14th, Tom Beckman and Marvin Carroll, whose USCF ratings hover between 1650 and 1768, sailed through a formidable group to tie for first. In the one that preceded it, our most consistent man-killer, Greta Olsson, knocked enough of them dead to nail down second place.

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A Club lives on ideas implemented by participation. One of the things our's hopes to do is institute a new program of chess lectures on Friday nights. Are you interested? We have to have a show of hands. A post card addressed to the editor (address below) will paint the picture. (When you do write, please inscribe your zip code. We need it.) Incidentally, gripes or suggestions to improve our club get instant attention from a call to Bill Saenger at EX. 4-0110.

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Fourth of July Weekend brings the fourth annual Pacific Southwest Open, which will again be held in Miles Playhouse, next door. Plan your vacation, accordingly.

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A stunning feature of the fall 1964 issue of American Chess Quarterly was the following game between George Sturges and Paul Wrangell. It was characterized by Editor Fred M. Wren as a game with "excitement, imagination, decision, a mistake or two, and struggle enough to satisfy anyone."

Queen's Gambit Accepted. Sturges (White), Wrangell (Black). 1 P-Q4 P-Q4; 2 P-QB4 PxP; 3 N-KB3 P-QN4 4 P-K3 N-KB3; 5 P-QR4 P-QB3; 6 N-QB3 Q-N3; 7 B-Q2 B-KB4; 8 B-K2 P-K3; 9 O-O B-Q3; 10 K-R1 QN-Q2; 11 N-KR4 B-N3; 12 B-KB3 B-Q6 13 PxP BXR; 14 PxP BxP ch; 15 BxB N-B1; 16 Q-R4 B-B2; 17 N-N5 N-Q4; 18 QxBP N-KN3; 19 B-R5 Q-N1; 20 BxN P-QR3; 21 NxB ch. K-K2; 22 Q-B5 ch K-B3; 23 NxN RPxN; 24 B-K4 QxP; 25 R-KB1 R-R4; 26 P-Q5 Q-K7; 27 B-QB3ch K-N4; 28 K-N1 Q-N5ch; 29 B-N2 QR-R1; 30 PxP dis ch P-B4; 31 Q-K7ch Resigns.

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Southern California Club Championships got under way at the Atlas Club, with S M represented in the "A" Division by Art Spiller, Frank McReynolds, Steve Hohensee, Karl Stani, Andy Kempner, Bill Bragg, Nat Kurtz, Al Michaelson and Stan Vigneau.

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Whatever chess is,--art, science, fun or blood--one experience always reminds us of what it is not. It was several years ago in a tournament held at the Steiner Club, and the maestro was our own Tibor Weinberger, absorbed in a position that was obviously heavy going.

Several of us potzers were seated a few tables away, kibitzing way out loud, laughing, and generally horsing around over the ineptness of our own games. The laughter swelled.

Unable to control himself, Weinberger rose from his table and charged into our group. "What do you think this is?" he cried indignantly. "A social gathering?"

(Please forward news items for this journal to your editor at 214½ So. Hamilton Drive, Beverly Hills 90012)