

Researching for ChessDryad.com

By NM Kerry Lawless

ChessDryad was first started to be a repository for California chess magazine and column scans, so that future chess historians could use them for research. No one else had done it, and I felt it needed doing as soon as possible, because most chess periodicals and columns are produced on cheap paper that decomposes rapidly compared to books. It was only after I started it, that I realized that photos, game score sheets and other ephemera were important as well.

California became a state on September 9, 1850. The first recorded chess event was the July 21, 1851 San Francisco arrival of Pierre Saint-Amant, as the French Consul to the newly created state. He was one of the top players in the world during the 1840s. Since then, there have been thousands of volunteers helping tens of thousands of players to play hundreds of thousands of games. Most of this activity would be lost, if not recorded. As a researcher, I want to stop this bit of chess history in California from sliding into oblivion.

Chess history can be broken down into components. Each component poses questions that the chess historian needs to answer.

- **Players:** When and where were they born? How did they learn to play? When did they start playing? Where do/did they play? What city do/did they live in? What is/was their rating or title? What were their results in matches, tournaments and club play? Did they volunteer their time to help with chess clubs, chess tournaments or chess organizations? If they are deceased, when and where did they die?
- **Matches:** Who played the match? Why did they play? Where did they play? What are their ratings? What was the result?
- **Tournaments:** When and where was it played? Who played? What were the results?
- **Clubs:** When was the club formed? Where was it formed and is it still in the same location? Who organized it and who runs it now? What events does the club sponsor? Is the club still in existence?
- **Organizations:** Who organized it and for what purpose? What does it do? Who are its officers? Does it organize players or clubs? Is the organization still in existence?

The tools needed to research these components can also be broken down:

- **Columns** can appear daily to once a month. Since they are written to sell newspapers or magazines, they almost always have a chess problem and or

world chess news. The best columns also have local chess news. I chosen five columns from the hundreds that were written as my choices for the best California history sources.

- The San Francisco Argonaut carried some important SF regional columns: The first two of these columns in the Argonaut are important, because there are no other examples from this period. The Dr. H. J. Ralston column had tons of important local news...very good column!
 - January 5, 1884-November 1884 (The Chess-Player) J. Fennimore Welsh
 - December 1, 1884-April 17, 1886 (The Chess-Player) J. E. Tippet
 - February 1, 1952-August 7, 1953 (The Chess Player) Dr. H. J. Ralston

- The Los Angeles Times has the honor of having the longest running California Chess Column. This is, absolutely, the best source for Southern California chess history. It also had some columns before the continuous one started.
 - Pre-continuous columns: Both of these columns had some local news.
 - April 2, 1911-August 28, 1911: (Across the Chess Board) C. F. Pierce
 - January 9, 1916-December 15, 1929: (Chess and Checker Headquarters) John Dougherty
 - Continuous column: Clif Sherwood was a player who knew the local chess scene, but wasn't strong enough to annotate effectively the games he presented. R. J. Ryan wrote the column, after the death of Sherwood, until a replacement could be found. Herman Steiner came to Southern California to play in the Pasadena International Chess Tournament on August 15, 1932 and decided to stay. Besides being a player; he was also a chess event promoter, a tournament and club organizer and director, as well as a writer. Steiner, the Dean of Southern California Chess, won the U. S. Championship in 1948 and received his International Master title in 1950. His LA Times Chess Column set the gold standard, which both IGM (1954) Isaac Kashdan and IM (1979) Jack Peters followed. Unfortunately, the continuous local column was cancelled

by the newspaper and a syndicated column replaced it. A great loss for all chess historians.

- October 9, 1927-May 28, 1933 (Chess) Clif Sherwood
- June 4, 1933-July 2, 1933 (Chess) R. J. Ryan
- July 9, 1933-November 27, 1955 (Chess) Herman Steiner

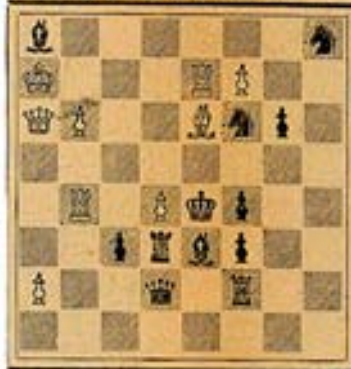
CHESS

BY HERMAN STEINER
INTERNATIONAL CHESS MASTER

Address Mail to Chess Editor, L.A. Times, Los Angeles 53, Cal.

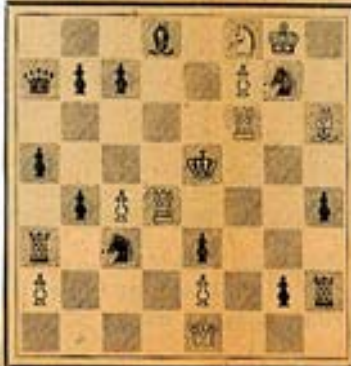
February 17, 1946

L.A. TIMES PROBLEM NO. 1687
By J. van Dijk (2nd Pr.)



White mates in two. (Wh. 9; Bl. 12.)

L.A. TIMES PROBLEM NO. 1688
By M. Karstedt (3rd Pr.)



White mates in three. (Wh. 10; Bl. 14.)

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM NO. 1683:
Q-N4.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM NO. 1684:
N-N5.

Solutions were received from the following: S. A. Evans (welcome to our ladder); E. Petrik; J. C. Drake, Kansas City, Mo.; C. B. Collins, El Centro; E. H. Schaefer, Pomona; J. Davidson, W. G. Nollins, St. Paul, Minn.; M. Morris, Inglewood; W. W. Caldwell & George, Rossmore; O. Wright, Duarte; T. S. Sauer, Hawthorne; Rey. P. Prichard, Strathmore; J. P. Walsh; J. L. Tyler; A. Parkas, Long Beach; F. Schlemmer; Teocho Sedel; B. Lewis, Redlands; A. Comroe; O. A. Hall, Santa Barbara; H. Stankenship, San Pedro; O. C. Travers; N. C. Morrison Jr., Whittier; A. D. Reynolds Sr.; L. A. Victor; J. P. Ferrone, Long Beach; R. G. Elias; H. Goldman; W. Sigafos (welcome to our ladder); E. W. Davison; Eibel, Pear; (welcome to our ladder); E. Gram, Beverly Hills; Dr. S. S. Van Pelt; N. Scher, Palm Springs; K. S. Wilson; F. S. Reynolds, San Diego; J. L. Sules, Inverness; Vivian Elbert; L. A. Norton, Tucson; T. Rothman; H. A. Sasser; A. P. Berthold; J. Tami Jr.; J. Healy; H. Tucker.

EDITOR RETURNS

Grand Master Herman Steiner returned Thursday from participation in two tournaments in England and a series of exhibitions in the East and will resume his duties as editor of this column next Sunday.

Steiner also will resume his Tuesday lectures and simultaneous exhibitions this week in the headquarters of the Hollywood Chess Group, 108 N. Formosa Ave. For reservations call WE-3817 or WY-3510.

HOW ABOUT IT, GIRLS?

Are women had chess players? Detroit thinks so and its Department of Parks and Recreation has just opened a free co-educational course of chess lessons under Newell Banks, noted player.

SPANISH BOY SHOWS WIZARDRY

As one of the 12 contestants in Section A of the London International Chess Masters tournament, in which Herman Steiner won the first prize, Arturito Pomar of Madrid was daily a center of interest. The 14-year-old Spanish boy, who earlier had earned the praise of Dr. Alexander Alekhine, world champion, was sixth in the standing, but his play demonstrated that he needs only further international experience to develop into a full-fledged master.

Here are some of his games. One of these is his draw with Dr. O. S. Bernstein, Franco-Russian master, on whom he forced a perpetual check in ingenious fashion.

high grade combinative ability and remarkable confidence in the handling of a difficult ending.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

Pomar	Bernstein	Pomar	Bernstein
White	Black	White	Black
1-P-Q4	P-K3	16-Q-B3	R-K2
2-P-QB4	P-K4	17-Q-N5	R-K3
3-N-OB3	N-KB3	18-N-K4	B-Q4
4-B-N5	B-K2	19-K-R-B	P-QB4
5-P-K3	P-KB3	20-P-B4	P-P
6-B-B4	N-K3	21-N-O	K-R-B
7-P-P	N-N	22-R-K7	R-B4
8-P-N	P-P	23-O-Q3	O-K3
9-O-N3	O-Q3	24-N-O	R-RP
10-N-B3	Castles	25-R-Qch	R-R
11-P-B4	P-P	26-Q-Rch	K-K2
12-R-P	N-N	27-N-O	OxPch
13-Castles	N-B4	28-K-R	Drawn

GRUENFELD DEFENSE

Pomar	Fairhurst	Pomar	Fairhurst
White	Black	White	Black
1-P-Q4	P-Q4	44-K-R15	R-R
2-P-QB4	P-QB4	45-K-R4	K-R4
3-P-K3	N-B3	46-Q-N7	P-KB4
4-N-OB3	P-KB3	47-N-B5	R-B2
5-B-N3	B-N2	48-Q-N3	R-R
6-B-O3	Castles	49-N-Q3	R-O3
7-Castles	Q-N-Q2	50-R-B3	R-K5
8-P-P	P-P	51-K-R3	R-K5
9-B-Q2	N-N5	52-K-N2	P-B5
10-R-B	R-B4	53-N-Q3	P-P
11-R-R	P-R	54-P-K3	R-KN
12-O-N3	N-B3	55-B-K	R-B2
13-O-N5	N-B3	56-R-K	R-P
14-R-N4	R-K	57-R-B	P-K4
15-N-K5	P-QB3	58-K-R2	P-N
16-N-B3	P-N4	59-R-P	R-KR
17-R-B2	O-N	60-K-N3	R-Nch
18-P-B4	O-N2	61-N-B3	R-KR
19-K-R-B	R-N	62-N-N2	R-P2
20-R-N	R-R	63-K-N3	R-B8
21-N-N	P-B3	64-K-N3	R-O8
22-N-KB3	R-OB	65-R-P	R-N8
23-N-B3	N-KP	66-N-K3	R-P
24-N-N	R-R	67-N-B3	R-N7
25-R-N1	N-R	68-N-P	R-N7
26-N-B5	N-R8	69-N-N4	R-OBT
27-N-O	N-O	70-R-Q3	K-K3
28-P-N	B-S	71-K-B3	K-N3
29-P-ON4	K-B2	72-N-N6	K-O3
30-K-B2	R-R	73-P-B4	R-K5
31-K-B2	R-R	74-K-R	R-K5
32-K-B3	R-O3	75-K-P	R-K5
33-P-K3	K-K4	76-B-B5	R-K5
34-P-KN3	B-N	77-K-P	R-OB
35-K-N	R-N	78-K-N6	R-O8
36-K-N-Q3	R-N	79-P-Qch	RxPch
37-N-N	R-N	80-B-Rch	K-K5
38-N-B3	K-O3	81-B-Rch	O-O4
39-N-B3	R-O3	82-N-B3	O-O4
40-K-B3	R-O3	83-N-B3	K-O4
41-K-B3	R-O3	84-N-B3	K-O4
42-K-B3	R-O3	85-N-B3	Restans
43-Q-N3	K-K2		

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

Pomar	Broadbent	Pomar	Broadbent
White	Black	White	Black
1-P-Q4	N-KB3	20-Q-N7	R-K2
2-P-QB4	P-K3	21-Q-B4	R-K3
3-N-OB3	B-K2	22-R-R	N-N5
4-B-N3	P-KB3	23-N-Q4	P-N
5-P-K3	P-KB3	24-N-Q4	P-O8
6-B-B4	P-QN	25-Q-N	R-O2
7-P-P	P-P	26-K-R-Q	P-QB4
8-B-O3	R-K3	27-Q-B3	P-QB4
9-O-N3	P-B3	28-R-OB	R-K3
10-Castles	R-K	29-O-B4	O-N3
11-R-R	KN-Q2	30-R-B4	O-Q4
12-N-K5	Q-N	31-P-K4	O-K3
13-P-B	N-B	32-P-K4	O-K3
14-P-B4	N-B	33-P-K4	O-K3
15-Q-PN	P-KB4	34-O-O8	O-B3
16-N-K2	P-B4	35-R-B7	K-N3
17-R-P	R-R	36-Q-KB3	P-N4
18-O-Pch	O-K3	37-P-R3	Restans
19-O-R	N-B3		

Here is another of the Los Angeles master's games:

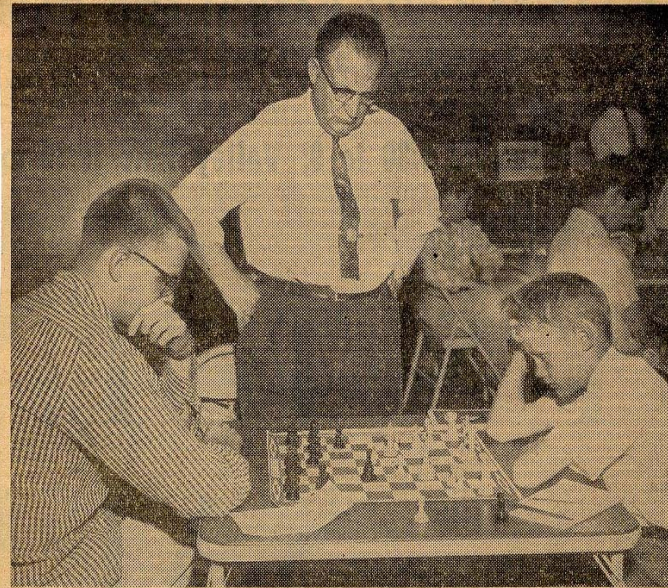
GRUENFELD DEFENSE

Steiner	Friss	Steiner	Friss
White	Black	White	Black
1-P-Q4	N-KB3	10-P-R	R-O8
2-P-QB4	P-K3	11-K-Q3	K-R
3-N-OB3	B-K2	12-R-B4	R-B3
4-N-B3	B-N2	13-K-R4	R-B3
5-P-K3	Castles	14-P-N4	P-B3
6-O-N3	P-B4	15-P-B4	R-K3
7-P-QP	P-P	16-P-B5	P-P
8-N-P	Q-N-Q2	17-P-P	R-Kch
9-B-B4	R-B4	18-R-B5	R-N
10-O-B4	P-N3	19-K-N4	R-P
11-N-B6	O-Q2	20-P-B6	P-N5
12-P-ON4	KN-K3	21-P-B7	R-OBT
13-N-N	N-N	22-P-Rch	K-K3
14-R-ON	R-B4	23-R-Q	P-N6
15-P-N3	P-QN	24-P-B(Q)	P-N6
16-O-Q3	P-K3	25-R-B	P-N6
17-R-B2	N-R	26-R-Kch	K-P
18-K-N	B-N2	27-R-K	K-B5
19-KR-Q	OB-B	28-R-ON	K-N5
20-P-K4	P-P	29-R-P	P-B4
21-P-P	R-P	30-R-P	P-B4
22-P-R	Q-K3	31-R-KB2	P-B4
23-K-R	R-P	32-K-Q4	P-B4
24-R-B	O-R	33-K-K3	P-B4
25-R-K3	P-OR3	34-R-B2	K-R5
26-B-B5	R-R	35-K-R4	P-R3
27-O-Q5	O-Q	36-O-Pch	K-P
28-R-O	R-R	37-K-P	Restans
29-K-K2	R-R		

CALIFORNIANS AID CHESS

Californians have rallied strongly to the support of the U.S. Chess Federation which this year is promoting several tournaments and other activities. Members will soon receive their 1945 year-books containing games from all of last year's major tournaments. To back the

- December 4, 1955-August 29, 1982 (Chess) Isaac Kashdan
 - September 19, 1982-November 28, 2010 (Chess) Jack Peters
 - December 5, 2010-Present (Chess) Bill Cornwall
- The San Francisco Chronicle has published some very important columns: Ernest J. Clarke, Dean of Pacific Coast Chess, produced a very fine column with lots of local news. World Blindfold Champion, honorary Grand Master (1988) and International Master (1950) George Koltanowski, Dean of American Chess, first started his California chess column career with the Santa Rosa Press Democrat newspaper. His daily column for the SF Chronicle had its ups and downs. Early on, he wrote some of the finest chess columns ever produced with photos. Later, during the last couple of decades, he included a problem and maybe a paragraph on a world event and occasionally a local event. Of course, writing a column every day for fifty years can wear anyone down; even the Father of Northern California Chess (See previous issue.)
 - July 10, 1921-September 30, 1923 (Chess) Ernest J. Clarke
 - January 9, 1927-June 30, 1930 (Chess) Ernest J. Clarke
 - May 9, 1948-February 25, 2000 (Chess - daily) George Koltanowski. Here's an example from 1957.



STEVE JOPLIN (LEFT), KOLTANOWSKI AND FRED WREDEN
U. S. Junior Championship tournament

The Chess Column

By George Koltanowski

Sonoma will have its famous Open Air Chess Festival next Sunday. Players can still sign up with Lois McVeigh, Secretary, Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce in Sonoma. Include \$1.50 entry free.

Here follows the fifth list of entries:

Arthur W. Roy, Redwood City; Nick Molchanov, Palo Alto; Robert J. Gaccia, San Mateo; Leighton Allen, S. F.; John Rosenberg, S. F.; John Wilson, San Anselmo; Don Sutherland, S. F.; Roy Hoppe, S. F.; Frank Bock Jr., Oakland; Arthur C. Atkins, Santa Rosa; Walter C. Tonell, El Cerrito; H. Baltart, Sonoma; George Sonne, Belvedere; William A. Bailey, Belvedere; Max Grosz, Albany; Robert Oberst, Richmond; Milo Ayers, Oakland; Roy Bogas, Berkeley; S. G. Behrends, Lomita; Robert C. Blakemore, S. F.; Lowell O. Tullis, S. F.; Elvina C. Bled, S. F.; Paul Bogosian, S. F.; Embree E. Reynolds and Karen E. Reynolds, Marysville; Ivan Vegvary, S. F.; Dan McLeod and Nancy McLeod, San Bruno; Alexander Horne, S. F.; Louise Horne, S. F.; Louise Corlon, S. F.; Oliver A. Turley, Vallejo; Agnes Blewett, Hayward.

LOOKING AROUND—Dallas has great plans for an international tournament this coming November. Seeing is believing. It reminds me too much of the publicity made by the same group regarding the Yugoslav visit, and we are still waiting and hoping for the Yugoslavs to get to the United States . . . Lev Belio-

vasky, a Russian instructor at the Army Language School in Monterey won the Monterey Peninsula championship . . . The Russian chess master V. I. Sosin died at 59 in Moscow . . . Donald Byrne tied with Larry Evans in the Midwestern tournament at Milwaukee, but won out by S. B. points. Hans Berliner was third. Bobby Fischer was seventh. There were 120 participants . . . Douglas Mulligan of Santa Venetia won the Gambit tournament, beating out J. P. White of Terra Linda in the final tally.

Today from 10 a. m. on the final round will be played in the U. S. Junior championship. Spectators are welcome at the Spreckels-Russell Dairy Co. auditorium at 1717 Mission street, San Francisco. In a rapid transit tournament with 27 participants the four prizes were won by Bobby Fischer, Brooklyn, first; S. Sholomson, Los Angeles, second; Gill Ramirez, San Francisco, third, and Robert Dickinson, Redwood City, fourth. Prize distribution will follow at the end of today's round.

- The San Francisco News also had an important column, but I haven't researched the International Master (1951) Imre Konig years yet.
 - June 26, 1953-November 26, 1955 (The Chess Player) Dr. H. J. Ralston

- 1955-1956 (?) Imre Konig
- The Hayward Daily Review had a great SF East Bay Area Column: one of the only sources for San Francisco East Bay news. Most of the columns contained local news, with an occasional column translated from Russian periodicals.
 - August 6, 1967-March 29, 1981 (Chess) Richard Shorman



Richard Shorman

Masson results listed

PAUL MASSON AMERICAN CLASSIC CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sixty-two masters headed the list of 762 players who participated in the eighth annual Paul Masson American Classic Chess Championships, the largest rated outdoor tournament in the world, held at the historic Paul Masson Mountain Winery in Saratoga July 19-20.

The record \$21,500 prize fund was augmented with \$50 for each win scored in the master division and a bottle of Paul Masson Brut Champagne for all division winners.

Chief tournament director and organizer for the USCF rated, four-round Swiss system was Bryce Perry, assisted by Bill Bates, Alan Benson, Mike Goodall, Jim Hurt, Hans Poschmann, Ken Stone and Ted and Naomi Yudacufski of CalChess.

Former world champions Boris Spassky and Max Euwe highlighted the tournament with simultaneous exhibitions, interviews, question-and-answer hours and autograph sessions. World blindfold champion George Koltanowski was on hand to perform his famous knight's tour display and to promote the newly formed Koly Chess for Youth Foundation.

Other special features included complimentary wine tasting between rounds and a Vegas Fun Chess Tournament.

Complete results:

Master Division

1st-5th, James Tarjan (overall winner on tie-breaks) (2550), Berkeley; Peter Bylasas (2517), San Francisco; Walter Browne (2576), Berkeley; Larry Christiansen (2533), Modesto; and Florin Gheorghiu (2645), Romania, 3½-½, \$965 plus \$150 "win" money plus bottle of Paul Masson Brut Champagne each.

EXPERT DIVISION

1st-3rd, Robert Brieger (2079), Houston, Texas; William Duckworth (2086), Monterey Park; and Stewart Scott (2081), Berkeley, 4-0, \$733.33 plus bottle of Paul Masson Brut Champagne each; 4th-6th, Joseph Kleiman (2130), San Francisco; Stanley Scheiner (2012), San Francisco; and Matthew Sullivan (2076), San Jose, 3½-½, \$58.33 each.

Category I (Class A)

1st-4th, Leonid Reznichenko (1959), San Francisco; Antonio Saguisag (1930), San Francisco; Steve Stubenrauch (1940), Rohnert Park; and Michael Tierney (1920), Garden Grove, 4-0, \$581.25 plus bottle of Paul Masson Brut Champagne each; 5th-7th, Steven Jacobi (1953), San Luis Obispo; Dana Muller (1825), Seattle, Washington; and Vernon Ross (1808), Studio City, 3½-½, \$58.33 each.

Category II (Class B)

1st-6th, David Barr (1780), Cupertino; Juergen Kasprk (1776), Piedmont; David Navarro (1786), San Francisco; Duane Polich (1787), Seattle, Washington; William Russel (1748), San Francisco; and Michael Tischler (1752), Medford, Oregon, 4-0, \$395.83 plus bottle of Paul Masson Brut Champagne each.

Category III (Class C)

1st-6th, Wilfred Goodwin (1584), Belmont; Tai-Min Hum (1595), San Jose; Thomas Keleman (1462), Marina; Hans Neyndorff (1549), La Mesa; Michael Skinkle (1556), Pittsburg; and James Swisher (1489), Sonoma, 4-0, \$395.83 plus bottle of Paul Masson Brut Champagne each.

Category IV (Class D)

1st-4th, Robert Capen (1309), Eres; Arnold Danoff (1303), Sebastopol; Russell Geena (1353), Shokan, New York; and Dan McDaniel (1307), Livermore, 4-0, \$581.25 plus bottle of Paul Masson Brut Champagne each; 5th-6th, Douglas McCusker (1289), Los Gatos; and Larry Moore (1384), Redding, 3½-½, \$25 each.

Category V (Class E)

1st-2nd, Bill Robillard (1135), Tucson, Arizona; and Paul Zurybida (1181), Seattle, Washington, 4-0, \$1,000 plus bottle of Paul Masson Brut Champagne each; 3rd, Marshall McMurrin (1146), Laguna Niguel, 3½-½, \$200; 4th-13th, Gary Ansok (1199), Saratoga; Timmy Antonetti (1194), South Dos Palos; Willie Dry (1183), Chicago, Illinois; Thomas Manning (1144), Davis; Michael Minch (1197), Palo Alto; Philip Peterson (1153), Lynnwood, Washington; Thomas Raffill (0984), Berkeley; Roger Redmond (1191), Tucson, Arizona; Jan Speth (0977), Oakview; and Mohammad Taheri (0991), Los Angeles, 3-1, \$17.50 each.

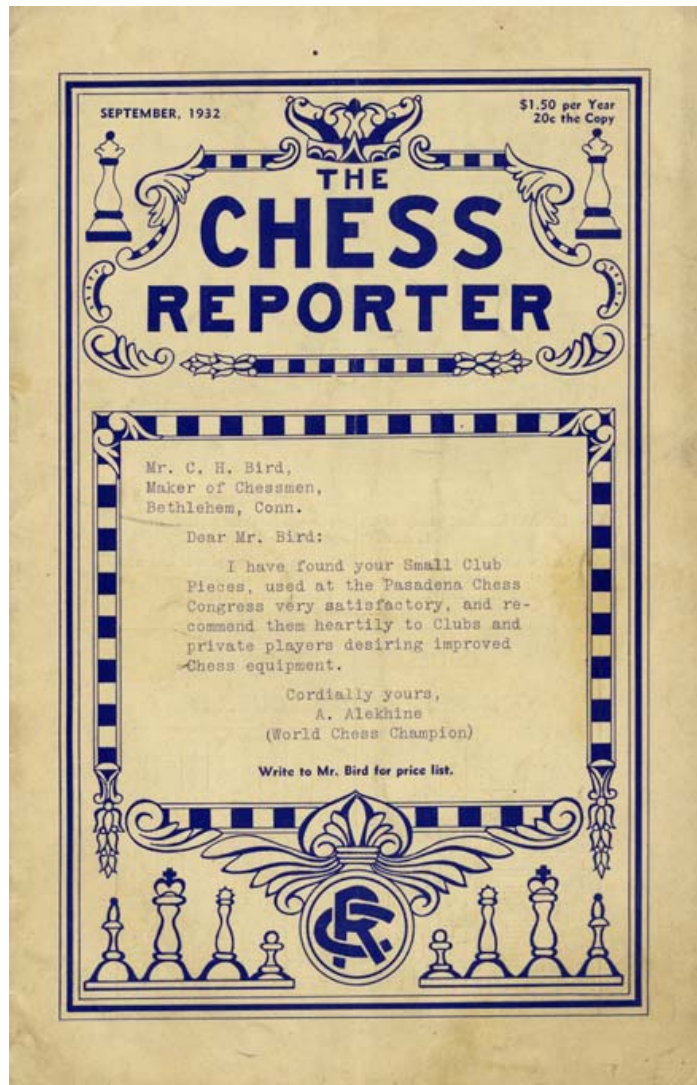
Category VI (Unrated Division)

1st-2nd, Steven Smallwood, Sunnyvale; and Ram Tahircamani, San Francisco, 4-0, \$500 plus bottle of Paul Masson Brut Champagne each; 3rd-7th, Karl Porter, San Jose; Philip Fusey, Emeryville; Moises Salazar, Daly City; Bob Stringer, San Anselmo; and Craig Yamato, San Rafael, 3½-½, \$35 each.

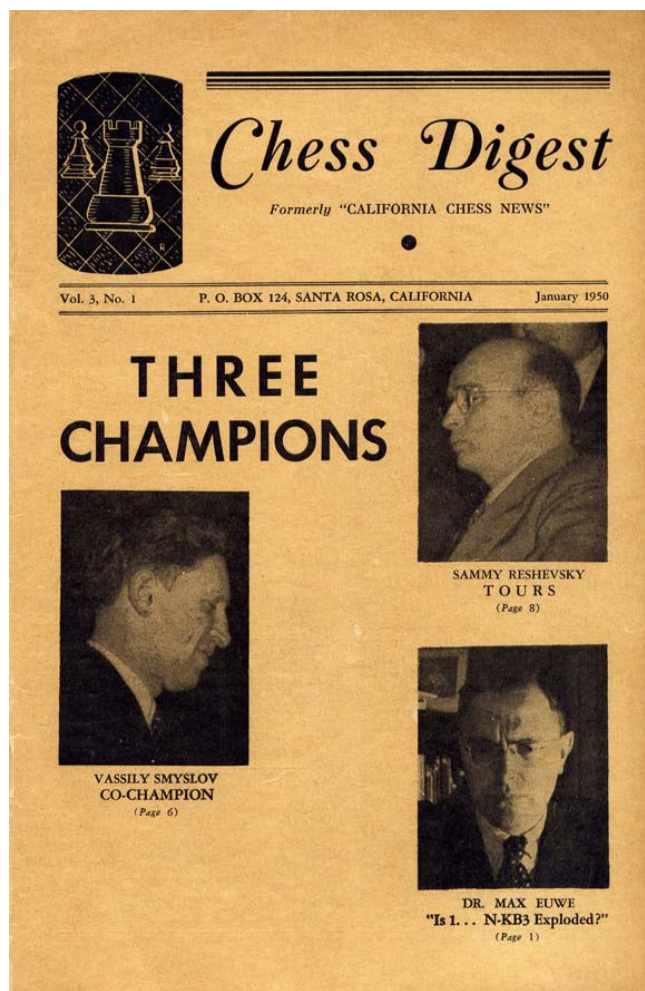
- The Sacramento Bee had a relatively long running column with occasional local news.
 - 1971-1987 (Chess) Richard Fauber and Frank Garosi

- Periodicals: The frequency of publication for periodicals generally ranges from every two weeks to four times a year. Because of the longer publication intervals, they have more information per issue. For chess historians, good regional chess magazines have lots of local news. Information that historians look for:
 1. Comprehensive player biographies or obituaries. A good example of a bio is:
 - “A Browne Study” By R. E. Fauber (Chess Voice, June-July 1980) is a very in depth piece.
 2. Club activities with date, meeting place, officers and members, photos, and other club information. Magazine editors often complain that club officials never send them information and don’t return their calls or emails. This is a valid complaint, of course, but the editor can obtain the information if he is diligent. A once a month trip to the club for a face-to-face meeting with the club or activity director will almost always get results. If the editor doesn’t have the free time, he can find someone else and delegate.
 - An entire fifty-page issue of The California Chess Reporter was devoted to California chess clubs and organizations. (August 1955, Special Bulletin, The California Chess Reporter, see http://www.chessdryad.com/articles/ccr/aug_1955.pdf.)
 3. Tournaments; dates, winners, prizes, games, photos and, most important, complete cross-tables. Articles on tournaments that convey a feel for the time and place are also good.
 - “A Whale’s-Eye View of the State Championship” by Dennis Fritzingler (Chess Voice, February-March 1981) is very poetically done!

- The (North American) Chess Reporter: was originally started to report the upcoming Pasadena International Chess Congress. Through December 1933, it created an unparalleled view of the early 1930’s Southern California chess scene. After that, it changed its content and its name to the North American Correspondence Chess League.
 - Henry MacMahon – April 1931-August 1937



- California Chess News/Chess Digest: gave the only look into the last years of the pre-rating period for Northern California; with some coverage of world chess thrown in. Unfortunately, it contained too many short-story anecdotes at the expense of complete local coverage.
 - George Koltanowski – November 1947-December 1950



- Sacramento Chess News: gave very extensive coverage of Sacramento chess with adequate coverage of Central California chess.
 - J. B. Gee – February 25, 1950-November 24, 1955
- The California Chess Reporter: was, without a doubt, the best chess magazine ever produced in California. It covered both Northern and Southern California with games, photos, and extensive club and tournament cross-tables. Issues came out six times a year with approximately twenty to twenty-five pages each; filled with all the information that a chess historian could want. A twenty-five year labor of love!
 - Dr. H. J. Ralston – June 1951-September 1953
 - Guthrie McClain – October 1953-June 1971
 - Guthrie McClain & Robert Burger – July 1971-June 1976

- Chess in Action: was instigated by George Koltanowski, after he created the San Francisco Bay Area organization, Chess Friends of Northern California (CFNC). Koltky started the Chess Friends to encourage casual players to compete on a friendly basis with each other. Unfortunately, most of these players were so casual, they didn't save the quarterly magazine; which makes it very scarce today. In fact, I doubt whether there's a complete collection in existence. In any case, the magazine had extensive coverage of players, clubs, and league play. A great historic resource.
 - Robert Burger, Valdemars Zemitis & Charles T. McGinley – August 1953-September 1954
 - Jim Reynolds – 1955-1956 (?)
 - Tom Tripodes – August 1956-December 1956
 - Shirley Beck – May 1957-1960
 - John Almond – February 1961-1962
 - Robert McClary – June 1962-1966
 - Earl Phillips – Summer 1966-Summer 1969
 - Jim Hurt – Fall 1969
 - Jim Hurt & Richard S Lee – Winter 1969-Summer 1970
 - Richard S Lee & Raymond Ng – Winter 1970

- Precita Valley (Pacific Coast) Chess Herald: Jim Reynolds started this four to eight page mimeographed newsletter after resigning as editor of Chess in Action. His club, the Precita Valley CC, was located in San Francisco's Mission District. So the newsletter was very Mission District and SF centric. Originally, the newsletter came out once a week, but after six months, it became once a month. It often reported event details that The California Chess Reporter didn't have room for. A very valuable resource.
 - Jim Reynolds – March 15, 1956-February 1959
 - Jim Reynolds & Robert Karch – March 1959-July 1959

- Terrachess: was a four to eight page mimeographed newsletter from the City Terrace CC that came out every two weeks; it was also published in affiliation with the Southern California Chess League. California and Southern California Hall-of-Famer National Tournament Director Gordon

Barrett's Terrachess gave very extensive coverage of Southern California events from his own personal viewpoint. A very important resource.

- Gordon Barrett – April 5, 1961-May 15, 1974
- Scacchic/Scaccic/Chess Voice: Scacchic Voice was created and edited by Martin E. Morrison and his sidekick Elwin Meyers. Even though the first issue purported to be “The Official Organ of the Central California Chess Association”, it was merely a continuation of the Oakland CC magazine En Passant, which was started by the duo in 1964; same format, different name. The Morrison years, roughly corresponding to the Fischer years, were adequate. He covered most of the events and club news, had a few small photos, but no tournament cross-tables. The magazine really came into its own when John Larkins took over as editor. He knew how to delegate tasks and how to attract the right people for those tasks. For instance, his second issue's staff was:

Editor: John Larkins

Middle Game Editor: Valdemars Zemitis

End Game Editor: Everett McNally

Photographer: Richard Shorman

Artist: Martin Taylor

Contributors: Mike Padovani, Gary Pickler, Dave Brooks, Peter Prochaska-Kolbas, Richard Shorman, Kerry Lawless, and Frank Mur.

He also had a lot more event news, club news, games and photos. On February 1976 he changed the magazine's format to 8.5 x 10.5 and included larger photos. Richard Fauber tried to keep the magazine going in the same style, and usually succeeded. The magazine had its ups and downs, but the Larkins years would be considered a high point for any regional magazine.

- Martin E. Morrison & Elwin Meyers – May 1968-May 1973
- Elwin Meyers – June 1973-November 1973
- Marc McNown – December 1973-March 1974
- Edward Delgado – June 1974-January 1975
- John Larkins – April 1975-September 1979
- Richard Fauber – October 1979-July 1983
- Ramona Gordon – August 1983-July 1984

- Dan McDaniel – April 1985-September 1985
- Southern California Chess Newsette: had news, no photos, but covered an important Southern California chess period.
 - David Argall – December 1974-May 1986
- Rank & File: was, from its first issue, the premier Southern California chess periodical. It's also the longest running periodical in California chess history. On the West Coast, only Northwest Chess (1947-to present) has had a longer run. It had and still has all the 'right stuff' in terms of club and event news, cross-tables, games, and photos. Unfortunately, it has too many opening articles, which take away space for important historic news. In mid-1986, it merged with the Southern California Chess Newsette. On January 1990, it changed its format to 8.5x11 to include more news and photos. The most important Southern California periodical since Terrachess.
 - Phil Chase – June 1977-December 1978 (?)
 - Phil Chase & Gordon Brooks – April 1979
 - Michael Falkenstein – 1981 (?) -October 1982
 - John Hillery – March 1983 (?) -October 1990
 - David Argall – November 1990-February 1991
 - Laura Becker – March 1991-October 1992
 - Matt Beelby – November 1992-December 1992
 - Gina Sanchez – January 1993-February 1994
 - Paul Cornelison – March 1994-August 1994(?)
 - Michael Belcher & Robert Escalante – July 1995
 - Robert Escalante – September 1995-February 1997(?)
 - Sharon Ellen Burtman – September 1997-Spring 1999
 - John Hillery – March 1999-February 2010
 - Lawrence Stevens – November 2010-Present
- California Chess Journal: had a great number of extremely well written articles of local events and other topics, and plenty of games, under the Poschmann years, but not much else. In 1990, Peter Yu changed the format to 8.5x11 and provided more photos. Carolyn Withgitt introduced complete cross-tables. Issues by James Eade, printed on high-grade paper with glossy covers, feature high resolution photos, but omitted the cross-tables! Allan Fifield carried on in the same tradition. Under Frisco

Del Rosario the writing, if anything, improved. But, apparently, the budget was cut and the magazine reverted to non glossy covers. All and all, the California Chess Journal was a worthy successor to Chess Voice.

- Hans Poschmann - October 1986-December 1988
 - Peter Yu – January 1989-September 1991
 - Carolyn Withgitt – October 1991-September 1994
 - Eric Schiller – October 1994-February 1995
 - James Eade – March 1995-Summer 1996
 - Allan Fifield – Autumn 1996-Summer 2000
 - Frisco Del Rosario – January 2001-December 2003
 - Eric Hicks – April 1, 2004-August 2004
- Tournament bulletins: A very important source of games (of course), but can also give a feel for the era being written about...essential for the historian!
 - Published during the event are the closest a non-participant can ever get to the event being reported on. Examples like the one below almost make you feel like you're there.
 - 62nd Annual U.S. Open Chess Championship SF, CA (Round 1 – August 14, 1961 through Round 11 – August 25, 1961)
 - Piatigorsky Cup Santa Monica, California July-August 1966 (Round 1 – July 17, 1966 through Round 18 August 15, 1966)
 - Published after the event can be either an initial impression or a comprehensive overview. Examples...
 - Twenty –Five Games from the International Chess Congress of 1932 at Pasadena, Calif., August 15-28 (Published by the Chess Reporter). Valuable, but very brief; also it had no account of the local tournament held in conjunction with the International.
 - Sacramento City Chess Championship 1941 (Sponsored by the Capital City Chess Club.)
 - Spence Limited Editions: all had light to moderate coverage...not just game scores.
 - Volume 4: Pan-American Chess Congress, Hollywood 1945
 - Volume 11: Evans-Steiner Championship Match 1952
 - Volume 14: 2nd Hollywood Pan-American Chess Tournament, Los Angeles 1954
 - Volume 17: 56th United States Open Chess Championship, Long Beach 1955
 - Supplement: San Diego Open 1955

- Volume 35: 62nd United States Open Chess Championship, San Francisco 1961
 - Hollywood International Tournament 1952 (Published by the California Chess Reporter)
 - City Terrace, Experts Invitational Chess Tournament 1962 (Published by the City Terrace Chess Club, S CA)
 - Special Supplement U.S. Open Tournament Bulletins (The California Chess Reporter Vol. 9, No. 1-2, August-September 1961)
- Rating lists are very important for charting a players rise and/or fall. It also gives an indication of strength, or a snapshot in time, of individual players in matches and tournaments. Of course, the USCF Rating Lists are the gold standard. But, there are other rating lists, which used in conjunction with the USCF list, can give a better all around view of a player's lifetime strength.
 - Correspondence Chess League of America rating lists
 - The Chess Correspondent: 1933 to present. The correspondence rating is based on a different system (ten times higher; Class C = 12,000 points) than the over the board rating.
 - United States Chess Federation rating lists
 - Chess Life Newspaper: November 20, 1950-December 20, 1960
 - Chess Life Magazine: April 1961-January 1990: I use the USCF website for ratings after 1990.
 - Annual Rating List and Supplement (Issued to official Tournament Directors): January 1973-December 1990.
 - Northern California Chess Ratings
 - Chess Digest(Formerly California Chess News) December 1, 1950 (These ratings are titles, Class C through International Master; not numerical)
 - Chess Friends of Northern California rating lists
 - Chess in Action October 1956(?)-October 1, 1970
 - West Coast Ratings (Compiled by Robert Karch – originally from the Washington Chess Letter)
 - Pacific Coast Chess Herald January 1959-July 1959
- Books
 - Research books:
 - Chess Bibliography, 1850-1968 (Douglas A. Betts – J.K. Hall 1974): A very complete list of tournament bulletins, tournament books, and periodicals through 1968. Considered essential by most chess historians.

- Chess Personalia, A Biobibliography (Jeremy Gaige – McFarland 1987): Jeremy Gaige was the chess historians' historian; this is the quintessential player reference. I love this book!
- Chess, An Annotated Bibliography 1969-1988 (Andy Lusic – Mansell 1991): I haven't had a chance to go through this one yet. But, at first glance, it looks good.
- Chess Columns, A List (Ken Whyld – Olomouc 2002): Ken Whyld was the chess historian who showed other historians how and what to research. The Ken Whyld Association is the world organization of chess historians (<http://www.kwabc.org/>). An indispensable book; without which I wouldn't have been able to write my article on California Chess Columns.
- Chess Periodicals (Gino Di Felice – McFarland 2010); not complete by any means, but I was flattered when he used my article on California Chess Periodicals as part of his source material.
- California history:
 - Chess Chats (George Koltanowski – Press Democrat Printing Co. 1949): Reprints from Koltky's Santa Rosa Press Democrat chess column.
 - First Piatigorsky Cup (Isaac Kashdan – Ward Ritchie Press 1965): The international chess tournament was held in Los Angeles, during 1963. Paul Keres and Tigran Petrosian tied for first place in the strongest California tournament up to that time.
 - Second Piatigorsky Cup (Isaac Kashdan – Ward Ritchie Press 1968): The international chess tournament was held in Santa Monica during 1966. Each game was annotated by both players. Boris Spassky won the tournament and Robert Fischer came in second. This was probably the strongest California chess tournament of all time.
 - TV Chess (George Koltanowski – KQED 1968): Excerpts from his TV show.
 - Grandmaster Chess (Isaac Kashdan & the California Chess Reporter – The California State Chess Federation 1975): A complete record of Lone Pine 1975.
 - Silent Knights of the Chessboard (Emil Ladner – West Coast Print Center 1979): Contains bibliographies of California hearing impaired players.
 - How to Create Combinations, 2nd Edition (Vladimir Pafnutieff – Press 1996 – 1st Edition 1986): Contains California chess game scores with place & date.

MAY 24 1962

May 18, 1962

Mr. Mikhail Botvinnik
4 Sostertnyi Pereulok
Moscow 19, USSR

Dear Mr. Botvinnik:

I wish to congratulate you for your recent successes at the Hastings Tournament and in Sweden, and of course for your fine and thrilling victory last year when you succeeded in taking back the championship crown you have held for so many years.

I have just been informed by International Master George Koltanowski that the fine newspaper for which he is Chess Editor, The San Francisco Chronicle, has invited you to play a correspondence game with a group of its readers for a suitable fee. I hope that you will be able to accept this invitation, because the easy competition will require very little time and effort on your part, but it will attract a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and interest, especially among young American chess players, which is the major purpose of the Chronicle project.

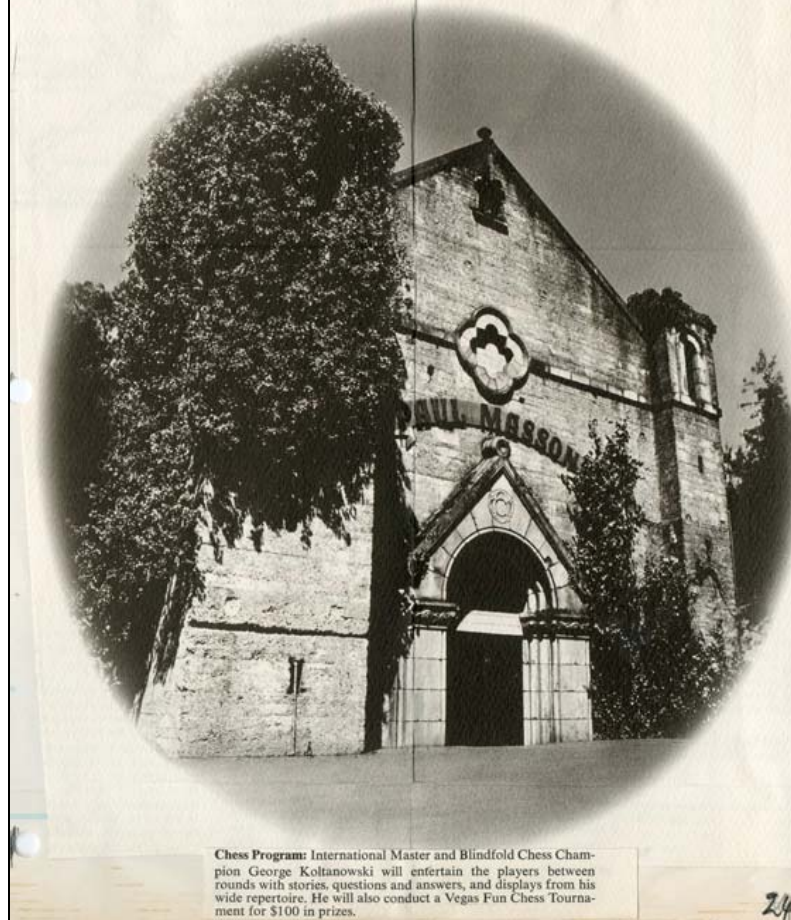
I have been advised by our State Department in Washington, D. C. that one of the 13 sports activities included in the recently renewed Cultural Exchange Agreement between our two countries is a USA-USSR chess match in Moscow in June of next year (1963). I was delighted to learn of this and hope to hear from your officials concerning this event as soon as more definite information is available.

Warmest personal regards,

Jerry G. Spann
F.I.D.E. Vice President
Zone 5

- Tournament Flyers: Released for almost every tournament, except club tournaments.

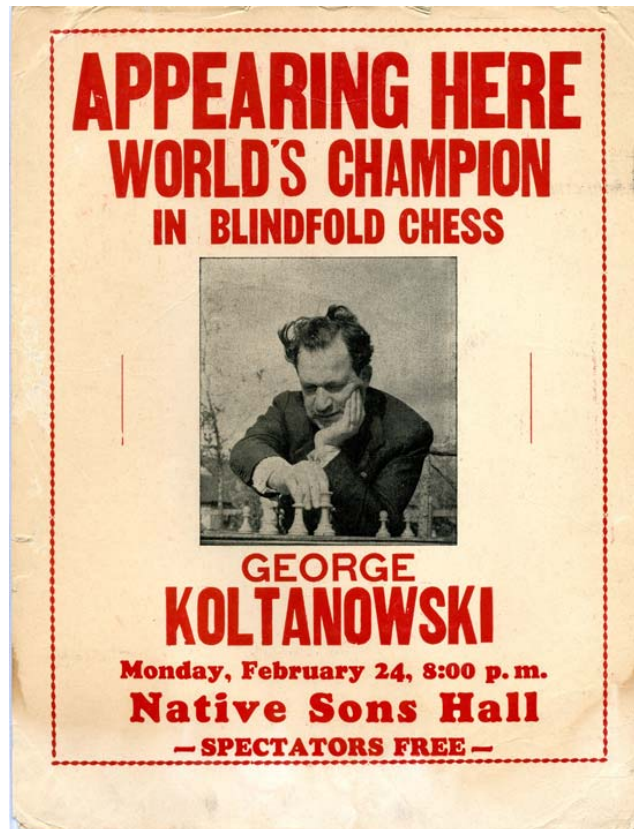
**The Fifth Annual Paul Masson
American Class Chess Championships 1977.
\$15,000 in Cash Prizes*
Saturday and Sunday, July 23-24, 1977.
Held at the Historic Paul Masson Mountain Vineyard
off Pierce Road, Saratoga (near San Jose), California.**



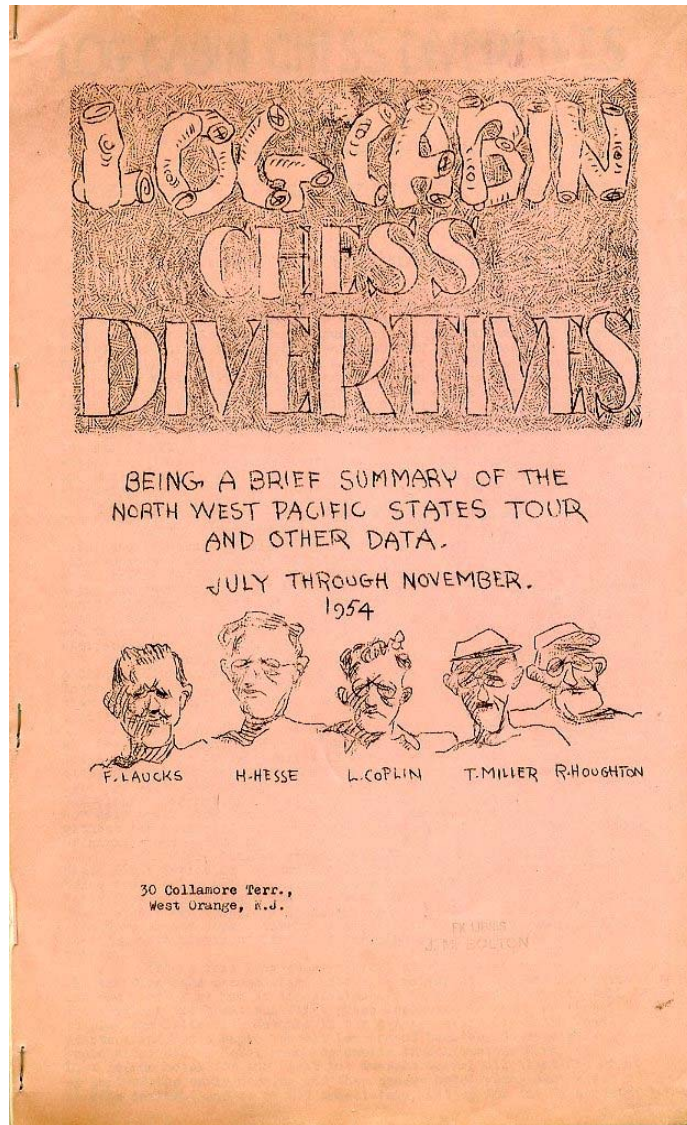
- Tournament Programs; pamphlets released before a tournament or match to advertise who is to be there, what will be happening, and when it's to happen.
 - Pan American Chess Congress Program: Hollywood, California
July 28-August 12, 1945



- United States Championship Program; Denker: Champion, Steiner: Challenger, Fine: Referee. Los Angeles 1946
- First Piatigorsky Cup International Grandmaster Chess Tournament 1963
- Second Piatigorsky Cup International Grandmaster Chess Tournament 1966
- Newspaper or magazine advertisements about upcoming chess events.
- Newspaper or magazine articles about chess.
- Posters: Generally released when there is some event that the public is invited to; such as a tournament, match, simultaneous exhibition, blindfold exhibition, knight's tour exhibition, or lecture. Here's an example from Santa Rosa in 1947.



- Score sheets: Games can be recorded from any source – tournaments, matches, blitz, and casual.
- Miscellaneous pamphlets, etc.
 - Log Cabin Chess Divertives, Being a Brief Summary of the North West Pacific States Tour and Other Data, July through November 1954. (The East Coast Log Cabin CC went through California playing matches with various CCs.)



- I Was Tortured in the Pasadena Jailhouse! By Bobby Fischer.
- Ticket to 1949 Kolty Simultaneous Exhibition.



- Photos: Of players, tournaments, clubs, and other chess events. The example here is NM Alan Benson giving a Blindfold Simultaneous Exhibition at the renowned Cherryland Café (Hayward, California) in the early 1970's.



When I first started this project, I thought I would scan what I could find and that would be it. But, lo and behold, new chess artifacts turn up almost daily. Right now, I have scanned less than ten percent of what I have backlogged and my research has shown that I probably have much less than fifty percent of what's available of the columns and magazines. I'm beginning to realize that this project might take a little longer than I originally thought.