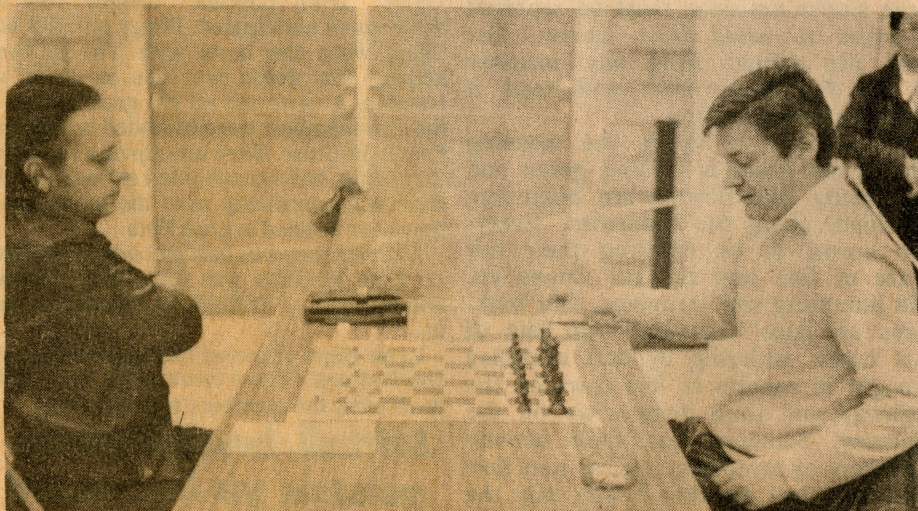


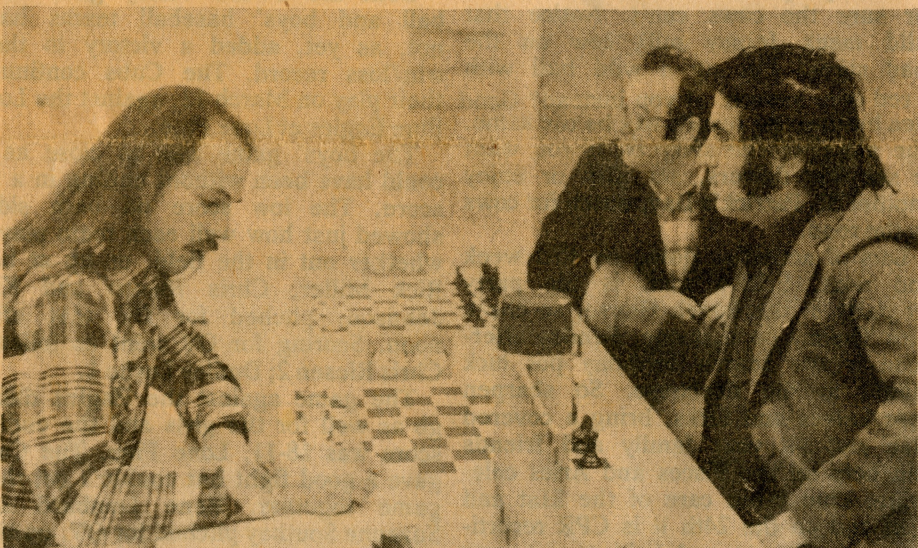
Samuel Reshovsky - U.S.

Yuri Balashov - S.U.



Florin Gheorghiu - Romania

Dusan Rajkoic - Yugoslavia



John Grefe - U.S.

Roman Dzindzichashvili - Israel

INYO Independent

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Lone Pine, CA Est. 1870

10th Statham Chess tourney underway

With 40 of the world's top players in competition, the 10th Annual Louis D. Statham International Chess Tournament, with prize money of \$50,000, got under way Sunday at the Lone Pine Town Hall.

Nine rounds will be played daily through Thursday, March 20, then from Sunday, March 23 through the finish on March 26. Play each day will be from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., resuming at 8 p.m.

To the winner will go \$15,000. Second will get \$10,000 with other cash awards down to \$600 for 10th place.

As the director of the tournament, Isaac Kashdan, prepared to start the play, he noted that Lone Pine has become known wherever chess players gather. Kashdan, who is an international grandmaster and chess editor of the Los Angeles Times, remarked that "Some might not know where Lone Pine is but they do know that it is a place where the world's best play chess."

There was a round of introductions of those assisting Kashdan in directing the play. Carl Budd has become a familiar figure, having been with Kashdan in the tournament since the start. Myron Johnson who, when

not involved in chess, drives a taxi in Oakland, has returned for his ninth year. Myron Lieberman, who handles statistics, is another veteran of several years. Ted Yudakofsky has returned for his second year while a newcomer is Rich Gardner. Jerry Hanken, "in charge of arranging transportation, also a veteran of the Statham, is back.

Kashdan introduced Statham, who rose to acknowledge the applause with a nod.

The Soviet Union is represented by two players after an absence last year because a defector, Victor Korchnoi a former world champion, entered. They are Yuri Balashov and Efim Geller. Korchnoi was the highest rated last year. He started with three wins and a draw but wound up with 5½ points and a purse of \$62.50. Four tied for first place with 6½ - 2½, winning four games and drawing in five. They were: Vladimir Liberzon, Israel; Florin Gheorghiu, Romania; Svetozar Gligoric, Yugoslavia and Vlastimil Hort of Czechoslovakia. All but Hort are back.

Brent Larsen, who won the tournament in 1978 and a purse of \$12,000, is back for another shot of the top

money after getting \$1000 last year. Among other returnees are: Larry Christiansen, Anatoly Lein, Sam Reshevsky and John Peters, all U.S. players. Iceland, the Philippines, England, and Argentina are also represented.

Individuals and groups in Lone Pine are joining in a show of hospitality for the visiting chess players by providing refreshments each day of the play.

The Southern Inyo Chapter 183 of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the Women's Division of the Mt. Whitney Golf Club will furnish food and drink two days. One day each the veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary, the Independence Garden Club and the girls at the Bank of America will be the suppliers. Ruby Tonkin on behalf of the Concerned Citizens will furnish the refreshments one day as will Barbi Christenson and Dorothy Bonnefin.

As of press time, Jay White, head of the U.S. and Efim Geller of USSR were tied at three and one half points at the end of the fourth round. The tournament will close down Friday and Saturday and start again Sunday.