

# THE CALIFORNIA CHESS REPORTER

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The California Chess Reporter - Ten numbers per year  
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Editor: Guthrie McClain, 244 Kearny St., 4th Floor, San Francisco 8  
Associate Editors: Dr. Mark W. Eudey, Berkeley; Neil T. Austin,  
Sacramento; George Goehler, Irving Rivise,  
Los Angeles; Stewart Samuels, San Francisco  
Task Editors: Dr. H. J. Ralston  
Games Editor: N. E. Falconer, Lafayette  
Guest Annotator: Imre König, San Francisco

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## ADDISON WINS SAN FRANCISCO CITY CHAMPIONSHIP

William G. Addison of San Francisco won the 1956 city title, played during the period May-August at the Mechanics' Institute, Golden Gate and other chess clubs in the Bay Area, by the convincing score of 7-1. Addison swept his first five opponents off their feet and then conceded draws to the last two opponents.

Gilbert Ramirez finished second with a 6-2 score, losing to Addison and drawing two games. Charles Bagby and Alan Bourke tied for third and fourth places,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ , ahead of Henry Gross (1952 State Co-champion) and Jim Schmitt (1955 City Champion).

In the Expert Section there was a first-place tie between Kurt Bendit of San Francisco and Charles Sedlack of Oakland, both 6-3. Close behind were Horst Bullwinkel and Herbert Rosenbaum of San Francisco,  $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$ . Godfrey Lutz of San Francisco and Frank Olvera of Pittsburg tied for fifth and sixth,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

Russell Freeman of Oakland won the Class A Section, 7-1, losing only to William Rebold of Berkeley. Carl Huneke of San Francisco finished second, 5-3, and there was a third place tie between Gabe Garcia of Pittsburg, Rebold, and LeRoy Turner of Concord.

SAN FRANCISCO CITY CHAMPIONSHIP, 1956

This tournament, originated in 1955 to honor the late Peter Prokoodin, was played again in the so-called English System. The contestants, who were limited to a 30-mile radius of San Francisco, played in preliminary sections to sort out the players in the finals. The preliminary sections were played in several chess clubs in the Bay Area, while the finals were mostly played in San Francisco. The rate of play was 30 moves per hour in the preliminaries and 20 moves per hour in the finals. It was originally planned to hold five final sections, but the number of contestants dictated three.

The winner of the championship, Bill Addison, won temporary custody of the Peter V. Prokoodin memorial trophy, a replica for permanent possession, and \$20 cash. Kurt Bendit and Charles Sedlack received duplicate replica trophies for tying in the Expert Section plus \$4 cash each (being assessed the cost of the additional trophy). Russ Freeman received a trophy and \$6. (Each successive trophy was a trifle smaller.) The remainder of the entry fees was distributed amongst a dozen or so contestants. There were 32 entrants in the preliminaries.

FINALS, JUNE-AUGUST, 1956 - Tournament Director: Arthur B. Stamer

## MASTER SECTION

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score
1. W G Addison, SF	X	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	7-1
2. G Ramirez, SF	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	6-2
3. C Bagby, SF	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$
4. A Bourke, SF	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$
5. H Gross, SF	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	1	4-4
6. J Schmitt, SF	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	4-4
7. Dr K Colby, Mill Valley	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	X	1	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
8. R Smook, Berkeley	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0 <sup>F</sup>	0 <sup>F</sup>	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0 <sup>F</sup>	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
9. S Van Gelder, SF	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1-7

Withdrawn: W Bills, V Pafnutieff

## EXPERT SECTION

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
1. K Bendit, SF	X	0	1	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	6-3
2. C Sedlack, Oakland	1	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	6-3
3. H Bullwinkel, SF	0	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$
4. H Rosenbaum, SF	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$
5. G Lutz, SF	0	0	0	0	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$
6. F Olvera, Pittsburg	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1	0	X	0	1	1	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$
7. R Taacker, Richmond	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	X	0	1	0	4-5
8. H Edelstein, San Carlos	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
9. D McLeod, San Bruno	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	3-6
10. D Willis, Oakland	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -6 $\frac{1}{2}$

			CLASS SECTION							Score		
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
1.	R Freeman,	Oakland	X	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	7-1	
2.	C Huneke,	SF	0	X	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	5-3	
3.	G Garcia,	Pittsburg	0	1	X	1	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$	
4.	W Rebold,	Berkeley	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$
5.	L Turner,	Concord	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	0	X	0	1	1	1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$
6.	H King,	SF	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	X	0	0	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$
7.	Mrs N McLeod,	San Bruno	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	1	X	1	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -4 $\frac{1}{2}$
8.	N Nielsen,	SF	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	2-6
9.	R Chroninger,	Daly City	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -6 $\frac{1}{2}$

Withdrew: A Radinsky

PRELIMINARIES, MAY-JULY, 1956

SECTION 1							Score
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1.	J Schmitt	X	1	1	1	-	4-0
2.	C Sedlack	0	X	0	1	-	2-2
3.	F Olvera	0	1	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	2-2
4.	L Turner	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$
5.	G Garcia	-	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$
6.	E Logwood	0	WITHDREW			X	0-1

(Tournament Director: LeRoy W. Turner)

SECTION 2							Score	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.	W Addison	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$
2.	G Ramirez	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	4-2
3.	R Smook	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1	-	1	3-2
4.	D Willis	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	3-3
5.	R Thacker	0	0	-	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$
6.	R Freeman	0	0	0	0	X	1	1-5
7.	W Rebold	0	0	1	0	0	X	1-5

(Tournament Director: W. G. Addison)

SECTION 3							Score	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.	J McCormick	X	1	1	1	1	1	6-0
2.	C Bagby	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	4-2
3.	S Van Gelder	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1	0	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -2 $\frac{1}{2}$
4.	H Bullwinkel	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	3-3
5.	K Bendit	0	0	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	0	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3 $\frac{1}{2}$
6.	H King	0	0	0	0	1	X	2-4
7.	A Radinsky	0	0	0	0	0	X	0-6

(Tournament Director: A. B. Stamer)

## SECTION 4

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
1. H Gross	X	1	1	1	1	1	5-0
2. W Bills	0	X	1	1	1	1	4-1
3. H Rosenbaum	0	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$
4. H Edelstein	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	2-3
5. C Huneke	0	0	0	0	X	1	1-4
6. N Nielsen	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$

(Tournament Director: Henry Gross)

## SECTION 5

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score
1. A Bourke	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	1	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$
2. Dr K Colby	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$
3. V Pafnutieff	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$
4. G Lutz	1	0	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$3\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$
5. D McLeod	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$
6. Nancy McLeod	0	0	0	0	0	X	1	1-5
7. R Chroninger	0	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$

(Tournament Director: Vladimir Pafnutieff)

The tournament was sponsored by the San Francisco Bay Area Chess League, which defrayed the costs of the trophies and provided the direction.

CENTRAL VALLEY CHESS LEAGUE

The annual meeting in September of the member clubs saw the following officers elected: President, Phil Foley (San Jose); Vice-President, E. Jeffers (Oakdale); Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Shirey (Fresno).

Seven teams entered the competition which started on October 14: Fresno, Pittsburg, Modesto, Stockton, Sacramento, San Jose, and Oakdale. A new rule on settling ties was adopted; the old method of counting total points was dropped and there will be a playoff instead. The time limit has been changed to 60 moves in two hours, in order to avoid adjudications.

HERMAN STEINER CHESS CLUB MASTERS TOURNAMENT - by Irving Rivise

Shortly after Bob Jacobs had safely salted away a fine first prize in the 1956 Steiner Club Championship a small tournament was arranged to welcome back Jim Cross who had just completed his service in the Air Force.

We were all curious to see whether or not Jimmie still retained his fine sense of positional play and we were anxious to see how he would fare against the new star that had risen in his absence, i.e., Bob Cross. They are not related but their respective chess styles are so alike one can hardly tell which Cross is which.

The tournament was a splendid victory for Bobby Cross who did not lose a game in this exceptionally exciting tournament. Jim Cross showed that the two year respite from the chess board did not take the edge off his skill as he was the only player to seriously challenge Bobby for first place.

Bob Jacobs suffered the normal type of letdown in this tournament coming so soon after his fine performance in the club tournament. His games definitely showed signs of staleness - perhaps he was pressing too hard. Lapiken, Levin and Rivise were out of contention for the first prize shortly after the midway mark had been passed and so had to content themselves with trying to beat the leaders. Rivise did beat Jim Cross and Levin scored two draws against Bob Cross so that first place was not decided until the last round when Bob held off Jimmie's desperate onslaught to draw and win the tournament.

The games themselves were of very high quality with remarkably few outright blunders though of course the usual errors in position judgment did make their presence felt. There were no "grandmaster" draws - every single game was a fierce battle to the end with no quarter given or asked.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
1. Robert Cross	X X	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ 1	$\frac{1}{2}$ 1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	7-3
2. James Cross	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	X X	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 1	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ 1	6-4
3. Dr. Eugene Levin	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ 0	X X	1 0	$\frac{1}{2}$ 0	$\frac{1}{2}$ 1	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
4. Irving Rivise	$\frac{1}{2}$ 0	1 0	0 1	X X	0 1	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 $\frac{1}{2}$
5. Robert Jacobs	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ 1	1 0	X X	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	4-6
6. Peter Lapiken	0 $\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$ 0	$\frac{1}{2}$ 0	$\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	X X	4-6

FRESNO CHESS CLUB - by William Shirey

Tom Fries and Phil D. Smith have tied for first in Fresno's Annual Team Training Tournament with  $5\frac{1}{2}$  points each. John Hastings was third with 4 points.

The tournament was a six round Swiss with 10 players. Bob Garabedian was tournament director.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	S-B
1. T. Fries	W5	W4	W6	D2	W3	W7	$5\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{2}$
2. P. Smith	W9	Wf3	W4	D1	W5	W6	$5\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{3}{4}$
3. J. Hastings	Wf8	Lf2	W10	W7	L1	W5	4-2	5
4. R. Baker	W10	L1	L2	W8	W6	bye	4-2	3
5. D. Hudson	L1	W10	W8	W6	L2	L3	3-3	3
6. H. Halliday	W7	W9	L1	L5	L4	L2	2-4	2
7. F. Palmer	L6	L8	Wf9	L3	bye	L1	2-4	0
8. R. Willis	Lf3	W7	L5	L4	dropped		1-5	2
9. A. Sotelo	L2	L6	L7	dropped			0-6	0
10. J. Leach	L4	L5	L3	dropped			0-6	0

SAN JOSE CHESS CLUB

The 1956 San Jose championship was won by Janis Kalnins with the fine score of  $12\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$ . Kalnins lost only to Bill Adams, former champion, who was second, 12-2. Bert Mueller was third, 11-3, and Francis Crofut, returned to chess after a year's layoff, was fourth.

## 1956 SAN JOSE CHAMPIONSHIP

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Score
1. Janis Kalnins	X	0	1	1	1	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	$12\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$
2. Bill Adams	1	X	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12-2
3. Bert Mueller	0	0	X	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11-3
4. Francis Crofut	0	0	0	X	1	1	1	1	1	1	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	$10\frac{1}{2}-3\frac{1}{2}$
5. Art Critchlow	0	1	1	0	X	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9-5
6. Phil Foley	0	1	0	0	1	X	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9-5
7. Lyman Daugherty	0	0	0	0	1	1	X	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	9-5
8. Ken Chapman	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	1	1	0	X	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	$7\frac{1}{2}-6\frac{1}{2}$
9. Wallace Getz	0	0	0	0	0	F	0	1	1	X	1	0	F	1	1	6-8
10. Virgil Mitchell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	X	1	1	1	1	0	5-9
11. Ralph Pearson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	X	1	0	1	1	4-10
12. Ron Fournier	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	X	0	1	1	1	$3\frac{1}{2}-10\frac{1}{2}$
13. Gene Hindman	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	0	1	1	X	F	1	3-11
14. Russ Hofvendal	F	F	0	F	F	0	F	F	F	F	F	1	X	1	1	2-12
15. Mark Gazze	0	0	0	F	0	F	0	0	F	1	F	F	0	F	X	1-13

Al Lutz was the Class B winner with a perfect score of 14-0 (!).

GAME OF THE MONTH - by Robert E. Burger

TOURNAMENT IN MANHATTAN

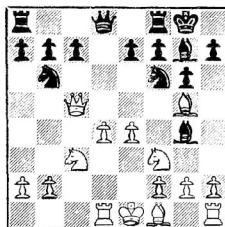
Central Park South is a street of town houses and fashionable hotels, where, in the brief space of a long Manhattan block, the New York Athletic Club and the Manhattan Chess Club are at least two establishments somewhat out of place. From the broad sidewalk the remnants of last night's games are plainly visible on a row of tables extending back into a long, narrow, street-level room. In the early evenings - too early for San Franciscans - for the first three days of the last few weeks, this has been the scene of the Lessing J. Rosenwald Trophy tournament, with a list headed by Reshevsky, Byrne (Donald), and Bisguier. Let it be said right off that Reshevsky is comfortably ahead of the pack at this stage - and for once this is a remarkable situation! What seemed to be a critical encounter occurred in the first round, when Byrne, playing straightforward pressure chess against the popular Benoni King's Indian, forced his Queen's Pawn to the seventh and won against Reshevsky decisively (though on time). But the little Grandmaster from Spring Valley gave a remarkable performance thereafter - no one, not even Bisguier, could salvage a half point in his next six games. Meantime, Byrne slipped - then fell in the eighth round, to the losingest player in the tourney. This game might well be the starting point of a great career for 13-year-old Bobby Fischer of Brooklyn:

Game No. 351 - Gruenfeld Defense

White	Black
D. Byrne	R. Fischer

- |            |        |
|------------|--------|
| 1. Kt-KB3  | Kt-KB3 |
| 2. P-B4    | P-KKt3 |
| 3. Kt-B3   | B-Kt2  |
| 4. P-Q4    | O-O    |
| 5. B-B4    | P-Q4   |
| 6. Q-Kt3   | PxP    |
| 7. QxBP    | P-B3   |
| 8. P-K4    | QKt-Q2 |
| 9. R-Q1    | Kt-Kt3 |
| 10. Q-B5   | B-Kt5  |
| 11. B-KKt5 |        |

Not only unlikely looking, but actually bad, from what follows. There follows a series of short combinations leading into the maelstrom.



11. ... Kt-R5!

This sort of combination requires the exact calculation of small details - such as the fact that after 12. KtxKt, KtxP; 13. Q-B1, 13. QxKP, or 13. BxKP, the check at R4 and the vulnerability of White's QKt wins a Pawn.

12. Q-R3 KtxKt

13. PxKt KtxP!  
 But here is that rarer breed of combination based on the general consideration of an open file to the enemy King plus development.

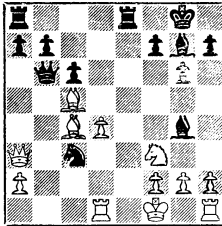
- 14. BxP Q-Kt3
- 15. B-B4

Optimism that elicits brilliancies - from the opponent! - BxR would give Black too much time to exploit the King file - but B-K2 was needed.

- 15. ... KtxQBP!
- 16. B-B5

Now, of course, the diagonal to the White King prevents BxR, etc.

- 16. ... KR-K1ch
- 17. K-B1



- 17. ... B-K3

A move I wouldn't hesitate to call problem-like. With two pieces, including his Queen, en prise, Black bares a third to

capture - unpinning a White piece and blocking the line of his own Rook simultaneously. Of course, BxB is answered by Q-Kt4ch. What follows is a joy.

- 18. BxQ BxBch
- 19. K-Kt1 Kt-K7ch
- 20. K-B1 KtxPch
- 21. K-Kt1 Kt-K7ch
- 22. K-B1 Kt-B6ch
- 23. K-Kt1 PxB
- 24. Q-Kt4 R-R5

Somedays, everything goes right.

- 25. QxP KtxR
- 26. P-KR3 RxP

Resignation can be graceful at times like this.

- 27. K-R2 KtxP
- 28. R-K1 RxR
- 29. Q-Q8ch B-B1
- 30. KtxR B-Q4
- 31. Kt-B3 Kt-K5

Showing restraint.

- 32. Q-Kt8 P-QKt4
- 33. P-R4 P-R4
- 34. Kt-K5 K-Kt2

Clear the decks.

- 35. K-Kt1 B-B4ch
- 36. K-B1 Kt-Kt6ch
- 37. K-K1 B-Kt5ch
- 38. K-Q1 B-Kt6ch
- 39. K-B1 Kt-K7ch
- 40. K-Kt1 Kt-B6ch
- 41. K-B1 R-B7 mate.

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TO CONTINUE THE QUESTION OF RATINGS:

Our August comments on ratings brought the following letter by Kenneth Harkness. We are reproducing this in full for your analysis and comments.



Ratings, when all is said and done, are of primary importance only to players. Since each competitor is concerned with the specific category in which he finds himself, it is our opinion that his voice should be heard in determination of the system and rules by which he is judged.

Mr. Harkness must be credited with making a real contribution to organized chess and chess activities in that he has provided some foundation on which the ultimate in rating systems may evolve. He makes no claim to perfection for his brainchild. It is our belief that players' ideas will be warmly received and judiciously weighed.

THE REPORTER volunteers to act as an agent in digesting and presenting your thoughts. Send them in.

Here is Mr. Harkness' letter:

The U.S. Chess Federation  
Kenneth Harkness, Bus. Mgr.  
81 Bedford Street, N.Y. 14  
September 20, 1956

Mr. Guthrie McClain, Editor,  
California Chess Reporter,  
244 Kearny St., 4th Floor,  
San Francisco 8, Calif.

Dear Mac:

An unsigned article in your August issue criticizes the national rating system. I trust I will be given space to answer.

You declare that "no rating system can be accurate which does not rate all available results." As such a statement is contrary to statistical practice, would it not be better to say that a player's rating might be more accurate if all his performances were rated. If some are omitted, it does not follow that the average would be changed radically by their inclusion.

Let us agree, however, that it would be more desirable, and produce greater accuracy, if all results were rated. Your solution is to appoint a Rating Committee to compute the ratings of California players. For reasons too complex to explain briefly, this idea would be impractical.

There is a much simpler solution. If the clubs and leagues of California believe that their players should have national recognition, these units should affiliate with the USCF, contribute their small share of the funds needed by the Federation to perform its duties, and report the results of their tournaments to the USCF.

Most of your article is devoted to expounding the theory that advancing players "drag down" the ratings of established players, that young players gain rating points at the expense of higher-rated players, and that this is causing a general contraction of USCF ratings.

Before answering, I would like to explain to your readers how a player's average rating is computed, for your article gives the impression that past performances have a tremendous effect on current averages.

A player's published average is the arithmetical mean of his previous average and the ratings he earns in current tournaments. For example, Charles Kalme has 2186 points in rating list No. 9, and his average for list No. 10 was computed from the following data:

Previous average.....	2186
U.S. Junior Championship, 1955..	2325
Eastern States Open, 1955.....	2222
Penn. State Championship, 1955..	<u>2447</u>
Total.....	9180

The total of 9180 is divided by 4, giving Kalme a current average of 2295. Having played in three tournaments during the rating period, Kalme's rating is only slightly affected by the inclusion of his previous average. If it were omitted, his rating would be 2331 - a difference of 36 points.

The inclusion of the previous average is an important and necessary part of the rating system. An advancing player may perform brilliantly in one or two tournaments, but he must demonstrate consistency and prove that he is entitled to a much higher rank before being promoted sharply. On the other hand, an established player may perform badly in one or two events. Such a player should not be demoted to a much lower rank until it is demonstrated that his strength has, in fact, deteriorated.

But the USCF Rating Statistician does not operate in a vacuum. He does not follow "rules" blindly. If the rules produce what is an obvious distortion of a player's current strength, he makes adjustments. If enough such cases occur, a new rule is evolved to take care of these situations. The rating system is in a constant state of improvement.

In the past, there have been several instances of obvious distortion. For example, Ronald Gross, of Compton, Calif., averaged 1693 points in his first two rated tournaments. In the next, he earned 2153 points and thereafter scored expert or higher ratings. It was obvious that his Class B ratings in the first two tournaments

were unrepresentative. Their inclusion would produce far too low a figure for this player's current strength. Therefore they were cancelled.

The case of Bobby Fischer is an outstanding example of the need for adjustment in special cases. In one year, Bobby has shot up from a Class B player to a Master. When his rating for the next list is computed, his previous average of 1726 points (for his first two rated tournaments) will be cancelled.

In general, it may be said that an advancing player may be slightly under-rated during the time his strength is increasing (although this is not "invariably" true of all young players). It is also possible that an established player may be slightly over-rated. Furthermore, there are many players who are either under-rated or over-rated because they have not yet played in enough rated contests to develop a representative rating.

In most tournaments, therefore, there are players who are rated accurately, and others who are rated too high or too low for one reason or another. Quite apart from the fact that these factors often balance each other, there are two provisions of the rating system which prevent significant distortion:

1. A player's "competition average" - which is used as the basis for determining his performance rating in a tournament - is the median average of his opponents' ratings (the average of the middle two ratings for an even number of opponents, the middle three for an odd number). In most cases, over-rated or under-rated opponents do not affect the median value. Their ratings could be doubled or halved without making any difference. It is only when an incorrect rating is near or within the median average that the latter is affected. Even then, the effect is usually negligible.

2. As explained above, a player's published rating is the average of his previous rating and his current performances. If his rating for any tournament is slightly too high or too low, the averaging process reduces the inaccuracy to an insignificant amount.

For instance, the ratings of Bobby Fischer's opponents in the U.S. Open (the "victims" whose ratings will suffer, according to your article) would be affected to a very small degree if Bobby's rating were not adjusted. Tests show that the ratings of Santasiere, Lapiken, and Gross in the next list would be from 4 to 8 points lower than they should be. Actually, Bobby's rating will be adjusted, so that the "victims" will not suffer at all.

The hypothetical examples you give in support of your theory are almost too fantastic to require detailed refutation. The prolonged match between a Master and a Class B player can be thrown out bodily. The rating system was not designed to rate correctly an isolated match over a long period of time between two isolated players. Nothing is gained by trying to prove a theory by such fantasy. In real life, the "boy" and the "master" would play in tournaments which would affect their ratings. If not, the result of the match would be considered unrateable.

The example of the club tournament sounds more plausible but is just as fantastic - mainly because you have not taken the trouble to verify the methods by which ratings are computed, and also because most players (and certainly few, if any, masters) do not compete exclusively in an annual club tournament meeting the conditions specified. In any case, if the results of such a tournament indicate that a "Class B" player is badly under-rated, the statistician examines the previous records and makes adjustments as explained above.

Your reference to the standings and performances of McClain and Vedensky in the North-South match is unacceptable as proof of anything at all. By your own argument, of course, McClain's rating is confirmed because he drew with a master, which is contrary to your conclusion. However, it is ridiculous to quote the result of one game, or one tournament, for that matter, to prove that a player is over-rated or under-rated. Any player may perform above or below his average in a single contest. If we wished to use the same tactics, we might quote the results of the San Francisco Championship of 1955 as "proof" that the rating system is almost 100% accurate. In four of the five qualifying sections of this event, the highest-rated player won his section. In both the preliminaries and finals, the standings were in close agreement with the players' ratings. While more significant than the outcome of a single game, these results are inconclusive, unless supported by other evidence.

The important point is that neither McClain nor Vedensky have played in enough rated contests to enable the rating system to evaluate their ability accurately. As a rule, from five to ten performances are needed to develop an accurate rating. Up to the closing date of the last rating list, McClain had competed in only three rated tournaments. His next published rating will undoubtedly be much more accurate. Vedensky's record in California before World War II was not known to the USCF. His tentative Class B rating was determined by the only performances reported to the USCF. In the Cleveland Club League, Vedensky won two games from players rated at

1700 and 1763 respectively, lost one game to a 1902 player. If Vedansky competes in other rated tournaments and demonstrates that he is, in fact, a master, his Cleveland ratings will be cancelled as unrepresentative.

You conclude that your theory is "the reason for the lowering of all classes 100 points." You make no reference to the reasons actually given by this writer in the introduction to Rating List No. 10 (Chess Life, May 20, 1956). Surely these deserve some consideration in a critical article.

It is true that there has been a slight contraction of the ratings of some masters - but your explanation of why this has taken place is erroneous. The real reason can be found in paragraph No. 7 of the explanation of the rating system on page 346 of "The Official Blue Book and Encyclopedia of Chess."

Sincerely yours,

KENNETH HARKNESS  
USCF Rating Statistician

(The following appeared in the Wall Street Journal during the World Series:)

#### PERFECT GAME

It was a heartbreaker for Brooklyn. For more than half of Monday's game the Brooklyn man was able to match the New Yorker move for move. Each seemed to know exactly how to handle the men facing him.

Then, for just one brief moment, the Brooklyn fellow either got careless or misjudged the pride of New York. And the next thing he knew, the New Yorker had parked a long one clear up on the back row, and though no one could be sure at the time, Brooklyn had lost the mantle of victory.

For thereafter the man from Manhattan never made a slip. It was a perfect game, and it was all over for Brooklyn by the time the New Yorker had handled a bare twenty-six men.

Thus it went into the record books that Samuel Reshevsky of New York defeated Max Pavey of Brooklyn to take the series lead for the championship Rosenwald chess trophy.

\* \* \* \* \*

CALIFORNIA OPEN, SANTA BARBARA, 1958

The two five-dollar prizes for best game have been awarded to Gil Ramirez (winner of the tournament) and Charles Bagby. The judges were international master Imre König and the editors of THE REPORTER.

Ramirez won a prize for his game with Robert Brieger; Bagby won a prize for his game vs. Bert Mueller. It was not easy to make the awards. First, it was necessary to analyze the game Remlinger-Rivise - an outstanding candidate for a prize, which was eventually found to contain a serious flaw. Then, another well-played game, Cross vs. Rivise, was likewise found to be faulty. Ramirez-Brieger was now No. 1, with Mueller-Bagby and Cross-Rinaldo very evenly regarded. Bagby's game was well played by both sides and was very thematic - a point which is always well regarded by the analyst. Cross's game was beautifully played by White, against a defense which had its sharp points but which soon crumbled against the beautifully accurate moves made by Cross. In the end, it was because it was with the Black pieces, against a sounder defense, that Bagby's performance won out.

Listed for Honorable Mention - besides Remlinger-Rivise, Cross-Rivise, and Cross-Rinaldo - were: Spinner-Lapiken, Hunnex-Borochow, Rivise-Hunnex, Borochow-Rinaldo, and Smith-Demos.

Game No. 352 - Irregular

White	Black
G. Ramirez	R. Brieger
1. P-K4	P-Q3
2. Kt-KB3	P-KB4
3. Kt-B3	PxP
4. KtxP	Kt-KB3
5. KtxKt	KPxKt
6. P-Q4	P-Q4
7. B-Q3	B-Q3
8. O-O	O-O
9. R-K1	R-K1
10. P-KR3	Kt-Q2
11. Kt-R4	P-KKt3

Because of Black's irregular opening, his K-position is weak.

White is quick to take advantage of the weakness.

12. B-KR6	RxRch
13. QxR	Kt-B1
14. Q-K3	B-Q2
15. P-QB4	P-B3
16. P-B5	

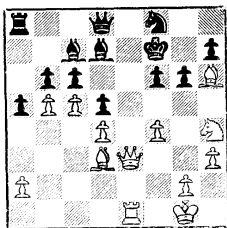
White's play is deceptively effective. To Black's weakness on the white squares is added a pair of weak black squares - Q3 and K4.

16. ...	B-B2
17. R-K1	K-B2
18. P-B4	

To say "the game almost plays itself" is not to detract. On the contrary, it is a tribute to the simple and powerful handling of

the White pieces by the 17-year-old Open Champion.

- 18. ... P-Kt5
- 19. P-QKt4 P-R4
- 20. P-Kt5



With the Black K in a somewhat exposed position and no very good squares for his light pieces, it is axiomatic that White should open lines.

- 20. ... PxBP
- 21. QPxP PxP
- 22. Q-B3 B-B3
- 23. Q-Kt4 B-Q2
- 24. P-B5 P-Kt4

Forced. With the defenses breached, White now slams home the attack on the K.

- 25. Q-R5ch K-Kt1
- 26. Kt-Kt6! KtxKt
- 27. PxKt B-Kl
- 28. B-Kt7 BxP
- 29. BxB PxB
- 30. QxP/6 B-R7ch
- 31. K-R1

Of course not 31. KxB, Q-B2ch.

- 31. ... Q-B2
- 32. BxPd.ch. K-B1
- 33. Q-R6ch Resigns.

Game No. 353 - Gruenfeld

White E.H. Mueller Black C. Bagby

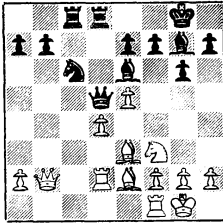
- 1. P-Q4 Kt-KB3
- 2. P-QB4 P-KKt3
- 3. Kt-QB3 P-Q4
- 4. Kt-B3 B-Kt2
- 5. PxP KtxP
- 6. P-K4 KtxKt
- 7. PxKt P-QB4
- 8. P-K5

The text commits White to a line of play - and the player of the Black pieces is noted for his skill against a fixed formation.

- Good alternatives are
- (a) 8. B-Kt5ch, B-Q2; 9. BxB, QxB;
  - (b) 8. B-K5, Kt-B3; 9. P-KR3, O-O; 10. Q-Q2.

- 8. ... PxP
- 9. PxP Kt-B3
- 10. B-K2 O-O
- 11. O-O B-B4
- 12. B-K3 Q-Q2
- 13. Q-Q2 KR-Q1
- 14. QR-Q1 Q-Q4
- 15. Q-B3 QR-B1
- 16. Q-Kt2 B-K3
- 17. R-Q2

White is strictly on the defensive. Black has placed his pieces on good squares with a minimum of effort, and may be said to have definitely the better game. But where's the win? White's answer: Keep up the pressure, re-group the pieces, and soon something must fall.



- 17. ... Kt-R4
- 18. R-B1 RxRch
- 19. QxR R-QB1
- 20. Q-Q1 Kt-B5
- 21. BxKt RxB
- 22. R-Kt2 B-Q2
- 23. Kt-Q2?

As usual with a cramped defensive position, the guard drops somewhere. The Kt should stay on KB3.

- 23. ... B-QB3
- 24. P-B3 RxP
- 25. Q-K1

If 25. BxR, QxBch and ...QxR.

- 25. ... BxP
  - 26. R-B2 R-Q6
  - 27. R-B5 RxB!
  - 28. RxQ RxQch
  - 29. K-B2 BxR
- Resigns.

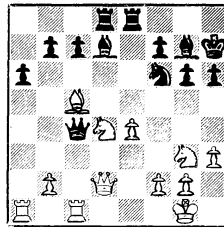
A sharp finish by Black!

Game No. 354 - Ruy

White Black  
L. Remlinger I. Rivise

- 1. P-K4 P-K4
- 2. Kt-KB3 Kt-QB3
- 3. B-Kt5 P-QR3
- 4. B-R4 Kt-B3
- 5. P-Q3 P-Q3

- 6. P-B3 B-Kt5
- 7. P-KR3 B-Q2
- 8. O-O P-KKt3
- 9. QKt-Q2 B-Kt2
- 10. R-K1 O-O
- 11. Kt-B1 P-KR3
- 12. Kt-Kt3 Kt-KR2
- 13. P-Q4 Q-K1
- 14. BxKt BxB
- 15. Q-Q3 Q-K2
- 16. B-Q2 KR-K1
- 17. QR-B1 B-Q2
- 18. B-K3 Kt-B3
- 19. Q-Q2 K-R2
- 20. P-B4 QR-Q1
- 21. P-B5 KPxP
- 22. BxQP PxP
- 23. BxP Q-K3
- 24. Kt-Q4 QxQRP
- 25. R-R1 Q-B5
- 26. KR-QB1



- 26. ... KtxP!?

It is hard to know at this point who is trying for the brilliancy prize. It was because of White's fine play in "refuting" the text that the game was first thought by the judges to be a prizewinner - but had the game gone differently, it might have been Rivise, instead of Remlinger, who might claim the prize. (See the note to Black's 29th.)



27. KtxKt Q-Q4

A very curious position. The pin on the Q-file plus the long diagonal for the Q and B (...B-QB3) makes Black's game a promising one, although temporarily a piece down.

28. Kt-KB3!

White, however, works out a fine combination in reply.

28. ... QxKt

29. R-K1 Q-B3

In protecting the BQ2 from the ensuing combination, Black chooses the wrong square. It appears that 29...Q-B4 would have won; and this must necessarily disqualify White's claim to the brilliancy prize. If 29...Q-B4; 30. B-K7, R-QB1; 31. Kt-R4 (31. R-R5, B-Kt4), Q-QKt4; 32. R-R5, QxP; 33. QxB, B-B6 and no answer has been found for White.

30. B-K7 R-QB1

31. QR-B1 Q-Kt4

32. R-B5 Q-R5

33. P-QKt3 QxP

34. QxB P-QB3

35. R-K3 Q-Kt8ch

36. K-R2 Q-Kt7

37. B-R4 RxR

38. PxR Q-Kt3

39. QxR QxR

40. QxKtP Q-B5

41. B-Kt3 P-QB4

42. Kt-K5 BxKt

43. BxB Q-K3

44. Q-Kt8 P-Kt4

45. Q-Q6 QxQ

46. BxQ P-B5

47. B-Kt4 K-Kt3

48. K-Kt3 P-B4

49. K-B3 P-KR4

50. P-K4 K-B3

51. B-B3ch

Adjudicated a win for White.

### STEINER CLUB MASTERS' TOURNAMENT

#### Game No. 355 - Sicilian

White Black

Dr. P. Lapiken Dr. E. Levin

(Notes by Eugene Levin)

1. P-K4 P-QB4

2. Kt-KB3 P-Q3

3. P-Q4 PxP

4. KtxP Kt-KB3

5. Kt-QB3 P-KKt3

6. B-K3

(Alternatives here are 6. B-KKt5,

6. B-K2, 6. P-B4, 6. P-KKt3,

6. B-Kt5ch - Ed.)

6. ... B-Kt2

7. P-B3 P-QR3

8. Q-Q2 P-QKt4?!

Somewhat risky...

9. P-QR3

Better would be 9. P-QR4 to weaken Black's undeveloped Queen-side. (White departs here from Boleslavsky-Ufimtsev, Moscow 1943, which continued 9. P-QR4, PxP; 10. KtxP with a plus for White.)

9. ... B-Kt2

10. B-R6 BxB!

11. QxB Q-Kt3

Now 8...P-QKt4 looks good.

12. Kt-Kt3 QKt-Q2

13. B-K2 Kt-K4

14. P-KKt4 O-O-O

14...Kt/4xKtp; 15. PxKt, KtxKP should be in Black's favor, with at least three Ps for the piece.

15. O-O-O K-Kt1  
 16. K-Kt1 R-QB1  
 17. Q-B1 Kt-B5  
 18. R-Q4?! KtxPch

Dr. Lapiken saw this move but felt that the resulting action would be in White's favor.

19. K-R2 Kt-B5  
 20. Q-Kt1

Threatens RxBKt.

20. ... Q-B2  
 21. BxBKt PxB  
 22. Kt-Q2 P-Q4  
 23. PxB KtxP  
 24. KtxKt Q-R4ch  
 25. K-Kt1 BxBKt  
 26. P-B3 P-K4  
 27. Q-Kt3 P-B3  
 28. Kt-K4 K-R1  
 29. R-Q2 R-QKt1  
 30. Q-K1 Q-Kt3  
 31. R-B1 KR-Q1  
 32. KR-B2 Q-B3!

The way in.

33. P-KR4 R-Kt4  
 34. KR-K2 R/1-QKt1  
 35. P-Kt5 R-R4!  
 36. PxB!?! Q-R5  
 37. Q-QB1 B-B3?

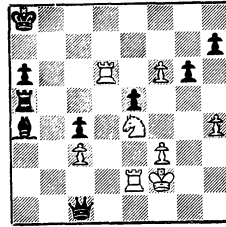
Not best. There is a forced win by 37...Q-R7ch; 38.K-B2,Q-Kt6ch; 39.K-Kt1,BxBKtch; 40.R(or P)xB, R-R7 threatening ...Q-R5.

38. R-Q6 Q-R8ch  
 39. K-B2 B-R5ch  
 40. K-Q2 RxBch  
 41. QxR QxQch

At this point I breathed a sigh of relief. Little did I know that my troubles were just beginning!

42. K-K3 Q-B8ch  
 43. K-B2

The black pieces are badly placed and the advanced pawn is quite dangerous.



43. ... Q-B5  
 44. R/2-Q2 B-Kt4  
 45. R-K6! B-Q2!!  
 46. R-K7

If 46. RxB, R-R7ch, etc.

46. ... QxRPch  
 47. K-K2 R-R8  
 48. Kt-B2!

Not 48. RxB, Q-K8 mate.

48. ... P-K5!!

The only move.

49. R/2xB

49. RxKP, QxP; 50. RxB, R-R7ch; 51. K-B1, R-Kt7 should win for Black, but gives White better chances than the game continuation.

49. ... PxBch

If 49...R-R7ch; 50. K-Q1!

50. KxP QxPch  
 51. K-Kt2 R-QKt8  
 52. R-K8ch

If 52. RxP, R-QKt7 wins.

52. ... R-Kt1  
 53. Kt-K4 Q-B3?

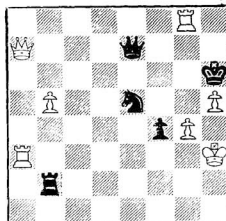
53...Q-B5 wins at once.

54. R/8-K7 R-KB1  
 55. K-Kt3 Q-Kt3  
 56. R-Q4 Q-Kt8  
 57. Kt-B6 Q-Kt8ch

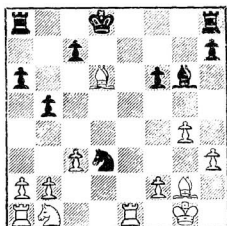
Resigns.

Bill Adams of San Jose writes: "P= Game No. 340: If Rinaldo plays 27...KtXR (instead of 27...PxB) and follows by playing ...Kt-B7, cleaning off both White rooks, how does Rivise win or even draw?"

Rivise replies: "Quite right, Bill. Neither player saw this at the time."



Shades of Philidor! The great Frenchman would have liked the finish to a game of skittles recently played at the Mechanics' Institute



in San Francisco. To the accompaniment of the usual amount of kibitzing, Fred Arvidson (Black) discovered a sort of Philidor's Legacy on the side of the board. Playing White was Dick Keil.

Fred continued: 1. ... Q-R5ch  
2. KxQ R-R7ch  
3. K-R3 Kt-B6 mate!

#### TWO "MUSTS" FOR YOUR CHESS CALENDAR

May or June of 1957 brings the first coast-to-coast tour by European chess greats in history. Ten Yugoslav Grandmasters and Masters, sponsored by the Yugoslav Chess Tour Committee headed by ever-active Al Bisno, will make three or more day appearances in some 20 chess centers. Headed by Svetozar Gligoric, Dr. Trifunovic, Milic, Karaklaic, Metanovic, Djurasevic, Sokolov, Ugrinovic, Bozic and Rakic, representing Belgrade's mighty PARTIZAN C.C., will lecture, present simultaneous exhibitions and engage in team matches. Southern and northern California chess fans have been assured of spots on the tour.

Individual and team records are not given because of limitations of space, but this group takes its collective hat off to no chess aggregation, including the Russians.

Date No. 2, tentatively set for the first week in February, 1957, brings genial I. A. ("Al") Horowitz, editor and publisher of CHESS REVIEW, three time U.S. Open Champ, and member of the first U.S. team to bring America the World Championship, on his 14th Transcontinental Chess Tour. Al will lecture and play in simultaneous. Two San Francisco dates have been booked as we go to press.

**REPORTER TASKS:** Only nine solvers shared our problem-solving contest, but since they represent widely different areas of California, and since they include a number of very strong problemists, we feel that the contest will be worth-while.

At the end of the first round, the standings are:

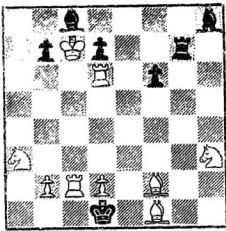
11 points: Sven Almgren, Los Angeles; D.J. Foley, San Jose; E.C. Jonas, San Francisco; Dr. Horace C. Pitkin, San Francisco; Jerry Slavich, Salinas.  
6 points: Phil Foley, San Jose.  
2 points: R.J. Gardner, San Diego; D.H. Hosea, San Diego; L.S. Wells, Pleasant Hill.

Remember, all you potential solvers, that everyone who sends in solutions will win a prize, sooner or later. As each man at the top of the field wins, he loses his points and drops to the bottom. We are contemplating awarding a semi-annual prize for top score in the ladder, all points earned being counted in cumulative fashion.

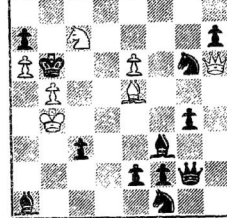
Last month we neglected to state that an incorrect solution receives one point.

Here goes for the second round! Tasks Nos. 101 and 102 are both worth 7 points.

TASK No. 101  
White Mates in Three



TASK No. 102  
White Mates in Three



**ANSWERS:** Task No. 99: The key is R(K3)-R5. Note that the try 1. Kt-B7, Kt-K1; 2. Kt-Q8 fails due to 2...P-K5 discovered check. This fooled several solvers. Task No. 100: The key is 1. Q-K3. The problems were by J.G. Campbell and A.I. Kozlov, respectively.

All solutions should be sent to: Dr. H. J. Ralston  
 164 Edgewood Avenue  
 San Francisco 17, Calif.

Remember! Include several leading variations.