

CHESS NUTS

DEC 1955



REB

SAN QUENTIN CHESS CLUB DIRECTORY

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David Hansen

VICE-PRESIDENT

Duane Hall

SECRETARY

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RATING STATISTICIAN

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***** *
* CHESS-NUTS, the chess bulletin printed *
* monthly by the members of the San *
* Quentin Chess Club through the cour- *
* tesy of the Recreation Department, Mr. *
* Clemitt L. Swagerty, Supervisor. In- *
* formation contained in this bulletin *
* is intended for all classes of play - *
* ers as instructive material in helping *
* them to improve upon their chess game. *
***** *

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
EDITORIAL

Since establishment of the chess club only three short months ago, a great deal of progress has been made. One of the important functions of the club is the printing once each month of a small bulletin on chess, entitled "CHESS-NUTS". It was believed that this would help create more interest in the club, but most important that it would serve as an instructive bulletin for those members who could not or would not take the time to study the many fine books written about chess.

One issue was all that was necessary to prove that this was a wise decision. Members received the first issue with enthusiasm, even though it was quite small and had very few features. Now all that was necessary was to enlarge it and make it more diversified.

Future issues will include regular club standings, match results, a section on Openings as well as the news and announcements to keep members informed of club activities. In addition, there will be other articles that may be of interest to the different classes of players.

Members of the club should realize that many hours of work, study and research are necessary to print each month's copy. The editorial staff is small, but quite adequate. It consists of players who show a genuine interest in chess, and realize the value of such a bulletin. From time to time, changes in the Editorial staff may be made so that members with talent for this type of work can be put to work helping to make it better.

Every club member should take an interest and should feel free to make suggestions at any time. Remember! It takes the help of all to make any venture a success.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A letter was received from Mrs. George Koltanowski informing our club that her husband was on a tour of the states and that as soon as he returned he would answer our letter setting a date for his visit here.

A former member of the Hakoah chess club of San Francisco states that he is now a member of the strong Golden Gate Chess Club and that we should contact Mr. Henry Gross, club President and master player, for a match against their team in the near future.

The San Rafael Chess club contacted Mr. Swagerty of the Recreation Department informing him that they would like to engage the San Quentin team in a match some week-day evening. Arrangements will be made for this match as soon as possible.

The Colgate Palmolive-Peet chess club of Berkeley has temporarily discontinued their chess club as the President of their club no longer works for that company. They state that they will contact us when they are re-organized.

A special election was held on Saturday, November 12, 1955 to fill the unexpired term of former Secretary, Duane Hall, who became Vice-President when Snyder was transferred.

It took three ballots to elect a new Secretary with Montie Carter receiving a large majority and winning by a margin of 20-9.

John Nolte was appointed Rating Statistician to take over that work when former statistician, Montie Carter, became Secretary.

Four new members were added to the club during the past month to fill vacancies created when one member was transferred and three others felt that they had too little time available for this activity.

The club welcomes these new members and hopes that they will enjoy the time spent at chess. New members admitted were Barrios, Perrin, Morre and Corrigan.

Duane Hall, former club Secretary, in the meantime became the new Vice-President when Snyder was transferred.

Opponents were drawn for the Championship round for the institution title and champion of the "B" team or group II:

This contest is to be a knock-out type affair whereby all players play a single game against the opponent they draw. They are eliminated from further play when they are defeated by two different opponents.

This drawing continues until all opponents have been eliminated except the best player of Group I and the best player of Group II. These two players will play a short match to determine Absolute Champion, with the loser being champion of Group II.

Cutter Laboratories chess club of Berkeley, which is a member of the Bay Area Industrial League, has expressed an interest in playing at San Quentin although they state they have a small chess team. They are notifying their League tournament director to see if other clubs of their league would like to visit here to play matches or perhaps several of the clubs will combine into one group for this trip.

CLUB STANDINGS

November 26, 1955

1- Brown	21- Boren
2- Hansen	22- Campos
3- Green	23- Fluty
4- Goldsmith	24- Albritton
5- Sensell	25- Hill
6- Carter	26- Till
7- Kressen	27- Essely
8- Nolte	28- Petry
9- McQuerry	29- Glover
10- Gibbs	30- Mistriel
11- Hall	31- Tafoya
12- Moore	32- Zabrenski
13- Williamson	33- Barrios
14- Henderson	34- Moore
15- Nagidow	35- Perrin
16- Duncan	36- Corrigan
17- Rexinger	37- Rodriguez
18- Rose	38- Kinnon
19- Carstens	39- Morris
20- Garcia	40- open

RESULTS OF RECENT MATCHESNovember 12, 1955

2	Moore	1	Jayne
2	Kressen	1	Nolte
2	Henderson	0	Magidow
2	Garcia	1	Boren
2	Perrin	1	Barrios
2	Moore	1	Barrios
2	Perrin	1	Moore
2	Sensell	0	Carter
2	Hansen	0	Brown

November 19, 1955

2	Gibbs	0	Hill
2	Carter	0	Kressen
2	Williamson	0	Henderson
1½	Magidow	1½	Duncan
2	Rexinger	0	Carstens
2	Fluty	1	Hill
2	Rexinger	0	Rose
2	Brown	1	Hansen
2	Nolte	0	McQuerry
2	Barrios	1	Perrin

MATCH NEWS

During the month Hansen re-won board one and after three weeks lost it again to Brown.

Rexinger has shown a steady increase for the past few weeks, starting at board 25 and advancing to board 18!!!

Moore continues to show a steady pace during the past month and a half. He originally started at board 20 and is now playing board 13!!!

Gibbs is another member who is making a strong bid for one of the top boards, advancing from board 19 to board 11, but the past four weeks have left him standing at board 11, though not for long, perhaps.

CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT RESULTS

ROUND 1

Round 2

<u>Winners</u>	<u>Losers</u>	<u>Winners</u>	<u>Losers</u>
Hall	Magidow	Boren	Hill
Flobr	Duncan	Mistriel	Till
Hansen	Brown	Campos	Garcia
Henderson	Rose	Glover	Carstens
Jayne	Nolte	Moore	Hall
Moore	Williamson	Hansen	McQuerry
McQuerry	Carter	Henderson	Jayne (for)
Mistriel	Williams	Carter	Magidow
Garcia	Tafoya	Brown	Nolte
Boren	Carstens	Rose	<u>bye</u>
Till	Rexinger		
Hill	Easely		
Campos	Glover		
Goldsmith	<u>bye</u>		

Two losses for any player eliminates that player from further competition as the above type tournament is a "knock-out" affair with a single game being played against the opponent drawn for each round.

Carstens and Magidow have been eliminated after suffering two defeats.

Nolte gets another chance because Jayne has withdrawn from play temporarily.

A surprise was when Mistriel defeated both Williams and Till, who were ahead of him in the regular standings.

A total of 27 players are taking part in the championship play-offs, being played at the rate of one game per week.

Play will continue until the best player of the "B" group is left and the best of the "A" group. They will play a short match for the championship.

WORLD CHESS CHAMPIONS SINCE 1851

- 1851-58 Adolph Anderssen; Breslau, Germany
- 1858-62 Paul Morphy; New Orleans, Louisiana
(Morphy retired from the game after winning the championship because he found no one throughout the world who could beat him. He beat all the masters in brilliant style. He was only 20 years of age when he became champion.)
- 1862-66 Adolph Anderssen; Breslau, Germany
(Anderssen again assumed the title when Morphy retired.)
- 1866-94 William Steinitz; Vienna, Austria
(Steinitz assumed the title by also beating Anderssen, the first world's Champion and a German master, too.)
- 1894-1921 Emanuel Lasker; Berlin, Germany
- 1921-27 Jose R. Capablanca; Havana, Cuba
- 1927-35 Alexander A. Alekhine; Moscow, Russia
- 1935-37 Dr. Max Euwe; Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 1937-46 Alexander A. Alekhine; Moscow, Russia
(Alexander Alekhine had lost the title to Euwe in 1935 but regained it in 1937 in a return match. Alekhine died in 1946.)
- 1946-8 Mikhail Botvinnik; Leningrad, Russia
In a 20 game match between Botvinnik, Euwe, Fine, Keres, Smyslov and Reshevsky, Botvinnik emerged the winner to take over the championship left vacant by Alekhine's passing.

GAMES OF INTEREST

The following games may be of interest to some of the club's players and may give them an idea of the strength of the top boards of some of the clubs which will visit here in the near future.

They were played on board on against Mr. Leslie Talcott, who was champion of Berkeley in 1954 and who won the championship of Alameda in February 1955. Mr. Talcott has twice visited San Quentin, playing the writer six times. He lost five games and drew one.

This was a double round contest played on March 12, 1955.

White: Mr. Les Talcott

Black: Hansen

White: Hansen

Black: Mr. Les Talcott

1- P-Q4	N-KB3	1- P-QB4	N-KB3
2- P-QB4	P-KN3	2- N-QB3	P-KN3
3- N-QB3	B-N2	3- P-KN3	B-N2
4- P-K4	P-Q3	4- B-N2	O-O
5- P-KB3	O-O	5- P-K4	P-Q3
6- B-N5	Q-N-Q2	6- P-Q4	P-K4
7- Q-Q2	P-K4	7- B-K3	N-N5
8- KN-K2	P-QB3	8- Q-Q2	NxB
9- B-R6	N-K1	9- PxN	N-Q2
10- BxB	NxB	10- N-B3	N-N3
11- P-KN4	PxP	11- P-N3	P-QR4
12- NxP	N-K4	12- O-O	B-Q2
13- Q-KB2	Q-N3	13- PxP	PxP
14- P-KR3	QxN	14- Kr-Q1	P-QB3
15- Q-N3	N-Q6ch	15- P-B5	N-B5
16- BxN	QxB	16- QxB	NxKp
17- R-Q1	Q-K6ch	17- QxQ	KRxQ
18- N-K2	B-K3	18- RxRch	RxR
19- P-QN3	KR-Q1	19- K-B2	NxB
20- P-KR4	P-Q4	20- KxN	P-KB4
21- BPxP	PxP	21- R-K1	R-Q6
22- K-B1	PxP	22- N-R4	PxP
23- RxRch	RxR	23- RxP	R-Q8
24- Resigns		24- N-N6	R-QB8

(cont. next page)

WORLD OPENING PRINCIPLES

- 25. N-B4 R-B7ch In ooth games play-
 - 26. K-R3 R-RP ed on board one, it
 - 27. KNxKP P-K5 is quite evident that
 - 28. N-Q7 B-R3 their were a number
 - 29. PxP KxRP of mistakes made by
 - 30. R-K8ch K-N2 both sides, but that
 - 31. N-Q6 B-N4 is understandable
 - 32. N-KB8 R-Q5 when one remembers
 - 33. N-K8ch K-R3 that the tension is
 - 34. N-K5 Resigns enough to make both
- players overlook seemingly easy moves.

The following game was played on board one against Mr. A. B. Stamer of Mechanics Institute on August 4, 1952 when the writer had less than two years experience to Mr. Stamer's more than 30 odd years as a member of the Mechanic's Institute team.

White: Mr. A. B. Stamer
 Black: Hansen

- 1- P-Q4 N-KB3 19- BxB PxB
- 2- N-KB3 P-K3 20- Q-R5 P-B4
- 3- P-K3 P-Q4 21- Q-N5ch K-R1
- 4- B-Q3 Q-N-Q2 22- Q-B6ch K-N1
- 5- Q-N-Q2 B-Q3 23- B-B4 B-B3
- 6- P-K4 PxP 24- K-Q3 Resigns
- 7- NxP NxB
- 8- BxN N-KB3 The invading of Black's
- 9- B-Q3 P-QB4 King position crushes
- 10- PxP BxP all resistance.
- 11- Q-O O-O
- 12- B-KN5 B-K2
- 13- Q-K2 Q-N3
- 14- P-Q3 B-Q2
- 15- N-K5 B-K1
- 16- N-n4 Q-Q5
- 17- QR-Q1 Q-N5
- 18- NxN BxN

when seriously pressed, when you find your self being cramped, or in any way losing control of your fair share of the board.

MORE OPENING PRINCIPLES

- 1- When capturing with the pawn, capture towards the center; where it might otherwise seem a matter of indifference. Doubled pawns are mostly compensated by open files, giving play to Rooks for attack. But, then free exchange of pieces should be avoided; such pawns being bad in the ending - in a close finish.
- 2- Refrain from pushing any Rook pawn merely to prevent Bishop attacking Knight - or pinning, as it is called. Let the Bishop come in, if he will; then attack him with pawn - if advisable.
- 3- Forbear pinning any Knight with a Bishop, unless you are prepared for an immediate exchange, or have an ulterior motive in mind.
- 4- Develop the piece of lesser range, Knight, when you have the option of developing either one, Bishop or Knight.
- 5- If your Queen is out on the King side, beware of Knight or Bishop attacking her.
- 6- Support of every force attacked for the time being should be well assured.
- 7- Look out for Queen checking at QR-4.
- 8- During the period of development, and after, Bishops and Knights readily combine against the points KB-2 and QB-2; while either Kt2 is peculiarly liable to surprise by hostile Queen. The best way to guard these points is by means of your own Bishops and Knights, opposing or interposing - not by pawn advance, in prevention.
- 9- When seriously pressed, when you find yourself being cramped, or in any way losing control of your fair share of the board,

exchange freely - or as freely as you can.

10. Beware of engaging in open combination before Castling, especially if you are playing second. Your King may be directly involved, with serious consequences.
11. Be careful not to unnecessarily advance any of the pawns from about your castled king, especially when defending. Leave them severely alone until their movement is forced, and in 9 cases out of 10 your defense will be all the stronger.
12. Do not be in haste to castle in a "waiting game"; such for instance, as the Giuoco Piano. Do not advance pawns towards the side you think your opponent is going to castle. He may castle on the opposite side. Beware of castling when your adversary has, or can force, an open file bearing on your castled King. When you are castled Kr, beware of adverse Knight posted at his KB-5. Prevent his entrance there by means of your own Knight or Bishop, or when he arrives there get rid of him in exchange as soon as you can, but be careful how you keep him out, or drive him off, by means of your King Knight pawn. When castled QR, and there is attack, pressing or in prospect, against your King, do not hurry away into the corner. Remember that in such circumstances, with King at B1, a Kt at QKt-1 may furnish the basis of your most powerful defence.
13. In close games, the King Bishop is better first disposed at K-2, if the main play is to be made on the Q-side; at Q3, if mid-game King-Side maneuvers are principally intended. Also, when in doubt as to what turn affairs may take, post the Bishop at K-2; thus probably better defending King and leaving Queen free play in center. There are exceptions, of course.

and as you can. SAMPLES OF OPENINGS

To the player who wishes to acquaint himself with various Openings and Defences, a few are given here. It is particularly advisable that a player should ascertain for himself the why and wherefore of certain moves, the habit of playing a series of book moves by heart leading to disaster when the opponent deviates from the "book".

QUEEN'S GAMBIT ACCEPTED SLAM DEFENCE

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| 1- P-Q4 | P-Q4 | 1- P-Q4 | P-Q4 |
| 2- P-QB4 | PxP | 2- P-QB4 | P-B3 |
| 3- Kt-KB3 | Kt-KB3 | 3- Kt-KB3 | Kt-B3 |
| 4- P-K3 | P-K3 | 4- Kt-B3 | PxP |
| 5- BxP | P-B4 | 5- R-QR4 | B-B4 |
| 6- O-O | P-QR3 | 6- P-K3 | P-K3 |
| 7- C-K2 | Kt-B3 | 7- BxP | B-QKt5 |
| 8- R-Q1 | P-Ckt4 | 8- C-O | O-O |

COLLE SYSTEM

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENCE

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| 1- P-Q4 | P-Q4 | 1- P-Q4 | Kt-KB3 |
| 2- Kt-KB3 | Kt-KB3 | 2- P-QB4 | P-K3 |
| 3- P-K3 | P-B4 | 3- Kt-QB3 | B-Kt5 |
| 4- P-B3 | P-K3 | 4- Q-B2 | P-Q4 |
| 5- Ckt-Q2 | Kt-B3 | 5- PxP | CxP |
| 6- P-Q3 | B-Q3 | 6- P-K3 | P-B4 |
| 7- O-O | O-O | 7- R-QR3 | Bxktch |
| 8- PxP | BxP | 8- PxP | O-O |

RUY LOPEZ

SICILIAN DEFENCE

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|--------|
| 1- P-K4 | P-K4 | 1- P-K4 | P-QB4 |
| 2- Kt-KB3 | Kt-QB3 | 2- Kt-KB3 | P-K3 |
| 3- Kt-Q4 | Kt-B3 | 3- P-Q4 | PxP |
| 4- O-O | KtxP | 4- KtxP | Kt-KB3 |
| 5- P-Q4 | B-K2 | 5- Kt-QB3 | P-C3 |
| 6- C-K2 | Kt-Q3 | 6- B-K2 | Kt-B3 |
| 7- BxN | KtXB | 7- Q-C3 | B-K2 |
| 8- PxP | Kt-K2 | 8- K-R1 | P-QR3 |

MIDDLE GAME TACTICS

If, in the Opening, a player obtains a pawn superiority on the King's side, -then these pawns advance to the attack. If white has pawns at his K5 and KB5, the result is either a passed pawn at his K6 or a wedge driven into Black's position at KB6, or the breaking up of Black's castled position.

If the pawn superiority is on the Queen's side, then the pawns advance and a passed pawn results.

In chess, to play correctly, we can never do what we wish, we must do only what we are forced to do, what the position demands.

Positional play, that is to say, playing according to the position, is the only correct method, and from it combinations result of themselves. We must attack where we are strong and our opponents weak. We should always attempt to occupy the strong points in our own and the weak points in our opponent's game, at the same time striving to prevent the occupation of such points by our opponent.

When a player has an advantage in material, he must be careful about entering into doubtful combinations and thus let victory slip from his grasp.

We must attempt to advance a backward pawn, and above all, to catch up our opponent in development if we have lagged behind. In addition we shall attempt, as soon as our opponent allows us sufficient time, to play to a better position a badly posted piece.

In Position play, a premature flank attack should be punished by play in the center. (breakthrough in, or occupation of, the center).

A SHORT HISTORY OF CHESS

The best authorities agree that chess existed in India before it is known to have been played anywhere else. We have the game then passing from the Hindus to the Persians, thence to the Arabians after they took possession of Persia in the 7th century, and from whom directly or indirectly it came to various parts of Europe, at a time which cannot be definitely fixed upon, but which was either in or before the 11th century.

Other peoples credited with inventing the pastime are the Greeks, Romans, Babylonians, Scythians, Egyptians, Jews, Chinese, Araucanians, Castilians, Irish and Welsh. Many attempts have even been made to fix upon particular individuals as the originators of the game, but much of this information has been derived from myths and fables, with little real proof to back up these attempts.

In 1938, Dr. A. E. Speiser, heading a group of scientists in an exploration sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania and the American School of Oriental Research, excavated pieces of terra cotta believed to have been used as chess "men" in Mesopotamia 6,000 years ago.

The discovery was made on the fourteenth level of the site of ancient Tepe Gawra in Northern Iraq, which belongs, according to some scientists, to the El Obeid period, which existed 5,500 to 6,000 years ago. Some authorities on chess raise a question about the terra cotta pieces being chessmen, since no board of any kind was found with them. But scientists say that with the statement that years earlier there was uncovered a circular board belonging to the Byzantine Era, which might have been a chess board, thus, tracing chess back 50 or more centuries.

The first historical document known connected with chess is an inscription on a tablet in a pyramid at Gizeh, dating back to 3,000 years before Christ.

Chess now is the universal name of the game and is played throughout the world. The first writings on the game were in 1200 A.D. (or 1300 A.D.) by Jacobus de Cessolis, a Dominican Friar. It was translated into French and then into English and was published in 1479, being printed in Cologne, Germany. The book proved so popular that a second printing was made in England. It is believed that this was the first book ever printed from metal type in England.

Chess formerly, when first introduced into Europe, was played only by the upper classes and the nobility, but as the nobility declined in power the game spread to all classes and soon reached a popularity which no other game has ever equaled.

In the early years the rules of chess were different in all countries, but gradually were improved until about 1500 A.D. they became uniform throughout the world.

In the 17th century, Italy produced the strongest players with Giacchino Greco being the greatest of that era.

The famous French musical composer, Francois Andre Danican (known as Philidor) was the champion of the 18th century, ruling over all for more than 40 years.

Ruy Lopez of Spain was the first player to gain recognition as a blindfold player. This was copied by others between 1550-1570. Philidor used to play three players blindfold at the same time, but that was nothing compared with the 45 played by Miquel Najdorf of Argentina in the year 1945 at Mar del Plata.

The popularity of chess increased in all Europe and finally in 1851 the first international tournament was held in London and was won by Professor Anderssen of Germany.

Chess literature by far exceeds that of all other games combined. More than 5,000 volumes on chess have been written, and weekly or monthly magazines solely devoted to chess are published in all countries, so that chess, has, so to speak, become an international universal language.

WORLD'S BLINDFOLD CHAMPION

The name George Koltanowski is familiar to most chess players. In addition to being an International Chess Master, he has been for many years the recognized blindfold champion of the World, setting many records throughout the years.

He is also a former champion of Belgium, which title he won when a young man.

In February 1934 Alekhine and Koltanowski played a tandem blindfold simultaneous exhibition (without consultation!) at Antwerp against 24 players, all of first-class strength, consulting at six boards. The blindfold players won three, drew two and lost one game. The difficulty of such a feat may be appreciated by Koltanowski's subsequent statement to the effect that this exhibition had tired him more than playing 30 games blindfold simultaneously in the "ordinary" manner!!

In December of 1951 at the Marine's Memorial Club in San Francisco he established a World's Blindfold record by playing 50 consecutive chess games blindfolded in 8 hours and 45 minutes. He won 43, lost 2 and drew five. No one had ever played 50 blindfold games before in anything like that time. He played them one after another, ten seconds to a move. About 1500 persons watched this exhibition of chess skill.

On December 5, 1949 he set another record, although not in blindfold play. He played 271 simultaneous games in 12 hours, losing only three and drawing 17 in the process.

On yet another occasion, in August 1955, at the Hotel Biltmore in Los Angeles, he played a simultaneous exhibition on 110 boards, winning 89 games, while losing 4 and drawing 17.

The provoking of weaknesses is one of the great achievements of the positional method of playing chess; first constrict your opponent's position; then provoke weaknesses in his game; finally exploit the newly created weaknesses.

Whenever possible, seize the initiative; hold it; make good use of it!

Pawn centers are strong or weak depending on the uses to which they are put.

The difference between defending a weakness and attacking a weakness is the difference between being condemned to passivity and being privileged to enjoy the initiative. A weakness is a hostage to fortune; the player who has a potential weakness must always worry about it; it gives him bleak prospects for the ending; his forces are deflected from constructively aggressive action.

PRINCIPLE OF DIVERSION

As attacks in chess occur in the center or on the wings, the principle of diversion as applied works as follows: an attack on the wing is met by a counterattack in the center or on the other wing; an attack in the center is met by a counterattack on the wing.

Diversion is necessary only when the attack cannot be met adequately by direct means, such as an attack in the center by a defense in the center, or a wing attack by a wing defense.

THE KNIGHT'S GAMBIT

by John Molte

Back in history we find many references to chess as a war game, as well as chess played purely for its recreational value. At one time, during the Crusades it had a much more valuable aspect.

It seems that one of the Christian Kings had found himself surrounded by Sultanic forces. The leaders for both sides were widely known. They had both gained fame as men of strong heart, and their opponents - though they hated them - respected them.

During the seige, one of the King's attendants struck upon the idea of saving his Regent's life - as well as preserving the honor which he knew his Monarch possessed. He well knew that the King played an excellent game of chess. He knew, too, that the Arabian Shiek, who now held them at his mercy, was an accomplished chess player. The attendant, a Knight whose name we shall never know, made the suggestion to his King that the King and the Sultan vie across the chess board to determine the outcome of the immediate battle. His plan pleased the King and he immediately sent the Knight and a party, under a flag of truce, to convince the Shiek of the more humane way to settle the battle.

Surprisingly enough, the Sultan accepted the plan - but only on his own terms: (1) If the Sultan won, the Christians would be kept prisoner - (2) If the Christian King won, the Western forces would be sent home disarmed - (3) If a draw, the Christians could keep their arms, but would have to return to Europe; surely, any of the alternatives were a victory for the Sultan, but at least their lives were spared.

At the time appointed the two leaders sat across from each other with a chess board between them. The Sultan played white, the King black. A gentle reminder that the Moslems were the attackers - the Christians the defenders.

The moves of the game have been lost to antiquity. Chances are, with each move the onlookers smiled grimly or looked with awe at their favorite's move. The game went down to the point that Black had a King, pawn and Knight against the white's King, and Queen. It was a dark hour for the Christian forces. But the move came up where Black could fork the King and Queen, but would lose his pawn in so doing. He played N-Q4ch. White looked with dismay - then played King takes pawn. Black played NxQ and the game was drawn. Brought about by a Knight and saved by a Knight - truly a Knight's Gambit.

BLINDFOLD RECORDS

When Philidor played three blindfold games simultaneously in 1783, affidavits were drawn up attesting the fact of this performance, as chess players of that day doubted that future generations would believe such an astounding tour de force was possible. Yet Blackburne, a few years after he had learned the moves, was able to play 10 games with ease! A little later he played as many as 16 - which record was equalled by Zukertort. Pillsbury played 12 and 16 games as a matter of routine. The highest number he ever attained was 22 games (Moscow, 1902).

The record stood for almost twenty years until Reti surpassed it with 24, being in turn outdistanced by Breyer with 25. In 1924, after

the New York Tournament, Dr. Alekhine played 26 games and the following year he shattered this record in Paris with 28 games. A few months later, at San Paolo, Reti raised the number to 29 games, which was later exceeded by Koltanowski with 30! In 1937, Alekhine reached the staggering total of 32 games. Since then this record has been broken by Miguel Najdorf of Argentina with an unbelievable total of 45 games, played at Mar del Plate in 1945 and simultaneously!!

OTHER CURIOUS CHESS FACTS

Carl Schlechter was known as the "Drawing Master." This trait was characteristic of him not only in single games, but in his matches with others as well; for out of the nine matches he contested during his career, no less than seven were drawn! Even Dr. Lasker at the time he was World Champion, could not win a match from Schlechter!

A book published in German whose title is "Advice to Spectators at Chess Tournaments" is completely blank with the exception of one page. On this page there are but two words: "Halt's Maul" (Keep your mouth shut!)

Lilienthal was a holder of the World's record for simultaneous play, his score being 145 wins, 22 draws, and 35 losses against an array of 202 boards!!

More than 10,000 women players took part in the eliminatin' sections for the Russian women's chess championship in 1936!!

CORRECTIONS FOR PREVIOUS ISSUE:

In the November 1955 issue the following corrections should be noted in the games played against Mr. George Koltanowski:

FIRST GAME

13. P_xKP -----
21. ----- Kt-K5
26. Q-K7ch -----

SECOND GAME

29. ----- R(5)-Q5
30. BxBP

CHESS NOTATION METHOD:

It becomes necessary on many occasions to be able to quickly write down a chess position. Perhaps the quickest and best method known is called the FORSYTHE NOTATION.

In this system you scan the position from left to right, starting with the "top" line, Black's first rank, as on a diagram without squares. Use capital letters for white men, small letters for the Black men, numbers for vacant squares. A blank rank would simply be 8.

Here is a sample of this method:

```
r 1 b q k 1 n r  
p p p 2 p p p  
1 b n p 4  
4 p 3  
2 B P P 3  
2 P 2 N 2  
P 4 P P P  
R N B Q K 2 R
```

SOLUTION TO ENDING: (1) P-R7, N-B2 (2) P-R8(Q)ch, N_xQ; (3) P-K7, N-B2; (4) K-B8, K-Q2; (5) P-K8(Q)ch, N_xQ. Stalemate.

