

# HERMAN STEINER

UNEXPECTEDLY after playing a tournament game in the California State Championship, Herman Steiner died of a heart attack on Friday, November 25, 1955 at Los Angeles. The Tournament was immediately cancelled in honor of his memory.

Born in Hungary, Steiner came to the USA at an early age and his chess career is identified with the United States of which he was national champion from 1948 to 1951. His tournament honors were many. He was first in the Premier Reserves at Hastings in 1929, New York State Champion 1929-30, shared the U. S. Open Championship with D. A. Yanofsky in 1942, won first place in Section A of the London International Master Tournament in 1946 and in the same year became U. S. Open Champion. He was a member of the U. S. team in the International Team Matches at The Hague, Hamburg, and Prague, and captained the U. S. team at Dubrovnik; he also played on the U. S. team that journeyed to Moscow last year as well as the team that visited Moscow in 1946. He

also competed in many other international events in Europe, including the Interzonal Tourney at Saltsjobaden.

But brilliant as he was as a player (and no one could be more brilliant upon occasion than Herman Steiner); it is not as a player but as an organizer, teacher and promoter of chess that he should be remembered. The two great Pan-American Tournaments in Hollywood were fitting tribute to his organizing genius, and his authoritative chess column in the Los Angeles Times speaks for his ability as a publicist of chess. The testimony of his gift as a teacher of the game lives on in such players as James Cross, Larry Remlinger, and Mrs. Jacqueline Piatigorsky, to name but three gifted pupils. Excelling as a simultaneous exhibitor, in his many trips across the country, Steiner did as much as any man (and more than most) to make chess popular and attractive to the public, for he was both showman and master. Not the least of his debtors is the U. S. Chess Federation to whose benefit he diverted many hours of his time in promotion, advice and assistance, both while a USCF Vice-President and while only a member.

His untimely passing at the early age of 50 is a grievous blow to chess, for few could match his own exuberant optimism which by its breezy fervor often accomplished what originally had seemed impossible.

We know that all chess players in America (and many in lands beyond the seas) will join us in expressing our grief and our most sincere sympathy to his widow, Selma Steiner, and his two sons, Eugene and Armin. Their loss is greater than ours, but ours has not been less grievous.

We will miss you, Herman.

**Chess Life**

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