

U. S. Has 3 Chess Clubs for Deaf—All Located in California

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

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Emil Ladner of Berkeley, Calif., is one of our country's most interesting chess personalities. He is editor of "The Silent Worker," the national magazine for the deaf, and takes advantage of the opportunity to edit a chess column for deaf chess players.

Mr. Ladner states that there are only three chess clubs for the deaf in the United States—and they are all in California! The oldest one is in Berkeley, the other two being in Sacramento and Los Angeles.

At the present time, Mr. Ladner is playing a five-game match with Robert H. Kannapell of Jeffersonville, Ind., for the National Chess Championship of the Deaf. Both players won the preliminary rounds which took three years of play by mail. Mr. Ladner has taken the lead in the match by winning the first game, the score of which is given below. The notes to the game are by Mr. Ladner.

FRENCH DEFENSE

White—Emil Ladner

Black—R. H. Kannapell

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| 1 P-K4 | P-K3 |
| 2 P-Q4 | P-Q4 |
| 3 Kt-QB3 | B-Kt5 |
| 4 P-K5 | P-QB4 |
| 5 P-QR3 | BxKtch |
| 6 PxB | Kt-K2 |
| 7 Kt-B3 | Q-R4 |
| 8 B-Q2 | P-B5 |
| 9 P-Kt3 | B-Q2 |
| 10 B-Kt2 | B-B3 |
| 11 Castles | Kt-Q2 |
| 12 Q-Kt1 | Q-R5 |
| 13 Kt-R4 | Castles-K |
| 14 P-B4 | QKt-Kt3 |
| 15 P-B5 | PxP |
| 16 KtxP | KtxKt |
| 17 RxKt | Q-R4 |
| 18 Q-QB1 | Kt-R5 |

Here B-Q2 should have been played.

- | | |
|----------|-------|
| 19 B-R6! | QxP |
| 20 BxKtP | B-Q2 |
| 21 R-Kt5 | QxPch |
| 22 K-R1 | B-K3? |

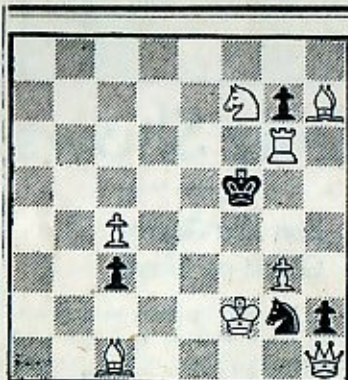
An oversight, but there is no adequate defense against B-B6. For example: 22—KR-B1; 23—B-B6ch, K-B1; 24—R-Kt8ch! KxR; 25—Q-Kt5ch, K-B1; 26—Q-Kt7ch, K-K1; 27—Q-Kt8 mate. Or if 22—P-B3; 23—BxPch, K-B2; 24—R-Kt7ch; K-K1; 25—R-K7ch,

K-Q1; 26—RxBch with an overwhelming advantage. 23 B-B6 mate.

We should like to take a little time out to talk about the solving of chess problems. Approximately 40 per cent of our solvers missed Task No. 1. It should be remembered that the composer of a chess problem is doing his best to outwit you, so don't jump too hastily at the first reasonable-looking move you see! Examine all possible defenses that black has at his disposal. The key-move of the great majority of chess problems is neither a capture nor a check. Almost always, it is a "quiet" move, which creates a mating threat by subtle means.

Keep Trying

Don't become discouraged if you miss the correct solution to a few tasks. You will be surprised how quickly you will become proficient at seeing through problems. For a short time, at least, we shall present problems which would be considered fairly easy by an experienced problem solver. Sooner or later, however, we will have to give some more



Task No. 3 - By G. Heathcote
White Mates in Two Moves
(Value 4 points)

Answer to Task No. 2: Q-K2

difficult ones, in order to break the tie at the top of the solvers' ladder.

We cannot omit remarking the splendid response of our readers to the first two chess columns. It all goes to prove the correctness of what we have been asserting for many years, that there is no greater fraternity on earth than that which exists between the lovers of our great game.

No Dues

Chess is a fraternity that has no ritual, that requires no dues, and that needs no paraphernalia aside from chessmen and board. Fourteen hundred years of con-

tinuous history can't be wrong!

The magazine "Time" recently estimated that there are 1,000,000 chess players in the United States. We are of the opinion that that figure, while impressive, is a considerable under-estimate.

Walter Pafnutieff of San Francisco, one of California's leading chess players, will give a simultaneous exhibition next Tuesday evening at the Golden Gate Chess Club, Hotel Cecil, 545 Post-st, at 8 o'clock. Visitors are welcome, and there will be no charge. Players should bring their own chess sets. The club announces that any one defeating Mr. Pafnutieff will receive a free three-month membership in the club.

Tournament On

The ladder tournament initiated by the Golden Gate Chess Club earlier this month is now in full swing, and has proved to be a very popular feature of the club's activities.

An interesting chess news item from the national front is the announcement that first prize in the United States Open Championship will be \$1500, with a total prize award in excess of \$4000.

This annual tournament, sponsored by the United States Chess Federation, will be played in Milwaukee Aug. 10-21. It looks like this will be the finest Open

tournament yet held, and will, no doubt, draw players from all over the country.

The proposed team match between the United States and the Soviet Union, which had been scheduled to start last Wednesday in New York, has been indefinitely postponed.

The Russian team got as far as Paris, en route to New York, and then returned to Moscow. The ostensible reason for the Russian change of mind was restrictions placed on travel by the Soviet players in New York set by the U. S. State Department.

July 17, 1953