



FIFTH ANNUAL—Some of the top chess players in the world including 23 grandmasters are competing in the fifth annual Louis D. Statham Tournament this week in the new Lone Pine Town Hall. Isaac Kashdan, LA Times chess editor, is again director of the tournament. (Photos by Ed Houghton)

23 grandmasters compete in Lone Pine chess tourney

Twenty three grandmasters, the highest title in chess other than world champion, are competing in the Fifth Annual Louis D. Statham Tournament that began shortly after 1 p.m. Sunday in the Lone Pine Town Hall.

Issac Kashdan, director of play, gave the word that started some 50 contestants concentrating over chess boards with the outcome to be determined on Thursday, April 24. Kashdan said it was a tournament that bordered on the fantastic.

Never had there been so many grandmasters in the U. S. at one time and the number in a single event had been exceeded only in the Chess Olympics.

Among those competing is All a Kushnir, rated the second highest woman player in the world. She is now living in Israel after migrating from Russia.

There will be \$12,500 in prize money with \$4000 going to the winner, \$2500 for second and \$1500 to third place. Others will range (Continued on page 2)

Committees named for July 4 event

The July 4 observance in Independence this year will be a community affair. A central committee has been formed with representatives, from all organizations, groups, churches, and clubs to put together a program.

The central committee as a unit will sponsor the parade and this year a drum and bugle entry from Death Valley is expected.

Rose Caipen, Enid Ashworth, Jean Crawford and Peggy Cook have been named to come up with a slate of committee officers.

Gwen Bell had been assigned by the Civic Club to call a meeting to have a central committee formed.

Following is the committee and the assignments: 4-H Club, Joan Southey and Judy Waggoner, parade entry forms and posters. Garden Club—Peggy Cook and Enid Ashworth, see board of supervisors for assistance. American Legion—Bill Baucum, publicity and parade color guard. American Legion auxiliary—Mary Gillespie

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Leslie Sanders
75 Queen IMA

—Chess tourney

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down to \$200 for seventh to eleventh places. Brilliancy and best played games also will get awards.

Highest rated player is Svetozar Gligoric, of Yugoslavia, winner of the 1972 Statham tournament. Right behind him is Walter Browne, of Berkeley, U. S. champion, and winner in Lone Pine last year. On the international Elo scale Gligoric is at 2593 and Browne at 2554.

They are followed by Borislav Ivkov, Yugoslavia, 2550; Oscar Panno, Argentina, 2545; Lotha Schmidt, West Germany, 2540; Istvan Csom, Hungary, 2530; Milan Matulovic, Yugoslavia, 2530; Florin Gheorghu, Romania, 2521; former U. S. champion Larry Evans, Reno, 2516, and Eugene Torre, Philippines, 2515.

Others rated over 2500 are: former U. S. champion Samuel Reshevsky; Miguel Quinteros, Argentina, and Leonid Shankovich, Israel.

Close to that mark are: Istvan Bilek, Hungary; Pal Benko, Jersey City; Gyoso Forintos, Hungary, and Vladimir Liberzon, Israel.

The remaining grandmasters are: Hector Rossetto, Argentina; Karl Robatsch, Austria; Duncan Suttles and Abe Yanofsky, Canada; Gudmundur Sigurjonsson, Iceland; Herman Pilnik, Venezuela; and Mata Damjanovic, Yugoslavia.

Also playing will be a number of international masters, one rank lower than grandmaster, several U. S. senior masters and a few highly talented juniors.

The Swiss system, a method of pairing is used. Most international tournaments are round robin with rarely more than 16 players.

In the spacious new hall the players are seated at separate tables with name cards so they can be identified by spectators. Play in previous tournaments was in the rather cramped quarters of the American Legion hall.

Play will be Sunday through Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m. If games are not finished they will be resumed from 8 to 10 p.m.

Director Kashdan, who is chess editor of the Los Angeles Times, is being assisted by Carl Budd, of Santa Monica, also a veteran official of the Statham tournament.

Sandwiches and refreshments are prepared daily for the contestants by various Lone Pine organizations including the American Legion, Chamber of Commerce, Southern Inyo Democrats, Business and Professional Women's Club, VFW Auxiliary, Lone Pine Chapter of the Association of Retired Persons, Lions Club, Southern Inyo Hospital Auxiliary and the Mt. Whitney Golf Club.

Friday night the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars will host a dinner for the chess players in the American Legion hall beginning at 7 p.m.

Saturday the players will be taken on a tour through the Alabama hills and a visit to the Eastern California museum and the Mt. Whitney fish hatchery. John Aitchison will be tour guide.

Another trip that will be offered is to the Cerro Gordo mine. Attorney Ben Cohn will be in charge of that one. Starting time will be around 10 a.m. from the Town Hall.

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