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CONTENTS

Game of the Month.....	68-71
Calif. State Chp.: No. Calif. Chp.....	77
Central Calif. Qualifying. 77	
So. Calif. Chp.....	78
Games.....	79
Reporter Tasks.....	80

HERMAN STEINER

It is with the deepest regret that we record the death on November 25, 1955, of international master Herman Steiner. Mr. Steiner had played his fifth-round game in the California State Championship in the afternoon and had postponed his evening game because he felt unwell. At about nine-thirty, while being examined by his physician, he was stricken by a massive coronary occlusion. Death was practically instantaneous.

Out of respect to Mr. Steiner's memory, and by unanimous agreement of the contestants, the State Championship was cancelled.

Mr. Steiner was 50.

In the following pages the editors of THE REPORTER have attempted to pay tribute to Mr. Steiner's memory and convey the sense of loss which we all feel.

THE LATE HERMAN STEINER - The American Chess Bulletin (by permission)

Herman Steiner was born on April 15, 1905, in Dunajaska Freda, Czechoslovakia (then a part of Hungary). He came to New York at an early age and at 16 acquired a knowledge of chess as a member of the Hungarian Chess Club and the Stuyvesant Chess Club.

For a time, too, he was active as a boxer and became proficient in the manly art of self defense.

Thanks to the opportunities offered in the Metropolitan area of New York City, his skill at chess developed rapidly and he was soon among those out front. During 1929 he tied for first place (with J. Bernstein) in the New York State championship tournament at Buffalo. The same year he was first in the Premier Reserves at Hastings, England. A year later, after serving with the American team at Hamburg and revisiting his native Hungary, he was runner-up to Isaac I. Kashdan at Gyor. In 1931, following the international congress at Prague, he finished second to Salo Flohr at Brun.

Leaving New York for the West, Steiner settled in Los Angeles in 1932, became chess editor of the Los Angeles Times that year and ever since has espoused the cause of chess in southern California. From that point of vantage he was in a good position to father two Pan-American tournaments - in 1945 and 1954 - both under the auspices of the Hollywood Chess Group, the clubhouse of which adjoined the Steiner residence. He carried his enthusiasm for the game to such an extent that, in spite of his many promotional duties, entered himself in the arena which drew contestants of the highest grade from far places.

Meanwhile Steiner had been a member of American teams sent abroad by the United States Chess Federation to compete for the international Hamilton-Russell trophy at The Hague, 1928, Hamburg, 1930, Prague, 1931; and later, as United States Champion, was captain of the American team of 1950 at Dubrovnic, Yugoslavia.

He had achieved the goal of his ambition at South Fallsburg, N.Y., in 1948, when he won the United States championship, ahead of Isaac I. Kashdan.

Other highlights of achievement for Steiner included a triple tie for first with Reuben Fine and Arthur W. Dake in Mexico City, 1935; runner-up to D. Pollard in the U.S. Open, Chicago, 1937; second to Fine, U.S. Open, Dallas, 1940; second (again to Fine), U.S. Open, St. Louis, 1941; tie for first (with A. Yanofsky), U.S. Open, Dallas, 1942; third (with I.A. Horowitz), U.S. Championship, New York, 1944.

HERMAN STEINER, 1905-1955



Memorable in the chess career of Herman Steiner was the prominent part he played in the 1945 match between American and Russian teams by radio (New York and Moscow). The Americans were badly beaten, at the top boards in particular. Steiner alone turned in a plus score of $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ against Salo Flohr. The following year, in Moscow, over the board, it was Flohr's turn to win by $1\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$. Against the winning Soviet team at Moscow, 1955, he failed in both games.

Completely enamored of chess, an optimist never so content as when engaged in play, fearing no one as an opponent, and a never-say-die fighter, Herman Steiner was a picturesque and friendly personality in the realm of international chess. He will be missed in many circles, but mostly in California, where his unrelenting efforts over the years left a permanent mark.

(The biographical sketch above was written by Hermann Helms, "dean of American chess," immediately upon receipt of the news of Steiner's death. Mr. Helms, one of Steiner's oldest and closest friends, was modest about his literary effort and asked that it merely be credited to The American Chess Bulletin. In order to round out the biography, Herman's California record follows. - Ed.)

Herman Steiner's first California State tournament was in the Pasadena, 1932, international tournament. The California player having the highest score was to be champion for the year. Harry Borochoff won the title, $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$, while Steiner, 6-5, was not yet considered a Californian (Alekhine won the tournament $8\frac{1}{2}$ - $2\frac{1}{2}$, followed by Kashdan, $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $3\frac{1}{2}$; Dake, Reshevsky and Steiner were tied at 6-5).

The next California championship was at Hollywood, 1939; the winner was P. Wolleston, 7-1, with Steiner and Borochoff next, 6-2. After a wartime gap, the San Francisco, 1945, tournament saw a tie between Steiner and A.J. Fink, 8-1. There was no play-off. Missing the 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952 state championships, chiefly because of his travels, Steiner took the 1953 championship, played at Hollywood, and the 1954 title, played at San Francisco, by identical $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ scores. He had a 4-1 score in 1955 when the tournament was cancelled.

In addition to numerous successes in local and regional tournaments, Steiner took third place, behind Gligoric and Pomar, in the Hollywood, 1952, international tournament. He also won the only two California Opens he participated in (Santa Barbara, 1954, and Fresno, 1955).

One of the most important things Herman did for chess in California was his support of and his playing in the North-South team match. Playing against such players as Dake, Koltanowski, Konig and Tippin, Steiner scored 9 wins and 5 draws out of 14 games played.

HERMAN IS GONE - by Irving Rivise

The sudden passing of our beloved Herman has created a void in the chess world which will be impossible to fill.

Herman Steiner, the chessmaster whose career spanned more than three decades, has bequeathed to us a legacy of wondrous brilliancies. Ever disdainful of taking the dull safe course, Herman was a worthy successor to the American tradition of Morphy, Pillsbury and Marshall. Indeed, had he wished to "play to the score" he would easily have achieved a higher statistical rating, but his creative genius demanded that he give to each and every game the best that was in him.

An extraordinary talent coupled with an intense devotion to the game he loved so well enabled him to ascend to remarkable heights. To cite but some of his more outstanding successes - N.Y. State Championship 1929 - 1st; Hastings Premier Reserves 1929 - 1st; Gyor 1930 - 2nd (behind Kashdan); Brunn 1931 - 2nd (behind Flohr); Berlin 1931 - 1st; Mexico City 1935 - 1st (equal with Fine and Dake); U.S. Open 1942 - 1st (equal with Yanofsky); London 1946 - 1st (ahead of O.S. Bernstein and Tartakower); U.S. Open 1946 - 1st. His crowning achievement was winning the coveted U.S. Championship in 1948. In the historic 1945 U.S.A.-U.S.S.R. radio match, Herman was the only American player on a team that included Fine, Reshevsky, Denker, and Kashdan (among others) to achieve a plus score against the Russians.

On the local scene, Herman won virtually every tournament he elected to enter. His most recent successes were the winning of the California State Championship in 1953 and 1954; the California Open Championship in 1954 and 1955. He played in the annual North-South Match 14 times on either first or second board without ever having lost a game - a remarkable average of 82½%.

He died while busily engaged in defending his state championship title. We feel sure he would not have wanted it to happen any other way.

Unlike many other chess masters, his interests were not confined to his over-the-board play but expanded into many other phases of chess activities.

He was one of this country's leading chess organizers, and it was mainly through his untiring efforts that the United States entered into international team competition. Herman played on the American team at The Hague 1928, Hamburg 1930, Prague 1931, and more recently at Dubrovnik in 1950. In the United States he alone was instrumental in organizing the 1945 Pan-American International Tournament and the Second Pan-American Chess Congress of 1954.

Herman believed the future of American chess was in the development of chess interest in the youth of this country. True to his beliefs, he spent countless hours at tournaments for junior players, instructing, encouraging, and in no small measure some of his bubbling enthusiasm for chess is reflected in the spirit and style of play of many of our young masters throughout the nation.

As a teacher he was extremely successful in imparting his accumulative knowledge to others. Over the years he had developed a system of instruction that was most effective. So much so that leading chess periodicals had eagerly availed themselves of the opportunity to publish portions of this text. Herman was busily engaged in arranging for publication of a book incorporating his teaching methods at the time of his death.

His contagious laughter and infectious good humor will be sorely missed.

Yes, Herman is gone, but wherever chess is played he will long be remembered. He will forever be in the hearts and minds of those who were privileged to know him.

THE MAN AND THE PLAYER - by Imre König

My memories of Herman Steiner go back as far as 1931 when I first met him in Prague when our teams met in the Chess Olympics. A young, attractive man, full of life and full of fight! I watched him playing Pirc (Yugoslavia), who, in top form, defeated him. I was free that evening and when I walked around I saw him in the adjoining room reserved for analysis playing rapid chess. He was in buoyant spirits and if I had not seen him losing an hour ago I would not have known it. Another member of the U.S. team whispered to me: "This is the way he overcomes the effect of a loss."

My next meeting occurred 15 years later when he was playing in the 1946 London tournament. This he won ahead of grandmasters Dr. Bernstein and Dr. Tartakover, defeating the latter. It was quite a feat, for which he could have claimed the title of grandmaster. I was surprised to find him rather placid, and only much later was I given an explanation of his failure to act more elated, when I heard him telling someone how sorry he had been feeling to have defeated Dr. Tartakover, who was such a nice man. Indeed, in our 25 years of friendship I have only seen him once to be angry with me - when in the U.S. Open, 1955, he was paired against his pupil Larry Remlinger in one of the last rounds and he had to defeat him. He thought that I, as referee, should not have allowed local players to be paired together.

Herman called himself a professional chess player, although everybody knew that he was losing money on chess. Perhaps he meant that chess was his vocation. It is very seldom that chessmasters admit this, and I know of only two chessmasters who were proud of their profession besides Herman: William Steinitz, who in his International Chess Magazine claimed that a chessmaster can be as proud of his profession as any other professional man; and Alexander Alekhine, who when middle-aged became a doctor at law at the Paris Sorbonne, yet remained true to himself as a chess player. Even Dr. Lasker, the greatest figure in chess, was proud of his achievements in philosophy and other fields, rather than of his prowess as a chess player.

In style Herman Steiner belonged to the romantic school, of which in this century only Spielman and Mises were left. He recognized no laws over the chess board except those of the imagination. With a wealth of ideas, full of fight, he achieved comparatively great successes even when he was near 50 at Saltsjobaden, 1952; after a bad start he held his own against the Russian grandmasters and still scored 50%. Imagine the odds of a Robin Hood fighting with arrows against modern scientific weapons!

In the last years of his life he took part in every California tournament. Some think it "easy meat" for a master to play against amateurs; just think that when six or seven games are to be played one draw more or less can decide the issue. Herman had everything to lose and nothing to win. And he won.

So the last romantic player and personality disappears from the chess arena. But through his games his memory will be kept alive and fresh in the history of chess.

GAME OF THE MONTH - by Imre König

One of Herman Steiner's finest successes was in winning his section of the London, 1946, international tournament. The following game is one in which his style of play stands out; and it was played against a master also noted for combinative play.

I was to annotate the tournament book for E.G.R. Cordingley. Although playing in the tournament also (in the other section), I was able to watch the Tartakover-Steiner game. I frankly did not understand it; it seemed as though each player when on the move ought to win. Thinking "when I annotate this game later in the privacy of my room I'll find out the truth," I found that the only way in which to present the game properly was to obtain Herman's annotations. Therefore, the game appeared with notes by the winner, with a few comments by me.

Game No. 303 - English

White	Black
S. Tartakover	H. Steiner

(Notes by Herman Steiner)

1. P-QB4	P-K4
2. Kt-KB3	Kt-QB3
3. Kt-B3	P-B4

A move played by Morphy. The idea is to have an early open file (KB).

4. P-Q4

Best. White must challenge the center immediately.

4. ... P-K5

5. P-Q5

A very interesting move. The obvious Kt-K5 would be met with 5...KtxKt; 6. PxBt, Kt-K2; 7. P-B3, Kt-Kt3; 8. PxB, PxB; 9. KtxP, Q-R5ch; 10. Kt-Kt3, KtxP and Black stands well.

If 5. Kt-Q2, then ...Kt-B3 followed by ...B-Kt5.

5. ... QKt-K2

Better was ...PxBt; 6. PxBt, KtPxP; 7. KtPxP, B-B4. The text gives Black a somewhat cramped position, but I was avoiding simplification.

6. Kt-Q4 P-QR3

The only move, since ...P-B4 would be answered by 7. QKt-Kt5, Q-R4ch (if ...Q-Kt3; 8. B-B4 - threat: B-B7 and Kt-Q6ch -, KtxP; 9. PxBt, PxBt; 10. Q-R4! - and not Kt-B7ch because of ...QxKt followed by ...B-Kt5ch regaining the Queen -); 8. B-Q2, Q-Kt3; 9. Kt-Kt3 with a winning game.

(If 6...Kt-B3 then 7. B-Kt5 and Black has great difficulties; while if 6...P-Q3 then 7. Kt-K6. - König)

7. P-KKt4

The attack is premature because of lack of development. P-B4

was threatened, therefore B-Kt5, increasing the pressure on the KBP, was the better move.

- 7. ... PxB
- 8. KtxP Kt-Kt3
- 9. P-KR3

Of course if Black would take the Pawn all would be well, since it would develop White's game. But Black has the same idea himself.

(Artificial: simple and very strong was 9. Q-B2 with the threat 10. Kt-Kt5. - König)

- 9. ... Q-K2

This direct attack on the White Kt upsets his plans, for the Kt must move, which gives needed time for Black.

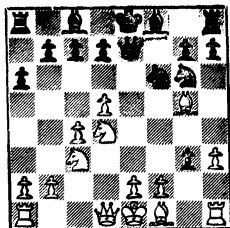
- 10. Kt-QB3 Kt-B3
- 11. B-Kt5

The obvious but not the best, as the moves that follow will show.

(Q-B2 was the right move. The text move leads to the complications that Black was looking for. - König)

- 11. ... P-Kt6

This move was unexpected by the Doctor and put him on the defensive.



12. P-B3
If 12. PxB, then Q-K4 winning the Pawn back with advantage.

- 12. ... Q-K4
- 13. Q-Q2 B-B4
- 14. BxKt

Forced. A sad admission of his positional error on the 11th move.

- 14. ... PxB
- QxB was better.
- 15. O-O-O Kt-R5
- 16. R-Kt1 P-Q3
- 17. Kt-K4 BxKt

Black sacrifices a Pawn for development.

- 18. QxB QxQ
- 19. RxB Q Kt-B4
- 20. R-Q3 K-B2
- 21. KtxKtP R-KKt1
- 22. P-B4 P-KR4
- 23. P-K4 P-R5
- 24. Kt-K2

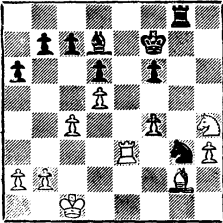
Better was 24. PxB, PxB; 25. QRxB, RxB; 26. RxB, BxB and Black would have to fight for a draw.

- 24. ... RxB
- 25. KtxR Kt-Kt6
- 26. B-Kt2 B-Q2
- 27. R-K3 R-KKt1

Black threatens KtxP winning back the Pawn.

28. Kt-B3
If 28. P-K5 then ...Kt-B4; 29. P-K6ch, K-K2; 30. R-K2, B-K1 with the strong threat of ... B-R4.

- 28. ... KtxP
- 29. KtxP Kt-Kt6



30. K-Q2?

(A mistake. Right was K-Q1, although even then Black has counter-play for the lost Pawn with 30...Kt-B4; 31. KtxKt, BxKt; 32. B-B1, B-Kt8 followed by P-B4. - König)

A blunder: White is under the delusion that he has a won game, which of course is a fallacy. A close examination of the position shows that White should give back the Pawn and play for a draw. Sometimes fixed ideas, combined with overanxiousness, cannot be changed in the heat of battle, especially during time pressure and with first prize so close at hand - the result is chess blindness. The result of this game doubtlessly influenced the Doctor's play in the remaining games of the tournament, which meant the difference of his placing first, second, or third. When we talk of psychology in chess, it is very true that some of us work and produce better under pressure, but if everything is going

our way, we are inclined to relax our vigilance - with a blunder as the result. Of course, sometimes it can be repaired because our opponent also relaxes, in which case the tables may be turned. But when the stakes are as high as in this game, it is very doubtful a counter-blunder would be forthcoming on my part.

(Dr. Tartakover was playing this tricky middle game phase with an assurance and a rapidity that betokened a slip. - Cordingley)

30. ... Kt-B4

31. R-QB3

There is nothing to do: a piece is lost.

31. ... KtxKt

32. B-B1 P-Kt3

P-B5 is threatened.

33. P-Kt4 R-Kt8

34. K-K1 K-K2

35. K-B2 R-Kt1

36. P-B5 P-Kt4

36...QPxP was quicker, but under time pressure the text move looked just as good.

37. R-K3ch K-Q1

38. P-R4

A desperate attempt to break through, but it fails from lack of force.

38. ... PxP

39. BxP PxP

Finally Black gets onto the right combination. It is important since, after the advance of the QBP, the Black square Q3 will be a stepping stone to attack the weak QP.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|-------|
| 40. PxP | R-Kt7ch | 54. K-B5 | B-Kt6 |
| 41. K-B1 | R-Q7 | 55. KxP | B-B7 |
| 42. P-B6 | B-B4 | 56. K-Kt5 | KxP |
| 43. R-R3 | R-Q5 | 57. K-B4 | K-Q4 |
| 44. K-B2 | RxPch | 58. K-K3 | B-R2 |
| 45. K-Kt3 | R-B6ch | 59. K-Q2 | K-Q5 |
| The quickest way to win but | | 60. K-B1 | K-B6 |
| Tartakover is a stubborn player | | 61. K-Q1 | K-Kt7 |
| and hangs on to the bitter end. | | Resigns. | |
| 46. RxR | KtxR | (A dramatic struggle which
turned out to be the deciding
factor in this tournament.
Another move on White's 30th
turn and Dr. Tartakover might
have added yet another first
prize to his long list of vic-
tories. - Cordingley) | |
| 47. KxKt | P-R6 | | |
| 48. B-B4 | B-Kt8 | | |
| 48...BxP | was even faster. | | |
| 49. P-R4 | P-R7 | | |
| 50. BxP | BxB | | |
| 51. K-K4 | K-K2 | | |
| 52. P-R5 | K-Q3 | | |
| 53. P-R6 | BxPch | | |

C A L E N D A R

CHESS FRIENDS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
Berkeley Y.M.C.A. - February 4-5, 1956

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA TEAM MATCHES

Division A - January 28-March 25, 1956
Division B - January 21-April 15, 1956

HERMAN STEINER CHESS GROUP

First Annual Tournament Starts January 14, 1956
Masters - Experts - Class A - Class B

IMPRESSIONS OF HERMAN STEINER:

I - by Neil E. Falconer:

For some years, my only impressions of Herman Steiner were vague and shadowy. In 1939, when I first began to play serious chess, San Francisco Bay Area chess was dominated by A.J. Fink. As I watched friend and foe fall before his mysterious but effective style, I decided that Fink must be invincible. It was with surprise that I was told that Fink could be beaten, and indeed regularly was, when he "went down to L.A. and played Steiner." For the next seven years, my only notion of Steiner was that of a mysterious force in Los Angeles that could beat the invincible A.J. Fink.

At that time I knew famous chess masters only from portrait photographs or from exhibitions given by visiting Eastern masters. As a famous master, Steiner - so I thought - would be aloof, distant, anxious to mix as little as possible with "amateurs." It was with even more surprise, then, that I first met Steiner at the North-South match in 1946.

We had arrived in San Luis Obispo in the middle of the afternoon, the day before the match. A number of Southern players had already arrived; they waited about in the hotel lobby, asking each other: "Where's Herman?" An hour or so later, four or five players from Los Angeles arrived - one of them, a large, young-looking man, with unruly long black hair, gaily explaining to one and all that they had had a flat tire on the way up, and had thus been delayed. The Los Angeles players rushed to greet this friendly, exuberant man; he was their captain, Herman Steiner.

From then on, I saw Herman Steiner only some four or five times, at various North-South matches, and at the 1948 State Tournament. As indicated above, he proved very different from what I had expected. He was a friendly man. He was cheerful. He was interested in chess - not just in master chess, or his own games, but also in the games of the other players, much weaker than himself. He gave credit when it was due, and advice and encouragement. An international master, he participated in countless local California events, where, from a practical point of view, he had nothing to gain and everything to lose. But it aided chess - and he was interested in chess.

In his death, California chess has sustained a great loss.

II - by Dr. Mark W. Eudey:

I had just settled on a draw with my opponent in one of the North-South matches a few years ago when Herman Steiner came by and showed us how (to my surprise) I could have been beaten in the final position. Then, removing the sting of this, and showing his interest in even the games of duffers, he took the game back several moves and showed how I could have avoided the lost position. This friendly little lesson for two players far down on the lineup aroused my curiosity, so I watched Herman and found that he was giving a helping hand to many of the players of both teams.

Surely there have been few chess masters so friendly and so willing to help players of all strengths. It is clear that Herman loved chess, and was a friend to any other lover of chess, regardless of ability.

His death is a loss to chess and to all chess players.

III - by Neil T. Austin:

Although I had known Herman Steiner for about 15 years, I could never quite get over a feeling of amazement over the fact that he was a chess master. He neither looked nor acted the part. But his presence in California tournaments was almost synonymous with first prize.

He loved chess as few other men have. As a player, teacher, organizer, and supporter, he was always in the forefront. Chess and his many friends have suffered a great loss.

IV - by Bob Burger:

The lasting impression I have of Herman Steiner is his openness, his almost boyish frankness. That proverbial geniality and excitability are only other sides, it seems to me, of this personal honesty. He hid neither his love for the game nor his appreciation of good friends nor his feelings about his life's work.

When I was first introduced to him at the North-South match in 1953, I rashly asked if he would play a few games: he consented almost eagerly and played six or seven intense games as if I were an old friend of master strength instead of a stranger with uncertain abilities. At the State Finals in Los Angeles that same year, I was paired with Woolfe at a point where both of us were fighting for last place: Herman took an uncommon interest in the game, predicting at the start that Woolfe (who had no points at the time)

would win. He happened to be right; but it was more important to him that both of us kept up our spirits.

His frankness didn't seem to disappear even during his own games; in a semi-final game of the California Open, 1954, against Rivise, a surprise combination brought a rapid finish to the struggle. While Rivise was pondering the unexpected move, Steiner came over to me and gleefully asked me to look at his beautiful move; in the same situation, another master might have retired to a place by himself with a self-satisfied smirk!

This simplicity, this personal guilelessness, was his way; and, ironically, it is easiest to see faults in a person who hides nothing, not even his faults.

V - by Wally Lock (Los Angeles Times):

Herman Steiner's column which appeared for many years in The Times was followed closely by chess players throughout the United States. Whenever visiting chess exponents visited the Los Angeles area they inevitably dropped in at the Hollywood Chess Club.

A native of Hungary, he came to this country as a child with his parents.

He learned to play chess when he was in his teens and often told the story about one day when he stopped in at a coffee house in New York and saw a man sitting in front of a chess board.

The man asked Mr. Steiner to join him in a game, and added that to make it more interesting they should play for a dime. The stranger turned out to be a good player who made his living at the game and beat Mr. Steiner easily.

"It was the only money I had with me at the time," the future chess champion recalled, "and it made me so mad to lose that I decided to learn the game."

So he took chess lessons for six months, then went back and challenged the man in the coffee club to another game. He won - and continued to win until the time of his death.

Mr. Steiner leaves his widow, Selma, and two sons, Armin, 21, a music major at UCLA, and Eugene, 17, a senior at Fairfax High School.

THE HERMAN STEINER HERITAGE - by George F. Goehler

Much has been said by his contemporaries about Herman Steiner's accomplishments over the past 20 years. His youth program is well known throughout the southern California area, his arduous efforts in promoting West Coast chess has made this section one of the principal chess centers in the nation, and his editorial work and his writings have done much to teach and publicize the game.

All of this work is not coming to a standstill but rather will come to a fulfillment because those people who were associated with him have already, since his death, taken the preliminary steps which will expand his work as he would have wished it to be done.

The Hollywood Chess Club, the principal chess center in southern California, has been re-named the Herman Steiner Chess Club and an Organizing Committee is preparing the way to continue the activities that were conducted for so many years by Herman. Mrs. Steiner has arranged with the Committee to keep the Club at its same location and the working group, composed of Mrs. Piatigorsky, Mrs. Grumette, Charles Henderson, P.C. McKenna, Irving Rivise, Isaac Kashdan, Jack Moskowitz, Kyle Forrest, Gene Rubin, and George Goehler, are calling on all of the former members to assist in a new cooperative club movement.

A Herman Steiner Chess Foundation is being organized and it is hoped that it will expand its activities to include the entire West Coast. The purpose of this Foundation is to make available chess instructions and material to schools and institutions, to promote national and international tournaments and team matches as well as to assist other clubs in their activities. Mr. Al Bisno has been of great assistance in advising the organizers of this Foundation in the procedures to be followed.

Mrs. Piatigorsky, with the organizing assistance of Irving Rivise, Isaac Kashdan, Jack Moskowitz, and George Goehler, is sponsoring a Herman Steiner Memorial Tournament which will commence on January 14, 1956, and will be carried on in the manner in which Herman Steiner has indicated he would like to have such a tournament conducted. The tournament will be divided into three sections of eleven players in each section. There will be a Master section, an Expert section, and an "A" section, and will be of the round robin type. This is a club tournament of the Herman Steiner Chess Group and it is expected that most of the strong chess players of southern California will participate. In all probability this tournament will be an annual event and will do much to determine the ratings of southern California players from year to year.

The Youth Program will be continued through the Foundation and it can be truthfully said that the work of Herman Steiner has not stopped with his death but that his inspirational efforts while he lived are continuing and will continue to make an impact in the world of chess.

(As the foregoing writers have all said, the passing of Herman Steiner leaves a great void in California chess. It will be difficult to find a successor for him, to carry on his great and unselfish work for chess.

Two of the problems to be faced are the futures of the Hollywood Chess Group and the column in the Sunday Los Angeles Times.

Mrs. Selma Steiner has decided to re-open the chess club, and at a membership meeting on December 11, ways and means were studied. The steps taken are related on page 75 by George Goehler.

The Sunday column, without which chess in southern California would be gravely handicapped, was at first a matter of concern. Who would undertake the laborious work of preparing the mountain of news, games and other material which Herman collected every week? Fortunately, the continuance of the column seems assured. The management of The Times decided without question to continue, and has been fortunate in receiving no less than four bids: Isaac Kasbdan, Imre König, George Koltanowski, and Irving Rivise. At the time of this writing the future conductor of the column has not been announced. During the interim, city editor Wally Lock is taking charge.

Another matter upon which every friend of Herman's is in agreement is the establishment of a memorial or memorials. The Herman Steiner Chess Foundation described by Mr. Goehler would dovetail nicely with these plans.

It is already noised about in U.S. Chess Federation circles that a Pan-American memorial tournament is in the cards. This would be an international tournament which would memorialize Herman Steiner's leadership in Pan-American chess. It would be an annual or biennial event and would be jointly sponsored by the California State Chess Federation.

Finally, it is proposed that a memorial trophy be established for the California State Championship. The present trophy, the last name on which is "Herman Steiner, 1954" will be retired. - Ed.)

CALIFORNIA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

At the time the 1955 State Championship was cancelled, Herman Steiner was tied for the lead with Henry Gross with a 4-1 score. The northern and southern players had played a four-game round robin between themselves and had completed the first round of the north vs. south rounds. Mr. Steiner scored $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ in the southern rounds (drawing with Dr. Eugene Levin) and drew his fifth-round game with William Addison. Henry Gross scored 3-1 in the north and won in the fifth round against Morris Gordon.

The preliminary qualifying tournaments, which also carried the Northern California and Southern California regional titles, qualified eight players for the finals. Mr. Steiner and Roger Smock qualified by their performances in the 1954 championship and the 1955 Open (won by Mr. Steiner, Smock being second over Ray Martin on S-B points).

Dr. Eugene Levin took the honors in a close finish over a strong field of 31 players in the Southern California preliminaries. It was a 10-round Swiss, played at the Hollywood club between September and November and was directed by Charles E. Kodil. The cross-table appears on the next page.

The Northern California preliminaries were played in San Francisco, October 29-November 20. Because of the Mechanics' Institute Centenary tournament being played concurrently, there were only nine contestants and a round robin was played. Henry Gross won handily:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score
1. H. Gross	X	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	$7\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$
2. V. Pafnutieff	$\frac{1}{2}$	X	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	1	6-2
3. W. Addison	0	1	X	1	0	1	1	0	1	5-3
4- K. Bendit	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	$3\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$
5- C. Bergman	0	0	1	1	X	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	1	$3\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$
6. R. Freeman	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	X	1	1	0	$3\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$
7- R. Cuneo	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	X	1	1	3-5
8. E. Simanis	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	X	1	3-5
9. H. Dasteel Jr.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	X	1-7

William Whisler, a newcomer to the State Championship, won the Central California qualifying spot in a 4-round Swiss held at Modesto October 22-23:

	1	2	3	4	Pts.	Solkoff
1. W. Whisler, Concord	W2	W7	D6	D5	3	$7\frac{1}{2}$
2- P.J. Foley, San Jose	L1	W3	W7	D8	$2\frac{1}{2}$	7
3. W. Shirey, Fresno	D5	L2	W8	W6	$2\frac{1}{2}$	7
4. E.B. Edmondson, Sacto.	L6	W8	D5	W7	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$
5- M.O. Meyer, Sacto.	D3	D6	D4	D1	2	10
6. T. Fries, Fresno	W4	D5	D1	L3	2	10
7. F. Olvera, Pittsburg	W8	L1	L2	L4	1	$8\frac{1}{2}$
8. H. Minchaca, Fresno	L7	L4	L3	D2	$\frac{1}{2}$	$8\frac{1}{2}$

California State Chess Championship
1955 Southern California Preliminaries

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score
1- Dr Eugene Levin	W29	W19	W11	L	W12	D4	W7	L2	W13	W14	7½
2- G B Schain	D12	D16	W9	W1	D7	W3	W4	W1	D5	L6	7
3- Morris Gordon	W20	W21	W28	W1	L4	L2	W6	W12	W14	L5	7
4- Robert Jacobs	D13	W10	W6	W11	W3	D1	L2	W14	W12	L7	7
5- Irving Rivise	D10	L12	W18	W17	D14	D20	W11	W7	D2	W3	7
6- Gene Rubin	W30	D26	L4	D10	W28	W24	L3	D8	W15	W2	6½
7- Dr S Weinbaum	D17	W15	D12	W19	D2	W26	L1	L5	W21	W4	6½
8- Sam Geller	L11	L27	D29	W30	W18	D23	W24	D6	D10	W12	6
9- Chas Karson	W14	L11	L2	W25	L19	L27	W-F	W23	W20	W13	6
10- R Lorber	D5	L4	W22	D6	L13	W25	W23	D20	D8	W21	6
11- Sven Almgren	W8	W9	L1	L4	D23	W17	L5	L13	W16	W20	5½
12- LeRoy Johnson	D2	W5	D7	W24	L1	W19	W26	L3	L4	L8	5
13- Hyman Gordon	D4	W22	D26	L2	W10	L14	W27	W11	L1	L9	5
14- L Domanski	L9	W25	D17	W16	D5	W13	W20	L4	L3	L1	5
15- Don E Maron	W31	L7	L-F	L27	D16	W29	W17	W24	L6	D18	5
16- A Deres	D22	D2	L23	L14	D15	D18	W25	W19	L11	W26	5
17- Donald L Young	D7	D18	D14	L5	W21	L11	L15	W25	D26	W28	5
18- R A Sanford	L21	D17	L5	W29	L8	D16	W30	D28	W22	D15	5
19- Ralph Clark	W24	L1	W27	L7	W9	L12	L21	L16	D28	W30	4½
20- Peter Meyer	L3	W30	W-F	W28	D26	D5	L14	D10	L9	L11	4½
21- N J Goldberg	W18	L3	L24	D22	L17	W28	W19	W26	L7	L10	4½
22- C J Gibbs	D16	L13	L10	D21	L25	W30	D28	W27	L18	W24	4½
23- George Soules	W27	L28	W16	L26	D11	D8	L10	L9	L24	Bye	4
24- Robert Stork	L19	W29	W21	L12	W27	L6	L8	L15	W23	L22	4
25- Dr Victor Dane	L28	L14	W30	L9	W22	L10	L16	L17	Bye	W27	4
26- Mrs J Piatigorsky	Bye	D6	D13	W23	D20	L7	L12	L21	D17	L16	4
27- Kyle Forrest	L23	W8	L19	W15	L23	W9	L13	L22	D30	L25	3½
28- R W Pickar	W25	W23	L3	L20	L6	L21	D22	D18	D19	L17	3½
29- Chas E Henderson	L1	L24	D8	L18	W30	L15	L-F	-	-	-	1½
30- Van Osdol	L6	L20	L25	L8	L29	L22	L18	Bye	D27	L19	1½
31- J Weiner	L15	Bye	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Dr. Eugene Levin wins the title of Champion of Southern California. Dr. Eugene Levin, G. B. Schain, M. Gordon, and R. Jacobs qualify for California State Finals.

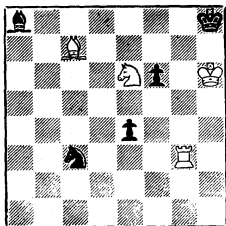
- Charles E. Kodil, Tournament Director

HERMAN STEINER'S LAST GAME: A typical fighting game, in his true spirit. It is played in the classical style, but with finesse. On the 6th move White adopts the anti-Cambridge Springs line of Capablanca vs. Alekhine, 1927 (6...Q-R4; 7. PxP, KtxP; 8. P-K4, KtxKt; 9. B-Q2, Q-R4 with equality - White could have continued 7. B-R4, Kt-K5; 8. B-Q3 and 9. Kt-K2). Black's 11...RxB is better than 11...QxB; 12. O-O, KtxKt; 13. QxKt (the text is Capablanca-Lasker, 1921). Black's 21...P-QB4 is the freeing move.

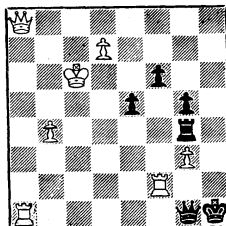
<u>Game No. 304 - Q.G.D.</u>				
White		Black		
H. Steiner		W. Addison		
1.	P-Q4	P-Q4	30.	KtxB RxB
2.	P-QB4	P-K3	31.	KR-Q1 R-QB1
3.	Kt-QB3	Kt-KB3	32.	Kt-Kt5 Kt-K1
4.	B-Kt5	QKt-Q2	33.	P-QR4 Kt-K3
5.	P-K3	P-QB3	34.	P-K5 Kt-B1
6.	Q-B2	B-K2	35.	P-B4 P-Kt3
7.	R-Q1	O-O	36.	R-Q2 P-QR3
8.	Kt-B3	R-K1	37.	Kt-Q6 R-Q1
9.	B-K2	PxP	38.	BxRP KtxKt
10.	BxP	Kt-Q4	39.	PxKt R/2-Q2
11.	BxB	RxB	40.	R/1-Q1 Kt-Q5
12.	O-O	Kt-B1	41.	K-B2 RxB
13.	P-K4	Kt-Kt3	42.	B-B4 R-R1
14.	B-Kt3	B-Q2	43.	P-QKt3 P-R4
15.	Kt-K5	B-K1	44.	R-K1 R/1-Q1
16.	Kt-K2	R-B1	45.	R/1-Q1 K-K2
17.	Kt-Q3	R/2-B2	46.	R-Q3 K-B3
18.	Q-Q2	Q-R5	47.	R/1-Q2 R/1-Q2
19.	Q-K3	Kt/3-Q2	48.	R-R2 Kt-B4
20.	R-B1	P-QKt3	49.	RxR KtxR
21.	B-B4	P-QB4	50.	B-Q3 Kt-Kt2
22.	P-Q5	PxP	51.	B-B4 R-Q5
23.	BxP	Kt-B3	52.	K-K3 Kt-Q3
24.	Kt-B3	Kt-Kt5	53.	B-Q3 R-Kt5
25.	Q-Kt3	QxQ	54.	R-R3 Kt-B4ch
26.	RPxQ	Kt-B3	55.	K-B2 P-R5
27.	B-B4	B-B3	56.	PxP RxBch
28.	P-B3	R-Q2	57.	K-Kt1 R-QKt5
29.	Kt-K5	R-K2	58.	P-QB5 PxP
			59.	RxB RxB
			60.	BxKt KxB
			61.	RxBch K-Kt5
			62.	R-B7 KxB
				Drawn.

REPORTER TASKS: This month we present two three-movers by contemporary German composers. Task No. 83, by S. Bremer, was first published in 1950. Task No. 84, by Dr. A. Kraemer and J. Halumbirek, first appeared in 1948.

TASK No. 83
White Mates in Three



TASK No. 84
White Mates in Three



Answers to last month's TASKS: Task No. 81: The key is Q-R1.
Task No. 82: The key is R-QB1.

Questions regarding TASKS should be sent to:

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