

# Chess in Action

Published by:  
Chess Friends of Northern California  
San Francisco, California

Charter Member of  
U.S. Chess Federation  
July - August 1957

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## EDITORIAL

Chess activity continues to increase!

It is highly encouraging to see the enthusiastic response to the several chess events on the calendar for Northern California. Chess-players have indicated they want activity and Chess Friends of Northern California is out to give them all the opportunities possible.

### U. S. Junior Championship

Recently concluded in San Francisco was the successful U. S. Junior Championship organized by the Chess for Youth Committee. Emerging victorious over a field of 33 entrants, including many out-of-state players, was 14-year-old Bobby Fischer of New York, defending champion. Second place went to our own Gill Ramirez. The keen interest that the youth of our country have taken in chess is gratifying to see. We urge your continued support - financially and morally - of the activities of the Chess for Youth Committee. With your support the local California Committee can proceed with realistic plans for more chess activity and organization among our younger players - a most worthwhile activity. Send your contributions, no matter how small, to "Chess for Youth Committee", 286 Fourth Street, San Francisco 3, California.

### Chess at the Sheraton-Palace

The coming September tournament, sponsored by Chess Friends of Northern California, to be held at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel in San Francisco, promises to be the biggest and best yet. The tournament is scheduled for the weekend of September 21-22, 1957 - Saturday and Sunday, and will be a five round swiss (three division) with the first round scheduled for 12:30 Saturday. Play will be from 12:30 to 7 p.m. Saturday and 9 to 12 a.m., 2 to 8:30 p.m. Sunday. Registration will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, September 21. A special three round tournament will be held Sunday for those unable to attend Saturday. Numerous prizes will be given, including a trophy donated by the Sheraton-Palace Hotel. We hope that all players will avail themselves

of this wonderful opportunity to play chess in a delightful atmosphere. Entry fee is \$3.00 to members of C.F.N.C. and \$5.00 to non-members, which includes a year's membership to Chess Friends of Northern California and the benefits derived therefrom, plus a year's subscription to CHESS IN ACTION. Send entry fee to George Koltanowski, C.F.N.C. Field Director, 200 Alhambra Street, Apt. 9, San Francisco 23, California. Fees will be accepted at the start of the tournament, but would be appreciated earlier.

As a novelty and added attraction to this event, a special Brunch will be served at the Hotel in honor of the outgoing and newly elected officers of C.F.N.C. A Sheraton-Palace Brunch is a treat long to be remembered. For those participating in the tournament, and attending the Brunch, the charge will be \$4.25 per person. For non-participants the charge will be \$3.25. Sign up for the Brunch at the tournament registration desk. Let's all celebrate together in a real friendly fashion!

Out of towners who would like to stay at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel should write to the Reservation Department of the Hotel and mention the Chess Tournament and they will receive a special rate for this occasion.

Watch for announcement of new activity of C.F.N.C. in the next issue.

Jens L. Lund  
President

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MESSAGE FROM THE RATING ADMINISTRATOR - Chuck McGinley

Club Tournaments to be Rated

Since the numerical rating system was adopted for Chess Friends of Northern California, all official C.F.N.C. matches and area tournaments have been rated. Some club tournaments have been rated on an experimental basis. Since the accuracy of the rating system depends largely on the number of serious games rated, it has been decided to rate all C.F.N.C. Club Tournament Results submitted according to the following rules:

1. All results must be sent to Bill Stevens.
2. Tournament results must be complete. No tournaments will be rated while in progress.
3. Forfeited games must be clearly indicated. Forfeits will not be used to determine players rating.
4. Ratings will not be given to players not members of C.F.N.C. However, if such players participate under local club rules, results of their games should be included in results submitted.
5. Simultaneous or rapid-transit games will not be rated.

Ratings will continue to be published in Chess in Action from time to time as in the past. Remember, the more matches and tournaments you play in, the more accurate your rating will be.

## Brief report on the U. S. Junior Chess Championship

C.F.N.C. is indeed lucky to have such great workers as Florence and Bill Stevens (who took care of the sandwiches for the whole week of the tournament!) and Leah Koltanowski who so ably assisted her untiring husband.

We are grateful to the Spreckels-Russell Dairy Company for their wonderful cooperation and in their donation of the auditorium and the milk, chocolate milk and ice cream. For some of the contestants it was a real festival all week long.

To Henry King our sincere thanks for the beautiful signs. Chess Friends of Northern California picked up a great number of new members that week and thus we are happy we helped in the promotion of Chess in the United States.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Bobby Fischer, Brooklyn<br>8½ (27)* - Trophy and Royal Typewriter            | 17. Robert Dickinson, Redwood City, 4½ (10)              |
| 2. Gil Ramirez, San Francisco<br>7½ (24) - Trophy and R.C.A. Portable Radio     | 18. Fred Wreden, San Francisco<br>4½ (10)                |
| 3. Stephen Sholomson, Los Angeles<br>6½ (20 ¾) - Trophy and Leather Brief Case. | 19. James Bennett, Fort Worth<br>4½ (8½)                 |
| 4. Ronald Thacker, Richmond<br>6 (15 ¾) - Book                                  | 20. Richard Owen, Salt Lake City<br>4½ (7½)              |
| 5. Mike Bredoff, Redwood City<br>5½ (20 ¾) - Book                               | 21. Howard J. Killough, Jr.,<br>Russell, Kansas, 4½ (7½) |
| 6. Leonard Hill, Los Altos<br>5½ (19 ¾) - Book                                  | 22. Ivan Vegvary, San Francisco<br>4½ (4½)               |
| 7. Arthur Wang, Berkeley<br>5½ (16½) - Book                                     | 23. William Lee, San Francisco<br>4 (3½)                 |
| 8. Ralph Clark, Long Beach<br>5½ (16) - Book                                    | 24. James Schmerl, Piedmont<br>3½ (6½)                   |
| 9. Robert Walker, Portland, Ore.<br>5½ (15 ¾)                                   | 25. Don Sutherland, San Francisco<br>3½ (4)              |
| 10. Warren Miller, Albuquerque,<br>N. Mex., 5½ (11 ¾)                           | 26. John Blackstone, San Jose<br>3½ (3 ¾)                |
| 11. Rex Wilcox, Salinas, 5 (15)   | 27. Allan Haley, Nevada City, Cal.<br>3½ (3½)            |
| 12. Andrew Schoene, Malaga,<br>New Jersey, 5 (14 ¾)                             | 28. Roy Hoppe, San Francisco<br>3½ (3)                   |
| 13. Thomas Heldt, Jr., Albuquer-<br>que, N. Mex., 5 (10)                        | 29. David Bogdanoff, Redwood City<br>3 (4½)              |
| 14. David Krause, Palo Alto<br>5 (7½)   | 30. Bruce Pohorilis, Larkspur<br>2½ (6½)                 |
| 15. Leighton Allen, San Francisco<br>4½ (13 ¾)                                  | 31. Jonathan N. Krug, San Rafael<br>2                    |
| 16. William Haines, Sacramento<br>4½ (12 ¾)                                     | 32. Steve Joplin, Oakland<br>1½                          |
|   | 33. Lincoln Fong, San Francisco<br>1                     |

\* Median Points

\*\*All out-of-state entries, who did not win a prize, received a King-board as a souvenir of their San Francisco visit.

The following game virtually decided the U.S. Junior Championship of 1957. In only drawing Ramirez, who had drawn in the first round, never managed to catch up with the fleet-footed Fischer.

RETI OPENING

White: Gil Ramirez

Black: Bobby Fischer

1. N-KB3	N-KB3	10. NxP	N-N3	18. K-N2(d)	P-Q5
2. P-KN3	P-KN3	11. P-N3	P-B4	19. Q-N5	QxQ
3. B-N2	B-N2	12. KN-N5	P-QR3	20. BxQ	P-B4
4. O-O	O-O	13. N-R3	B-B4(a)	21. BxN	PxB
5. P-B4	P-Q3	14. Q-Q2	P-Q4	22. N-Q5	NxN
6. N-B3	P-K4	15. P-KN4	BxP(b)	23. PxN	P-Q6
7. P-Q4	QN-Q2	16. PxB	NxNP	24. PxF(e)	BxR
8. P-KR3	R-K1	17. B-R3(c)	Q-R5	25. RxB	R-K4
9. Q-B2	FxP			Drawn (f)	

(a) Black has a well developed game and the two open Bishop's files look dangerous. (b) Typical Fischer. No retreat if a combination is possible! (c) Finds the safest way out of the many threats Black has. (d) Not 18. BxN, QxBch; 19. K-R1, R-K4, etc. (e) Prefers to give the exchange, he still would have two pieces for a rook. (f) White will have to lose the two Q pawns, and the draw is the safest bet by far.

\* \* \* \* \*

White: Arthur Wang

Black: Mike Bredoff

1. P-Q4	P-Q4	15. Q-B2	N-Q2	29. Q-Q2	P-R3
2. P-QB4	P-K3	16. NxN	QxN	30. R-B1	Q-N5
3. N-QB3	N-KB3	17. P-QN4	O-O	31. B-B1	P-KR4
4. B-N5	QN-Q2	18. P-QR4	P-B5	32. Q-QB2	B-K5
5. PxF	PxF	19. P-N5	P-B6	33. Q-K2	R-B6
6. P-K3	B-K2	20. PxF	RxF	34. Q-K1	P-R5
7. N-B3	P-B3	21. K-R1	Q-R6	35. B-K2	PxF
8. B-Q3	N-K5	22. R-KN1	B-N5	36. BxR	QxB
9. BxB	QxB	23. R-N3	RxR	37. R-B8ch	K-N2
10. Q-B2	P-KB4	24. PxF	B-B6ch	38. QxF	Q-Q8ch
11. O-O	QN-B3	25. K-N1	PxF	39. K-B2	Q-Q7ch
12. P-QR3	P-KR3	26. Q-B2	R-KB1	40. K-N1	Q-Q8ch
13. N-K5	NxN	27. R-KB1	P-N4	41. K-B2	Q-Q7ch
14. QxN	Q-Q3	28. BxP	Q-B1	42. K-N1	Drawn

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White: Wm. Lee

Black: Len Hill

1. P-K4	P-K4	9. PxF	BxP	18. B-N2	N-R2
2. N-KB3	P-KB4	10. P-KR3	Q-Q2	19. B-N2	BxRP
3. P-Q3	P-Q3	11. N-Q2	N-N3	20. N-B3	Q-N5
4. B-K2	N-QB3	12. B-B3	P-B3	21. P-N3	NxNch
5. N-B3	N-B3	13. P-QN3	P-Q4	22. BxN	RxB
6. O-O	B-K2	14. N-N1	QR-K1	23. R-K1	RxFch
7. N-Q5	O-O	15. P-B4	N-R5	24. PxF	QxFch
8. NxBch	NxN	16. B-R3	R-B2	Resigns	
		17. N-Q2	P-KR3		

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White: Mike Bredoff

Black: Warren Miller

1. P-K4	P-K4	10. QxNoh	N-Q2	18. PxF	R-K3ch
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	11. P-Q3	B-K2	19. N-K2	QxF
3. B-B4	N-B3	12. N-K4	R-N3	20. O-O	Q-Q1
4. N-N5	P-Q4	13. Q-R4	P-QR3	21. QN-B3	P-N4
5. PxF	N-QR4	14. P-QB3	O-O	22. R-Q1	Q-K1
6. B-N5ch	P-B3	15. Q-B2	P-B4	23. N-Q4	R-R3
7. PxF	PxF	16. N-N3	N-B4	24. N-Q5	B-Q3
8. Q-B3	R-QN1	17. P-Q4	PxF	25. BxP	RxF
9. BxFch	NxB			26. N-B4	Resigns.

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Age triumphs over youth!

White: Fred Wreden (Age 10, S. F.)  
RUY LOPEZ

Black: Bobbie Killough (age 11,  
Russell, Kansas)

1.P-K4	P-K4	9.NxP	N-B3	16.Q-N5	P-N3
2.N-KB3	N-QB3	10.O-O	B-K2	17.KR-K1	O-O-O
3.B-N5	P-QR3	11.B-Y3	N-N5(b)	18.E-B5(e)	QxB
4.B-R4	P-Q3	12.Q-Y3	N-B3	19.Q-B4	Q-KB4
5.P-Q4	P-QN4	13.P-K5(c)	B-N5(d)	20.Q-N3	R-Q6
6.B-N3	NxP	14.Q-B4	PxP	21.P-B3	B-B4ch
7.NxN	PxN	15.QxP	Q-Q3	22.K-R1	RxBP
8.P-QB3	PxP			Resigns(f)	

(a) Does not fall for the trap of B-QxP, P-QB4 etc. (b) Better is 11...O-O first. (c) Looks like he is going to pick up a piece... (d) This attacks and defends! (e) A shame, this is giving the bishop away for nothing. (f) Black finished off in brilliant style. The rook cannot be taken, as BxPch would kill.

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White: Ronnie Thacker

Black: Bobby Fischer

1.P-K4	P-QB4	12.N-K2	R-K1	23.N-K2	P-KN4
2.N-KB3	P-Q3	13.P-KB3	Q-N3	24.Q-Q1	QR-B1
3.P-QB3	N-KB3	14.E-Q3	N-Q2	25.R-N1	Q-R3
4.B-Q3	P-KN3	15.Q-R4	R-B1	26.Q-N3	QxN
5.B-B2	B-N2	16.O-O	N-B4	27.BxP	PxB
6.P-Q4	O-O	17.Q-Q1	B-Q2	28.QxP	P-Q6
7.P-KR3	PxP	18.K-R1	P-K6 (P-B4)	29.QxP	P-Q7
8.PxP	N-QB3	19.N-N3	NxB	30.QxBch	KxB (KxR)
9.N-QB3	P-K4	20.QxN	B-N4	31.R-K1	PxR=Qch
10.P-Q5	N-Q5	21.Q-Q1	BxR	32.K-R2	
11.NxN	PxN	22.QxB	P-B5	Resigns	

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White: Rex Wilcox

Black: Bill Haines

1.P-K4	P-K4	18.R-R2	KR-B1	34.N-R2	P-R4
2.N-KB3	N-QB3	19.P-B2	Q-N2	35.N-B1	B-Q2
3.B-N5	P-QR3	20.K-K3	RxR	36.N-R2	K-B2
4.B-R4	N-B3	21.QxR	R-QB1	37.N-B1	K-B3
5.O-O	B-K2	22.R-R3	RxR	38.N-R2	K-N4
6.R-K1	P-QN4	23.QxR	Q-B2	39.N-B1	K-R5
7.B-N3	P-Q3	24.QxQ	NxQ	40.K-Q1	P-N4
8.P-B3	O-O	25.N-B1	N-R3	41.K-B2	BxRP
9.P-KR3	N-QR4	26.B-K3	B-K1	42.PxB	KxP
10.B-B2	P-B4	27.KN-Q2	N-Q2	43.K-Q1	P-N5
11.P-Q4	Q-B2	28.P-B3	B-Q1	44.PxP	PxP
12.QN-Q2	BxP	29.K-B2	P-N3	45.K-K2	K=N7
13.PxP	N-B3	30.BxB	NxB	46.P-N1	P-R5
14.P-Q5	N-QN5	31.K-K3	N-B4	47.PxP	N3xP
15.B-N1	P-QR4	32.B-R2	P-B4	48.P-B2	N-B6ch
16.P-R3	N-R3	33.K-K2	P-B5	49.K-K1	K-N8
17.P-QN3	B-Q2			White lost on time	

\* \* \* \* \*

White: Roy Hoppe

Black: Allan Haley

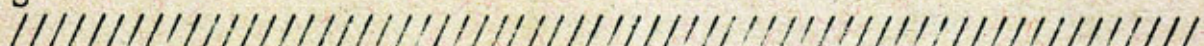
1.P-Q4	P-Q4	7.O-O	R-K1	13.R-K1	Q-Q3
2.P-K3	N-QB3	8.P-QR3	BxB	14.B-K2	N-N5
3.P-QB4	P-K3	9.NxB	P-K4	15.P-R3	Q-KR3
4.N-KB3	N-B3	10.PxKP	NxP	16.N-R2	NxKP
5.B-Q3	B-N5ch	11.NxN	RxN	17.BxR	NxQ
6.B-Q2	O-O	12.N-B3	R-R4	18.R-K8 mate	

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CHESS!!!! three hundred and sixty five days a year--that's the  
 By-line for Chess Friends of Northern California.  
 H The Summer Schedule in the Eastbay and the combined  
 E El Camino Real-Peninsula League in the Westbay is  
 S off to a flying start. We began play on June 13th  
 and expect to finish September 27th. There will be  
 trophies for first and second place in each league.

S Don't forget the Annual East-West Match the latter  
 part of October. This will be a one game bout and  
 we hope all of you can arrange to join us. It's  
 C F R E E to all C.F.N.C. Members in good standing.  
 H Does the Eastbay keep the plaque for another year?  
 E Why not come along to play, to visit with other  
 C.F.N.C. woodpushers and to help your team win.  
 Date, time and place will be announced very soon.

S CHESS!!!! CHESS!!!! CHESS!!!! CHESS!!!!



T.D.'s STATISTICS on WINTER LEAGUE:

<u>Sequoia</u>	I. Oakland Byrne S	5½	
	II. Alameda	4	
	III. Oakland Steintiz	2	(17)
	IV. Hayward	2	(14)
	V. Piedmont	0	
<u>Walnut</u>	I. Berkeley	7	
	II. Concord	4½	
	III. Pleasant Hill	3½	
	IV. Richmond	3	
	V. Oakland Byrne W	2	
<u>El Camino Real</u>	I. Botvinnik	5½	
	II. Evans	4½	
	III. Morphy	3	(21)
	IV. Colle	3	(17½)
	V. Nimzovitch	2½	
	VI. Alekhine	1½	
	VII. Reti	1	
<u>Peninsula</u>	I. Morphy Red	7	
	II. Staunton White	5½	
	III. Euwe	4½	
	IV. Staunton Black	2	
	V. Morphy Blue	1	

Playoff

Oakland Byrne S )		Oakland Byrne S	} CHAMP
Berkeley )			
Botvinnik )		Botvinnik	} BOTVINNIK
Morphy Red )			
			} CHAMP

RUSSIAN SECRET WEAPON

A few copies have recently been brought out of Russia of a monthly publication which illustrates one reason why that country's chess team is probably stronger than that of the rest of the world put together. It is a bulletin circulated to all Russian grandmasters and masters, which gives a digest of all important discoveries in the openings published in foreign chess magazines, plus many games played by all the foreign masters who the Russians are likely to meet.

Soviet games unknown to the outside world are also given, and among these are a large number of the training games played when the Russians were training furiously for their first capture of the world team championship in 1952. The following two games, which will certainly find their place in any future anthology of miniatures, were played then.

White: Keres                      Black: Geller  
 KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE  
 1.P-Q4    N-KB3            9.N-Q5(b)    N-QB3  
 2.P-QB4   P-KN3            10.N-KB3(c) P-QR3  
 3.N-QB3   B-N2            11.B-K3            Q-R4ch  
 4.P-K4    O-O            12.K-B2(d)    P-QN4  
 5.P-B4    P-B4(a)    13.P-QR4(e)   R-N1  
 6.P-K5    N-K1            14.RPxP            Q-Q1  
 7.PxP     Q-R4            15.PxN            PxP  
 8.B-Q2    QxBP            16.N-N6        Resigns  
 (a)It is surprising that this seemingly innocent diversion from the normal 5...P-Q3 should have such dire consequences. (b)The beginning of the refutation. White threatens B-N4 and NxPch. (c)White now intends P-QN4. (d)Yet another threat to the Queen, this time B-N6. (e)Preventing...Q-R5, and again threatening B-N6--and this time Black has no reasonable defense.

White: Petrosian  
 Black: Kotov  
 SICILIAN DEFENSE  
 1.P-K4    P-QB4            10.P-R3            Q-B2  
 2.N-KB3   P-Q3            11.O-O            O-O  
 3.P-B3    N-KB3            12.P-KN4            B-N3  
 4.B-Q3(a) N-B3            13.N-R4(b)        NxNP  
 5.B-B2    B-N5            14.QxN            P-B4  
 6.P-Q3    P-K3            15.PxBP(c)        PxP  
 7.QN-Q2   B-K2            16.Q-R4            R-K1  
 8.P-KR3   B-R4            17.N4-B3(d)      N-R4  
 9.Q-K2    P-Q4            Resigns  
 (a)An unusual, but not unknown (The Bremen variation) idea; White aims to place the bishop on its

best attacking diagonal. (b)So far the game has proceeded uneventfully, but this is a miscalculation. 13.R-Q1 is best. (c)The main point of Black's combination is that after 15.Q-N3, P-KB5; 16.Q-N4, N-K4; 17.QxPch, B-B2; 18.Q-B5, BxN; 19.QxP, Q-K2; White's exposed king and inferior development are of much more account than his extra pawn. (d)White clearly visualises only the reply 17...N-Q5; when he can obtain three pieces for the queen by 18.PxN, BxQ; 19.BxB. However, after 17.Q-N3, BxN; 18.QxPch, K-R1; 19.QxQBP, B-R4; followed by...QR-K1 and ...R-B3-N3; Black has a winning attack.

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A MATTER OF AGE (Cont'd. from following page)

Threatens 27...N-B3.  
 27.BxB                      PxB  
 28.I-B3                      P-R1  
 29.NxP                      P-KB3  
 30.F-IN3                      K-K2  
 31.N-N2                      N-N2  
 32.N-N2                      N-B4  
 33.P-N4                      N-Q3  
 34.N-K3                      N-B5  
 35.N-D5ch  
 White is lost, but 35.NxNgives more battle.  
 35.....                      K-B2  
 36.K-B2                      K-N3  
 37.K-B3  
 After 37.K-N3, N-17 decides too.  
 37.....                      N-Q7ch  
 Resigns

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## A MATTER OF AGE

Chess is on the move today. Factories, offices, army and navy units, high schools, hospitals all have chess clubs today. Youth is taking the lead in tournaments. That's all as it should be. But who of these many newcomers remembers or knows such greats as Lasker, Capablanca or Alkähine? They have already become legends. But if the last two had still been alive they would be 69 and 63 years old respectively. That is not an old age for a chess master. Herman Holms of New York, Dean of American Chess, still plays a mean game of chess at the age of 86 and writes the chess column for the N.Y. Sun-Telegram and publishes the American Chess Bulletin, this for over 50 years! Geza Maroczy was 82 when he passed away. This outstanding Hungarian great was a real matador for over fifty years, this in spite of a slight heart disease. Compared to them, Mr. Ossip Bernstein, France, Dr. Xavier Tartakower, Franco, O. Duras, Jugoslav, and Akiba Rubinstein, who have all passed into the seventies, are all still comparatively youngsters. Dr. Bernstein, a retired Jurist and Dr. Tartakower are still active in tournaments. Duras and Rubinstein have not participated in tournaments for the last twenty years. Duras prefers to see his son take over his reign. Rubinstein was sick for a long, long time. In 1910 Rubinstein was the chief rival of Dr. Lasker for the world title. Akiba was a fore-runner of Capablanca in style, the smallest advantage nuance was manipulated into some phenomenal wins. Then already Rubinstein was a peculiar player. After each move he would retire into a corner of the room, waiting, aloof of the crowd, for his opponent to move. It seemed that he did not want to interrupt his "opponents" train of thought, and a number of times, lost games on time limit, just for-

getting to make his last move, when he had as much as 15 minutes at his disposal. Even today he still plays a mean game, I know, I visited him in Brussels last year! It is 50 years ago that Akiba won his Master title and this through beating Bidmar! Here is this particular game:

White: O. Duras  
Black: A. Rubinstein

1.P-K4	P-K4
2.N-KB3	N-QB3
3.B-N5	P-QR3
4.B-R4	N-B3
5.P-Q3	P-Q3
6.N-B3	B-Q2
7.O-O	B-K2
8.B-N3	N-QR4

8.....B-KN5 looks much stronger here. Both have played the opening very solidly.

9.P-Q4	PxP
10.QxP	NxB
11.RxP	O-O
12.B-N5	R-K1
13.QR-Q1	B-B3
14.KR-K1	P-KR3
15.B-R4	Q-Q2
16.N-Q5	

16.P-K5 gives more play. From now on Rubinstein is master of the situation. His genius was in making his pieces go to the right squares--at the right time!

16.....	BxN
17.PxB	P-KN4
18.B-N3	N-R4
19.Q-Q3	B-B3
20.P-B3	
N-Q4 was better.	
20.....	Q-N4
21.QxQ	

The Barman, 1905 tournament book recommends here justly 21.Q-B4.

21.....	PxQ
22.P-N4	K-B1
23.K-B1	R-R7
24.R-N1	

This is the losing move.

24.....	P-N5
25.N-N1	

Better is 25.RxRch and 26.N-K1.

25.....	RxRch
26.KxR	B-K4



*Guiding*  
MEMORANDUM

"Sorry, Reverend sir, that chess board is not for sale."

"Oh--so? Too bad. It's a beautiful piece of work."

"Yes it is. No one has ever seen a chess board like that one. I sincerely hope no one ever will."

"Beg pardon?"

"That board was made by a shrinking man. A man who shrank so small that he nearly vanished completely. That's why I keep it on display in the show window."

"You've aroused my curiosity. Am I to hear the story?"

"Well sir, you're a Minister of the Gospel, and a stranger in town. For those two reasons the story of that chess board might be safe with you. Do I have your word?"

"By all means."

"Good. You see, if this story gets around a man will die of--of erasure, so to speak. What little is left of him will be erased.

Let's call this tiny man Henry Midge. Midge was and is a member of our local chess club. He's a Master, is Midge. At least the American Federation rates him a master. Chess is his one love, his ruling passion. But Midge loves chess the way a vampire loves it's victim.

Midge stands a shade over four feet high, and weighs about ninety pounds with his glasses on. He sports a wee moustache, consisting of about six hairs, and his face is the hatchet kind--a toy hatchet.

As a chess player Henry Midge has one great handicap--the world's worst memory. You don't need memory to play a good game, but without memory you can't get a good game to play. An opening that took two hundred years to evolve simply can't be discovered over the board. And yet, somehow Midge managed to play the openings to perfection whenever he had to--whenever he played a match or in a tournament. In offhand chess he played the worst openings in the club.

Midge is a watchmaker, but in addition he has a state-wide reputation as a maker and repairer of small, intricate special instruments. He does the finest, tiniest, most intricate engraving--you know, one of those fellows who can write the Lord's Prayer on the head of a pin. It's like Henry to put on the head of a pin what ought to be blazing across the sky. To keep secret from the eyes of men what was meant for the eyes of men.

You see what I mean? Small! Smallness as a complete way of life. A small, niggardly husband; a small and cheating father; a small, sly, and scheming friend, ready at any time to trade a stick of gum for a good meal. That was Henry Midge. A man trying to sneak salvation by leaving no evidence that he ever lived. Henry never speaks, he hisses. He never moves, he darts about like a minnow seeking the shards and slivers of shadow in the crevices of life.

It's been a month now, since Midge played his match with young Roston, the boy wonder from upstate. Seven games they played for the right to meet Bill for the state championship. If the microscopic mind of Henry Midge had room for a dream, he dreamed of the state championship. At the end of the sixth game the score stood three to

three, with two wins and two draws for each side.

We had watched Midge play six difficult openings to perfection. He had not given Roston a chance to play the boy's specialty, the French Defense, but in the seventh game Midge slipped. With the white pieces he played 1.P-K4, P-K3; 2.P-Q4! I could tell by Midge's face, after 2...P-Q4 by Roston, that he, Midge, had played an automatic move. Midge began to fidget in his characteristic fashion, making those darting, meaningless motions with his hands and elbows, indicating uncertainty.

Now only the day before I myself had won two French Defenses from Midge, and I know, or thought I know, that he certainly had not learned the opening over night. Not with his useless memory. Against the French Midge is strictly a 3...P-K5 man, setting up the kind of closed, constrictive game at which he excels. But young Roston is sheer death on any variation of the French, especially P-K5. You can imagine my surprise then when Midge played 3.N-QB3.

Roston blinked, hesitated, and with a gleam in his eye answered 3...PxP. Now Midge had to deal with an open position, and only three moves played! The kind of game he likes least.

Midge, twitching nervously, muttered "j'adoube" and lifted his QN. He peered intently at the vacated square, as if it were responsible for his predicament.

4.NxP  
5.N-KB3  
6.N(3)-N5!?  
7.NxP!?!?

N-Q2  
KN-B3  
B-K2

There was a gasp from the onlookers, including me. For Henry Midge to play a combination was as completely out of character as if Albert Einstein had suddenly taken up tap dancing! But a sacrificial combination--had Einstein then begun to sing soprano, the shock would have been no greater. Midge played a weasel game, with weasel moves, and weasel plans. I mean always!

7.  
8.N-N5ch  
9.NxP.

KxN  
K-N1  
Q-K1

Midge took off his bifocals and began to polish the lenses. I had moved up close to his right elbow, and his right arm made one of those meaningless darting motions so typical. His elbow struck my kneecap, and his glasses flew out of his hand, clattering to the floor.

We both stooped to retrieve the glasses, but I got them, and straightened up with an apology. But Midge made a frantic, desperate grab at the thing, as if he thought I meant to hold them for ransom or something. He knocked them out of my hand, and this time they fell on the chessboard.

I tell you sir, I have always been proud of my quick recovery. Without the flicker of an eyelash I picked them up slowly and deliberately.

Midge was staring at me with an expression of pure terror. I held the glasses out to him, and said:

"Here now, Midge, you can't play the game without these, can you?"

He sat motionless, his face a quivering question mark.

"Can you?" I said again, with emphasis.

He produced an imitation smile, shook his head, and tried to put the glasses on upside down.

It was a good five minutes before the little man moved again. He dreaded to look at the board--that beautiful chessboard of his, now in my window. Then he stooped suddenly to pick up something from the floor. He got up like a puppet moved with strings, and held out his hand to me.

"You--you must have dropped this," he squeaked.

So help me it was a fifty dollar bill! First time I'd seen a fifty since the year of the blue snow.

This time I was a little slow on the uptake. I took the beautiful thing in a sort of reflex motion. Midge's face lit up like a one-watt globe, and he started to turn back like a man reprieved from the electric chair. Just in time I shoved the fifty back at him.

"Tell you what, I said, I've always liked that chessboard of yours. Give you fifty bucks for the thing. Is it a deal?"

His small mouth made a small stricken O, and his tiny soul rattled around alarmingly inside him.

He took the fifty.

Well, sir, ever since, Henry Midge has been growing--the hard way. Every time I feel it's time for Midge to grow a little more, I sort of water him with a suggestion. I made him grow enough to get his wife a new set of household furniture. He shot up a good half inch when I suggested that his daughter needed more than two gingham dresses. He even grew big enough to help send young Rosten to the national championship tournament back east. Every day he trots by here on his way to his shop, and sees his old chessboard there in the window. And each day he gets a little bigger.

Eh? You don't understand? Why doggone it, where've you been? Okay, okay--I'll spell it out.

After I bought his board with a fifty dollar bill I never had, Henry did not dare to look closely at the squares. Instead he studied the position and played 10.NxBP? He should have played 10.B-B4, but how could he know that? And Rosten's next move was 10.B-N5 mate.

You still don't get it? Here now, take a good look at Henry Midge's chessboard. Notice how the white squares are covered with fine parallel lines? Here's a powerful magnifying glass. Take another look at those lines. Yep--now you can read 'em, right?

Well, there you are. This board is practically a condensed version of Modern Chess Openings, along with some choice little games Henry happened to like. Look here at QB3. There's the game he wanted to play against Rosten. In microscopic lettering the whole line is only a half inch long, and it looks like a fine line to the naked eye.

Now you know what I saw when Midge's glasses fell on the chessboard. The upper part of those glasses are magnifying lenses! Henry Midge had a portable memory.

You'll pay a hundred for Midge's board? That's mighty tempting sir, but.....

Only this morning, Henry Midge stopped at my window to see his chessboard. And for the first time he looked me right in the eye. And I raised my hand and gave him the OK sign. And he smiled a full size smile for the first time in his life. And then he walked away with man size strides, and before he got out of sight his suit was too small for him. Sorry, Mister.

No Sale."

\* \* \* \* \*

PROBLEM CORNER

by Herbert Holden  
420 Lake St.  
San Francisco

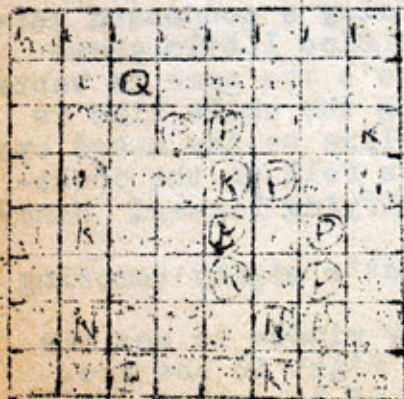
A few solvers were misled last month on #5. The correct key is 1. P-N6 allowing various checks by black which are canceled by white by captures or interpositions giving mate; hence the name cross-check theme. The key 1. Q-Q3 doesn't work because of 1. ... Pxp. The key to #6 is 1. R-Q6. If 1. ... N-B4, 2. Qxpch. KxQ, 3. R-Q3mate. If 1. ... P or N any other 2. R-Q2 any 3. R-R2mate. If 1. ... Pxr, 2. Q-R8 and mates on R1 or N2.

Problem #8 isn't particularly thematic but #7 contains a rather cute idea.

Here is a 2-mover composed by Leroy Turner of Concord, California: 1B4K1/8/2R5/1BN5/2Pkn2/r2p1P2/3Q4/8/.

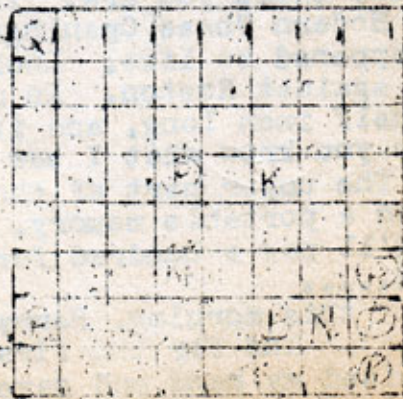
If you still don't have enough problems to keep you busy, try this miniature by Bayersdorfer:

8/1p6/1K1pp1Q1/3k4/3B4/8/8/8/. mate in 3.



#7 by H. Lorreto

Mate in 2----5 points



#8 by G. Heathcote

Mate in 3-----7 points