

PRECITA VALLEY CHESS CLUB
Community Center
534 Precita Avenue
San Francisco 10, Calif.

November 18, 1956

Mr. Al Horowitz
Editor, CHESS REVIEW
250 West 57th Street
New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Horowitz:

Again, thanks for your letter. It seems we have developed quite a correspondence between N. Y. and S. F.

At suggestion of your letter I did my utmost to contact those I thought might give you an exhibition. I had no luck for you which I am sorry to say. I only managed to get in communication with "Chuck" McGinley of Berkeley-- no answer on the others. "Chuck" told me that since he moved his club from the Berkeley YMCA to the Live Oaks Community Center he lost quite a few members and is actually rebuilding his club. Says he only has 40 members now and because the "center" is funny on events with admission charges didn't feel he could make it. I tried to talk him into it anyway but he would only promise he'd at least get 10 or 12 players when you appeared at my club.

At my own club the general membership is enthusiastic about your coming thought there are a few who think I have bitten more than I can chew. I defy such an attitude. If chess is to become near great in America again we must at least make it possible for chess masters to make a living and I'll do all in my power toward this angle. I intend to do some personal campaigning in your behalf in the few weeks before your arrival. I have confidence I'll have enough to make your exhibition at our club a success, but I hope to still dig up a second exhibition in this area for you. I cannot promise it but I'll work on it.

As for Mechanics Institute and Charles Bagby I cannot help you. Even a couple of my members belong to M.I. besides my club. Mr. Bagby is IT at that club. What he says goes. I don't know him personally but know of him. He's in a different category than I. He's a famous attorney in S.F.--, I'm only a working man. My home, my family, and possessions are humble, but anyone (including my worst enemy) is welcome to share what I have. I have a rare code-----, to do all I can for most anybody regardless of what they may do or feel against me.

Not wishing to give you wrong information, I do believe you would have better luck with Henry Gross who runs the Golden Gate C.C. He is also an attorney and is on the same side of the fence as Mr. Bagby. He is listed at 68 Post St., S.F. Also, I only know of Mr. Gross, but knows he digs out of his pocket for his club.

As I explained before there are two sides of chess in S.F. The exclusive (Bagby, Gross & Co.) and the chess "for everybody" (Koltanowski, CENC & Co.). I'm not for either side. I think the argument is silly and I'd like to see both sides

cooperate. I even mentioned such a thing in a letter to Dr. H. J. Ralston a couple of years back wend was accused of trying to start a riot between him and Koltanowski. I'm in a peculiar position-- I like both sides and would merely like to see the two sides unite and have a big chess organization in California but nobody seems to see my point. Even now, Koltanowski regards me with a question mark because I started my own club and the other side also eyes me with suspicion. My real ambition!----, to unite both sides because if you are united locally you can be united nationally and eventually, internationally.

I shouldn't even mention this to you as it may carry and I may be in hot water. I wouldn't shun it because I believe in facing facts. ~~There~~ Too many people are too proud to do same and so that makes me wrong. Actually I have bowed to both sides on occasions.

This has nothing to do with your coming here in a sense. I merely think if both sides cooperated we could have two exhibitions successfully for any visiting master. Actually I hope I can get George Koltanowski to act as host when you are at my club though I have my doubts. When I was secretary of CENCO it was no problem but since I started my own club it's something else. I like George and his ideas. I believe you are something like him but only in ideals-- and some ideas. I feel sure you'll please the customers and then some. Being a beginner I only offered the \$80 in advance because I thought it proper. It would have worked a hardship on me, but acting as a good host won't, such as my car being available, the hotel offer, or any other way I can make your stay enjoyable.

Since I last wrote to you I managed to get out "CHESS HERALD". It isn't so hot since I did it on the run. I feel such a paper is important to the morale of the club so getting it out was more important than how it looked to me at the time. SP can't keep me on odd hours forever so Ill make up for it in due time. I hope your luck holds up-- that is with California weather. The time you're picking is still during our usual "rainy" season. So far it looks normal this year which means rain for the latter part of December, all of January and February and the beginning of March. Just the same, I hope you and your luck can defy me and California's usual weather!

Thanks for the build-up in CHESS REVIEW of my team winning the El Camino Real League championship. We got off to a bad start for the new season but haven't lost hope. Still, I'd rather your magazine show our address in the club directory. Hoping to see you then, sometime in February,

Sincerely,

Jim Reynolds

P.S. Thurs., Feb. 21 looks good since it is before a holiday.