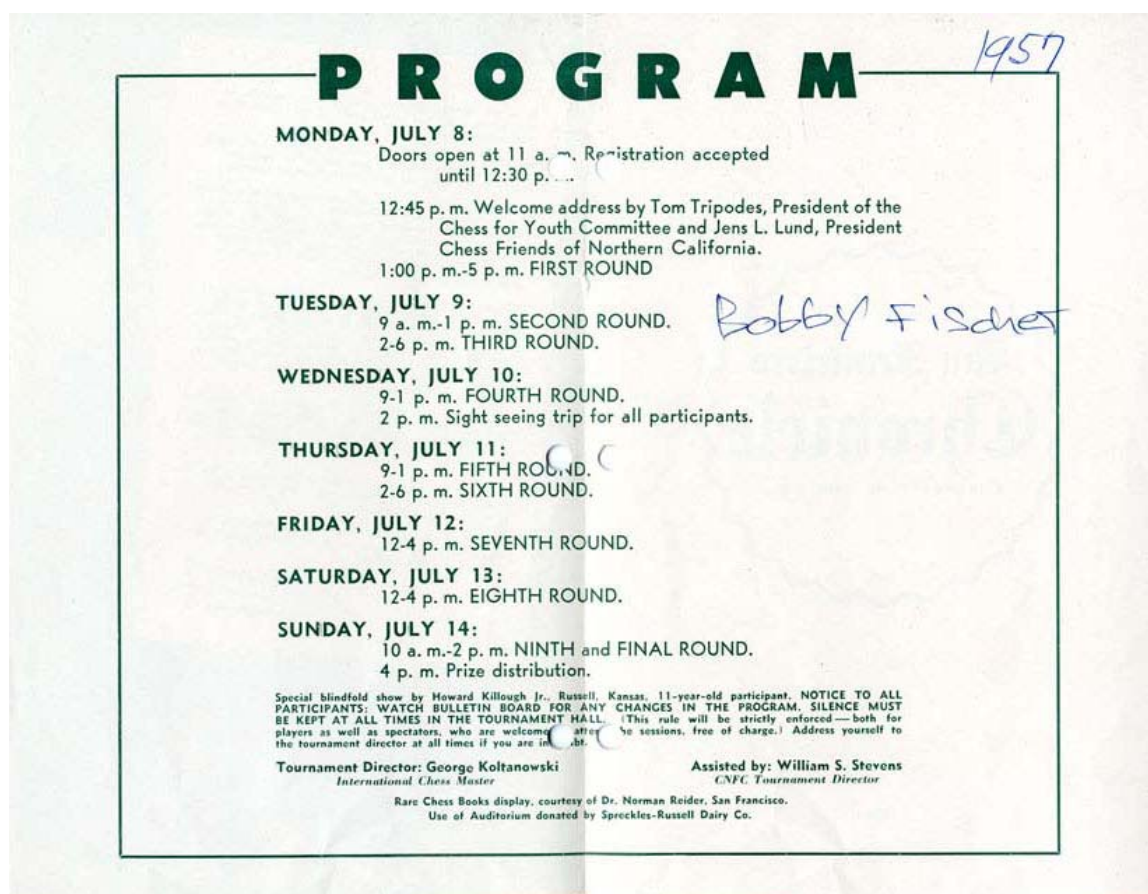


# Out of the Past

by Kerry Lawless

Getting the 1957 US Junior for San Francisco was a real coup for SF's Chess for Youth Committee and the Chess Friends of Northern California! The tournament was ably directed by International Master and World Blindfold Champion George Koltanowski, with, as usual, more than a little help from his wife, Leah. Chess Friends of Northern California members, Florence and Bill Stevens, took care of the sandwiches for the entire week of the tournament, while Henry King created the beautiful signs which decorated the playing area. Since the tournament was played in the Spreckels-Russell Dairy Company's auditorium (1717 Mission Street, San Francisco), they supplied the milk, chocolate milk and ice cream, which were consumed in large quantities!

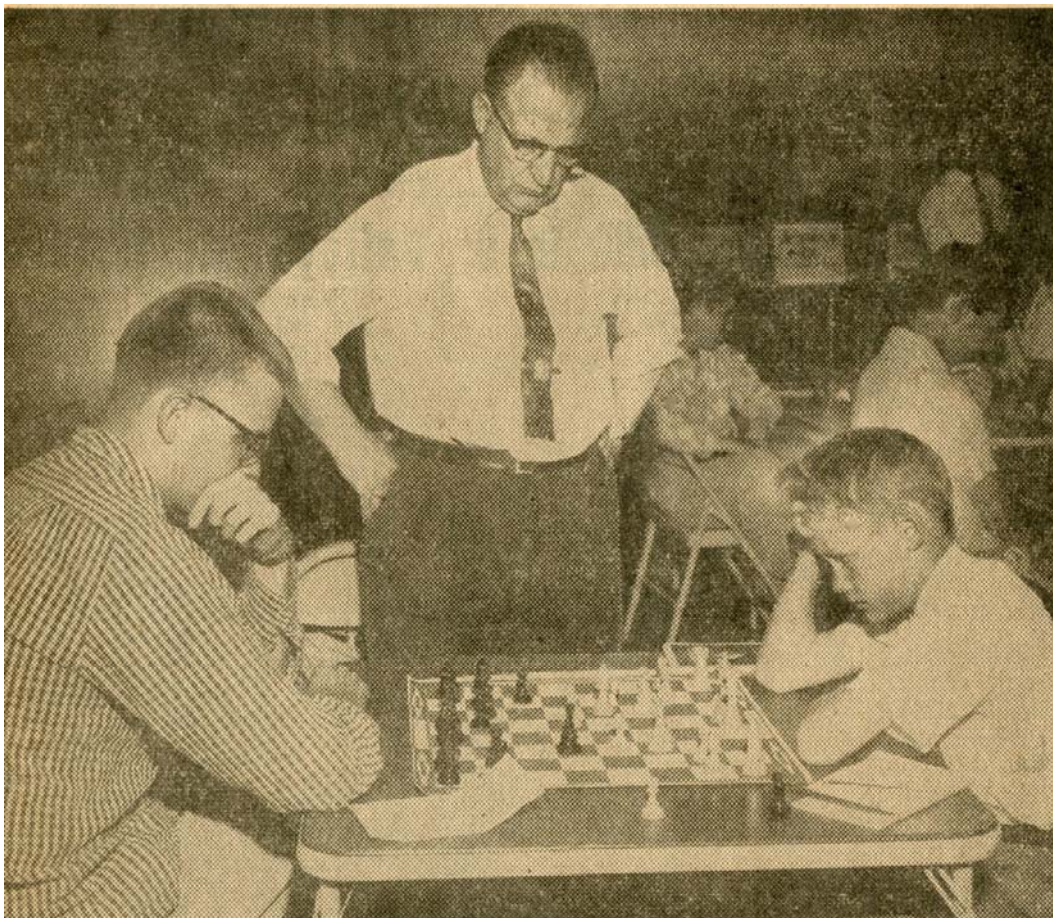


George Koltanowski's personal copy of the program signed by Bobby Fischer.

The nine round Swiss tournament started on July 8th and ended on July 14th. Thirty-three players from eight states (California, Kansas, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Texas, Oregon and Utah) took part. Brooklyn's fourteen-year-old Bobby Fischer (USCF 2231), the 1956 US Junior Champion, was, of course, the one to beat. But California also had some real contenders in Long Beach's fifteen-and-a-half-year-old Master (USCF 2240) Larry Remlinger, San Francisco's seventeen-year-old Master (USCF 2222) Gilbert Ramirez and Los Angeles' Master (USCF 2233\*) Stephen Sholomson. Larry Remlinger

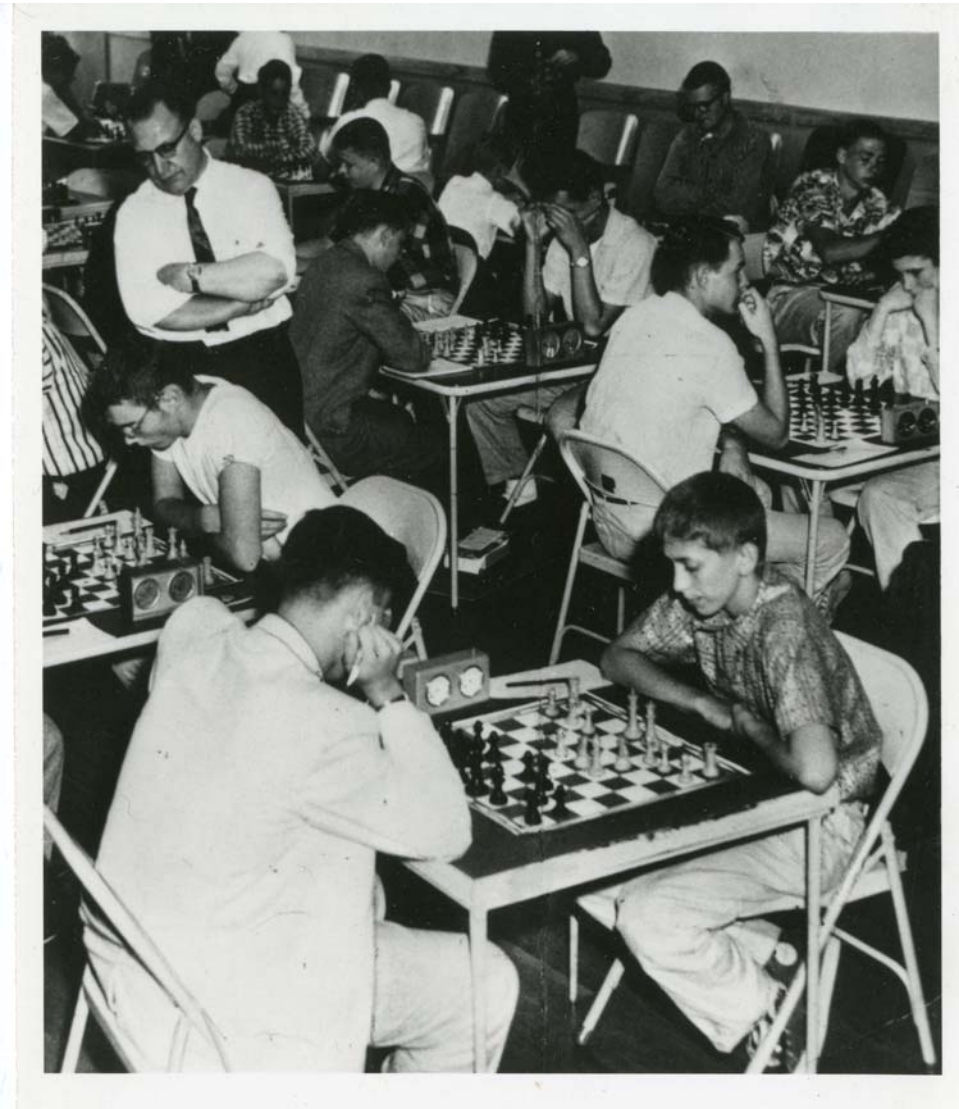
had won the Long Beach Championship at age 12 and, until Fischer came along, had been considered the American prodigy; unfortunately, for whatever reason, Larry did not participate. Gilbert Ramirez had surprised everyone by winning the California Open Championship the previous fall, but astonishment knew no bounds when he won the California Closed State Championship shortly thereafter. Stephen Sholomson, the Los Angeles High School Champion, had just recently emerged as a provisionally-rated master.

The first round, which was held on July 8th, saw only one upset...Northern California's own Gil Ramirez gave up a draw to out-of-stater Richard Owen, putting him under considerable pressure for the rest of the tournament, due to Bobby's continuous wins.



STEVE JOPLIN (LEFT), KOLTANOWSKI AND FRED WREDEN  
U. S. Junior Championship tournament

There were other activities besides the main tournament. George and Leah Koltanowski arranged for all the participants to be taken to see an evening showing of Pat Boone's newest picture, Bernardine, at the Fox Theater, the famous 4,651 seat movie palace on 1350 Market Street. On Wednesday, July 10th, there was a two part Rapid Transit (10-seconds a move) Championship. The first part consisted of three sectional round robins to determine who would play in the final championship round. Bobby won the finals and became the Junior Speed Champion. Chess Friends of Northern California's Chess in Action magazine wrote, "His skill in move-on-move play has been demonstrated against fast company at MICC (Mechanics' Institute Chess Club) on several occasions since. Old timers gasp!"



Unfortunately for Gil, the deciding game of the tournament came in round five.

Ramirez,Gil - Fischer,Bobby ½-½  
E67 U.S. Junior Championship 1957

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 0-0 5.c4 d6 6.Nc3 e5 7.d4 Nbd7 8.h3 Re8 9.Qc2 exd4 10.Nxd4 Nb6  
11.b3 c5 12.Ndb5 a6 13.Na3 Bf5 Black has a well developed game and the two open Bishop's files look  
dangerous. 14.Qd2 d5 15.g4 Bxg4 Typical Fischer. No retreat if a combination is possible! 16.hxg4 Nxg4  
17.Bh3 Finds the safest way out of the many threats Black has. Qh4 18.Kg2  
[ 18.Bxg4? Qxg4+ 19.Kh1 Re5-+ ]  
18...d4 19.Qg5 Qxg5 20.Bxg5 f5 21.Bxg4 fxg4 22.Nd5 Nxd5 23.cxd5 d3 24.exd3 Prefers to give the  
exchange, he still would have two pieces for a rook. Bxa1 25.Rxa1 Re5 White will have to lose the two Q pawns, and  
the draw is the safest bet by far.

½-½

Gil had to win this because of his first round draw against Richard Owen, but Bobby was just too aggressive about keeping the initiative. The annotations to the Ramirez-Fischer game were from the Chess in Action article from the July-August 1957 issue; they were probably written by the Tournament Director, George Koltanowski.

A first-hand account of the tournament from the San Francisco newsletter, the Precita Valley Chess Herald, said, "During the final round and last day, the Spreckels-Russell Dairy Co. auditorium became a little crowded. Everybody wanted to be in on the final results. First prize, of course, went to Bobby Fischer. He got a typewriter--, and, he doesn't know how to type. Maybe he can trade it for a "Kingboard"! Guthrie McClain, editor of THE CALIFORNIA CHESS REPORTER, deserves a word of praise for his up-to-the-minute bulletins during the tourney, which appeared at the auditorium where the tourney was taking place and at a few chess clubs."

US Junior Championship (July 8-14, 1957, SF)															
#	Player	Rating	Age	City	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Score	Median Points
1	Bobby Fischer	2231	14	Brooklyn, N.Y.	W19	W12	W4	W16	D2	W3	W5	W9	W6	8.5	27
2	Gilbert Ramirez	2222	17	San Francisco	D20	W18	W9	W3	D1	W6	W16	W8	D4	7.5	24
3	Stephen Sholomson	2233*		Los Angeles	W22	W7	W14	L2	W24	L1	W12	D6	W5	6.5	20.75
4	Ronald S. Thacker	1888		Richmond	W29	W15	L1	L6	W28	D8	W17	W16	D2	6	15.75
5	Mike Bredoff			Redwood City	L14	W20	W28	W11	D7	W10	L1	W12	L3	5.5	20.75
6	Leonard Hill			Mountain View	W27	L11	W23	W4	W16	L2	W7	D3	L1	5.5	19.75
7	Arthur Wang	1620*		Berkeley	W31	L3	W26	W9	D5	L12	L6	W18	W13	5.5	16.25
8	Ralph Clark A.	1867		Long Beach	W30	D26	L19	W22	D10	D4	W14	L2	W20	5.5	16
9	Robert Walker			Portland, Ore.	W17	W13	L2	L7	W29	W11	W24	L1	D10	5.5	15.75
10	Warren Miller			Albuquerque, N.M.	W28	L16	D22	W26	D8	L5	W27	W15	D9	5.5	11.75
11	Rex Wilcox	1837		Salinas	W33	W6	L16	L5	W21	L9	D13	W17	D12	5	15
12	Andrew Schoene	1842		Malaga, N.J.	W21	L1	W29	D14	W19	W7	L3	L5	D11	5	14.75
13	Thomas Heldt, Jr.			Albuquerque, N.M.	W23	L9	L15	W33	D17	W26	D11	W19	L7	5	10
14	David Krause			Palo Alto	W5	W32*	L3	D12	D15	D24	L8	W23	D16	5	7.5
15	Leighton Allen			San Francisco	W bye	L4	W13	L24	D14	D28	W21	L10	D19	4.5	13.75
16	William Haines			Sacramento	W25	W10	W11	L1	L6	W19	L2	L4	D14	4.5	12.75
17	Robert Dickinson	1990*		Redwood City	L9	W21	L24	W23	D13	W20	L4	L11	W26	4.5	10
18	Fred Wreden		10	San Francisco	D32	L2	L20	L21	W30	W22	W29	L7	W24	4.5	10
19	James Bennett			Fort Worth, Texas	L1	W27	W8	W32	L12	L16	W28	L13	D15	4.5	8.5
20	Richard Owen			Salt Lake City, Utah	D2	L5	W18	L29	W22	L17	W26	W24	L8	4.5	7.5
21	Howard Killough, Jr.	1544	11	Russell, Kas.	L12	L17	W25	W18	L11	W23	L15	D27	W29*	4.5	7.5
22	Ivan Vegovary	1550*		San Francisco	L3	W33*	D10	L8	L20	L18	W25	W31	W30	4.5	4.5
23	William Lee			San Francisco	L13	W bye	L6	L17	W25	L21	W30	L14	W31	4	3.5
24	James Schmerl	1650*		Piedmont	L26	W30	W17	W15	L3	D14	L9	L20	L18	3.5	6.25
25	Don Sutherland			San Francisco	L16	L29	L21	W31	L23	W32	L22	D30	W27	3.5	4
26	John Blackstone			San Jose	W24	D8	L7	L10	W32*	L13	L20	W28	L17	3.5	3.75
27	Allan Haley			Nevada City	L6	L19	W31	L28	W33*	W29	L10	D21	L25	3.5	3.5
28	Roy Hoppe			San Francisco	L10	W31	L5	W27	L4	D15	L19	L26	W bye	3.5	3
29	David Boganoff			Redwood City	L4	W25	L12	W20	L9	L27	L18	W bye	L21*	3	4.5
30	Bruce Pohoriles			Larkspur	L8	L24	L33	W bye	L18	W31	L23	D25	L22	2.5	6.25
31	J. N. Krug			San Rafael	L7	L28	L27	L25	W bye	L30	W32*	L22	L23	2	
32	Steve Joplin			Oakland	D18	L14	W bye	L19	L26	-	-	-	-	1.5	
33	Lincoln Fong			San Francisco	L11	L22*	W30	L13	L27*	-	-	-	-	1	

Bobby Fischer won the Milwaukee Journal Independent-Press Telegraph Trophy for ranking player under 15 years, the Herman Dittman Trophy and a Royal portable typewriter. Gil Ramirez won a RCA portable radio and a trophy. Stephen Sholomson won a handsome leather bag and a trophy. Ronald Thacker, Mike Bredoff, Leonard Hill, Arthur Wang and Ralph Clark all won books. Fred Wreden won the Milwaukee Journal Independent-Press Telegraph Trophy for ranking player under 13 years. All the out-of-state entries, that did not win a prize, received a Kingboard as a souvenir of their San Francisco visit. Unfortunately, the definition of 'Kingboard' is lost to posterity!