

MRS. M. STAFFORD PLAYED CHESS FOR 77 YEARS

Mrs. M. Stafford of Los Angeles is a smiling veteran of the game of chess—young at eighty-three and still eager for a game when she is not solving or composing chess problems. A recent letter in renewing her USCF membership tells the story of how chess can become an important recreational factor that endures through life with an untiring interest.



Mrs. M. Stafford

"I learned to play at the age of six — one cold winter in Iowa — convalescing from a siege of scarlet fever. They would prop me up on the sofa to watch them play. It was not too long before I surprised them with a request to play a game with me—and I played off and on all my life, whenever I was able to find a player.

"When I was about sixty, I saw a notice in the paper, inviting all chess players to attend a simultaneous, even if they played just so-so—that was me—and I went. Still later I played for four years in the New York Correspondence League I belong to Herman Steiner's club in Hollywood and enjoy it very much."

Between chess games Mrs. Stafford found the time to raise a family. One daughter, Sister Mary Edmundus, belonged to the Sisters of Charity and was a teacher of chemistry; a son, Father Raphael, is a Trappist priest at New Mel-leray Abbey.

"I learned to play at the age of six — one cold winter in Iowa — convalescing from a siege of scarlet fever. They would prop me up on the sofa to watch them play. It was not too long before I surprised them with a request