Steiner Easily Wins State Open Tourney

Sept. 10, 1955

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

Herman Steiner of Los Angeles, former U. S. champion and present California state titleholder, won the California Open championship in the seven-round Swiss tournament played in Fresno over the Labor Day weekend. Steiner scored 6-1. Roger Smook of Berkeley and Ray Martin of Santa Monica tied for second and third places with scores of 5½-1½.

Follow Leaders

Fourth to 11th places were shared by eight players with scores of 5-2: Walter Pafnutieff, San Francisco; Earl Pruner, San Francisco; William Adams, San Jose; Larry Ledgerwood, Berkeley; David Piezer, San Francisco; Ed Logwood, Oakland; Robert Brieger, San Antonio; Wade Hendricks, South San Francisco.

The 74-player tournament was smaller than expected.

Task No. 113, given in today's column, is a most remarkable composition by the famous old English composer, the Rev. Horatio Bolton, well over a century ago. With best play on both sides, White mates in six moves.

Stemmed From Bet

According to an account in a recent issue of The British Chess Magazine, the problem came to be known as the "Labourdonnais Challenge," due to its having been presented to the famous French chess master, Labourdonnais, with a wager of one guinea that he would not be able to solve it within one hour.

The wager also included the condition that Labourdonnais had to solve the problem from a diagram, without setting up the position on a chess board.

He won the guinea, but with only a few minutes to spare.

We spent considerably more than an hour on the problem, with the position set up on the chess board. How long does it take you. Be sure to work out all the variations.

End Game Award

Here is the first prize winner in a recent international end game composing tournament. The composer is R. Missiaen of Belgium. White is to play and win.

White (three men): King on QR1; Queen on Q8; Bishop on QR6.

Black (six men): King on K8;

Task No. 113—By H. Bolton

White Mates in Six Moves

(Value seven points)

Answer to Task No. 112: B-R7

Queen on KR2; Pawns on KKt2, KB4, KB6 and QB3.

We think that's enough to keep you busy for the week.

Chess Exhibition

Hans Berliner of Washington, D. C., a member of the U. S. chess team in Finland, will give an exhibition at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club, 57 Post-st, tonight at 7:30. Visitors are welcome.