

DAN WADE by LARRY PARR

"Jim McCormick? You know, he never could get my name right after he beat me for the first time in 1955. Before that fateful victory, it was always the proper 'Wade' as in 'outplayed,' 'bad trade' or, as I get older, simply 'fade.' Afterwards, I became 'Wadie' as in 'Anthony Sady' or, if what I hear about Jim's trips to Las Vegas be true, 'shady lady.' But mind you, Parr, tell the readers that I always liked McCormick even though I'm probably the guy who christened the boy, 'Dirty Jim.'" The speaker, of course, is Daniel E. (for Edward) Wade, the editor of NORTHWEST CHESS (formerly the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER) for an all-time record 107 issues spread over a 14-year period from August 1952 through April 1965. Known during those years as Mr. Washington Chess, he has been absent from the chess scene since the 1967 Seattle Seafair Open in which he had the worst result of his life, +1 -3 =2, finishing tied for 24th-29th in a 36-player field.

But Dan, who competed in the Washington "Closed" six times from 1947 to 1959, could obviously play far better chess than that. There was, for example, the following tense win over Jim McCormick. "A few years back, Jim had annihilated me 3 1/2 - 1/2 in a match, giving occasion to a typical McCormickism, 'Wadie, your blood is getting mighty stale.' Need I say it? I knocked him off in our very next tournament game! Still, my favorite win over him came three or four years later in the 1962 Seattle Seafair where I scored 5-1 to finish third in a field of 63. McCormick had a great year in 1962, winning tournaments almost every week, and this was the only game that he lost among several dozen played at that time."

WADE-McCORMICK (Seattle Seafair Open 1962): 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 c3 Nc6 4 d4 cd 5 Nd4 (A typical Wade opening move in the tradition of Lasker - not dangerous but also not in the books.) 5...a6 6 Be3 Nf6 7 Nd2 e5 8 Nc6 bc 9 Nc4 Qc7 10 f3 Rb8 11 Qc2 Be7 12 Rcl 00 13 Be2 d5 (Black's position is already preferable, but White's position is rock solid - a fact which explains the eventual outcome of this contest.) 14 Nd2 Qb7! 15 Rb1 Be6 16 b3 c5 17 ed Nd5 18 Nc4 Ne3 19 Ne3 c4?! (Black loses patience and decides to dig him out. Quoth Dan Wade: "This is the game that caused Jim McCormick to beat on the hall walls and accuse me of being afraid to come out and fight" - WCL, Sept 1962, page 15) 20 Bc4 Bh4 21 Ke2 Bc4 22 Nc4 Qa7 (DIAGRAM 1) 23 Kd1! (Brave Wade! This cold-blooded piece of defense is also in the Lasker tradition. Dan now seems to be winning.) 23...Bg5 24 Qe2 a5 25 Kc2 a4 26 Rhf1 ab 27 ab Qa2 28 Rb2 Qa6 29 Rdl Rfe8 30 Qe4 Qh6 31 h4 Bf4 32 Rh1 Red8 33 g4 Qa6 34 h5 h6 35 Rel Qa7 36 Re2 Rb5 37 Ne3 Qa1 38 Rb1 Qa2 39 Rb2 Qa1 40 Qa4 Qh1 (A final fling. Better strategy was to wait for White to advance his Q-side pawns and to loosen the protection around his King. Meanwhile, Black could advance his pawns on the opposite wing.) 41 Qb5 Be3 42 Rbl (White is too alert for 42 Re3?? Qd1 Mate. "While it is sinful to believe evil of others, it is seldom a mistake." - H. L. Mencken.) 42...Qf3 43 Rbel Bf4 44 Qc4! Qg4 45 Re5 Rd2 46 Kbl Qg2 47 Re8 Kh7 48 Qe4 and White scored easily on move 55.

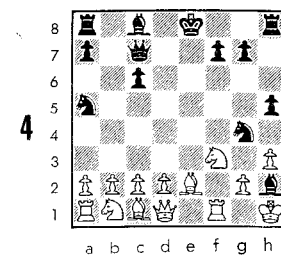
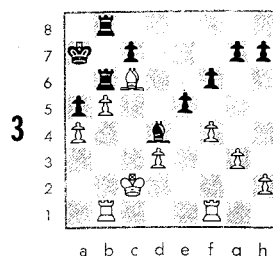
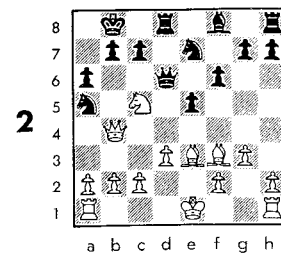
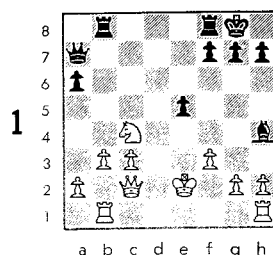
A YOUTH IN CHESS

Born on November 6, 1918, in Seattle, Washington, Dan Wade took up competitive chess in 1934 as a sophomore member of the chess team at Seattle's Franklin High School. "We were a poor team even by the standards of 1934, and I was only the third board," notes Wade today. But by his junior year, he was playing first board, losing only one game in the 1935 Metro

League season - and that to the late NW postal king, Oliver S. Morris. "To show you what sort of player I was back then, I actually tried as Black to defend the Queen's Gambit pawn! This defeat rankled so much that I waited for 23 years until 1958 to get even with Morris by defeating him +13 -1 =6 in two ten-game matches." Yes, there is some steel in Dan's character. "All good players have to have it," he avers.

In the event, there would be nary a draw on his escutcheon during his senior year when, as top board for the Franklin Quakers, he would score 7-zip to lead his team to the 1936 Metro League championship. "Then came my graduation and initiation into the world of 'real' chess. My high school friend and classmate, Philip Woliston (who would go on to win the 1953 California state championship, defeating Koltanowski and Herman Steiner in the process), brought me one evening to the old Seattle Chess Club in Pioneer Square. There and then I learned - tho' suspecting it before - that I wasn't all that hot in spite of my high school glories." It was in this club that Dan met the likes of the young master, Olaf Ulvestad, J. L. Sheets (nine-time state champion), and the fey Haruo Ishida, who would die going up the boot of Italy during WWII. (See also NWC 1981: Oct p. 222 and Nov p. 254).

Dan's first major tournament was the 1936 Seattle Championship in which he score 4.5-4.5 to finish behind Ishida (8/9), Sheets and Woliston (6/9), and Ulvestad and George Bills (5.5/9). Thus, Dan's baptismal chessic abluion ended honorably at 50%. But Ulvestad's relatively poor showing was already so rare that when the 1937 Seattle Championship rolled around, the by-then nationally known master was the hot favorite. Dan, however, upset the form book by upsetting Ulvestad in what was later described in an article in the May 1953 WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER as "the shocker of the tournament." On his scoresheet of the time, Wade wrote laconically: "In short, this game represents a top expert versus a fish - not dev loping - and later trying to win a drawn game - and finally losing." Indeed, the game was unusually dramatic for that very reason. We have all witnessed weekend swiss games wherein a famous master has overstepped propriety and reduced himself to cupping his head and reddened face in his hands as he hunches over the board vainly searching for a way out. So it was in the following contest, still pulsating with life, although played nearly a half century ago:



ULVESTAD-WADE (1936 Seattle Championship): 1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 g3 d5 4 ed Nd5 5 Qe2 Nc6 6 Bg2 Nde7 7 Nf3 Bg4 8 Qb5 Bf3 9 Bf3 Qc8 10 d3 a6 11 Qc5 f6 12 Be3 Qd7! 13 Qc4 000 14 Ne4 Kb8 15 Nc5 Qd6 16 Qb3 Na5 17 Qb4 (DIAGRAM 2) 17...Nd5! (This solves Black's problems immediately.) 18 Qa5 Ne3 19 Na6 Qa6 20 Qa6 Nc2 21 Kd2 ba 22 Kc2 (Although White has some opportunities to advance on the Queen's wing, it looks dead even.) 22...Bc5 23 Rhf1 Bd4 24 Rab1 Rd6 (Dan's inexperience begins to show, and White soon reaches a probable winning position.) 25 b4 Rb6 26 a4 Ka7 27 b5 Rhb8 28 Bc6 a5 29 f4 (DIAGRAM 30) It is truly amazing that Ulvestad contrives to lose this position.) 29...h6 30 fe Be5 31 Rfel Rd8 32 Re4 h5 33 Rbel Rbb8 34 Re5? (Here it is: The famous master cannot bear the thought of drawing a "fish" and so must draw and quarter himself.) 34...fe 35 Re5 g6 36 Kc3 Rd6 37 d4 Rbd8 38 d5 Kb6 39 Kc4 Rf6 40 Be8 Rfd6 41 Bf7 Rbd7 42 Be6 Rde7 43 Kd4 Re8 44 Ke4 (Yet another unhappy thought is aborning.) 44...Rf8 45 g4 hg 46 Bg4 Rdf6 47 Rg5 Kc5 48 d6? (Well, this really does it. The game is phfft.) 48...Kd6 49 Rd5 Ke7 50 Rd7 Ke8 51 Ke5 R6f7 52 Rd4 Re7 53 Kd5 Rf6 54 Kc4 g5 55 h3 Rf4 56 Kd3 Rd4 57 Kd4 Kd8 58 Kd5 Re8 59 Be6 Rf8 60 Ke5 Rf3 61 Bf5 Ra3 62 Bc2 Rh3 63 Kf5 Rg3 64 Bd1 Ke7 65 Bg4 Kd6 66 Kg5 Rg4 and White resigned on move 78.

For young Dan Wade, there was happiness that evening following his victory. He basked in the approbation of the older players and noted the sly envy etched in the congratulatory smiles of his peers. "It was a warm summer evening, and only the richest kids had automobiles back then. Which meant that as I left the club that evening, I walked across Pioneer Square - the place was lousy with Indian winos and skid row bums in those days - to catch a trolley car. There used to be trolley cars going everywhere in the 1930s. There was even a line which ran all the way from Seattle, through Rainier Valley, past Renton, and on down to Tacoma! My family lived in South Seattle at 1527 Farrar Street near Seward Park. So I would take the trolley from Pioneer Square out to Rainier Avenue and Genesee Street where I would then switch to a spur line and good old #40 which brought me a mere two blocks from my house."

As it happened, Dan later became a peculiarly difficult opponent for Ulvestad, and even after the former U.S. Open champion and perennial U.S. Closed participant became internationally known, there remained an undeniable Wade Whammy. How else to explain the following shocking and amusing game from the 1960 Washington Open?

ULVESTAD-WADE (1960 Washington Open): 1 d4 Nf6 2 e3 g6 3 Bd3 d5 4 Nd2 Bg7 5 f4 00 6 Qf3 Bg4 7 Qf1 Qc8 8 Nf3 Bf5 9 h3 Nc6 10 g4 Bd3 11 Qd3 Nb4 12 Qb3 c5 13 a3 Nc6 14 g5 c4 15 Qb5 ("Ulvestad always seemed to be moving his Queen to b5 against me. He did the same thing in our 1936 game.") 15...a6 16 Qc5 b6 17 gf bc 18 fg Kg7 19 c3 Na5 20 Rb1 Nb3 21 Nb3 cb 22 Ke2 Qf5 23 Bd2 cd 24 Nd4 Qe4 25 Rbgl e5 26 fe Qe5 27 h4 h6 28 h5 g5 29 c4 Rfe8 30 Rh3 Kh7 31 Bc3 Qe4 32 Rf3 dc 33 Rf7 Kg8 34 Rf3 Qd3 35 Kf2 Rf8 36 Rg4 Rf3 37 Nf3 Qf5 38 Rg3 Rf8 39 Kg2 g4 40 Kgl Kh7 41 e4 Qf4 42 Kf2 Qe4 White resigns.

Dan competed in the challengers' sections of two state championships before World War II. In 1938, he finished a disappointing fourth (4.5-5.5) in a six-player double-round robin won by one L. A. Walker. The championship section that year was won by James Hurt (7.5/10) ahead of a strong field which included Sheets and Ishida (6.5/10), Hugh Enochson (4.5/10), Anton Walloch (3.5/10), and Samuel Rubenstein



WADE (right) versus ULVESTAD, late 1950s Dan often looks at photos of himself from the 1950s and exclaims, "God, what an arrogant smirk I've got on my puss." But in this picture it's all seriousness! In the right foreground is the late Fred Howard, and two-time state champion, Viesturs Seglins.

(1.5/10). There was, en passant, a tournament book of this event authored by...Fred Reinfield! The Suzzallo Library at the University of Washington has a copy for interested antiquarians.

Then came the 1939 Challengers' and Dan's first important tournament success: He scored 8.5-1.5 to sweep the field and to gain automatic entry into the 1940 state championship. Yet he never played in that event, for....

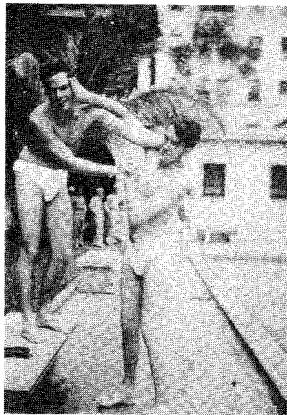
WORLD WAR II in the CENTRAL PACIFIC

There was that trifling spot of bother known as World War II. "Times were tough in the late 1930s, and I didn't have a job. Hence my joining the army. Today, everyone thinks that the Depression ended when Roosevelt became President, but unemployment was 17% when I entered the army on June 11, 1940 - the same day, if memory serves, that the Germans captured Paris."

By the time of his army induction, Dan was definitely one of the state's top ten players. Not only had he qualified the year before for the state championship tournament, there were also his consistently high board rankings in large team events so common in those days: 3rd board in a March 1939 Seattle vs. Puyallup team match, 7th board in an April 1939 Seattle vs. Vancouver, B.C. match, and 4th board in a June 1939 Seattle vs. Portland match (won by Portland 12.5-7.5).

Buck Private Daniel E. Wade sailed to and through basic training in Hawaii and began his regular duty at a place called Pearl Harbor. Or at least very near it. "I was sent to the Schofield Barracks as a member of "The Clansmen," or the 13th Field Artillery, if you like. We were about 20 miles north of Pearl Harbor in the center of the island of Oahu. The attack came on 7 December shortly after 7 a.m. while I was in bed enjoying a Sunday morning snooze. I heard a large explosion that I sleepily concluded was our unit's execrable kitchen stove exploding once again. No such luck! The Japs were bombing Pearl Harbor and their Zero fighters were strafing our barracks with machine gun fire. The bullets sounded like Chinese firecrackers. I was our unit's bugler but could hardly blow the thing and wasted many minutes making ineffectual blowing noises."

"That's the army's way of doing things: Cooks become truck drivers, human beings become buglers, and pianists take up ditch-digging. It's an old army tradition. Another tradition is how unpleasant it is being shot at by fighter planes diving out of the sky. I remember running like hell in groups of three and four up to our artillery positions from the barracks. We later dug into defensive positions on the northern shore of Oahu in expectation of a Jap attack. Nothing happened. It was my good fortune that this was the only real war that I saw."



Dan (right) and friend poolside in Hawaii, circa 1943

Dan's good fortune was a direct function of being transferred from his artillery unit to an aircraft warning group in late December 1941. His new job, strictly technical labor, involved nothing more sanguinary than radar location and radio chatter. "I was practically the only enlisted man around who had completed high school. All the others spoke New Joysey and Noy Yohrk rather than English and were impossible to understand over a radio. So I got the radio job."

"Thank God for that! My artillery unit soon decamped for the Solomon Islands and spent Christmas 1942 in jungles, whereas I landed up in central Oahu and enjoyed a Christmas dinner of good turkey and gravy. The boys in the Solomons weren't eating so well."

The sweet life, however, soured somewhat when shortly after New Year's Day 1942, Dan and some seventy other air warning personnel (plus a single infantry company) made an agonizingly slow boat journey from Oahu to Maui where they set up a radar station just below the crater of Mt. Haleakala. "We spent six months in perpetual cold and snow. Snow, for heaven's sake, in Hawaii! But radar reception was always rotten on the mountain, and the army in its infinite wisdom transferred us in mid-1942 back to the more clement climes of sea-level Maui."

The goddess Caissa did not again enter Dan's life until July 1944 when, as we shall see, she treated Corporal Wade very callously indeed. It all began with a news story of July 15 in the MIDPACIFICAN, a U.S. Armed Forces newspaper serving the Central Pacific war theater. The story concerned a recently concluded chess tournament for the championship of the Central Pacific and its 7,000 islands. An accompanying picture showed a defeated opponent raising in triumph the hand of the "champion," one PFC Eugene McTeer of New York City.

Corporal Wade, however, was having none of it, and the following piece of journalistic hype in the Honolulu STAR-BULLETIN, by a savvy

scribbler who knew a good story when he had one, set the stage for a Wade-McTeer showdown:

**THE
ARMY SPORTS
FRONT**

—By BLUES ROMEO—



"He ain't the best," sez Corporal Wade "Until a guy like me he's played. Gimme a match with this McTeer. The CPA chess champ of the year."

Chess may be regarded as a minor sport, but that hasn't stopped Corporal Daniel E. Wade from raising a rumpus over the recently-held CPA chess tournament.

Crowning Private First Class Eugene D. McTeer of New York chess champion of the CPA has made Wade pretty hot under the collar.

In a letter to Midpacifican, the armed forces' paper which carried an account of the finals, Wade says he can't see how McTeer was dubbed GI chess king, and he openly challenges him to a match.

Acting on the assumption that Wade knows his business with pawns and kings, we stand ready to arrange a match between McTeer and Wade, although it is felt Private McTeer rightly deserves his title as CPA champ, since he beat all comers in the tourney.

WANTS TO MEET CHAMP

Here's what Wade has to say: "In an issue of Midpacifican, a soldier named Eugene D. McTeer is in the headlines for being named the best GI chess player in the CPA. No doubt there are many servicemen in this area who knew nothing of such a tournament, and it is my contention that one or perhaps several of these players could defeat the champ."

"Possibly McTeer is good, but although I am not from Missouri he has to show me."

"I've known the game for about 11 years and although no world-beater I have never heard of McTeer before and would like to meet him over the board in a match."

"If he really is good he has nothing to fear, and I've been beaten by experts back home. But no one ever had an easy time doing it."

"If the claim had been made he was the only winner of a tournament, I wouldn't mind. But, when he is claimed the best GI player in the CPA, gentlemen, I object!"

WON WHILE BLINDFOLDED

Well, there's a challenge, and we don't think the present titleholder will be able to rest easy until Wade's wish is fulfilled.

The CPA chess championship was run off at Ft. De Russy a few weeks ago and McTeer won against a field of 16 contenders.

McTeer also knows checkers, but he more or less lost interest in the game. He says there are hardly any moves in checkers compared with chess.

He has been a whiz with the bishops and knights for a number of years. Once, back in the mainland, he played a dozen chess and checkers games at the same time. He made the first six moves while blindfolded, took off his blindfold and won all the games.

The match took place amid much pomp and circumstance and is referred to by Wade in an old notebook as "the Disaster of Sept 30th, 1944." For Dan lost that match by a score of +1 -3 and with it went the championship of the Central Pacific and its 7,000 islands.

So what happened? Wuz Wade robbed? Today, Dan says that McTeer "won fair and square"; and, indeed, in a news story accompanying the above photograph, Dan forthrightly confessed that "he could see why... (McTeer) defeated all of his opponents in the tournament recently held."

Still, although Grandmaster Blackburne once noted that in his entire forty years of play he had never defeated a well man, there were extenuating circumstances in Dan's defeat. First, Dan had not played a single tournament game in five years, while his opponent was fresh from recent conquests. Secondly, Dan's lack of practice resulted in two very quick losses. But he won the third game, termed by McTeer himself "the most brilliant game of the match," and ought to have won the fourth game that he overpressed and lost. Here is Dan's colorful win in game three:

McTEER-WADE: 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 d5 5 ed Na5 6 Bb5 c6 7 dc bc 8 Be2 h6 9 Nf3 e4 10 Ne5 Bd6 11 f4 ef e.p. 12 Nf3 Ng4 (The game turns off into a sideline, but it is still all in the book.) 13 O0 Qc7 14 h3 Bh2 15 Kh1 h5! (This position appears to be original to this game, predating Estrin-Anufriev, USSR 1946, by two years.) (DIAGRAM 4) 16 b4! (A very interesting idea by McTeer. Estrin-Anufriev continued 16 d4 Bg3 17 Bd3 Be6 18 Qe2 O00 19 c4! Rde8 20 Qc2 W+. McTeer's idea seems a big improvement, and White soon has a crushing position.) 16...Nb7 17 Bc4 Bg3 18 Qe2 Kd8 (If 18...Qe7 19 Bf7 Kf7 20 Nh4 seems overwhelming.) 19 Ng5 Nd6 20 Bf7? (After 20 Rf7! there would

never have been a fourth game in the match.)
 20...Qb6 21 d4 Qd4 22 c3 Nf2 23 Kgl Nh3 24 Khl
 Nf2 25 Kgl Qh4 26 Nh3 (Forced.) 26...Bh3 27 gh
 Nh3 28 Kg2 Nf4 29 Bf4 Qh2 30 Kf3 Bf4 31 Qh2 Bh2
 32 Kg2 Be5 33 Bg6 Bf6 34 Rhl h4 35 Kh3 Nb5 36 a3
 (It is this move which McTeer is shown making in
 a news photo of the time.) 36...Kc7? 37 Ra2 Rad8
 38 c4 Nd6 39 Nd2 Rh6 40 Rgl Bd4? 41 Rg4 Bf6 42
 c5 Nb5 43 Ne4? (Permits Wade a relatively speedy
 win.) 43...Rd3 44 Kg2 h3 45 Kh2 Be5 46 Ng3 Bg3
 47 Rg3 Rg3 48 Kg3 h2! 49 Rh2 Rg6 50 Kf4 Na3 51
 Re2 Rf6 52 Kg5 Rf7 53 Kg6 Rd7 54 Ra2 Nb5 55 Kf5
 Rd5 56 Kg6 Rd4 57 Rf2 Rb4 58 Rf7 Kb8 59 Kg7 Nc7
 60 Rf8 Kb7 61 Rf7 Rc4 62 Kf8 Rc5 63 Ke7 Rd5
 White resigns.

The final factor in Dan's defeat is no doubt best stated by the fallen soldier himself: "Racism shot through the entire armed forces even during World War II, and Negro men such as McTeer found themselves quite literally confined in separate camps. Thus, when I entered McTeer's camp in the company of a white colonel, we were the only two white's about. What made me nervous, though, was not any hostility from our hosts; they were perfect gentlemen. It was that other white man, this Colonel, who made me nervous. There was nothing more upsetting to me at that time than an officer!"

DAN BECOMES AN EDITOR

"That time" ended for Cpl. Wade on July 20, 1945, when he once again became Mr. Daniel Wade, Pvt Citizen. He quickly settled down to working as a trucking dispatcher for Wonder Bread. He later moved on to Oroweat (formerly Buchan's Bakery), a com-pany nationally famous in the 1950s for its championship industrial league basketball teams. Dan ended his professional career at Gais' Bakery where he worked from 1967-1977 in a supervisory capacity. He married Marie Wade, nee Jellum, on October 14, 1948, and has two sons and a daughter.

Dan's position in the pecking order of Washington chess was evident in the first major event organized after World War II, the March 1946 International Chess Match between Washington and British Columbia. Dan played 5th board in the 39 board match and won his individual game. Washington triumphed 43.5-27.5. (Note: For a report and pictures of the 83-board 1947 match, see NWC Sept 79, p. 254.)

The great problem in recounting Dan's chess career from the late 1940s until his retirement from NORTHWEST CHESS in 1965 is whether to treat him primarily as an editor-organizer or as a first-rate player in his own right. In fact, he was both.

Assuming the editorship of the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER in August 1952, Dan inherited a less than thrilling monthly of ten to fourteen pages. When he finally hung up his proofsheets in April 1965, he commonly produced issues of 18-20 pages which have become legendary among local afficianados for their witty liveliness.

Nor was this because chess was more vital in the 1950s. It was more likely a combination of two elements: 1) Dan's deep interest in the human side of the game rather than the technical: "I was never an opening theoretician," he says, "but I loved to play through biographical games' collections searching for a key to a player's personality"; and 2) His facility for telling writing with an authentic punch to it. "I collect old sports journalism and even have notebooks of paste-in cut-outs from Seattle newspapers dating back to before World War I. As an editor, I tried to apply lessons learned from my sports reading."

There was, for example, the lead sentence from his "Pupols Wins State Crown" article of February 1961 (WCL, pp. 7-9): "It was bound to happen sooner or later. It did. Viktor's Pupols won the 1961 Washington State Championship after years of frustration." Or there was this saucy bit from "Harmon Wins 1963 Puget Sound Open" (WCL, April 1963, pp. 3-4): "Don't tells Mrs. Clark Harmon this, but apparently the honeymoon is over. Since the former Portland chess whiz...got married and moved to Renton he hasn't done too brilliantly in chess tournaments... Well, the honeymoon is over and Clark has gone back to the old chess board." Or there was his "Dr. Chess" column with spoofs such as the following (WCL, January 1965, p. 8): "Dear Dr. Chess, I am a very beautiful girl (36-24-36) but my fiance completely ignores me! He spends his evenings playing chess at a chess club. I've almost lost hope. -- (signed) Neglected. Dear Neglected: Your problem is difficult and needs intensive study. Please contact me in person immediately." Finally, there were those clever and acidulous Wade editorials. His "Bedlam" piece of May 1953 (WCL, pp. 6-7) deplored the uncooperative attitudes of many chess players. While never criticizing players directly, he instead imagined his wife proofreading his editorial and deleting such words as "asinine" and "apathy." Voilà, point made!

So the "by-Wade" by-line (always set in small type off to the edge of the page) became over a period of a decade and a lustrum a guarantee of good reading enriched by vigorous games. He never forgot the lesser lights in his reports and printed upset games as a matter of policy. Still, it simply won't wash to treat the old WCL too uncritically. True, Dan's efforts lent the journal sparkle, but the 1950s and early 1960s were barren years for American chess, and Dan's WCL, which he cranked out on a mimeograph machine in his basement, was often abominably reproduced. It was, in short, the product of an environment hostile to chess publishing. "My weak link as an editor," recalls Dan, "was that when people worked for nothing, you could never read them the riot act even when they fully deserved it."

As Dan described to this writer the editing and playing atmospherics of his era, good memories seemed to predominate. For example, a guest slot on the late Royal Brougham's weekly sports talk on KING-TV. Or those gratifying photographs of himself in both the Seattle POST-INTELLIGENCER and the SEATTLE TIMES. Or some very special moments such as a chess team match at McNeil Island Penitentiary: "The warden was a mean-looking, red-haired guy who kept squinting at me and saying, 'I'm going to remember you.' I won my game against an inmate opponent. The poor bastard. I went home to my family and dinner. He stayed put with that red-haired warden!"

DAN THE CHESS EXPERT

Simply stated, Dan's chess results from the late 1940s through 1962 were uniformly good and placed him among the state's half dozen top players. He held his own (but no more than that) in six state championships (+16 -15 =11) against the likes of Elmars Zemgalis, Olaf Ulvestad, Viktor's Pupols, James McCormick, Viesturs Seglins, J. L. Sheets, et al. He never won the state championship, yet those were tough tournaments back then, and his 3rd-4th in 1952 and 2nd-3rd in 1957 were notable results. The following list of Dan's tournament successes, while by no means exhausting his better results, provides a fair indication of his prowess:

1947 Seattle City Championship	2nd-3rd
1952 Puget Sound Open	1st
1953 Oregon Open	2nd
1954 Washington Open	2nd
1954 Seattle Chess Club Chpp	1st-2nd
1955 Seattle Seafair	2nd-3rd
1956 Washington Speed Chpp	1st
1956 Seattle Chess Club Chpp	1st
1956 Inland Empire Open	1st-3rd
1956 Seattle Seafair	2nd-4th
1957 Puget Sound Open	2nd
1957 Seattle Chess Club Chpp	2nd
1958 Pacific Northwest Open	2nd-5th
1958 Inland Empire Open	2nd-3rd
1959 11th NE Seattle Invitational	1st
1960 N. Seattle Labor Day Invit.	1st
1962 Seattle Seafair	3rd-4th
1963 Seattle Seafair	4th-5th
1964 Seattle Open	5th

Thus, he was never a dominant force in Washington chess: he was "merely" one of the elite local over-the-board stars. Such was also the case with his correspondence chess. He competed in Northwest postal tournaments for 15 years and was near or at the top for several months at a time. "The postal system of ratings was amazingly mercuric," moans Dan, "I could lose 60 points for a draw. The swings were terrific. One week you were the champ, the next week just one of the chumps." (Editor's note: Reform is surely needed! Compare also comments by the United States "Absolute Correspondence Champion," Chris van Dyck, in CHESS LIFE, Jan 83, page 44.)

So how, then, did Dan play the game of chess? For this writer, his style is suggestive of Emanuel Lasker's play, if not the former world champion's strength. Dan typically sidestepped theoretical lines in favor of "commonsense" moves usually involving tactical piece play in the center of the board. It is important to understand that these tactics were seldom directed king-wards but were rather a form of complicated jousting requiring considerable faith in his powers of calculation. In addition, while Dan did not study the endgame, his fine technique in this area surely derived from a Lasker-like combativeness and a natural velleity towards endgame play. Viktor Pupols has judged Dan to be a "remarkably solid player who could, nonetheless, mix it up" - a Solomonic pronouncement which hits it just right.

The following two games are exemplary of all of the above. WADE-BELL is a short and sharp affair involving little more than strenuous calculation of piece possibilities. Mr. Bell, truth to tell, was a strong USCF master who took a Yale degree in the Russian language and disappeared into our intelligence network. The second game, WADE-SEGLINS, is a dour example of Dan's endgame determination against a player who, at the time, was widely regarded as the outstanding ending specialist in Washington state.

WADE-BELL (1958 Northwest Open): 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 e3 b6 4 Bd3 Bb7 5 Nbd2 c5 6 Qe2 cd 7 ed Nc6 8 c3 Be7 9 Oo Oo 10 Ne4 Rc8 11 Nfg5 h6 12 Nf6 Bf6 13 NDh7 Re8 14 Qg4 e5 15 Bh6 Nd4 16 cd e4 17 Nf6 Qf6 18 Bg5 Qd4 19 Bb5 f6 20 Be3 resigns.

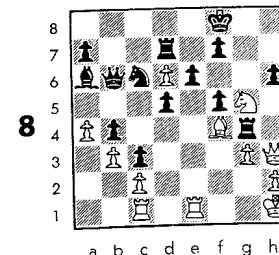
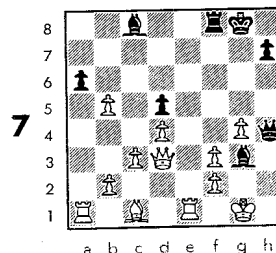
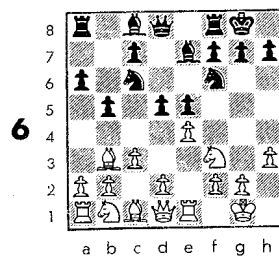
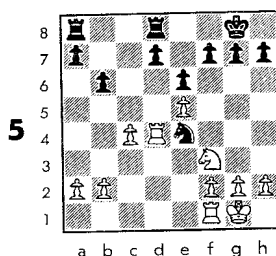
WADE-SEGLINS (1957 Seattle Chess Club Chpp): 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 c4 Bb4 4 Bd2 Bd2 5 Nbd2 c5 6 e3 Nc6 7 dc Qa5 8 Be2 Oo 9 Oo Qc5 10 e4 Ne5? (Necessary was 10...d5) 11 Rcl! b6 12 Nb3 Nf3 13 Bf3 Qe5 14 Qd4 Qd4 15 Nd4 Bb7 16 e5 Bf3 17 Nf3 Ne4 18 Rcd1 Rfd8 19 Rd4 (DIAGRAM 5) (Wade won dozens of games from such positions. Black's play was far too supine in his haste to reach an ending.) 19...f5 20 Rfd1 Rac8 21 Nd2 d5 22 cd Rd5 23 Rd5 ed 24 f3 Ng5 25 Nb3 Rd8 26 Nd4 Kf7

(If 26...g6 27 Nc6 Rd7 28 Rd5! Rd5 29 Ne7 wins a pawn. If 26...Rf8 27 Nc6 also garners a pawn.) 27 b4 Ne6 28 Nf5 Nf4 29 g3 Ne6 30 Nd6 Kf8 31 Rd5 Nc5 32 Kf2 Na4 33 Rd2 Rd7 34 f4 Rc7 35 f5 Rc5 36 Re2 Rd5 37 g4 Nc5 38 Kf3 a5 39 Nc4 Na4 40 e6 Ke7 41 Ne3 Rd4? 42 f6! Kf6 43 e7 resigns. (Even more devastating was 43 Nd5.)

For himself, Dan finds this writer's comparison with Lasker somewhat inapt. "Unlike Lasker, I really do care about beauty in chess and consciously try to achieve it. Alas, I seldom, if ever, succeed. To this day, I fail to understand the severe practicicism of players such as Reshevsky and Petrosian, who endowed mentally to play grand chess, grub points instead. They must believe that the extra dollar or two thus derived will actually follow them to the grave."

Although Dan regards himself as a man without illusions, he may possibly judge himself too harshly. For there have been moments when his chess has become exciting and theoretically valuable. The two wins below over Viktor Pupols are exciting efforts. The first contains a stunning theoretical idea that Dan dubbed the "Stutter Gambit" but which clearly ought to be called the Wade Gambit. The second game defeats attempts at description. If the reader has anything stronger than weak tea in his veins, then he'll enjoy it.

PUPOLS-WADE (Seattle 1960): 1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 Oo Be7 6 Rel b5 7 Bb3 Oo 8 c3 d6 9 h3 d5! (Here it is: The Wade Variation of the Marshall Gambit. Black waits until White enters the main line with 9 h3 before thrusting forward with Marshall's ...d5. The idea appears to be original to this game.) (DIAGRAM 6) 10 ed Nd5 11 Ne5 Ne5 12 Re5 c6 13 Bd5 cd 14 d4 Bd6 15 Re3 Ra7! 16 Nd2 f5 17 Qf3? Raf7 18 a4 g5 19 Rel g4 20 Qd3 Qh4 21 ab f4 22 hg f3 23 Nf3 Rf3!! 24 gf Bg3!! (DIAGRAM 7) 25 Qe3 (If 25 fg Qg3 26 Kf1 Bg4 discombobulates White.) 25...Qh3 26 fg Qg3 27 Khl Qh3 28 Kgl Qg3 29 Kf1 (White goes for the win.) 29...Rf3 30 Ke2 Qg2 31 Kd3 Bg4 32 Qf3 Qf3 33 Kc2 Bf5 34 Kb3 Qd3 35 Ka3 Qb5 36 Rgl Kf7 37 Bd2 Bc2 38 Raf1 Ke6 39 Rel Kd6 40 Bf4 Kc6 41 b4 Qa4 42 Kb2 Qb3 43 Kcl Be5 44 Re4 Qc3 45 Kbl Qb4 46 Kc2 de 47 Be5 a5 White resigns. One of the flashiest defeats ever suffered by Mr. Pupols.

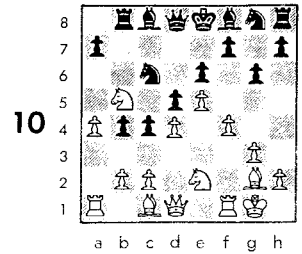
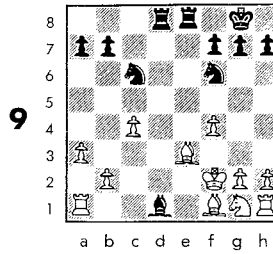


WADE-PUPOLS (Seattle 1960): 1 e4 c5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 Nge2 e6 6 Oo d6 8 d3 b5 9 e5 d5 10 a4 b4 11 Nb5 Bf8 12 d4 c4 (DIAGRAM 8) 13 f5!? gf 14 Nd6 Bd6 15 ed Rb7 16 Bf4 Qb6 17 Kh1 Nf6 18 b3 c3 19 Rcl Rg8 20 Ngl Rd7 21 Rel Ng4 22 Nh3 Kf8 23 Bf3 Ad4 24 Qe2 Qb6 25 Bg4 Rg4 26 Ng5 Ba6 27 Qg2 h6 28 Qh3! (DIAGRAM 9) Black resigns.

When asking Dan what currently affords him the greatest satisfaction as he looks back upon his salad days in chess, he answers with his wonted dryness: "Scalps, Parr, and the bad digestion that I gave Jim McCormick once or twice." The scalps, in fact, are legion: Jim McCormick (many times), Viktors Pupols (twice), Olaf Ulvestad (twice, plus several draws), Ivars Dalbergs ("I bloomedered," said Dalbergs, and he resigned immediately. Pupols or McCormick would have fought on and probably saved the game."), Mike Franett (several times), Viesturs Seglins (twice), J. L. Sheets (once), Richard "Rock" Schultz ("My record against our perennial postal champion was very good. But his wins were the nicer ones."), Elmars Zemgalis ("I could never hope to beat Zemgalis, but I drew him once."), and Duncan Suttles. This last scalp was lifted at the 1961 Seattle Open and is a perfect example of how GM Suttles lost in those days and how, in fact, he loses in these days.

SUTTLES-WADE: 1 e4 d5 2 ed Nf6 3 c4 c6 4 dc Nc6 5 d3 e5 6 f4 (A classic Suttles idea. The move can be found nowhere, but in any event, the position almost verges on an opening trap. It's difficult to suggest anything constructive for White.) 6...Bb4 7 Nc3 e4 8 a3 Bg4 9 Qd2 Bc3 10 Qc3 Oo 11 Be3 ed 12 Qd3 Rad8 13 Qd8 Rad8 14 Kf2 Bdl! (DIAGRAM 10) (Stronger than the immediate 14...Ne4. White seems unable to avoid a debacle. If (A) 15 h3 Ne4 16 Kel Ng3 17 Rd1 Re3 18 Kf2 Rd1 19 Ke3 Rfl-+; (B) 15 Bcl Ne4 16 Kel Ng3 -+; (C) 15 Rd1 Ng4 16 Kf3 Rd1 17 Kg4 Rfl 18 Bc5 Reel 19 Kg3 b6 20 Bf2 Rd1-+) 15 Be2 Be2 16 Ne2 Ng4 17 Kf3 Re3 18 Kg4 Re2 19 g3 Rb2 20 Rhl g6 21 h3 Rd3 22 Kg5 Kg7 23 Rgl Nd4 24 Rgbl Rg3 25 Kb4 Nf5 Mate.

As for Dan's disturbing Jim McCormick's digestion, there is the story of Dan's two wins over Jim from the double-round robin 1954 Seattle Chess Club Championship. The first game was a humorous affair: WADE-McCORMICK: 1 d4 Nf6 2 g3 d5 3 Bg2 g6 4 Bf4 Bg7 5 Na3 c6 6 Nf3 Qb6 7 Rab1 Oo 8 Oo Na6 9 c4 Bf5 10 c5 Qb4 11 Bd2 resigns. Ah, hem. The second win made history hereabouts and bids fair to being the only tournament game boasting the following distinction (WCL, April 1954, p. 6):



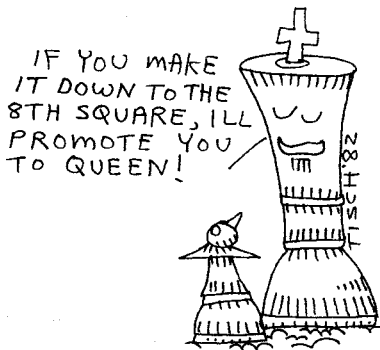
"Dan Wade was the winner of the most 'brilliant' game of the tournament by defeating Jim McCormick in a Queen and Rook endgame while playing the weaker side!!! This remarkable game deserves some explanation, but not the space required for a score. McCormick sacrificed his remaining piece, a Knight, in order to Queen one of two remaining pawns. Subsequently Wade captured the other pawn and began to enforce the fifty-move rule in the resulting endgame. McCormick proved unable to force the game, and finally, on his fiftieth move, he left his Queen deliberately en prise, mistakenly believing that the game was a draw. Wade captured the Queen, of course, and with it a share of the first prize."

RETURN TO CHESS?

"I keep planning to return to chess," Dan said to me as he spread his arm expansively in the direction of the west wall of his book-lined living room, "but my other interests somehow take up all my time. I collect books on military history and Old Seattle, and I make my own notebooks of distinguished sports writing." He looked at his fine collection (e.g., Willis John Abbot's NATIONS AT WAR, Leslie Blanchard's THE STREET RAILWAY ERA IN SEATTLE, etc.) and then he looked back at me: "Wouldn't it be interesting, though, to return to the chess wars!? Perhaps the younger players may see this old body wandering into a tournament room one of these days. All I ask is that they hold the door open for poor old Wade, and I'll somehow stumble through it."

But then he shakes his head, and there is a sort of sardonic susurrus in his voice: "You know, Parr, I was an arrogant SOB when I was younger, and I hated to lose. Today, I'm even worse. Sour's the word. So don't anyone open the door for me. I can open it myself. And I might even knock off one of these young hotshots. What do you think?"

I think that he just might.



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