

Historical WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER recaps (in the pages of *Washington Chess Letter* and *Northwest Chess*) by Russell Miller

1950-1975 at five-year intervals from May 1985 Northwest Chess

May 1950

Jim Schmitt won the Washington Experts Tourney with a 5-1 score. On May 14th, the Spring meeting of the Washington Chess Federation was held and among the items discussed was the lowering of the entry fees to the tournaments and the reclassifying of the Junior Tournaments and the Ladies Tournaments as Minor Tournaments. In a team meet between the Seattle YMCA and South Tacoma, the YMCA won an 8-4 victory. In the Eastern Washington Championship, Bill Martin with a 5-0 score took the trophy. A reminder to all interested in attending the International meet between the Washingtonians and those of British Columbia was posted, and all were invited. In the Bremerton Naval Ship Yard Machine Shop Championship Jack Finnigan came up with a squeaker, winning with a 16-4 score. The issue was 9 pages.

May 1955

It was announced that a Junior Tourney would be held in Yakima with a \$2.00 entry fee. Robert Edberg won the Montana State Championship with 4-1/2 -1/2. He was a resident of Tieton, Washington at the time. Dan E. Wade was the top postal player in this issue. 15 pages were put out by Editor G. B. Schain. As of this issue there had been 91 issues of The Washington Chess Letter with following Editors for the listed number of issues, Larry Taro 17, Jack Finnigan 14, Robert Stork 25, Dan Wade 21, John DeWitt 11 and Gerald Schain 3. Cost for a WCF membership was then \$2.00 per year.

May 1960

Russ Hewitt won the Pierce County tournament while Mike Franett, of Seattle, won the Inland Empire Open with a score of 5-1. Also with scores of 5-1 were Gordon Cornelius and Don Turner. Tal is leading Botvinnik in the 1960 World Championship after 18 rounds by a score of 10.5-7.5.

May 1965

The annual WCF Meeting was held at the Seattle Chess Club. The officers elected were elected as follows; Clark Harmon, President; Edward Bosse, Vice President; Howard Weaver, Secretary and Publicity Director; Buz Eddy, Tournament Director; Fred Howard, Rating Director; Russell Miller and Buz Eddy, USCF Directors. Jack Powell won the Klamath Falls Chess Club Tournament. Doug Adams, a Spokane resident, won the Inland Empire Open with a score of 4.5-1.5. Roger Freling and Norman Abrahamson also accumulated a score of 4.5-1.5. Andy Schoene won the Central Washington Open.

May 1970

Willie Skubi put out a 24 page issue of NWC this month. George Krauss was reported as the winner of the Tacoma CC Championship 5-0 over 19 others. Lilac Open in Spokane ended in three players getting 3.5-.5: Eugene Warner, Peter Torkar, Rich Hanlen. 16 players took part. Jim Hanlen won 7 player Spokane Woodpushers 3.5-.5. Vik Pupols won his 4th Inland Empire Open on tie-break over Peter Tokar, Dennis Waterman and

George Krauss when they all scored 4.5-.5 in the 62 player event. Pupols had won in 1956, 1957 and in 1961. This year he won \$42.50 for his efforts. The 62 players was largest ever topping the previous record set in 1960 by 12 players. Three other previous winners took part also: Mike Franett 1960, Doug Adams 1965 and Eugene Warner 1955.

Robert Zuk won the 34 player Kelowna Open 5-0, good for \$58.00. Angus Pitt won WCF President mail ballot election. The first tournament directed by Hanon Russell who had moved into Portland from Conn. (and now is back in Conn.) was the 34 player Portland State Open No. 1 won by Bill Kiplinger and George Krauss. Roosevelt High School Team come 10th in a 49 team National High School Team Tournament. Team members were: Mike Burke. Walter North, Don Eisenberg, Paul Thomas and advisor James Erickson. Lyman Johnston won 7-0 the Crusaders CC RR Tourney over 9 others. Alan Dvorshak won the Baseline Open held in Hillsboro Oregon.

May 1975

Editor Dan Bailey put out a 32 page issue of NWC. Kip Poyser became President of WCF by election of board of officers to fill a vacancy. David Collyer became Secretary the same way.

Vik Pupols won Computer Careers Institute Spring Open 5-0. The computer paired event drew 68 players. It didn't do the wall charts due to a "bug" in the program. Pupols won \$100.00 while 2nd and 3rd places at 4.5-.5 went to Bill Kiplinger and Dwight Stevenson.

Alan Ovorshak with 4.5-.5 topped the 38 player Eu-Lane Winter Open good for \$45.00. David Bradley 4-0 topped a Eugene CC Nov. Open good for \$30.00. Gerry Vigier won Burnaby BC Championship. Robert Chow's 5-1 score topped the Last Chance Open, a University of BC 30 player event.

The opening of Seattle Chess Center at 815 N. 5th was announced. It was to be open Wednesday-Fridays 7pm to 11pm. Eugene Fomin won 75 Challenger Club play-off over Neil Salmon 3.5-2.5.

William T. Ballard of Portland Oregon took over the post of Northwest Postal Chess Director.

Several NW players took part in the 240 player National Open at the Stardust in Las Vegas plus Angus Pitt who did not play but wrote up a report for NWC. The players were Peter Biyiasas (5.5-1.5), Vik Pupols (5.5-2.5) Vladimir Pafnutieff (5.5-2.5) and Bill Kiplinger. The tournament winners at 7-1 were: Pal Benko, Walter Browne, Alfonso Ferriz and Suhobeck.

6th Annual Northwest Interzonal High School Team Tournament drew 12 teams to Yakima. Stadium of Tacoma coached by Ron Jarmon won 5-1. Team members were: John Donaldson, Bob Bunge, Kevin Terry, Warren Davis and Rob Renner. Best score on 1st board was made by future Grandmaster Yasser Sierawan playing for Garfield of Seattle. There was an article reprinted by Aug/Sept Michigan Chess about the birth of Insanity Open Tournaments by one of the inventors J.D. Brattin.