# WASHINGTON

## CHESS LETTER



INTERNATIONAL CHESS, MT. VERNON-JUNE 18TH MAY 1950

PUBLISHED PREMATURELY IN MARCH.

(With apologies to JIF. - PH)



#### WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER

Hay 1950

Publisher and Circulation Manager:

PETER HUSBY 3707 Smith St. Everett, Wash.

Editor:

JACK L. FINNIGAN 642 Wilbert Bremerton, Wash.

Games Editor:

CHARLES BALLANTINE 1802 Ravenna Blvd. Seattle 5, Wash.

Postal Editor:

NEIL F. POWER Snohomish, Wash.

Feature Writers:

RICHARD P. ALLEN 413 15th Avenue No. Seattle, Wash.

JOHN NOURSE Port Blakely, Wash.

> CARROLL CRAIN 611; So. II St. Tacoma, Wash.

Subscription: \$1.50 yearly

Beginning June:
Editor: Robert C. Stork,
P.O. Box 42, Chehalis,
Washington

The big International chess match with Canada sort of snuck up on us quick-like this year. The match is scheduled for Sunday, June 18th, less than a month away! As in 1949, the giant chess battle will again take place all along the border. However, the Washington vs. British Columbia section will be played at Mount Vernon at 2:00 p.m. (daylight saving time). Registering time: 1:00 p.m. All players are requested to bring their boards and men. Everybody invited! Mark that date on your calendar!!

Sidelights: Tacoma Chess Club claims to have the leagues oldest active chess player. Mr. Plouf, who is 88 years young, recently took part in the Tacoma vs. Everett match, winning both of his games......Even in a low paying (?) game like chess you find players who suffer from "delusions of granduer". One player (guess who) traveled quite some distance to participate in the recent U.S.A. - Yugoslavia match only to find, much to his displeasure, that he was not scheduled to play on the top board or thereabouts. Rather than suffor the humiliation of playing below his standing, he quit the team. That's like the kid who won't play baseball on the neighborhood team unless he can pitch. As it turned out the U.S. team could've used another 12 or 2 points.

Every so often one of these "incidents" pop up. Somebody gets his feelings hurt, and in a few cases, amazingly, lifelong grudges have resulted. How since chess is, after all, just a game, and one from which we can gain pleasure in playing, why make such serious business of it? Play it for all you're worth, but have fun at it! That's my opinion, what's yours??? —jlf

## JIM SCHMITT WINS EXPERTS TOURNEY

After losing his first round game with Charles Joachim of Seattle, Portland's pride and joy, Jim Schmitt put on a "Herriwell finish" to overtake the field and emerge victorious in the Pacific Northwest Experts Tournament held May 20-21 at the Seattle Chess Club. Fourteen of the strongest players in Washington and Oregon were on hand to vie for the title of "No. 1 Expert in the Pacific Morthwest".

Splitting second and third prize on basis of point score were Svante Eikrem, of Portland (the surprise of the tourney) and Carroll Crain. Although Svante and Carroll staged a hard-fought draw in their individual game and tied with  $\frac{1}{12}-\frac{1}{2}$  each in the point score, the Portland expert garnered an extra S. B. point to of-

## FINNIGAN SNEAKS PAST NOURSE IN MACHINE SHOP TOURNAMENT

In a photo-finish, Jack Finnigan edged out John Nourse and Roger Velas for the Bremerton Navy Yard Machine Shop Chess Championship. Undoubtedly the high-point in Finnigan's chess career.

George Brockerman and George Langdon turned in the big upsets of the tourney by both defeating 1949 Kitsap County Champ John Nourse thereby swindling him out of first place. Standings:

-	Won	Lost
Jack Finnigan	18	11
John Nourse	182	42
Roger Velas	13	5~
Dwight Bacon	$13\frac{1}{2}$	
George Christey	12	10
Urbane Armstrong	10를	-
Carl Henkle	25	102
Dave liner	95	122
Charles Hafford	9	13
George Langdon	7	15
George Brockerman	1.1	152
Ed Edmison	42	18
James Galbraith	41	
names dathiatell ******	2	12

## REHBERG WINS GRUDGE HATCH

George Rehberg wins again. The Kitsap County Champion won his "grudge match" from challenger J. Finnigan by the comfortable margin of 7½ to ½.

#### shall make crash more recall hands must goodly being young going going even more break. Book period drive to rest devel hands hands period in the street MRM words would wrisk street.

ficially nail down second place. In fourth spot was Charles Joachim of Seattle. The event was a Swiss type tournament with 2 extra rounds. Jack Finnigan was tournament director.

#### Final Standings:

Jim Schmitt, Portland Svante Eikrem, Portland I Carroll Crain, Tacoma I Charles Joachim, Seattle I Gerald Schain, Seattle I George Reddington, Eugene Jack Strong, Portland I Glenn Muller, Seattle I Bob Stork, Chehalis I Dr. A. Lurray, Olympia I Donald Turner, Portland I Bill Martin, Ellensburg	は - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	16 14 13 14 10 75 7 6 18 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36
T. Davidsen, Seattle Disk Allen, Seattle	[-12]	

## LEETING OF VCF OFFICERS HELD

The spring meeting of the Washington Chess Federation was held at the Seat-tle Chess Club on May 1hth.

Mr. Raliegh reported a net of \$173.79 in the WCF treasury. Receipts from the several tournaments, exhibitions, club dues, membership dues, etc. totaled \$509.10, while disbursments including tournament prizes, Chess Letter expenses publicity, postage, director's fees, etc. came to \$335.31, leaving the balance of \$173.79 as quoted above. The date of the report is May 12th, 1950.

Here is a summary of the more important issues brought up in the course of the meeting: (1) A year book will be published each year and will be furnished free to all clubs in good standing. (2) August 31st to be deadline for teams entering the league team tournament for the 1950-1951 season of play. (3) Clubs dues for WC F still set at \$5.00, however league entry fee dropped to \$3.00 (from \$5.00). (4) Fifty cent reduction for WCF members in WCF sponsored tournaments. Puget Sound Open fee: \$2.00 (WCF members: \$1.50). State Championship fee same as PSO. Minor tournament fees set at \$1.50 (\$1.00 to members). (Continued next page).

## WASHINGTON VS. BRITISH COLUMBIA

Crank up that old jalopy and get it tuned up for a little jaunt up North to Hount Vernon on Sunday, June 18th!! That's the date set for the BIG event of the year, the annual chess battle between British Columbia, Canada and Washington, USA. And for the second straight year the rest of Canada and the United States are stringin' along with us to make a continent-wide match of the event originally instigated back in 1944 by the Washington and British Columbia teams. Last year the "Peace Arch" trophy was recaptured in Seattle by the Washington aggregation. Can we hang on to it this year? We can if YOU help us! So let's make it a red-letter day! Head for Hount Vernon on June 18th!!

## HEETING OF WCF OFFICERS (continued)

(5) Ladies tournament, Junior Championship, regional tournaments will be ranked as kinor tournaments. Puget Sound Open, Washington State Championship and Pacific Northwest Experts are Major tournaments. Expert qualifications will be granted to winners of two firsts in minor tourneys (one first in a major tournament, or two seconds). (6) A trophy will be awarded for first prize in any tournament sponsored by the WCF and a plaque will be awarded for second place in major tournaments. Over 50% of tournament entry fees in every tournament shall be used in purchasing the prizes.

The incumbent officers were all reinstated for another year. They are:

President - John N. Nourse Vice President - Richard P. Allen Secretary - Jack L. Finnigan Treasurer - W. H. Raliegh Tournament Director - Charles Jeachin Monorary Director - Peter Husty The match will probably be held at the "Seven Cedars" which is a large hall one mile north of the city. Ir. R. C. Cannon is making arrangements for the site of the match. There will be no banquet, and as in Seattle last year

as "chow-time" is concerned.

Registering time will be 1:00 p.m. Daylight Saving time, the match will begin at 2:00 p.m. with 5:00 p.m. set as the time limit. Entry - \$1.00.

the affair will be "Dutch treat" as far

Those needing transportation are advised to contact Dick Allen, who has agreed to act as transportation counselor. Those who will be able to provide transportation are requested to get in touch with Dick also. His address is: 413 15th Ave. No., Seattle, Wash.

Clubs are requested to send rating lists of their players to Jack Finnigan, team captain, in order to facilitate rating of the players in order of their approximate respective strength. (The Seattle and Tacoma clubs have already complied with this request).

Let's make this the biggest match ever held! See you all in Mount Vernon!

#### POSTAL CHESS RATINGS

Big A's: Ballantine 1581, Hazs 1532, Power 1479, Greene 1397, Twosddale 1375, Grey 1369, Coubrough 1361.

Class A: Bever 1229, Bushnell 1210, Cerretelli 1275, Christey 1295, Gordon 1237, Harmeson 1262, Hazen 1268, Kaffenberger 1236, Lagerkurth 1294, H. Kosom

1314, Hardinge 1250, Morman 1167.

Class B: Allen 972, Amsden 1132, Arntzen 1052, Dater 1044, Blakefield 1111, Cairn-cross 1152, Cutshall 1004, Dolle 1130, Emerson 1046, Mellums 1177, Howard 1095, Husby 1062, Landenberger 993, LicCarthy 1148, Melartin 997, Merk 1103, Moore 1137, Mulder 1051, Orme 998, Parry 1012, Raliegh 913, Rich 1195, Roberts 984, Running 994, Sans 1062, Seekaup 1026, Taylor 1079, C. Yocom 1007.

Class C: Hiscor 829, Karch 746, Marshall 762, McCownell 850, Mrs. Moss 734, Neilson 805, Plume 732.

Game Results: Combrough 1, Parry 0; Combrough 2, Cerretelli 2; Cerretelli 1, Parry 0; Ideon 1, Morman 0; Maas 1, Morman 0; Howard 1, Baker 0; Christey 1, Seekamp 0; Merk 1, Cutshall 0.

## A HISTORY OF ORGANIZED CHESS IN WASHINGTON STATE by John N. Nourse

Forward: From the earliest beginnings of the State of Washington there have been many lovers of this ancient game who contributed vastly to its development, but whose names and deeds are now rapidly sinking into oblivion.

The purpose of this research was to record the acheivements of those devotees who have helped to build our organization to its present enviable status.

#### Part 1.

#### Early Beginnings

The first mention on record of chess in this State is to be found in Bagley's History of King County, wherein he mentions on page 283 of Vol. 1, playing chess with L. B. Andrews in 1862. Mr. Andrews was a gunsmith by trade and then had a small shop on Front St. (now First Ave.).

Bagley states: "In his gunshop he and I organized the first Chess Club in Seattle. It had only two members for many years".

So organized chess apparently began in Seattle in 1862 and except for a period when C. B. Bagley was in the newspaper and printing business at Olympia, the game and club have flourished here ever since that year. In the same volume of "Pop's" history (on page 381) he records what appears to be the first organizational meeting of the present club, as follows:

"On Dec, 20th, 1879, twenty-two gentlemen met at the office of S. F. Coombs and perfected the organization of the Seattle Chess Club. They were C. K. Jenner, G. A. Taylor, O. J. Carr, H. G. Thornton, L.B. Andrews, A. W. Piper, Griffith Davies, W. B. Hall, W. McRedmond, G. Alvord, H. W. Hendricks, H. A. Bigelow, I. Parker, B. F. Briggs, D. T. Wheeler, S. F. Coombs, J. A. Wirth, J. Freygary, S. L. Watkins, A. J. Anderson, G. L. Hatch, and Alfred Snyder.

I am indebted to Mr. Morman Jenner for these records, and he further states: "Many of these men were prominent in the community and large property holders, and interesting biographical sketches could be written of many of them".

It may interest many of the older members to mention that A. V. Piper was the author of Piper's Handbook on Chess. He lived in Vancouver, B. C. but was a member of the Seattle Club and, very probably, the top player of that time. C. K. Jenner was Judge Jenner, the father of the Jenner Bros. — Earle, Ernest, Theodore, and Horman, all excellent players, Earle being State Champion for several years.

On Oct. 17th, 1883, the following notice was published in the Seattle Daily Chronicle (later the P-I) and is remarkable for its delightfully different prosestyle, and also for its cogent prophesy that "greater results and nobler objects than now appear" may be the destiny of the Association.

I am indebted to Lir. C. C. Bushnell for unearthing this valuable documentary evidence, and I am very happy to record that this generation of chess devotees has added more evidence and is confirming this glimpse into the future.

#### SEATTLE DAILY CHRONICLE

(Seattle P. I.) Oct. 17th, 1883

The following explains itself:

Whereas, it has been, and no doubt always will be, conducive to the development of the human mind to associate together for mutual benefits socially, religiously, or otherwise; And, whereas, we believe such association in the form of Clubs may be organized and engaged in as an adjunct of polite society and growing civilization:--

Therefore, we propose to and do hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of mutual improvement and recreation. We recognize the necessity of some object in such association that shall address itself especially to the common under
(continued next page)

#### LIARTIN WINS EASTERN WASHINGTON CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

#### by L. Allyn

The first Eastern Vashington Chess Championship was held at the Wenatchee Bottling Works recreation hall in Wenatchee on April 29-30.

First place trophy went to Bill Martin of Ellensburg, who breezed through the five round Swiss event without a loss or draw. Francis Wander of Ephrata was runner-up (4-1) while Don Allyn of Wenatchee edged out Art Zeiten by one S. B. point for third spot.

#### Standings:

Score	S. B.	
idartin $\dots$ $5-0$	14	
Wander 4 - 1	8	
Allyn 3 - 2	5	
Zeiten 3 - 2	4	
lurray 21-21	6 <u>1</u>	
Hoge 2½-2½	54	
LaFreniere 2 - 3	l	
Seubert 2 - 3	1	
Miller 1 - 4	0	
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#### DR. A LURRAY WINS SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON DISTRICT TOURNALEST AT OLYMPIA

Dr. A. harray finished first in the S. W. Wash. District tourney with a perfect score of 6-0. Other high scorers were: Joe Cerrotelli 1/2-1/2, H. E. Yocom 1/2, D. harray 3-3.

#### EUNICE VEHNEDERG LADIES CHAMPION

The first Washington State Women's Championship was held recently at the Seattle Chess Club and the winner and first champion is Eunice Venneberg who finished the short tourney with a 3-0 score. Kay Allen was the runner-up.

#### The Standings:

Eunice Venneberg Kay Allen Helen Wagner Ocie Lindstrom Gladys Carson Elizabeth Fitzpatrick. Nancy Halmgren Alma Collins	3 2 2 2 2 2 1 1	Iost 0 1 1 1 2 2	S.B. 5 3 1 1 0 0 0 0 0
Marjorie Wagner		3	Ö
diese State State Community of the state of			

#### YMCA TAKES MATCH FROM SCUTH TACOMA

Although losing on the top boards the YMCA chess team proved too tough on its lower boards and pulled an 8 to 4 win out of the fire.

#### The scores:

- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	2
Lindstrom $\frac{1}{2}$ , Crain 1	7
Schain 2, Pennert 1	ŝ
Allen 1, Collins	1
Warner 2, Belden	0
Enz 2, Lee	
Drummond 2, Venneberg	C

#### (continued from preceding page)

standing, and while this association may be fraught with greater results in the future, and for nobler objects than now appear, yet for the present purpose we do not hesitate to declare that our object is to instill into the youthful mind a knowledge of and love for the Right Royal and Noble Game of Chess, and to afford the means and opportunity for enjoying in our leisure hours this innocent, instructive and highly interesting amusement.

#### Signed:

Griffith Davies, G. A. Taylor, A. Piper, A. Rebewaldt, O. J. Carr, V. J. Stearns, P. Peters, I. Parker, H. G. Thornton, B. F. Briggs, A. W. Piper, C. K. Jenner, L. B. Andrews, A. Hoffar, J. T. Ronald, Dr. G. A. Weed, H. A. James, Clarence Bagley and others.

Thus was the Seattle Chess Club organized. All honor to these men, and to those who have followed them, and to those who will continue to follow them in the development and encouragement of Chess throughout all the countries of the earth and for all time.

It is my opinion that the American Chess Federation could do no better than make this the Official Creed of the Federation of Chess Clubs. --- John N. Hourse.

(to be continued)

#### "MONKEY BUSINESS" by Carroll Crain

Most of you have heard of the chess-playing calculating machine that Dr. Shannon of Bell Telephone is now whomping up. Those that saw the diagrams in the Scientific American last February noticed that the good doctor apparently does not know a King from a Queen. And so if he can do it why can't I?

Just for a modest start I thought of a machine that would play like a monkey that had just been taught the moves. A little arm chair inventing convinced me that such a machine would take quite a bit of doing, not to mention several hundred dollars worth of relays. And why go to all that trouble when there was an educated monkey right at hand? Namely, me.

The first version was rather crude. I simply wrote down the 20 legal first moves, one to a card, shuffled the cards and selected one at random. After making the move and my reply I had to revise the list of legal moves available to the monkey, reshuffle, and again select a card at random.

As I had rather suspected, he did not play much of a game. In fact he was a sucker for a scholar's mate. Using Dr. Shannon's estimate of 32 legal moves on the average, the odds are over 900-l against the monkey finding the best move on the board twice in a row. I found I could spot him all the back row men and still win, although he was a holy terror once he got loose with his Queen. He was feeling rather clear headed the day we played this game:

N-KR3 P-K3(A) Q-B3 K-K2(B) P::P N-Bl:!	Crain P-Kl4 B-Bl4 P-Ql4 P-K5? PrQch P-Q5 PxP
(B)	
K-KZ(B)	<u> </u>
	P <b>-</b> Q5
N-Bl:!	PxP
B-Q2(C)	PxB
K→Q	Q-K2?
KxP(D)	BxP
11-112(E)	B <b>-R6</b>
P-QN3	BxN
R-KN	Q-K8 mate(F)
	Jocko P-Q3 N-KR3 P-K3(A) Q-B3 K-K2(B) PEP N-Blt! B-Q2(C) K-Q KEP(D) H-N2(E) P-QN3 R-KN

Notes by Jocko

- (A) Scholar's mate---bra-a-ch.
- (B) I thought he said check.
- (C) I had a mate in 7 but I transposed the moves.
- (D) He must think I'm a beginner.
- (E) Now you see why I went to B4 on the 7th move.
- (F) I would have seen it but he was blowing smoke on the board and yodelling in Portuguese.

Some collaboration with an M. I. T. student developed a permanent deck of cards that needed no revising. Any possible move in the game can be described without reference to particular squares. Ten notations will describe all possible King moves: K forward, K back, K left, K right, K forward left, K back left, K forward right, K back right, 0-0, and 0-0-0. Twenty notations describe all Bishop moves. As all Kriegspiel players know, for any square on the board one of the diagonals crossing the square is longer than the other. So we have the moves KB long diagonal fird. 1-7 sq., KB 1. d. back 1-7 sq., KB short d. fird. 1-3 sq., and KB s. d. back 1-3 sq. (No short diagonal move can be more than 3 squares in either direction or it becomes a long diagonal). Four moves for each paym: Fwd. 1, fwd. 2, captures right and captures left. (Rook pawns may capture both ways after getting to another file). 28 notations for each Rook: Find. 1-7, back 1-7, left 1-7, and right 1-7. Eight notations for each Knight and ho for the Queen, making a total This takes 101 cards if printed two moves to a card and taking the uppermost move as the card is pulled from the dech. This can be further reduced to 34 cards by putting 6 moves to a card and referring to a random list of numbers from 1 to 6 to select the move (quicker than shaking dice). Illegal moves can be discarded at a glance and another card drawn. The game may be speeded up by using a card punch system on the margins. After a piece is captured a rod inserted in the proper hole will discard all moves of that piece.

(Conclusion next month: "Honkey Learns Principles")

## PASSANT

by Dick Allen

Having just come up with the anchor in the Pacific west Experts Tournament, I will select the following excuses from the standard list. No's 6, 9, 13, 17, and 23, thank you.

Not since the Masters-Experts tournament of last year has there been such excellent chess in Washington. amazinely enough, the anchor-man in that tournament walked off with the top price money this year. Jim Schmitt could probably become a master if he so desired. Jim Schmitt could

The tournament was capably directed by Jack Finnigan, the players had the time of their lives, and the Militzers

got a lot of thrills.

With the exception of one case of smoke-screen, sportsmanship was consistently on display. (Not to mention any names, but the director tells me th tone player actually resorted to blowing smoke in his opponent's face thruout the

game.) Now, vas dot nize?

The annual Washington vs. Pritish Columbia chess match has been advanced this year to coincide with the nation-wide match coordinated by the U.S. Chess Federation. The date is June 18, 1950. It will be held in Mt. Vernon at the request of the BCCF. The registration fee is \$1.00 and the time for registration is 1.00 PM daylight-saving-time or 12:00 meon, PST. The match will start promptly at 2:00 PM DST and will last three hours. Fig. Campon, who is largely responsible for the original outbreak of chess hostilities across the border, will take care of the hall and equipment arrangements.

Jack Finnigan did the lisson work, and I suspect that he may have cost a hypnotic spell on the ECCF representative. According to the agreement reached at the joint meeting of

the WCF and the BCCF two years ago, this was to be their year in Vancouver. What? No more invasions?
All club presidents who have not already done so, are again requested to send a list of the names and addresses of all their members in the order of playing strength to Jack Finnigen, Team Captain and Secretary of the MCF. As a promotional gesture, all such chess enthusiasts will receive a free copy of Stork's new baby. Stork will hit them with the last minute call to arms. By the way, this offer is not limited to organized chess players, a few wild mavericks in the right places, might help our chances. We want at 75 players, men or women, boys or girls, experts or average wood-pushers-you will have a position on our team and play in the most important chess event of the year.

Now, as for getting our team to the match, we will depend again this year on arrivate automobiles on a share the ride basis. Drivers will be encouraged to drive and fill their cars, when they know that each rider will be expected This is the minimum but, as calculated, to pay le/mile.

will pay the expense.

Drivers or riders who need vice-versa may send me their needs and, as transportation coordinator, I will endeavor to get them together. Address. 413 15th N. Seattle 2, Wash.

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTIZING

#### OPPORTUNITIES

Join the Washington Chess Federation. Dues \$1.50/year for individuals,\$5.00/year-clubs. Direct enquiries to Treasurer, Washington Chess Federation--W.H. Raleigh, 4318 Densmore & Ave., Seattle 3, Wash.

WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER is now available at a club rate-- in quantities of dozen or more \$1.00/doz. Peter Husby 3707 Smith St., Everett, Wash.

Something Lost? Found? to Sell? Buy? Swap/ Quick results guaranteed. Lowest rate in history lø/word/insertion, 10 word mn. R. Allen,413 15th N, Seattle 2

#### REAL ESTATE

Free chess lessons given those likely prospects who have a yen for Bainbridge Is. property. Nourse Chess Academy, % John Nourse, Rt. 1, Box 787 Port Blakely, Wash.

#### EMPLOYMENT

Write for the best chess fanzine. Send your stuff in to the WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER. Feature articles on chess events and personalities of the past, present or future. Of course, reasonable care will be taken, but we accept no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts. Salary starts after ten years continuous publication of your articles. R. G. Stork Box 42, Chehalis Wash.

Inventors of good excuses for not winning at chess urged to secure repeat rights by publishing same in NEW EXCUSE, a section of the WCL. T.P.Corbett, 12556 Greenwood Ave. z33 Seattle, Wash.

#### WANTED

Back issues of WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER, 1948 and 1949 Will swap for current or future issues on one to one basis. April and July, 1949 & Dec. 1948 on two for one. P. Husby, 3707 Smith St. Everett Wash.

Authentic information, facts, legends or fragmentary histories of chess activities and personalities in the P. Sound area in particular and Wash. in general. All yellowing & moldy manuscripts, parchments, pictures, etc., will be handled with care and returned to the rightful owner. J. Nourse Rt. 1 Box 787 Port Blakely, Wsh.

Send in your best game recordings. I will play them over, and if there aren't too many breaks and scratches, I'll compose some suitable lyrics and reproduce them in our official organ, THE WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER. C. Ballantine, 1802 Ravena Bld. Seattle 5, W.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

Try a can of that Cerretelli Chili con Carne. It's round, so firm, so fully packed, and so easy on the craw. Write to Cetterelli Canning Co. for a free sample, Rt. 7, Box 314 Olympia, Wash.

You don't have to be a genius to play a good game of chess. Send for my booklet, "SIMPLE-CHESS" Weaver W. Adams, Dedham, Mass, Price-\$1.00 postpd.

You don't have to be an octopus to play four-handed chess. The first edition of "Blitz-spiel" by Ulvestad & Allen is now available at the astounding low price of 25¢ postpaid. Neochess Co. 413 15th N, Seattle Washington. Zone 2.