

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

*1948-1988 at ten-year intervals*

**December 1948 (WCL)**

***From the Dec. 1958 WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER by R. R. Merk***

T. Patrick Corbett contributed to the December 1948 issue of WCL.

As Omar said eight hundred years ago:

“Tis all chequer board of nights and days  
Where Destiny with men for pieces plays  
Hither and thither moves and mates and slays  
And one by one, back in the closet lays!”

The Northwest Washington 6 round Swiss tournament was announced for Jan 29th & 30th at Everett. The Seattle City tournament on Feb. 26th & 27th at Seattle Chess Club limited to residents of King County.

The US Open Champion, Weaver Adams gave two interesting exhibitions at The Seattle Chess Club and a simultaneous exhibition at the Seattle Y.M.C.A.

George Rehberg resigned his position as Feature Editor on the WCL and as secretary of the Kitsap Club. He was succeeded by Jack Nourse as secretary of the Kitsap Club.

It was announced that Dick Allen would contribute a regular column to WCL beginning with the next issue.

Whidbey Island team won a tight match from the Seattle Y.M.C.A. by a score of 6.5 to 3.5.

Jack Finnegan won an all expense paid trip to the Rose Bowl game in Pasadena on New Year's Day. He represented the Seattle P.I. as a special reporter. Jack at that time was quite prominent in Puget Sound chess circles.

Third round results of the Puget Sound League tournament:

Tacoma 8.5, Seattle Y.M.C.A. 1.5  
Bellingham 6, Everett 4  
Kitsap 7.5, Olympia 2.5  
University 7, Queen Anne 3  
Seattle vs. Skagit results not obtained.

A new constitution for the W.C.F. was presented by a committee headed by Dick Allen and was adopted at a meeting of the Directors of the W.C.F. Articles of the constitution provided for new types of membership in the W.C.F.: Club, League and Individual.

W.C.F. approved major tournaments included the Washington State, Pacific Northwest Experts, Puget Sound Open, Northwest Washington and Seattle City. Oscar Award to chess organizers for each year beginning in 1945.

Individual memberships were created to give each chess player in the State the opportunity to become a part of the organization, regardless of affiliation with any chess club.

The title of Chess Expert was given to players winning or placing second in the PNW Experts, State, PS Open, or by twice winning the Seattle City or Northwest Washington tournaments.

Jim Schmitt of Portland, J.L.Sheets of Seattle, Carroll Crain of Tacoma and Charles Joachim of Seattle were officially recognized as Chess Experts.

Oscar Awards were given to the following: 1945 to R. C. (Tom) Cannon for his efforts in organizing the International matches, 1946 to Jack Nourse for his work in organizing the P.S. League and 1947 to George Rehberg for his work as Editor and Publisher of the Puget Sound Chess News.

Olaf Ulvestad continued with his articles on his trip to Soviet Russia. He tells of a 21 course dinner with 14 courses of Hors d'oeuvres and 7 main courses. (Ed. He came back alive.)

### **December 1958 (WCL)**

This 16 page issue of WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER had the 1958 California State Championship results printed on the cover. C. Bagby of San Francisco won the 8 player event. Editor Dan Wade called for more help in putting out the magazine each month, stencil typing help was needed as he lots of material. Announcement of the Washington Open for 1959 called for a \$3.00 entry fee and prize for first of 40% of the gross receipts. Seattle University was to be site. In Puget Sound League results Latvian Team downed Tacoma 6.5-3.5 and Seattle CC beat Kitsap 7-3. West Seattle and North Seattle drew 5-5. The Latvians are on top of standings at this point. In more results Latvian Team downed Kitsap County 6.5-3.5. Most of the Kitsap points came from James McCormick winning both games from Elmars Zemgalis. Mike Franett playing for the Seattle Chess Club scored 2 wins over his McNeil Island opponent to help his team win 6.5-3.5. West Seattle topped Olympia 7.5-2.5. Tacoma CC won their match with North Seattle 5.5-4.5. Viesturs Seglins of the Latvian team at this point in the season had the best score with 6-0. Max Brader of Seattle CC had 7.5-4.5 and James McCormick of Kitsap was 9-1. 28 players took part in the 1958 Central Washington Open held in Yakima. Olaf Ulvestad won with 5.5-.5. He drew with third place Ivars Dalbergs in round 4. Second place at 5-1 was Clark Harmon age 16. The game score of his win over Dalbergs was printed. Buz Eddy was the tournament director. The South Sound Open was won by Charles Joachim of Seattle 5.5-.5. 31 players took part and Ted Davis was 2nd on tie-break at 5-1. The event was held in Olympia

The Northwest Junior Open was announced for Yakima on Dec 29-30 with a \$2.50 entry fee open to players under age 21 for the 6 round event. Inland Empire junior league play was the start soon with teams from Sandpoint, Wallace and Bonner's Ferry, Idaho plus Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane and Pullman, Washington. Clackamas High School with Clark Harmon on board one drew Grant H.S. at 7-7.

Buz Eddy was elected president of the University of Washington Chess Club, starting up again after being dormant for 2 years. The club signed up 25 members at the first meeting.

It was reported that former Oregon player James Schmitt won the Northern California State Championship ahead of William Addison and Charles Bagby. Samuel Reshevsky won an international tournament held in Israel. Laszlo Szabo of Hungary was 2nd.

Coubrough tops the 74 player postal chess rating list this month.

### **December 1968 (NWC)**

Russell Miller of Yakima is the editor of this the 253rd issue of WASHINGTON CHESS LETTER, NORTHWEST CHESS LETTER and now NORTHWEST CHESS. Listed on the 2nd page as STAFF are Buz Eddy of Kent as Publisher/Tournament News-Washington, Peter J. Olson of Seattle as Rating Director, Kathy Miller of Yakima as Circulation Director, John Ward of Tacoma as Postal Director, Richard Vandenburg of Boise as Intermountain Editor/Idaho Chess Bulletin, Harry Glidden of Medford as Oregon Editor/Oregon Chess News, Bob Eldridge of Burnaby as British Columbia Editor/B.C. Bulletin, Howie Chin of Seattle as High School Editor/High School in Chess, Bob Zuk of North Surrey as Games Editor.

The Marysville Jaycees announced there would be a 2nd Strawberry Open in June 1969 with a \$3,000.00 prize fund and increase of \$200.00 over the 1968 event prize fund. Tournament announcements appeared for the Northwest Junior, Washington Open, Chess Tornado at the Seattle Chess Club, March of Dimes Open in Washougal, WA.

Viktors Pupols topped the Northwest Open crosstable on tie-break over Peter Biyiasis when both scored 5.5-.5. Pupols drew with Ben Thurston and Peter drew with Gary Holmquist. 55 players took part in the event held at the Seattle CC. Vernon Holmes gave a simul at the Tacoma CC winning 7 and losing 6 per a report by John Ward. Only player among those who took part still active today is Ernst Rasmussen, he lost.

21 players took part in the Spokane County Open and Pat Herbers of Spokane won with Mike Murray of Renton in 2nd place.

22 players took part in the Burnaby Open with a 3 three-way tie for first resulting, Suttles, Biyiasas and Zuk. Headline in the B.C. Bulletin section says "Duncan Suttles in line for Grandmaster Title." His 11-5 in the Lugano Chess Olympiad should result in the title being awarded. He lost only 1 game, to GM Hort. An interview with GM Laszlo Szabo of Hungary was printed, one of the players Suttles drew in Lugano.

Mike Schemm and David Mitchell scored 4.5-.5 to top the 5th Klamath Falls Open of 32 players. They drew with each other in round 3. Schemm and Jerry Weikel now of Reno are the only players in the crosstable that I know are still active players.

The Idaho section gave the crosstable for the Utah Open won by David Reynolds of Pocatello, Idaho. 25 players took part.

The High School section gave the 9 player crosstable of the North Central Washington High School event won by David Collyer of Wenatchee with a 5-0 score. Digne deLenes of Garfield HS won the Seattle High Open #2 with 4.5-.5. 12 teams were taking part in

the Seattle Metro High School League with Roosevelt and Queen Anne on top of the current standings.

An interview that Jude Acers did with GM Bent Larsen was published in this issue. The top rated postal player this month was Schultz, I assume Richard of Seattle.

### **December 1978 (NWC)**

Editor Robert A. Karch put pictures of Alexey Rudolph (now Mrs. Doug Root) and Robert (Bobby) Ferguson on the cover of this 24 page issue of NORTHWEST CHESS for December 1978. They were both age 13 then.

The masthead of the issue listed Oregon Editor: Larry Ball, Ratings: Richard Stewart, Problems: David Brown, Northwest Games: Ron Norman, Book Reviews: Ron Norman

Richard Stewart reported the top Northwest Ratings players at this issue time were: Yasser Seirawan 2384, Eric Tangborn 2342, John Donaldson 2302, William Schill 2206, James Bricher 2195, Kevin Casey 2154/10, Simon Fitzpatrick 2045, Eugene Fomin 2044, Dana Muller 2042, Roger Hanson 2012 and Harold Brown 2006. All were from Washington except Bricher (OR) and Brown (BC). The ratings in this issue reflected changes caused by play in Ellensburg Open, Oregon's Women's Championship, Tri-Cities, Yakima, Wapato and Wenatchee Grand Prix #1, Autumnal Equinox Open, Easy Money Open, Second Two Buck Open, Madras Chess Day, Seattle Amateur, Madras Open, Seattle Class Championships.

Larry Ball reported on the Oregon Chess Federation annual meeting. The bank account had \$376.62. Bill Gagnon was elected Sec-Tres., Larry Ball -V.P., Jeff Holmes-President, Clay Kelleher- Tournament Coordinator, Carl Haessler-USCF Delegate.

Portland "A" team and "Studs and Duds" team topped the CCCL league team play at this point in the schedule.

Chris Lauinger topped the 1978 Oregon Women's Championship in which 8 players took part. This was the third straight year she had won the title. Her picture and bio appeared in the issue. She was a music professor at George Fox College in Newberg.

Issued reported that Washington State Co-Champion Eric Tangborn of Tacoma gave a National Chess Day simultaneous exhibition at the Des Moines Library. He scored 17-3.

Yasser Seirawan won \$120.00 and a trophy for his 4-0 winning score in the top section of the Seattle Class Championships. 2nd section was won by Paul Conroy good for \$100.00 and 3rd section went to Andy Simkin good for also \$100.00. The 4th section ended in a tie between Erik Abers and Leonhard Juenger good for \$75.00 each. 93 players took part in the event. Harold Brown of Nanaimo BC and Phil Irwin of Portland OR tied for 1st with 4.5-.5 in the Seattle Amateur which had 53 players.

Wayne Hatcher of South Cle Elum, WA won the 12 player Ellensburg Open. Jack Grigsby won the Wapato Open which had 4 players. Todd Damish topped the Tri-Cities Grand Prix #1 in which 9 players took part. Jack Grigsby of Pasco won the Yakima Grand Prix #1 over 9 other players.

The Autumnal Equinox Open drew 24 players and was won by Eric Tangborn with perfect 5-0 score.

Harold Brown was the BC reporter for this issue. Gordon Taylor had perfect score of 6-0 in the Nanaimo Remembrance Day Open that had 41 players. 18 players took part in the B.C. Junior Championship, which was won by Scott Morgan also 6-0. An article by Von Sarac reported on the 68 players Northern B.C. Open. This was more than double the turnout of the previous year. The prize fund was more than \$5,000.00. GM Gyula Sax of Hungary won the \$1,000.00 first prize as expected in the open section. The reserve section was won by Giovanni Dicecco of Williams Lake good for \$500.00. Mike Miller of Kitimat won the Amateur section.

There were two pages of events announcements.

### **December 1988 (NWC)**

A picture of Mike Franett standing in front of a demo board at the Seattle Chess Club is given by editor James Blackwood of Seattle. 18 players took part in the Washington Active Chess Championship with Ken Tomkins the winner at 4.5-.5. Ralph Dubisch and Mike Franett took 2nd and 3rd. Several games from the event were printed. Dan Marshall won the top section of Seattle CC Summer's Over Already. Section two was won by Bruce Beardsley and the third by M. Hill, J. McMillian and Mike Oshiro. The editor used initials for players' first names a lot in this issue and your reporter added first names where he knows them. An action tournament in Spokane of 6 players was won by Calvin Creger. Eight players took part in the Richland Fall open, which was won by Brian Day. Dan Marshall won the top section of the Seattle Chess Club Class Championship over 3 others. Bruce Moreland won the under 2000 section while the under 1800 champion was Bruce Beardsley. The club's September Octagonals had players in three sections. Ralph Dubisch won the top one, John Glass section two and A. Corrigan won the third one.

The Portland Fall Open top section was won by Allen Chalfen at 4-1 over 19 other players. 35 took part in the reserve section, which was won by Chris Orum with 4.5-.5 good for \$120.00. Andrew Frezza won the novice section of 11. Oregon Chess Federation officers were listed in the Oregon Section of this issue of NWC. Michael Morris was the president, Robert Barney V-P, Lewis Richardson Tres-Sec., Korneljs Dale Tournament Coordinator, Mark Turner Scholastic Coordinator, Evan Whipple and John Martin Directors at Large.

Philip Harris was the reported winner of the White Rock Open in BC. Gary Mortenson won the under 1600 section.

An article by Val Zemitis gave a bit of information about 15 chess publications from around the world. They were the ones among the 150 published in the world he thought were worth subscribing to. NORTHWEST CHESS was not on the list.

Kristen Dietsch was the Northwest Postal Director at this time in history. He presented the 8th place 1987 Postal Chess Game of the Year won by John Penquite over Joe Eggertsen in this edition of NWC, volume 42 number 12 issue 490.