



Chess Life



Vol. VII
Number 12

Official Publication of The United States Chess Federation

Friday,
February 20, 1953

SHED NO TEAR, KIND FRIEND

Larry Evans On Chess

By

International
Master

LARRY EVANS

U. S. Chess
Champion

U. S. Open
Champion, 1951-52

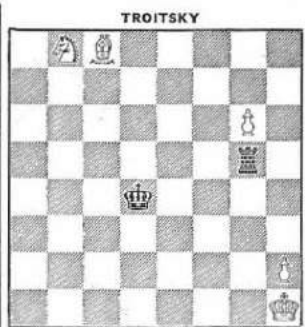
U. S. Team
Member, 1950, 1952



CONSIDER this endgame study Troitzky's finest. The theme is to trap Black's Rook — on an open board!

1. Kt-B8 ch, K-K6! (The best square. The threat now is 2... K-B7 and draws by perpetual check!); 2. P-KR4! RxP; 3. Kt-K7! and wins the Rook!

Black's Rook has fourteen possible squares and is lost on each and every one of them! Further-



White to play and win

more, Troitzky's solution is the only one with which White may win by force from the diagrammed position. Try some others and see for yourself.

INTRODUCTION TO LARRY EVANS

By WILLIAM ROJAM

Staff Writer

CHESS LIFE Feature Writer Larry Evans may need no introduction to chess players, or even to general readers after his more recent achievements were noticed in the press, but it is possible that many who have recently learned his name are unfamiliar with the solid basis on which his fame now rests and consider him a meteor that has suddenly flashed across the sky.

Larry was born on March 22, 1932 and learned the game of chess very early in life by watching his two older brothers play the game. By his ninth birthday he had acquired his fifth chess set; but he did not really begin to play chess seriously until he was 14 and began going to the Academy of Chess in 42nd St. in New York.

In 1945 Larry joined the Marshall Chess and after a hesitant start began to make his mark in the regular club rapid transits. In 1946, shortly after his fourteenth birthday he played in his first national tournament, placing sixth in the first U. S. Junior Championship at Chicago. But in the U. S. Open Championship at Pittsburgh immediately thereafter his inexperience proved too great and he finished last in the Premier Reserves.

In 1947 Larry shared fourth prize in the Marshall Chess Club Championship and in the same year tied for second in the U. S. Junior Championship. In the formidable U. S. Open at Corpus Christi, he really began to show his form, finishing 3½ points behind Kashdan and winning a memorable victory over Yanofsky.

Early in 1948, Larry won the Marshall Chess Club Championship with 15-4, well before his sixteenth birthday. Then finished 1½ points behind Weaver W. Adams in the U. S. Open at Baltimore. In the U. S. Biennial Championship at South Fallsburg inexperience still took its toll and Larry finished in a tie for eighth, although he played some very fine games. He finished 1948 by winning the



HE BEGAN YOUNG!

U. S. Champion Larry Evans at the age of six.

strong New York State Championship.

Coming into 1949, Larry began the year by winning again the Marshall Chess Club Championship 14-4. At Omaha he placed third behind Albert Sandrin in the U. S. Open and at Oak Ridge tied for first in games but second to Bisguier in S-B points in the U. S. Junior Championship. In the New York State Championship Evans tied for second on games with Berliner but was third on S-B.

Invited to England for his first foreign test, Larry placed fourth behind Szabo, Rossolimo and Euwe at the Hasting Christmas Tournament to begin 1950 auspiciously. Again he won the Marshall Chess Club title with 16-2, and went afield to win the strong Log Cabin Championship 11-2. In the 120 player U. S. Open at Detroit Larry finished fourth, tied for third in games and won the U. S. Lightning Championship. He then sailed for Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia for the International Team Tournament where he distinguished himself as the ranking fourth board player in the event, scoring 8½-½ for the U.S.A.

But 1951 was the year for Evans. He began by sharing first with Dr. Reuben Fine in the Marshall Sextangular Tourney. In the Wertheim Memorial Tournament he placed fifth behind Reshevsky, Euwe, Najdorf and Fine — a notable quartet. Then at Fort Worth

(Please turn to page 3, col. 4)

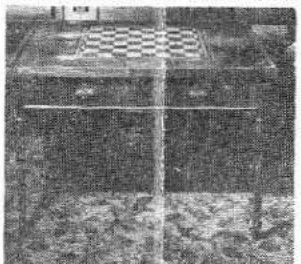
BAY AREA TEAM INVADES EUROPE

A San Francisco lawyer, a Mill Valley psychiatrist, a Berkeley statistician and the irrepressible George Koltanowski compose a Bay Area chess team which plans an invasion of Europe. It is, to quote Koltanowski, the first time a team which represents no particular National organization has attempted an extensive solo performance in other lands. First blood will be drawn in Ghent on April 3 and six weeks of intensive playing will follow. Members of the team (all from the Golden Gate Chess Club) are Henry Gross, co-champion of California, Dr. Kenneth Colby, Guthrie McClain, and International Master George Koltanowski.

RARE WOODS DECK CHESS TABLE

Latest achievement of Utah's chess craftsman in wood, Herman A. Dittman, is a beautiful chess table, built for Raymond A. Smith of Reno and valued at \$500.00. The table is 29½ inches high and measures 41½ inches wide by 32 inches. Twenty-two different imported rare woods are blended in the construction: birdseye maple (Canada), thuya burl (Algeria), purple heart (Brazil), black ebony (Asia), zebrano (South America), satinwood (Ceylon), ebony macassar (Africa), king wood (South America), bubinga (West Africa), peroba rosa (Brazil), black walnut (United States), box wood (Columbia), vermilion wood (Andaam Island), English hawwood (Santo Domingo), verawood (South America), green heart (West Indies), amboyna burl (Borneo), snake wood (British Guiana), padouk (West Africa), mahogany (Philippine Islands).

The chessboard squares are 2½ inches, with the white squares of birdseye maple and the black squares of thuya burl. The body of the table and the solid turned legs are purple heart, while twelve distinctive borders of different woods surround the chess board.



\$500.00 IN WOOD
A masterpiece in wood-inlay from the Utah craftsman, Herman A. Dittman of Salt Lake City.

WOMEN'S CHAMP APPEARS ON TV

U. S. Women's Champion Mary Bain, fresh from her visit to Moscow where she represented the U.S.A. in the Women's World Championship Candidates' Tournament, made a special trip to Chicago to appear on the TV show "Welcome Traveler" on February 11 at 4:30 p.m.

NEW DATES SET ON RATING LIST

Through Rating Statistician Kenneth Harkness the U. S. Chess Federation has issued an announcement of new dates and schedules for publication of the semi-annual U. S. Rating Lists. It has been found advisable to make the semi-annual division so that all the Spring events will be covered in one listing and the Fall events in the other to make each listing more accurately cover one-half the annual chess activity than in the past.

Therefore the list as of December 31st, 1952 (due for publication at this time) is now scheduled as of March 31st, 1953 and will be published as soon after March 31st as possible. Members whose current memberships have expired and not been renewed and those who submitted rating fees for the December 31st listing will be covered in the new listing published after March on precisely the same basis as if the list only went to December 31st. That is to say that membership expiring in December will retain eligibility for publication in this one listing.

ZEMGALIS TOPS IN WASH SPEED

Adding to his many laurels, Elmars Zemgalis won the Washington State Speed Championship 8-1, losing one game in first round to Davidsen, O. W. Manney and Russ Vellias tied for second with 7-2 each, but Manney won the playoff for second place. Manney lost games to Zemgalis and F. Smith; Vellias conceded points to Manney and Zemgalis. F. Smith placed fourth with 6-3, and Sheets was fifth with 5-4 in the 10 player event.

A New Year's Tale

By HENRY OVERSEEM, Jr.

(Reprinted by the author's permission from his weekly chess column in the *Patterson Morning Call*.)

SEVEN miles north of the East Frisian group of islands off the coast of Holland lies a small and comparatively unknown island called Doorn. Like a bleak and lonely windswept rock it stands out by itself in the turbulent waters of the great north sea. It is a resting place for migratory birds, and thirty two families, whose livelihood comes from the sea, call it home.

These hardy fishermen pursue the prolific herring, of which the Dutch are so fond, until the bitter December blast of the Arctic wind drives their small sloops to shelter. It is then that the compact but sturdy homes on Doorn glow with the warmth of the open stone hearths, and while the women folk are busy making the house a home the menfolk spend the long inactive winter months playing chess. Having no other form of entertainment, except the gathering of the clan in the large especially constructed building in the center of the tiny village for feasts, weddings and rare celebrations, they take their chess very serious. They play for fun and for amusement, but sometimes they also play to settle certain grave problems and once there were two who played for a wife.

The prize was called Karen, a name from the galeswept land of the Midnight Sun, for her Mother had come from Norway. Tall and lithe she looked every inch the daughter of the ancient Scandinavian Norsemen. When she stood on a jutting rock searching out over the sea with the wind-blown form of the Goddess of Love and the sun playing gold through her long waving tresses she truly resembled the Norse legends of old, of a beautiful maid who drove sailors mad.

Tanus was born a son of the sea, as strong and as wild as the

MARCH 5 REVEALS NEW CHESS LIFE

By WILLIAM ROJAM

Staff Writer

Be not nostalgic, friends, in the passing of CHESS LIFE as you have known it for some six years. Like the fabled Phoenix, CHESS LIFE will rise from the ashes of the past on March 5th, revitalized in a stream-lined version.

The first issue will contain, besides many familiar features, such novelties as the first of a Young Masters' Forum on chess as it is played today, the first instalment of a revolutionary method of teaching, and a new department of readers' games.

YOUNG CAPTURES ALLENTOWN CITY

Woodrow Young took the Allentown (Pa.) city title 6½-½, drawing one game with Paul Sherr. Paul Sherr and Ray Rockel tied for second in the 8 player round-robin 5-2; Sherr lost to Rockel and drew with Young and Mahlon Cleaver, while Rockel lost to Young and Clarence Ziegler. Cleaver and Ziegler tied for fourth with 4-3 each.

CANADIANS HAIL NEW COLUMN

Latest in newspaper chess columns is Chess by Canadian Champion Povilas Vaitonis in the Hamilton (Ont.) Spectator, which Canadians hail as a welcome addition to chess publicity in Canada, practically limited to Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver with Malcolm Sim, Dudley LeDain and David Creemer as the respective columnists.

Plan Your Vacation
for 1953 NOW!
Attend the U.S.C.F.
OPEN
TOURNAMENT
Milwaukee, Wis.
July 27-Aug. 8, 1953

Chess Life

America's Chess Newspaper

Published twice a month on the 5th and 20th by

THE UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION

Harold M. Phillips, President; Wm. M. Byland, Treasurer; Major J. B. Holt, Secretary; Kenneth Harkness, Business Manager and Membership Secretary.

Editor: MONTGOMERY MAJOR

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS: Dr. A. Buschke, Vincent L. Eaton, Guilherme Groesser, Eliot Hearst, Erich W. Marchand, Edmund Nash, Fred Reinfield, William Rojans, Dr. Kester Svendsen.

Entered as second class matter September 5, 1946, at the post office at Duquesne, Iowa, under the act of March 3, 1879.

USCF Membership Dues, including subscription to CHESS LIFE, enrollment in State Chess Association (if State of member's residence has an Association affiliated with the USCF), semi-annual publication of national chess rating, and all other privileges of membership:

ONE YEAR: \$5.00 TWO YEARS: \$9.50 THREE YEARS: \$13.50

A new membership starts with the date of the first CHESS LIFE issue mailed after application is received, a renewal with the date of the first issue published after old membership expires. Subscription rate of CHESS LIFE to non-members is \$3 per year. Single copies 15c each. Fee for publication of non-member's national chess rating: \$1 for each semi-annual listing. Two or more members of one family living at same address may join the USCF at flat annual rate of \$5.00 for one USCF Membership plus \$2.50 for each additional USCF Membership. Such additional family memberships will receive all privileges of Membership except a subscription to CHESS LIFE.

Send membership dues (or subscriptions) and changes of address to KENNETH HARKNESS, Business Manager, 93 Barrow Street, New York 14, N.Y. Send tournament rating reports (with fees, if any) and all communications regarding CHESS LIFE editorial matters to MONTGOMERY MAJOR, Editor, 123 North Humphrey Avenue, Oak Park, Ill.

Make all checks payable to: THE UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION

Vol. VII, Number 12

Friday, February 20, 1953



The Secret Is Revealed

For there may keep a counsel—if twain be aviaic.
CHAUCER—Ten Commandments of Love

IN the "Literary Gazette" for October 24, 1952 the Soviet Editors have finally revealed to an eager and waiting world the true secret of Soviet success upon the checkered board:

This secret is all-round development, uninterrupted training. This secret is, finally, general literacy, wealth of spiritual culture. In order to master the ABC of chess, to understand chess textbooks, apart from everything else, it is necessary to know the alphabet and to have leisure. Millions of talented peoples in the Western countries have neither the spare time, nor the elementary knowledge, nor the public support for their desires. Millions of individuals—so long as they remain individuals—cannot achieve success in any sphere of culture.

While one cannot raise an eyebrow in interrogation at the statement that uninterrupted training contributes to chess mastery, nor quibble with the thought that leisure is beneficial in developing chess knowledge and skill, one may well question the challenge to individuality.

For it has been as individuals that the great chess masters have made their impact upon chess and history. It is as distinct individuals that we remember Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine—never confusing the stubborn psychological combative style of Lasker with the rapier simplicity which made Capablanca's style distinctive, not even momentarily confusing either of these with the chameleon versatility of Alekhine who was all styles to all players.

Against these personalities as personalities, even Botvinnik seems colorless—a specimen of mass production as compared to the individual handicraft of an artist.

Nor does this charmingly simple theory of Soviet mass development explain why the Soviet chess machine (invincible in mass) tends to break down in detail. As a whole it may proceed like a steam-roller over Western chess, but as individuals the component parts of this machine do not prove to be so far superior to their Western opponents as the charming Soviet theory claims.

Under the theory Kashdan (who long ago deserted serious chess for business endeavors) should not be able to score 1½-½ against Kotov who has the desirable "leisure" for chess development as occurred in the USSR-USA team match at Moscow, nor should Kevitz in the same event score 1½-½ against Bondarevsky. Neither should Byrne best Bronstein at Helsinki if the Soviet theory is correct.

So, while admitting the virtues of leisure and uninterrupted training, we will cling wistfully to the outmoded thought that individuals still count as individuals and not as cogs in some inhuman mass production.

Montgomery Major

The Reader's Road To Chess

By Kester Svendsen

HUNDERT PREISGEKROENTE SCHACH-PARTIEN. Edited by Walter Arpad Foldes. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, Paper, 134 pp., about \$2. SCHACH-ECHO. Vol. 11, No. 1. Published by Otto Katzer, Königstein in Taunus, Germany, 18pp.

FOLDEAK'S Hundred Brilliancy Prize Games, well annotated, includes most of the well-known favorites so honored in Continental tournaments from the 1890s to the 1930s, together with a goodly number that have not been overly anthologized. As Hungarian Master Chalupetzky pointed out in the introduction, (written only a few weeks before his death in 1951), the games are roughly grouped by motif: Rook-play in games 63-64, Pawns in 70-74, the exchange in 75-76, endgame brilliance in 92-94. Maroczy and Spielmann appear in 10 examples apiece, chiefly as winner but occasionally otherwise; Alekhine and Marshall in 8; Janowski and Grunfeld in 7. Almost a hundred players are represented. The collection offers one cascade of striking moves after another until the reader, playing them over in succession, can only marvel at the inexhaustible fertility of master chess imagination.

"Reader's Road" welcomes the resurrection of Schach-Echo, which suspended publication in 1943 and revives now with a gallery of well-known editors. Euwe, Brinckmann, Unzicker, Lothar Schmid, and Hagemann will conduct regular features. Aitken of England and Koltanowski of USA will also contribute to this fortnightly. Annual subscription price was not given in the review copy, but at 80 pfennigs a month it cannot be a great deal.

Mate The Subtle Way!

by Vincent L. Eaton

Address all communications to this column to Vincent L. Eaton, 612 McNeill Road, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Contemporary American Composers—5

NICHOLAS GABOR

A HUNGARIAN by birth, Nicholas Gabor came to the United States in 1923, at the age of 32 and has made his home in Cincinnati. He is a musician, like many another composer of problems; his principal work is as violinist with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, but he is also an enthusiastic conductor of amateur civic symphony orchestras.

Mr. Gabor learned the moves of chess when he was 10 years old, and it has remained a lifelong hobby. As a player he scored his best mark in the Ohio State Championship of 1946, where he finished second in a field of 48 contestants. He began composing problems in 1927 and quickly developed his technical skill, stimulated to some extent by former CHESS LIFE Problem Editor Dr. P. G. Keeney, whose famous chess section in the Cincinnati Enquirer was the center of American problem-dom during the late 20's and early 30's.

Mr. Gabor has over 300 compositions to his credit, published throughout the world. Thirty-two of them have won honors in tournaments. He builds many of them around a single, rather spectacular, mainplay, which hits the solver in the eye. The examples below show his flair for sharp and pointed strategy.

As we write these lines, Mr. Gabor is seriously ill in Durham Hospital, Cincinnati, Ohio. Solvers who enjoy his work might speed his convalescence by dropping him a line of appreciation.

Also on the sick list is expert solver Earl Weatherford, who is in Winter Hospital, Topeka, Kans. He writes that he would appreciate hearing from other problem enthusiasts.

Problem No. 399

By Nicholas Gabor

1st Prize, "Cincinnati Times Star," 1928

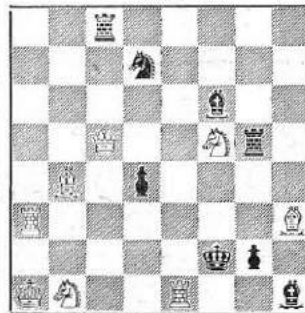


White mates in two moves

Problem No. 400

By Nicholas Gabor

Grantham Journal, 1931

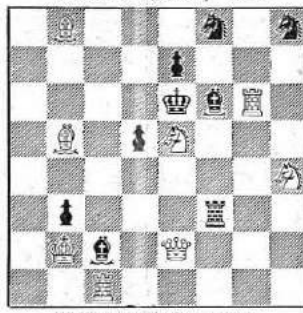


White mates in two moves

Problem No. 401

By Nicholas Gabor

4th Highly Commended, "Brisbane Courier," 1932

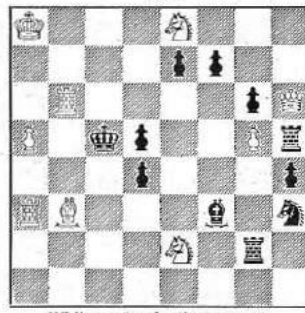


White mates in two moves

Problem No. 402

By Nicholas Gabor

1st Prize, "Chess Correspondent" 1945



White mates in three moves

For solutions to previously published problems, please turn to page four.

The Kibitzer Has His Day

From the Editor's Mail Bag

Larry Evans Gets Scolded!

Dear Sir:

Hail to the forthcoming additions to CHESS LIFE . . . But right off the bat—when I read Larry Evans' opening statement re chess problems I became burned up—I have known many real masters in my day—Lasker, Capa, Harry Pillsbury, Maroczy, Frank "Beloved" Marshall, Janowski—all were expert problem solvers—Lasker, Pillsbury and Janowski have composed several . . . And I really feel for Evans in his lack of chess problem appreciation . . . For I have followed his rise with great enthusiasm . . . and now he lets me down with a resounding thud.

I think he is eating a good steak dinner in his game and endgame play—but he has been missing the most delicious of all desserts—the chess problem. I think I could set up quite a few problems on a board—and whether or not they were dominated by the white pieces—among which

anyone of them would stall him for at least an hour—whereas a lover of the "poetry of chess"—problems—would arrive at the correct solution in half the time. Does that take chess ability or not? His example of the stalemate endgame—is easy for a (Please turn to page 3, col. 3)

Chess Life In New York

By Eliot Hearst

Surprisingly enough, the aspect of metropolitan chess receiving the greatest publicity here in New York has no connection with any top chess masters or elite chess clubs! The outdoor "chess house" in Central Park, which has been mentioned briefly in this column from time to time, has been the subject of major articles in both the "New Yorker" and the "N.Y. Times Magazine" recently and it is indeed pertinent here to pause a moment and take a glance at this popular chess meeting place.

The gift of an anonymous donor who realized the difficulties (particularly the weather!) which the habitués of the Central Park Chess Club had always faced, the new building sports fifteen inlaid chess tables and a constantly decreasing number of sets—an unimportant problem, as most combatants use their personal sets anyway. As always, even in the club's "outdoor" past, the chess players seem to predominate over the checker contestants, although it is true that the latter games attract more spectators (kibitzers?) than the former. Artists, pensioned military men, retired professional and business personnel, highschool students and even vagrants form the nucleus of the active membership and there is a popular rumor which has almost become a legend that the "unknown benefactor" mentioned above is one of the group's perennial contestants! For chess is a scenic atmosphere (on a hill overlooking the ever-crowded Wollman Memorial ice skating rink) the Central Park Chess House is definitely the place to go!

Anthony Santasiere has completed his schedule in the Marshall C. C. Championship, preparatory to his departure for a European vacation, and his total of 12-3 can only be surpassed by Carl Pilnick who has achieved a 10½-2½ score, with Peretz Miller and Jim Sherwin left to play. Other top scores include Edmar Mednis 10-4, Jack Collins 9½-3½, Sherwin 9-4 and Frank Howard 8-5 (who lost his last three games to destroy his once excellent chances for the title). Final standings and analysis in the next issue of Chess Life.

Abe Turner, with 7-2, appears to have an excellent opportunity to capture the Manhattan C.C. Tourney, for he has met all the top contenders and his four remaining games are with contestants ranked relatively low in the standings. Herb Seidman 6-2 and Max Pavey 5½-1½ are other major scorers, while Albert Pinkus and Alexander Kevitz (both two points down but behind in games played) are not to be counted out yet either! IN BRIEF: The qualifiers for the finals of the London Terrace C.C. Championship are H. M. Phillips, William Slater, Morris Kramer, Marcel Duchamp, Gerald Jacobson, Morris Fish, Sam Mottur, David Hoffman, Kathryn Slater, and Jerome Barry. This popular "penthouse chess club's" tourney will get underway soon . . . Mrs. Mary Bain, U. S. Women's Champ, was the guest of much-listened-to Barry Gray on his after-midnight radio show recently and several days later appeared on a popular TV broadcast. It seems the public is most interested in the women in chess! . . . A triumvirate from a metropolitan college entered a Marshall Rapid not long ago under the names of Botvinnik, Keres, and Smyslov and succeeded in tying for first place with 15½-2½, drawing with each other in short order of course! Lou Levy, fourth with 14½-3½, admitted that the "Russians" were too much for him!

BOOST AMERICAN CHESS! By Joining the U.S.C.F.

