

# Chess Life

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THOMAS W CUSICK  
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JOLIET ILL



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15 Cents

## What's The Best Move?

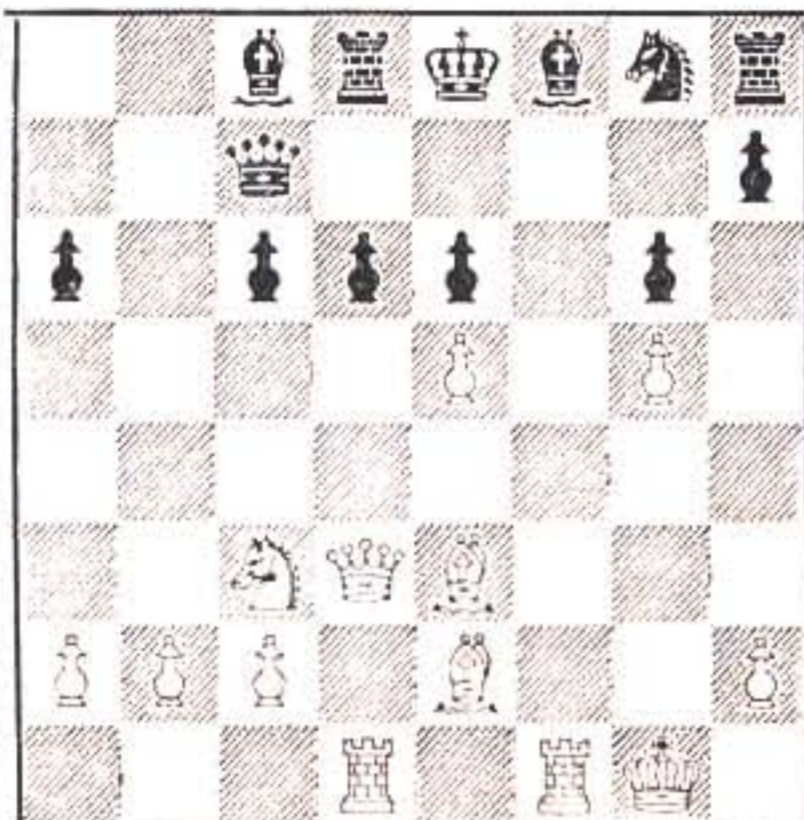
Conducted by  
**IRWIN SIGMOND**

Send solutions to Position No. 254 to reach Irwin Sigmond, 5200 Williamsburg Blvd., Arlington 7, Va., by May 15, 1959. With your solution, please send analysis or reasons supporting your choice of "Best Move" or moves.

Solution to Position No. 254 will appear in the June 5, 1959 issue.

**NOTE:** Do not place solutions to two positions on one card; be sure to indicate correct number of position being solved, and give the full name and address of the solver to assist in proper crediting of solution.

Position No. 254



White to play

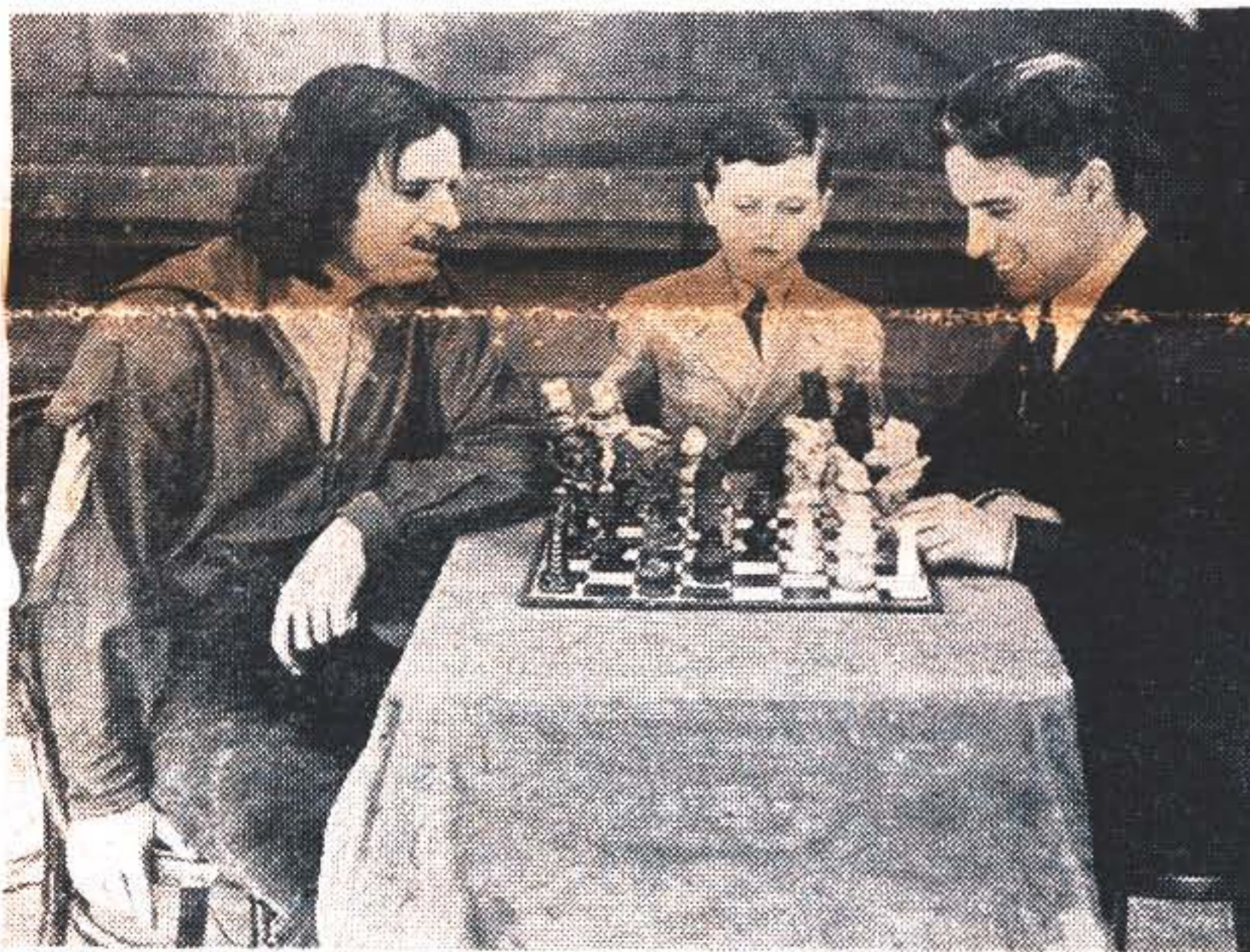
*This issue of Chess Life is dedicated to Samuel Reshevsky*

In order that readers who may wish to cut out the Reshevsky story and games may do so without worrying about the material which might appear on the reverse sides of the clippings, this issue has been set up with that possibility in mind. If the column conducted by your favorite has been omitted from this issue, please remember that it is not his fault—he'll be back with you in the near future. And to those of you who want both the Reshevsky clippings and a complete paper for your growing CHESS LIFE file, it is suggested that you order an extra copy from the Business Office, U. S. Chess Federation, 80 East 11th St., New York 3, N.Y., not from your editor.



International Grandmaster Samuel Reshevsky makes a move in the 7th round at the Marshall Chess Club, during the U.S. Championship, (1959).

(Photo by Kenneth Harkness)



L. to R. Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., Sammy Reshevsky, Charlie Chaplin. Photo by Harry Borochoy, 1921, on set of Fairbanks movie, "The Three Musketeers."

### SOMEONE MAY SEE IT IN TIME

The following announcement reached the editor on March 26, just as the April 20 material was being sealed to send to the printer.

Club officials please remember, at least seven weeks advance notice is required to insure insertion in time to be of practical benefit to any event.

April 18-19, 1959

#### Birmingham Open Championship

To be held at Stockham Hall, Birmingham Southern College  
April 18 and 19, 1959  
100% USCF rated (membership required)  
Entrance fee: \$1.00 (plus \$4.00 USCF fee to non-members)  
Five round Swiss  
For details write F. W. Kemp, Box 114, Palmyerdale, Ala.

(Another late arrival)

April 18 and 19

#### 1st ANNUAL CENTRAL PENN. OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

USCF RATED—5 ROUNDS SWISS

AT

1119-11th AVENUE, 2nd FL.,  
ALTOONA, PA.

1st ROUND—SAT. 10:00 A.M.

ENTRANCE FEE \$3.00 + USCF

MEMBERSHIP  
TROPHIES PLUS 70% OF  
ENTRANCE FEES  
FOR  
CASH PRIZES.

SPONSORED BY THE CHESS CLUB  
OF THE  
ALTOONA PARK & RECREATION  
BOARD

John Raber, Secretary  
Altoona Chess Club  
1428 Jackson Ave.  
Altoona, Pa.

### TO ALL CHESS LIFE READERS

Upon being informed that this issue of CHESS LIFE is to be dedicated to me, I feel highly honored.

I have spent the last six years exclusively at chess. During the last two years, I am happy to report, I have noticed a substantial upsurge in chess interest in this country. An ever-increasing number of high school and college students at my simultaneous exhibitions is a good indication of the growing popularity of the royal game. Chess is, slowly but surely, on the way of gaining the position it so well deserves. I hope to continue to do my part in reaching this commendable goal.

Sincerely,  
SAMUEL RESHEVSKY

### DON'T FORGET

U. S. JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP—HOTEL ROME  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA, JULY 13-18

U. S. OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP—SHERATON-FONTENELLE HOTEL  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA, JULY 20-AUGUST 1.

# ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

## Mastering the End Game

By **WALTER KORN**, Editor of MCO

### THIRD OUT OF FOUR

Completing the "trilogy" from Averbakh's booklet, started in Dia. 64, and continued in Dia. 65, we show here his latest example of the theme, i.e. Kubbel's version published in 1940. Instead of two Knights, we have a Knight and Bishop, chasing Black's King and two Pawns into mating net! An additional specimen follows in the next issue.

Diagram 66



White to move and win

Diagram 66

Solution: 1. N-N6, P-N7; 2. N-Q5ch, K-Q3; 3. N-B3 (Black's pawn is halted—but the King hurries to assist), K-B4! (If 3. ...., K-K4; 4. N-N1, K-Q5; 5. B-B8, P-B6; 6. B-B5 stopping Black in his trek) 4. N-N1! K-N5; 5. K-N6! P-B6; 6. B-Q3, K-N6; 7. K-N5, P-B7; 8. B-B4 mate!

### Solution To

### What's The Best Move?

Position No. 250

Zita-Filip, Prague & Marilanske Lazne, 1956

If Black plays BxN, he will have no simple problem trying to force an end-game win with his extra pawn. The same is true after 1. ...., N-R7ch; 2. KxB, N-N5ch; 3. K-K6, NxR; 4. NxR, NxN.

Filip played 1. ...., B-B2! threatening mate and forcing the win of a piece. The game continued 2. N-N2 (if K-K5, then simply BxN), N-Q8; 3. B-Bsq, R-R7; 4. P-B3, NxB; 5. Pxp, N-R5ch; and Zita resigned.

Several solvers tried to mate immediately by 1. ...., N-N4ch or 1. ...., N-K7ch; but these are answered by 2. KxB. The try by 1. ...., R-Rsq can be refuted in several ways of which 2. N-N3 seems the simplest.

Correct solutions are acknowledged from: David Ames, Robin Ault, George W. Baylor, Howard Billian, M. D. Blumenthal, Joe Bohac, A. Bomberault, George H. Chaney, Duke Chinn, Ramon Cook, Curtin, K. A. Czerniecki, Joseph Eisenbach, E. Gault, Richard Gibian, Edmund Godbold, O. Goddard, John T. Hamilton, H. M. Hawkes\*, Earl R. Hawkins Jr., Rea B. Hayes, Donald C. Hills, Homer H. Hyde, Viktor Ikauniks, John E. Ishkan, D. W. Johnson, Andy Kafko, Harry Kaye, Fred D. Knuppel, E. J. Korpanty, Jack Miller, M. Milstein, Ed Nash, Vincent Noga, Craig Olson, George W. Payne, John Pranter, Edmund Roman, Max Schlosser, I. Schwartz, David Silver, Reuel L. Smith, Larry Snyder, Herbert Solinsky, Bob Steinhmeyer, W. E. Stevens, Richard Strasburger, Francis Trask, George Trefzer, Hugh C. Underwood, George Wall, Joe Weininger, William B. Wilson, Nell P. Witting, and Robert G. Wright.

The solvers score handily by 55-8.  
\*Welcome to new solver

## Tournament Life

Tournament organizers wishing announcements of their forthcoming USCF rated events to appear in this column should make application at least seven weeks in advance, on special forms which may be obtained from USCF Business Manager, Kenneth Harkness, 80 East 11th St., New York 3, N. Y. or from Editor CHESS LIFE, 19 Dutch Village Road, Halifax, N.S., Canada.

May 2 & 3

### SOUTH TEXAS OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Nueces Hotel, Corpus Christi, Texas. 5 round Swiss, with a time limit of 50 moves in 2 hours. Entry fee is \$4.00 plus membership in the USCF. Prizes include \$50.00 first prize, trophies for first, second and third places. Trophies also for best junior and lady. For further information write to Henry Youngman, P. O. Box 844, Corpus Christi, Texas.

May 16-17

### LAKE ONTARIO OPEN

Putnam, N.Y. 5 rd. Swiss (3 rds. Sat., 2 rds. Sun.) Guaranteed 1st prize \$50. other prizes as entries permit. Entry fee: \$5.00 to USCF members (plus \$5.00 USCF dues for non-members). For details, write to Dr. E. W. Marchand, 192 Seville Dr., Rochester 17, N.Y.

June 26-28

### CAROLINA'S OPEN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Will take place at the USO Building, Southport, North Carolina. Six round Swiss, open to all, with a time limit of 60 moves in 2½ hours. Entry fees: \$5 tournament entry fee; \$2 annual dues in NCCA or SCCA; \$5 combined fee for Juniors, 18 years old or younger; USCF membership or \$5 annual dues. Prizes include trophy and \$100 for first prize, \$50 second prize. Cash prizes 3rd to 5th places. \$25 Junior prize. Trophy, Womans' prize. Bring sets and clocks. For further information write to Norman Hornstein, Southport, N. C.

June 26, 27, 28

### 1959 NEW JERSEY STATE JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Will be held at the Penn-Atlantic Hotel, South Carolina & Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, N. J. Open to all New Jersey resident Juniors who were born on or after July 15, 1938, (not 21). 5 round Swiss, with 45 moves in the first 2 hours. Entrance fee is \$2.00 to USCF and NJSCF members. Additional fees include USCF membership \$5.00, NJSCF membership \$1.00 for non-members. Prizes include: round trip bus fare to U.S. Junior Championship tournament in Omaha, Nebraska for first and second place winners and, if possible, for third place winner. Trophies will also be awarded, with a special trophy awarded to the highest scoring Junior under 17 years of age. For further information and advanced registrations write to Alan Spellman, 2 N. Swarthmore Ave., Ventnor, N. J.

## CHESS IN WASHINGTON

by Dan Wade

Editor Wash. Chess Letter

Olaf Ulvestad with 6-0 won the 50 player Washington Open. This was held in the Seattle University Student Union Building lounge on January 24th and 25th. James McCormick lost only to Ulvestad in the 6th round to take second with a 5-1 score.

Third to ninth on Solkoff all with 4½-1½ were Dr. Dave Groenig of Spokane, Dr. A. A. Murray of Seattle, Dan Wade of Seattle, G.S.G. Patterson of Seattle, Oliver LaFreniere of Yakima, Don Kendall of Tacoma, and Ed Diedrich of Tacoma. The top nine plus Elmars Zemgalis, Viesturs Seglins, and Vic Pupols, are qualified to play for the Washington State Championship to be held in late February. Seglins is the defending champion.

Players from Portland, Olympia, Bellingham, Bothell, Snohomish, Vancouver, Wash., Albany, Oregon, Everett, Gig Harbor, Fort Lewis, Spokane, Tacoma, Yakima, and Seattle attended. The 50 entries made this the second largest tourney in northwest history. The largest was last summer's Seattle Seafair with 55. Portland recently drew 44 to a tournament while Spokane twice had 40 in their Inland Empire Open.

In the Spokane City Championship Tournament, Dr. Dave Groenig and Gordon Cornelius finished in a tie for first each with 5-1. A snow storm cut the number of entries down to eleven in this six round Swiss. A best two out of three playoff will decide the championship for 1959. Cornelius is the defending champion of Spokane while Dr. Groenig is current Eastern Washington Champion.

Junior chess is booming in Seattle, Yakima and Portland. Last year Seattle had a very successful high school league. This year Portland's high school league promises to be as good if not better. The University of Washington Chess Club, dormant for over two years, has been revived by Buz Eddy, a graduate of West Seattle High School.

All northwest chess news is turned in to the monthly magazine, "Washington Chess Letter" which has been going once a month for 135 issues. Probably 136 issues by the time you read this!

The Latvian Club won the 1958-59 Puget Sound League Championship. The Latvians had Elmars Zemgalis, Viktors Pupols, and Viesturs Seglins on their top three boards in most of their team matches. The Latvians won seven matches, lost none, and drew 5 to 5 with the runner-up Seattle Chess Club. The Seattle Chess Club won six, lost one to Tacoma, and drew with the champions. A team is made up of five players and each player plays his opponent two games. This is the 13th consecutive year the Puget Sound League has been in action.

Other teams in the final standings were Kitsap County (6-2-0), West Seattle (4-3-1), Tacoma (4-4-0), North Seattle (3-4-1), McNeil Island (3-5-0), Olympia (1-7-0), and Seattle Center (0-8-0).

The League's leading player was James McCormick of Seattle who played first board for Kitsap County and compiled a 12 won, 0 lost, 2 drawn record.

### SCHOENE SHINES AS PITTSBURGH CHAMP

Defending champion Andrew Schoene won six in a row to retain his grip on the Pittsburgh Metropolitan Championship. In making this sweep, Schoene won from five of the six players finishing immediately below him in the standings. William Byland and Martin Lubell took second and third, respectively, after their 4½-1½ tie had been broken. George Baylor came fourth with 4-2. Paul Roth topped a quartet scoring 3½-2½, to take fifth place. The others, in order of placement, were Velimir Djurdjevic, Daniel Miscevic, and Bernard Berger.

Chess Life Monday, Page 2  
April 20, 1959

## THE SHORTEST GRAND-MASTER GAME

by PAUL LEITH

In Chess Life, April 20, 1958 I referred to Botvinnik's twelve-move win over Spielmann at Moscow 1935. The editor then mentioned Mattison's win over Tartakower in eleven moves at Budapest, 1926 and asked "Any others?"

The shortest game between Grandmasters (Tchigorin was in 1895 among the top players in the world, and Marshall in 1914 at St. Petersburg was one of the five finalists awarded the title of Grandmaster by Czar Nicholas I) seems to be one not found either in "My Fifty Years of Chess" by Marshall nor in "Marshall's Best Games" by P. Wenman.

Marshall defeated Tchigorin in eight moves! at the 1902 Monte Carlo Tournament.

The game, as given in the January 1959 issue of "Chess in the USSR", follows:

### TCHIGORIN DEFENSE

White	Black
F. Marshall	M. Tchigorin
1. P-Q4	P-Q4
2. P-QB4	N-QB3
3. N-QB3	PxP
4. P-Q5	N-R4
5. B-B4	B-Q2
6. P-K4	P-K3
7. PxP	PxP
8. Q-R5 check	Resigns

### NOMINATIONS WANTED FOR USCF OFFICERS

The terms of 3 USCF Vice-Presidents expire in 1958. They are not eligible to re-election this year.

The term of the USCF Secretary expires this year. He is eligible to re-election.

Submit your recommendations for these positions to the member of the Nominating Committee, nearest you.

Rhys Hays  
430 W. 116th Street  
New York 27, N.Y.

A. Wyatt Jones  
P. O. Box 202  
Shreveport, La.

Melvin Semb  
P. O. Box 135  
Winona, Minnesota

Edmund Godbold  
5734 North Winthrop Ave.  
Chicago 40, Ill.

Spencer Van Gelder  
2735 Larkin St.  
San Francisco, California  
(Chairman)

Although nominations may be sent to any committee member, any correspondence requiring a reply should be addressed to Chairman Van Gelder.

### Problem Composers Note

Problem composers are invited to submit problems published Jan. 1, 1956 through Dec. 31, 1958 for possible inclusion in a forthcoming FIDE album. The deadline is May 1, 1959. For details write Newman Guttman, 825 Park Ave., Plainfield, New Jersey.



## Chess Life's Hall of Fame



CHES LIFE is happy to present the following names of devoted workers in the cause of chess. Here is your chance to honor that man or woman who may or may not have been a strong player but whom you know has worked hard for the advancement of the game. Send his name and address and the reason why you think his name should be listed in our Hall of Fame, to Fred M. Wren, Editor CHES LIFE, Gove House Perry, Maine.

(Presented in the order in which nominations were received.)

**ROBERT A. KARCH**, 16025 Paseo del Campo, San Lorenzo, California. Chess Life, April 20, 1958 spoke of him as a one man commando. Came to San Francisco in August 1958, and by November had earned election as Vice-President of San Francisco Bay Area Chess League.

**U. S. MASTER HENRY GROSS**, 3544 Webster, San Francisco, California. President Golden Gate Chess Club, President San Francisco Bay Area Chess League, and President California State Chess Federation.

**HARRY BOROCHOW**, 6363 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 48, California. 61 years old, 50 years a teacher; competed in many tournaments. As California Chairman has increased USCF memberships in California by 50% bringing California very close (about 10% behind) to the number one spot.

**JAMES B. REYNOLDS**, 117 Brewster, San Francisco 10, California. For several years (nearly 10) gave various simo competitions at Letterman Army Hospital. Originated "Chess-In-Action" and now Editor of the "Pacific Coast Chess Herald." Three years ago founded the Precita Valley Chess Club and entered a 6-man team league with four club members, and brought home the championship to a fifteen member club.

**HENRY MEIFERT**, 6409 W. Kinick Parkway, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Teacher and organizer for 15 years. Age 35.

**HARRISON KINDIG**, Otsego, Michigan. Age 50—organizer and teacher for thirty years, office holder.

**RALPH HOUGHTON**, 855 Broadway, Newark, N. J., Age 70—teacher of youth. Traveled some 100,000 miles to participate in tournaments.

**GEORGE E. O'ROURKE, SR.**, 4430 Garrison St. N.W., Washington, D. C. For many years George, Sr., has been doing all kinds of jobs for chess, mostly of the unglamorous type that take a lot of work. He is founder, editor, and publisher of the Washington Chess Divan Newsletter.

The same man who nominated George O'Rourke commented on one of the original nominations appearing in the March 5 issue of CHES LIFE: "PHIL BELL sounds like the same Phil Bell who started a chess club for kids in Washington several years ago at the Bald Eagle Recreation Center."

**A. E. MONTGOMERY**, 329 Sturges Parkway, Elmhurst, Illinois. Has taught chess to youngsters, age 8-15, for the past six years at the Elmhurst YMCA.

**EDGAR T. McCORMICK**, 102 North Maple Street, East Orange, N. J. He has devoted much of his time to the other side of chess. He is president of the Independent Chess Club which he has on the first floor of his home, and he has helped many young aspiring chess players.

### In Memoriam

CHES LIFE records with regret the recent passing of several persons, each of whom has contributed to the advancement of CHES.

**Dr. Alexander Rueb**, of The Hague, Netherlands. Dr. Rueb was the first President of FIDE (International Chess Federation) and served the cause of World Chess for over twenty-five years. With Dr. Euwe, he shared responsibility for the Dutch chess renaissance during the three decades between 1920 and 1950.

**Edward Weeks**, of Washington, D.C. George O'Rourke, Sr. reports, "Edward Weeks was one of the deans of Washington chess, and one of the founders of the Capital City Chess Club. He has been a member of the Divan for a number of years since the Capital forsook chess for bridge. He was a gentleman of the old school."

**Dudley H. Hosea**, of San Diego, California. Noted as a supporter and promoter of chess in his area, the Point Loma Chess Club met in his home. Sven Almgren reports, "That rare soul, a man with a passionate love of the game matched by a vigorous and youthful outlook and a readiness to sacrifice himself in chess promotion. The only problem with him was to keep him from devoting energies to chess that he simply did not have to spare."

**Mrs. Hazelle M. Treend**, of Detroit, Michigan. The wife of Edward I. Treend, former Secretary (1940-1950), Vice-President (1950-1953), and Treasurer (1948-1952) of the USCF. Referred to in the Detroit papers as "Well-known artist and art teacher" Mrs. Treend was a loyal and true friend of chess. During her husband's tenure as an official of the USCF, she played hostess to dozens of visiting chess personages, with a gracious hospitality which endeared her to masters and wood-pushers, alike.

May 30-31

#### ALBUQUERQUE OPEN

Will take place at the YMCA, 101 Central N.W., Albuquerque, N.M. 5 round Swiss, open to all, with a time limit of 45 moves in the first 2 hours, 24 moves per hour thereafter. Entry fee of \$3.00. Prizes include trophies for first, second and third place winners. Albuquerque champion and junior champion titles reserved for Albuquerque residents. Address entries and inquiries to W. A. Muff, 2717 Espanola N.E., Albuquerque, N.M. (Unrated)

## Feldheim Takes March Rating Improvement Tournament

Harry Feldheim, known in New York circles as an expert "blitz" player, proved that he can also play serious tournament chess, by defeating four and drawing one opponent and taking first place in the March Rating-Tournament, conducted at the Chess & Checker Club of New York. One of Feldheim's wins was against Bernard Hill, winner of the February tournament. Peretz Z. Miller, a member of the Marshall Chess Club, also went undefeated and took second place with a 4-1 score. Dick Moran, the Atlantic Coast Champion of 1958 and Lisa Lane of Philadelphia also had 4-1 and took 3rd and 4th places respectively. Ties were broken by the Median System. 27 players competed.

Competent adjudications were given by Masters James Sherwin, Allen Kaufmann and Edmar Mednis. Frank Brady directed the weekend event.

An interesting note is the fine caliber of chess offered by Miss Lane, who is one of the up-coming women chess players in the country. Nicknamed "Miss Chesscake of 1959" by Frank Brady, Miss Lane defeated Hill, Pamiljens and Rozea and drew with Noga and Miller.

### Tournament Reminders

- April 25-26 —Huron Valley Amateur Open and Huron Valley "Experts" Invitational Tournament, Ypsilanti, Michigan. (CL 3/20/59)
- April 24, 25, 26 —The First Golden Kings New England Amateur Chess Championship, YMCU, Boston, Mass. (CL 4/5/59)
- April 24, 25, 26 —Spring Independent Open, East Orange, N. J. (CL 4/5/59)
- May 2-3 —Second Mid-Continent Open, and 1959 Kansas State Chess Tournament, Russell, Kansas. (CL 3/5/59)
- May 2-3 —1959 Iowa State Championship Tournament, Hotel Sheldon-Munn, Ames, Iowa.
- May 1, 2, 3 —25th Annual Wisconsin Championship, Swoboda Hotel, Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin. (CL 4/5/59)
- May 2-3 and 9-10—1959 Chicago Chess Championship, Chicago, Illinois (CL 4/5/59)
- May 9-10 —Puget Sound Open, University of Washington Student Union Building, Seattle, Washington.
- May 16-17 —Indiana State Championship, Logansport, Indiana. (CL 4/5/59)
- July 13-18 —U.S. Junior, Hotel Rome, Omaha, Nebraska, (CL 4/5/59)
- July 20—Aug. 1 —1959 U.S. Open, Sheraton-Fontenelle Hotel, Omaha, Nebraska. (CL 4/5/59)

## Armed Forces Chess by Robert A. Karch

I'll be glad to hear and report on military service chess anywhere on or off the planet! My earthly address is: 16025 Paseo del Campo, San Lorenzo, Calif.

At last; An Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps team tournament was actually held! The following story was reported by William Plampin of Alexandria, Virginia, who directed it.

Held at Fort Belvoir, Virginia over Washington's Birthday weekend, it was a ding dong battle right down to the wire. Different results in a couple of games in the last round would have brought about a three-way-tie for first place.

The tournament also had a "rags to riches" flavor. Fort Myer, Virginia and Fort Holabird, Maryland dropped out of the tournament officially but a couple of players showed up of their own volition. The two "teams" merged their remnants and borrowed a player from Fort Belvoir's surplus. They designated the collection as "Fort Belvoir No. 3" and wound up champs!

Trophies were awarded to the first and second place teams and certificates to each of the four members of

the two teams. Presentation was made by Colonel Jackson of Fort Belvoir.

The Tournament Committee headed by M/Sgt. Walters and Miss Wilma Smith, Service Club Director, did a first class job in organizing the tournament and in the hospitality arrangements. It was an excellent demonstration of what can be done with the national tournament that is in the offing next Fall.

No prizes were awarded for individual scores but high man was Staff Sergeant Robert D. Grande of Bolling Air Force Base with a perfect 5-0 score. There were seven right behind him with 4-1.

1. Ft. Belvoir No. 3 .....4½- ½
2. Bolling AFB .....4 -1
3. Quantico Marine Base .....3 -2
4. Ft. Belvoir No. 1 .....2½-2½
5. Patuxent Naval Station .....2 -3
6. Ft. Belvoir No. 2 .....1½-3½
7. Ft. George G. Meade .....1½-3½
8. Davison Airfield .....1 -4

### Swap Shop

Fred Townsend, 168 Linden St., Pittsfield, Mass., will swap unbound copies of Chess Review for what have you? Complete years for 1947, 1957, 1958. Also February 1952 and 1958.

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Editor: **FRED M. WREN**

POSTMASTER: Please return undeliverable copies with Form 3579 to Kenneth Harkness, USCF Business Manager, 80 East 11th Street, New York 3, N. Y.

*Woodpusher Reminiscences  
and  
Philosophy*

BY

**FRED M. WREN, Editor of CHESS LIFE**

The February 20, 1959 issue of CHESS LIFE (page 8, col. 3) expressed the opinion that the recent Fischer-Reshevsky game proved only that the respective players did not read the same magazines, and that it did not necessarily mark the end of Reshevsky's chess career. Several persons, prominent in American Chess, agreed with that opinion, but several others, equally prominent and equally authoritative, took a dim view of it. It is perhaps only fair to all concerned—to the players, to the critics, and to myself—to publish here the editorial which I had written on the subject, and thus to explain the import of the opinion briefly expressed in the passage mentioned above.

*Knock out his crutch — I'll kick him when he falls!*

One of the most heart-breaking experiences your editor ever went through took place in the Hague, Netherlands, in 1930 or 1931. In our hero-worshipping stage of boyhood, we had also enshrined a heroine, a beautiful young lady, whose grace and ability as a swimmer and diver combined to make her the Esther Williams of her time. On that terrible day many years later, we cringed in agony as an audience in a second-class theatre in the Hague booed the former star to the extent that she burst into tears, and left tank and stage, before her scheduled act was completed. Although we had served two years in the army in World War One, and had seen a few things which still give us occasional nightmare chills, this was the most cruel demonstration we had ever witnessed of a fickle public turning thumbs down on an erstwhile favorite.

A few days ago we received a letter from New York in which it was predicted that Fischer's astounding slaughter of Reshevsky in a few moves in the recent Rosenwald and U.S. Championship tournament, would mark the end of Reshevsky's career as a dominant force in American chess, and, possibly, his appearances in important chess events. It was the prediction, and the almost ghoulishly hopeful phraseology of it, far more than the game score and its implications, which gave us the same sinking feeling we had experienced in the Hague so long ago. Are we so hardened and so victory-minded that we can write off in this cavalier fashion the man who has probably carried the banner of American chess farther and higher on more occasions than any other living player? No, definitely not. It would be far more excusable to boo the memory of Babe Ruth for not having produced a home run on his last time at bat; to yell "You're finished" at Rocket Richard whenever he finishes a game without scoring; or to point the finger of scorn at Jack Dempsey for having, as he said, forgotten to duck. Babe Ruth has gone forever. Rocket Richard has admittedly passed his physical prime, although he is still the most feared hockey player in the world. Jack Dempsey fights no more. Yet these men, champions all, knew that no one, no matter how good, can win every game; that from the depths of defeat and despair frequently comes the spark which can turn the doubtful comeback attempt into a triumphal tour; and that a champion never quits. For in these sports of crushing bodily contact, the duration of a champion's reign is short. The baseball-player, the boxer, and the hockey-player are usually finished before they are forty years of age. The legs become heavy, the vision less keen, and the coordination stalls. Not so in chess. For every youngster you can name who made his mark by knocking off one or more of the older giants of the game—Morphy, Capablanca, Alekhine, Pomar, Yanofsky, Fischer—we can give you the name of an old-timer who, approaching or having passed the half-century mark, has played some of the greatest chess on record—Marshall, Capablanca, Alekhine, Tartakover, Emanuel Lasker, Meises, Sir George Thomas, J. Johner, Saemisch, Staunton, and a hundred others. And how about Botvinnik? If he had accepted the theory that one defeat ends a career, Smyslov would probably still be the world champion. We refuse to accept the premise. And we absolutely refuse to believe that Reshevsky is through; certainly not because of the outcome of a single game, humiliating as it must have been to him.

Sammy Reshevsky has never held the world championship in chess, and probably he never will. But he is made of championship material, with intestinal fortitude enough for two champions. Fischer is young and confident, and we share his hope and his belief that he will one day bring the championship to our shores. His successes in the last two Rosenwald events place him in a position comparable to that which Tahl occupies in the USSR. Either of them would appear to be a worthy challenger for the world title. And, as has been the case for several years, so would Sammy Reshevsky.

*To The Ladies*

Not to all ladies, for I've learned that it doesn't pay to generalize. After all, this is a chess newspaper, and my toasts and dedications should in some degree be related to chess. This little tribute is not even directed to lady chess players who undoubtedly derive some pleasure, not only from their own games, but also from those of their husbands and sweethearts and friends. No. I want to pay tribute to the chess widows—to the non-chess-playing gals who have been unfortunate enough to fall for men who do play chess.

So, here's to you, ladies. To you, Mary, whose husband has, for twenty years or more, spent more of his waking hours playing chess than he has with you and your children! To you, Susan, whose husband, although not a strong player, is a wonderful organizer and promoter—of chess clubs and chess events, and who has devoted more time to such activities than he has in organizing and promoting the happiness and welfare of his home and family! To you, Jane, whose fiance has lingered too long over too many end-games, standing you up times without number. To you, Frances, who for years have taken little vacation trips with the children, while your husband spends his vacations attending various chess tournaments. To you, Helen, who has faithfully served coffee and sandwiches or cake to your husband and his chess-playing friends at 10 P.M., and who have uncomplainingly returned at 11 to carry away the cold coffee and the dried out food—all untouched. To you, Mona, whose husband writes a regular column for Chess Life, and who just can't take you to that concert or lecture you've been hoping to hear—he's too busy meeting his deadline.

None of these ladies play chess. Some of them don't know a rook from a pawn. They personally couldn't care less whether Botvinnik or Benko or Fischer is world champion. A game score from the "Woodpushers Scorebook" and the Lewitsky-Marshall score look equally stupid to them. Yet, for years they have pampered us—encouraging us to play in tournaments, when they would much prefer to have us at home—sending us off alone, when they would dearly love to accompany us—wasting their fine food and drink on a bunch of unappreciative patzers—bringing up our children for us—apologizing for us to our non-chess-playing friends for late appearance or broken dates.

To these long-suffering ladies, therefore, I raise my glass, as I breath a prayer of humble, but puzzled thanks, for the loving patience you have demonstrated over the years. Why puzzled? Because I honestly don't understand how you have stood us so long!

White		Black		
R.	BYRNE	SHERWIN		
1.	P-Q4	N-KB3	38. R-B2	P-N5
2.	P-QB4	P-K3	39. PXP	PXP
3.	N-QB3	B-N5	40. R-N2	P-N6
4.	P-K3	P-B4	41. K-N3	B-B7
5.	B-Q3	P-Q4	42. K-B4	K-B2
6.	N-B3	O-O	43. P-R4	R-QR
7.	O-O	N-B3	44. B-N4	R-R5
8.	P-QR3	BxN	45. B-B3	K-K3
9.	PxB	QPXP	46. K-B3	K-Q4
10.	BxP	Q-B2	47. K-K2	P-R4
11.	B-N2	P-K4	48. K-Q2	P-N3
12.	P-R3	P-K5	49. P-N3	K-B5
13.	N-Q2	N-QR4	50. RxB	PxR
14.	B-R2	P-B5	51. KxP	R-R6
15.	P-B3	R-K	52. B-Q2	R-R7ch
16.	PxP	NxP	53. K-B	K-Q6
17.	NxN	RxN	54. B-N4	KxP
18.	Q-B3	Q-K2	55. P-Q5	R-R5
19.	QR-K	B-Q2	56. B-Q2ch	K-Q6
20.	B-N	B-B3	57. B-B4	R-Q5
21.	BxR	BxB	58. P-Q6	K-B5
22.	Q-R5	N-N6	59. K-B2	R-Q4
23.	R-B4	R-K	60. K-N2	K-Q6
24.	P-QR4	Q-K3	61. K-R3	K-B6
25.	B-R3	P-KR3	62. K-R4	K-B5
26.	K-R2	P-QN3	63. K-R3	R-QN4
27.	B-N4	P-R3	64. B-N5	R-N2
28.	Q-K2	Q-QB3	65. B-B4	K-B4
29.	QR-KB	P-QR4	66. B-K5	K-Q4
30.	B-R3	QxP	67. B-B4	K-K3
31.	B-Q6	Q-Q2	68. K-R4	R-N3
32.	QxP	N-Q7	69. K-R5	RxP
33.	QxPch	QxQ	70. BxR	KxB
34.	RxQ	NxRch	71. K-N6	K-K4
35.	RxN	B-Q6	72. K-B5	K-B4
36.	R-B3	P-QN4	73. K-Q5	K-N5
37.	B-B5	R-QN		Resigns

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In the fall of 1920 American Chess received a badly-needed shot in the arm in the person and accomplishments of nine-year-old Samuel Rzechewski. The glorious days of the Frank Marshall and Harry Pillsbury international triumphs were fading into memories. The glorious days in the thirties when Kashdan, Fine, Reshevsky, Horowitz, Dake, and others would rule international chess for a time, were over the horizon of the future. The fantastic performances of this nine-year-old boosted the popularity of chess throughout the land, and it is believed that his 1920-21 tours contributed in no small measure to a nation-wide sustained interest in the game.

Without invidious comparison, or conjecture as to what Morphy, or Pillsbury, or Fischer might have done in similar circumstances, CHESS LIFE is proud to present a part of the story of Sammy Reshevsky's first American tours.

This is probably Sammy's first press notice in the United States. Like most of the remaining text of this article, it is quoted from The American Chess Bulletin, and was presumably written by USCF Master Emeritus Hermann Helms. The comments of CHESS LIFE's editor, as they occur infrequently below, are in italics.

## SAMUEL RZESCHEWSKI, THE INFANT PRODIGY

According to Jacques Mieses, a wonder child, who bids fair to outdo Morphy and Capablanca as a chess genius, has made his appearance in Berlin chess circles, where he is astonishing the natives. The little fellow, who is but eight years of age, not alone can hold his own with strong amateurs, but actually is quite competent when it comes to playing against a number of opponents simultaneously, going from board to board making alternate moves, much after the fashion of full fledged masters. His name is S. Rzechewski, but as to his origin and how he came to develop such an abnormal faculty for chess playing no information is given in the reports which have so far reached here.

The boy's remarkable skill attracted the attention of the members of the Berlin Chess Club, with which some years ago the Manhattan Chess Club conducted a match by cable. Finally, it was arranged that he should play simultaneously against twenty members of the second class, which he did on January 18. Naturally, he was not so fast as the average master player, but, after five hours, he had finished six of the twenty games winning them all. Thereupon, play stopped and two masters present, Mieses and Post, adjudicated the remaining games, with the result that the complete score of the youngster comprised ten wins, nine drawn games and only one loss.

The child's unruffled demeanor and power of endurance throughout the long ordeal was the subject of general comment, although, as Mieses remarks, there was a feeling of anxiety lest the strain be a source of danger to the immature mental equipment of the prodigy. In any event, Capablanca may well have reason to look to his laurels if the little boy, with such a start, should eventually develop into a master player.

*(Hermann Helms in A.C.B., April, 1920)*

## EUROPE'S LITTLE WIZARD

The last achievement of Samuel Rzechewski is the defeat in simultaneous play of twenty opponents at Paris, without losing a single point. There is no doubt concerning the phenomenal ability of this child prodigy, but the concensus of opinion seems to be that it would be well for his future, were he permitted to rest for a time upon the laurels he has gained.

*(Hermann Helms in A.C.B., June, 1920)*

## RZESCHEWSKI IN PARIS AND LONDON

When the child-master, Samuel Rzechewski, played twenty opponents simultaneously at the Hotel Majestic in Paris, winning seventeen, drawing two and losing one, the performance was under the patronage of Princess George of Greece, and the distinguished spectators included the Princess Sixt of Bourbon-Parma, the Duc and Duchess of Doudeauville and the daughter, Madame de Larochevoucauld, the Duc de Mouchy and Prince Radziwill. During the evening a collection which netted 500 francs was made in behalf of the boy by Comtesse Beauchamp. Among the players who lost to the Polish prodigy was M. Alfred Campus (Camus?) the Academician.

Rzechewski, in addition to winning eighteen games and drawing two in a simultaneous exhibition in London, is reported to have won a blindfold game from R. C. Griffiths, former British champion. In this game neither player made use of a board or pieces. (For this game, see page 00 col 0.) Mr. Griffith is one of the authors of "Modern Chess Openings," a book which has been out of print for some time. Little Rzechewski is expected to come to this country during the fall or early winter.

*(Hermann Helms in A.C.B., October, 1920)*

## SAMUEL RZESCHEWSKI IN THE NEW WORLD

Unless all signs fail, the chess world has in the tiny person of Samuel Rzechewski, now in this country, a genuine phenomenon, who, if he be given half a chance, carefully conserved, and all goes well, may well develop into one of the greatest figures in all the long history of chess. As it is, he has established for himself a permanent niche in the hall of chess fame—a niche that is not quite like any other reserved for noted exponents of the age-old pastime.

Samuel, almost the smallest passenger aboard, arrived in New York on the huge ocean greyhound, the Olympic, on the morning of Novem-

ber 3. Long before the vessel swung into her dock and the passengers were landed, the boy, who had astonished the chess centers of Poland, Austria, Germany, Belgium, France and England, had been located on the ship down the bay by a staff of reporters and photographers, and then began a series of interviews, snapshots and movie-picture posing, which lasted for many days after he and his party had taken up quarters in the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York city.

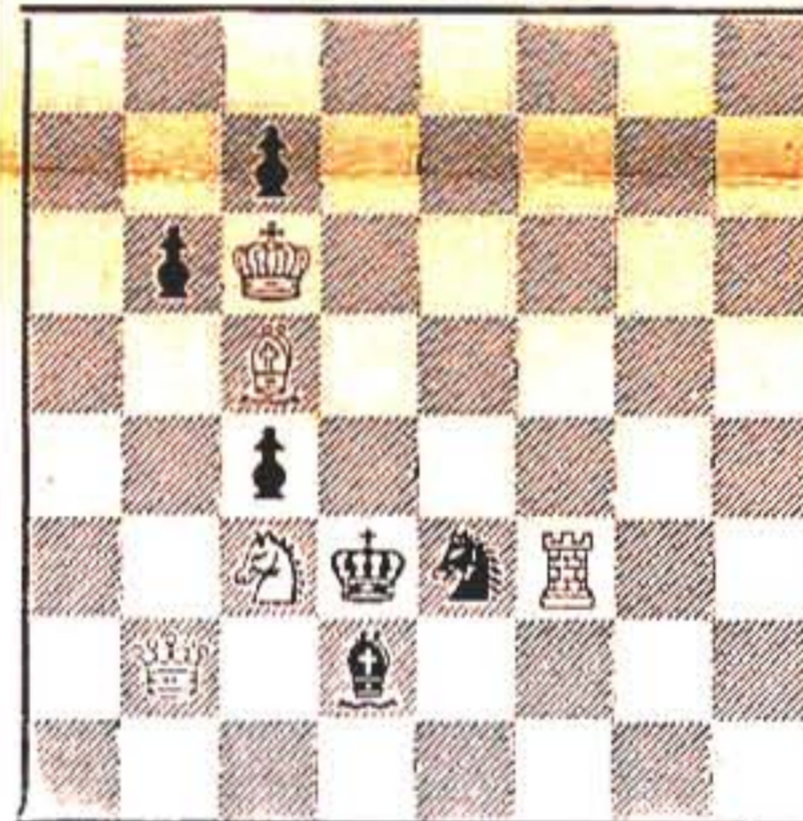
The father, mother and C. A. Arensberg, the secretary, accompanied the little traveler, Max Rosenthal, a New York business man and relative of the Rzeschewski family, and largely instrumental in bringing the party here, met them at the pier and assumed management of the American tour.

Apparently, as he sailed up the bay, thoughts of chess were far from his mind, although only the evening before he had given a remarkable demonstration of what he could do against a picked team of players from the passenger list of the Olympic. Eleven opponents at as many tables, including one blindfold game, were pitted against him, but none was a match for him and he made a clean sweep on all the boards. It took but an hour to finish the entertainment, which was given for the benefit of the Seamen's Charities in the second class saloon.

While the steamship was still off Quarantine, Rzeschewski was subjected to an interesting test by the publisher of the American Chess Bulletin, (Hermann Helms) who handed him a pocket chessboard whereon was set up a position from one of over a hundred games played by Rzeschewski in England. Through the manager he was asked if he had ever seen it before. For a moment he studied the diagram, but quickly the serious aspect gave way to a smile of recognition, as he indicated the few moves that had followed in the actual game. It had been played in London with Griffith, one time British champion, both he and Rzeschewski having been blind-folded, and the child-master had been the winner. In recognition of this demonstration of his skill, the chessboard in question was presented to him. It was the first prize the phenomenon had acquired in the New World.

*(Hermann Helms in A.C.B., November, 1920)*

Letter L  
by A. B. Hodges



White mates in three

One of three problems, then unpublished, which the 9 year old Reshevsky solved in less than ten minutes after seeing them for the first time. Time on this one, 3 minutes.

### FRANK JANET'S APPRAISEMENT OF RZESCHEWSKI

"I have been informed that Sammy has solved two three-movers and one two-mover in less than ten minutes. I have seen him play twenty people simultaneously, winning seventeen, drawing two and losing one game.

To me the most remarkable thing about the child is his dual personality—his power as an analyst, as evidenced by his ability to unravel the purposely hidden strategy of a chess problem, and at the same time his constructive powers, as shown in his ability to form twenty combinations at a time against as many picked opponents.

Now, normally, there is a sharp line of cleavage in the chess world between the two types of minds that enjoy chess. On one side of this line we find the bulk of the playing folk, the people who love to meet each other across the chess board; on the other side of the line we find the problem folk, people who care little for the game itself, little for the joy of creating strategic combinations against living opponents, but who love to unravel combinations that so-called composers have prepared for them.

Rarely, indeed, even among the highest exponents of chess, do we

find anyone endowed with mental powers ample enough to display marked skill in both fields; and when I, who profess to know a little about problems, stand ready to testify to my belief that his feat in solving the three problems have mentioned in the title stated would be much more difficult to duplicate in the chess world, among even the best masters, than his acknowledged miracle of simultaneous playing, you can get an idea of what I think of the boy's mentality. I am making no attempt to explain him—I am simply trying to appraise him."

*(A.C.B. December, 1920)*

## RZESCHEWSKI AS A BLINDFOLD ARTIST

Under the caption, "Rzechewski, Blindfolded, Scores Against Canaanite," the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, in its issue for December 14, 1920, printed the following article:

"Sammy Rzechewski's power of visualization, as applied to what is known in chess circles as "blindfold chess," was put to a test last night at the residence of the Rev. Josef Rosenblatt, famous Jewish Cantor, in Manhattan. And Sammy, as usual, stood up well under it, so much so that he succeeded in winning a game lasting twenty-seven moves from Edmund B. Hilliard, Harvard, 1900, and superintendent of the Berkshire Boy's Farm, at Canaan, N. Y., where he has charge of over 100 boys and an estate of 1100 acres.

Superintendent Hilliard chanced to be in town and accompanied the Eagle reporter to the children's party, held in honor of Rzechewski in order to look the prodigy over. Later, he volunteered to meet him in a game, he playing with the board and pieces before him, while the boy played "sans voir." The visitor from up the State was a bit out of practice and moved somewhat faster than is his wont, in consequence of which he lost a piece for two pawns at the eighteenth turn.

Rzechewski, however, had a promising attack at the time and the better position. Meanwhile, the youngster, at the other end of the

*(Continued on next page)*

(Continued from page 5)

room, kept up a chatter with those around him, sang brief snatches for Cantor Rosenblatt and occasionally let loose a shrill whistle as a signal, as he put it, for his opponent to move.

It was one of the most unusual games of chess the reporter had ever witnessed, but one could not help marvel at the complete grasp the little fellow had over the position at every turn. Just before his opponent, who had lost another piece, resigned the game, Rzeschewski upon request, called off from memory the positions of all the pieces remaining on the board. This he did without the slightest hesitation and, when he announced the six black pawns, he did so in a single breath. It was a flash of genius that did not escape the observing.

Superintendent Hilliard took his defeat with good grace and expressed his keen enjoyment of the extraordinary occasion. "I would not have missed this for a good deal," he said, "and I shall have a good story to tell my own boys, many of whom play chess with more or less skill." Quite a number of musical prodigies attended the party given for Sammy. Cantor Rosenblatt rendered several selections as only he can do."

### KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED

(New York, 1920)

White		Black	
1. P-K4	P-K4	15. K-R	N-QR4
2. P-KB4	B-B4	16. R-KN	NxB
3. N-KB3	P-Q3	17. RPxN	P-Q4
4. B-B4	Q-K2	18. P-N5	PxKP(a)
5. N-B3	N-KB3	19. PxN	QxP
6. P-B5	N-B3	20. PxP	BxP
7. P-Q3	P-KR3	21. QR-KB	QR-Q
8. Q-K2	P-R3	22. B-B5	KR-K(b)
9. B-K3	B-N5	23. QxB	P-QB3
10. Castles	BxN	24. R-Q	R-KN
11. PxB	P-QN4	25. QxKP	RxR
12. B-N3	B-N2	26. RxR	QxQ
13. P-KN4	Castles	27. NxQ	Resigns
14. P-KP4	K-P		

(a) The surprise move that is ill advised. Instead, RPxP should have been played.  
(b) An oversight. BxN first was necessary.

### Sammy Under Observation

Professor B. A. Bernstein, professor of mathematics at the University of California, had an excellent opportunity of observing the boy wonder in action at San Francisco, so that the following comments by him in a communication to Ernest J. Clarke, chess editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, will have a special interest.

"As to Sammy Rzeschewski's doings on the night of June 23 at the St. Francis Hotel, the accounts given in the papers the next day are true. He won all his ten games in about an hour and a half, and won them fairly under the conditions laid down—that we should move as soon as Sammy appeared. This condition is a very trying one, I imagine, for most players. I certainly found it so. In my game with him my ninth, tenth and twenty-fourth moves (the last proving fatal) I had to make without sufficient deliberation.

The boy is unusually quick and accurate. I doubt if Marshall's or Pillsbury's simultaneous play is more rapid. The boy fairly runs from table to table. Only occasionally does he stop at a table to deliberate, when the situation demands. He did this for some five minutes in my game before he made 15. N-K2, and a glance at the game will show that this was the beginning of a successful combination countering my 14. ...., N-Q4. And the little fellow shows a sense of position which men attain only after years of chess experience. I think my game with him shows this.

I observed the boy closely—his quick, intelligent glance, his composure at critical points in the game, his sensitiveness at being regarded as a child. I can only consider his

## Interview (By Correspondence) With Reshevsky

Questions By The Editor of Chess Life

1. I have just been reading with interest some of the American Chess publications of 1920 and 1921 pertaining to your first visit to the United States. In some of them you are referred to as "the eight-year-old prodigy" while in others you were the "nine-year-old chess wizard." How old were you when you arrived in New York on November 3, 1920?

ANSWER: "9 years old."

2. How old were you when you won the famous blindfold game against the British champion of the day, R. C. Griffith? (See page — for game)

ANSWER: "I don't remember."

3. It was reported that as a good-natured retort to problem-solving tests posed to you by Mr. Hodges and Mr. Helms, you presented two problems, composed by you, to the latter. When were these problems composed?

ANSWER: "I don't remember."

4. It was reported that you played your first game with clocks in the home of Mischa Elman, the great violinist, against Morris A. Shapiro of Columbia University, with a time limit of 30 moves an hour. The report states that you won the game in two hours, impressing the spectators (and your opponent) as much by the speed of your play as by its accuracy, since you used only 41 minutes, compared to your opponent's 1 hour and 19 minutes. At what stage of your chess career did you begin to drift into the chronic time-trouble for which you have been famous for many years?

ANSWER: "Since 1936."

5. Speaking of time-trouble, that terrible scramble with Grandmaster Kotov of the USSR which you won in Zurich in the 1953 Candidates' Tournament was the most thrilling which I have ever watched. Please tell us if any other important games stick in your memory as exceeding that one in pressure and mental agony on your part.

ANSWER: "I have had many—too many to enumerate. You will, however, notice that for the last two years, I don't get into time trouble often."

6. Have you ever lost a match or a tournament as the direct result of a game or games which you have lost on time pressure? If so, please tell us about it.

ANSWER: "I have lost many by making losing moves in time trouble, and therefore decided to get rid of this fault."

7. Have you, during tournament or simultaneous play, before Bobby Fischer came along, ever encountered a young player whose strength or whose imaginative style of play has caused you to think to yourself, "This kid has really got something. He'll be a master some day."

ANSWER: "Several, like the kid in L.A. and in St. Louis."

8. If the answer to 7 is affirmative, and if the "kid" has fulfilled your expectation, we would like to know who it was, and where and when.

ANSWER: "Both of these have petered out, and have not lived up to expectations."

9. From the point of view of efficient administration, and impartial tournament or match direction, where would you prefer to play a match or tournament for the world championship?

ANSWER: "In the USA."

10. Having in mind your own experience, as well as the adult careers of Morphy, Alekhine, Capablanca, Yanofsky, Pomar and other precocious chess wizards, would you prescribe for Bobby Fischer the course which you followed—a vacation from serious chess for several years for formal educational purposes?

ANSWER: "Definitely. That decision, I believe, saved not only my chess, but also my entire personality. Normal boyhood is, in my opinion, of utmost importance. You can't have that if you devote too much time to chess."

as a remarkably brilliant adult mind, capable of highly developed emotions, lodged in a 9-year-old body, looking like 7."

The following game indicates that while Dr. Bernstein was studying Sammy, the latter had completed his analysis of Dr. Bernstein as a chess opponent:

### CENTER COUNTER GAMBIT

June 23, 1921, San Francisco

White		Black	
Rzeschewski	Bernstein		
1. P-K4	P-Q4	14. P-QN3	N-Q4
2. PxP	N-KB3	15. N-K2	NxNch
3. P-Q4	QxP	16. QxN	B-B3
4. N-QB3	Q-Q	17. Q-K4	P-N3
5. N-B3	B-N5	18. B-KR6	BxR
6. B-Q3	P-K3	19. BxR	KxB
7. Castles	B-K2	20. RxB	Q-B3
8. B-K2	N-B3	21. R-K	N-B6
9. P-KR3	BxN	22. Q-B6	Q-K2
10. BxB	NxP	23. P-QR4	R-Q
11. BxB	R-QN	24. Q-B3	R-Q4
12. B-R6	Castles	25. B-B4	Resigns
13. B-Q3	P-B4		

Charles Jaffe, of the L. L. Rice Progressive Chess Club, during a visit to the Rzeschewski headquarters at the Hotel Pennsylvania, en-

joyed the following unique experience:

### KING'S GAMBIT DECLINED

(December, 1920)

White		Black	
Jaffe	Rzeschewski		
1. P-K4	P-K4	10. Castles	R-K
2. P-KB4	B-B4	11. QN-Q2	P-N3(b)
3. N-KB3	P-Q3	12. P-B5	P-Q4(c)
4. P-QN4 (a)	BxP	13. PxQP	BxBP
5. P-QB3	B-B4	14. Q-N3	N-N5
6. P-Q4	PxQP	15. P-Q6	R-K6
7. PxP	B-N3	16. BxP+	K-N2
8. B-B4	N-KB3	17. Q-B4	B-Q6
9. Q-Q3	Castles		Resigns

Notes by Hermann Helms

(a) White plays the game in a light-hearted mood, but the position soon becomes serious enough.

(b) Anticipating white's advance and showing a masterly appreciation of the exigencies of the case.

(c) A body thrust, effectively destroying white's center, after which his game falls to pieces.

(A.C.B. December, 1920)

In making this research your editor has frequently been astounded by the strength of Reshevsky's opposition at several points of the tour. The following games indicate that the nine-year-old's

string of wins was not compiled at the expense of push-over woodpushers. In each of the cities in which he gave exhibitions he traded pawns and punches with the strongest club players, many of whom would today rate as experts or masters. In New York he clobbered Charles Jaffe, who had just finished third in a strong club championship tournament, and who, six months later was to finish third in the American Chess Congress at Atlantic City, behind masters Janowski and Whitaker, but ahead of such masters as Factor, Marshall, Sournin, Sharp, Turover and Mlotkowski.

In New York Reshevsky trimmed Oscar Shapiro, Columbia University champ, and the Manhattan CC's No. 3 player of the day. He also defeated Bruno Forsberg, twice champion of the Marshall CC, and, in 1920, the runner up in the N.Y. State championship at Albany. He drew with Philadelphia and Pennsylvania champion S. T. Sharp. He won from ex-Western champ Einer Michelsen. In Cleveland he drew with former state champion, E. E. Stearns, and won from the current state champ, S. H. Shapiro, and the Cleveland city champion, Irving Spero. In Buffalo he defeated city champion Stopinski, and runner-up Ralph White, as well as former city champion Joseph Lear. In Louisville he drew with city champion Alex J. Conen, and J. T. Beckner, two of the South's strongest players. In Boston he defeated Harlow Daly, and M.I.T. champion Lyon. In Philadelphia once more, he drew again with city champ Sharp, and drew with N. B. Whitaker. Back in New York he won from Irving Chernev. In Baltimore he took the measure of three of the area's strongest players: C. M. Shipley, C. Wolfe, and N. T. Whitaker. And so on, across the country, and back again.

True, he lost games on this tour. But the records show that of 617 games played, he won 534, drew 67, and lost only 16! He lost to master C. S. Jacobs—his only loss in Boston. He lost to Norman Whitaker, and to Donald Mugridge, and to Edward Lasker among others. Mentioning these losses in connection with his triumphal tour reminds me of the old chess cartoon which shows a man playing chess with his dog. Someone expresses wonder at the phenomenon. The player says, "He's not so hot. I've won three of the last four games from him." And surely, the feat of the chess-playing dog is not much more incredible than the bizarre spectacle which set the chess fans of 1920 and 1921 on their ears—the sight of a frail, nine-year-old boy playing the chess elite of the country simultaneously, and defeating most of them.

### TWO KNIGHTS DEFENSE

(Boston, April 2, 1921)

White		Black	
Rzeschewski	Jacobs		
1. P-K4	P-K4	15. N-N	QR-N
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	16. KR-N	K-R
3. B-B4	N-B3	17. N-R4	N-Q5
4. N-B3	B-B4	18. Q-Q2	P-B3
5. P-Q3	P-Q3	19. B-B4	P-Q4
6. P-KR3	Castles	20. PxP	PxP
7. B-KN5	B-K3	21. BxQP	Q-Q3
8. Q-K2	P-KR3	22. B-K4	P-N6
9. B-R4	Q-K2	23. RPxP	RxP
10. Castles	P-QR3	24. B-R6	NxB
11. P-QR4	P-QN4	25. BxPch	K-R2
12. B-Q5	B-Q2	26. BxR	Q-QB3
13. P-N5	PxP	27. Q-R6ch	QxQ
14. BxP	P-N5	28. BxQ	N-K7 mate

"The loss of the Jacobs game stimulated the boy into sterner reprisal upon the rest, and from that time on he played with a caution and depth truly masterful. When Lyon, the best player ever produced by Technology, went down to defeat the crowd cheered, but when a moment later H. B. Daly, a player of national repute for many

(Continued—top next page)



might have hit upon a new approach to his professional chess career, but even as he agreed he was shaking his head sadly, saying, "Gee! I never knew the fellows didn't like me!"

So, whether you like him or me or the article, here it is—reprinted with the permission and cooperation of the copyright owner, to whom I owe so much, Al Horowitz, owner, editor and publisher of CHESS REVIEW.

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**THE RESHEVSKY YOU DON'T KNOW**

The night of August 29, 1953, was a busy one in the little town of Neuhausen am Rheinfall. Sleek, black, chauffeur-driven cars, bearing the CD license plates of the various diplomatic missions in Bern, discharged their passengers at the Kirchgemeindehaus for the formal opening of the tournament activities. When the important business of the evening reached its climax—the drawing of lots to decide who would play whom in the first round—every player except one was represented by a diplomat from his own land. Guess who. That's right, Sammy Reshevsky. When the 9 Soviet players arrived in Switzerland a few days earlier, they were accompanied by 17 non-playing members of Russian officialdom, and they were met by 8 representatives of the Soviet Legation in Bern, including the Chief of Mission, himself. Among the non-playing members of the arriving party were the following grandmasters who were to act as seconds for the players: Flohr, Lillienthal, Bjeilin, Sokolosky, Moisejev, Bondarevsky, Simagin, Tolush and Ragozin. When Sammy arrived by plane from New York, he was accompanied by his wife and 2 children. He was met by 2 officials from the American Consulate General in Zurich. One of them asked him, "Who is your second?" Sammy grinned. "I haven't any!" "No one to help you with analysis or to protect your interests?" The smile was just as wide, but a faint wistful note came into his voice as he replied, "No. Not a soul. You know how these things go in the United States. Those who would like to come and who could help—they can't afford it. Whatever I do in this tournament, I've got to do myself." A serious look replaced the smile as he continued. "This is going to be a tough tournament to win—probably the toughest of my career—so I'll just have to work harder and play better than I ever did before." This statement, so serious and yet so simple, recalled the old wartime slogan, "The Difficult, we do immediately, the Impossible just takes a little longer."

Although his childhood tours of over 30 years ago, supplemented by his recent exhibition and lecture junkets, have inspired the imaginations of thousands, and have combined to sell chess to the American public, he has never been a particular popular personality among the top-flight American players. There are many reasons for this, some of which will be enlarged upon later in this sketch, but the point which all Americans should bear in mind is the fact that both in international chess circles, where he is rightfully regarded as the standard-bearer of American chess, and in our own country, his genius and his integrity, have never been questioned. He didn't want to play in this tournament and had announced that he was not coming. The official program was made up here without any reference to him, and the schedule for play provided for only 14 participants. It was then brought home to him that even if he did not want to come, it was his patriotic duty to do so, in order that the future of American chess representation in international play should not be imperilled by default in this event. When the matter was placed before him in that light, he never hesitated. A late entry was arranged, the playing schedule was amended to cover the additional 28 games, and Sammy flew over to do battle.

When all the returns are in, it would appear that, if a chess player or addict does not like Reshevsky, he probably falls into one of the two following categories: 1) Masters, who are bitten by professional jealousies; 2) Others, who don't know the guy.

His friends, and they are legion, swear by him. He is a devoted husband and father. His adherence to orthodox observance of the Sabbath and of the dietary laws, and his tolerance with respect to the rights and beliefs of others are admired and respected wherever he has traveled. His smile is wide and friendly, and, outside of tournament hours, he seems to enjoy the little side trips which have been arranged by the Swiss Federation Committee.

Much has been written in the past about the contribution which he made to the cause of popularizing chess in the United States through the simultaneous exhibition tours which he made during his precocious childhood. There is no doubt, as various biographers have said, that many non-players were sold on the game through the contagious idea that "If an eight or nine year old kid can play like that, I can do it, too." The writer is of the opinion, which he has never seen expressed elsewhere, that this same contribution may have started an undercurrent of unpopularity rolling against him. Chess players, the world over, are somewhat vain about their chess ability. Take the average mature individual, perhaps a successful businessman, who has been playing chess for 20 years. He plays in a simultaneous exhibition given by an eight year old boy, who, according to Edward Lasker's account in "Chess Secrets," was small for his age and didn't look a day over six. The youngster cleans up on him. The man's family and his friends kid the life out of him—"I thought you were a chess player, and here an eight year old who has to stand on tip-toes to see the board on a table trims you!" What can he say? Nothing. What can he do? Nothing—except to salve his bruised vanity by taking a silent vow of hatred against all boy-wonders, and against Sammy Reshevsky in particular. And since Sammy traveled a lot in those days and won chess games from hundreds of adults, it's only reasonable to believe that a nucleus of resentment and jealousy was formed against him long before he learned to shave.

After a 10 year vacation from chess, during which time he acquired a formal education, he returned to the chess arena, not, we believe, because he loved the game but because his natural ability in it offered him an opportunity to earn a few dollars, now and then, at a time when B.A.'s, M.A.'s and Ph.D.'s were elbowing each other to get on WPA rolls in order to eat regularly. Since any final tournament standing below first place has never paid off very heavily in the United States, he always went after the first prize. Since chess was not fun for him, but hard, serious work, and since other competitors needed that first prize money just as much as he did, he developed a style of play which could hardly endear him to his opponents. Merciless, unsentimental, crushingly efficient play. Imaginative combinations, and ruthless tactics. All dreamed up behind that unsmiling, deadpan, pokerface—and all with one driving objective. To win this game as quickly as possible, so I can get out of here. To win more games in the tournament than anyone else. To get that first prize. He became America's greatest money player, and in every tournament he has ever played in during the past 20 years he has been "the man to beat."

Although he has probably benefited at various times from the nervous jitters which have seemed to afflict some of his less-experienced opponents, it hasn't been all profit. Many other weaker competitors have been inspired to play over their heads against him, while some of the stronger masters always seem to play their best games against him. Knowing his only possible weaknesses to be unfamiliarity with modern opening developments, and a tendency to come into the middle and end games with only 2 minutes to make 20 moves, they save prepared opening variations and innovations, perhaps for months, just to use against him in their next tournament games. And so it is in this tournament. He is the man to beat—so far as 9 Russian grandmasters are concerned, to say nothing of his bitter rival, Najdorf, the ex-world

champion, Euwe, and 3 other grandmasters. There isn't a soft spot in the lineup. Any one of the 15 may beat any one of the others in any game.

Chess historians and analysts may over the next 20 years decide whether the quality of Sammy's play in this tournament surpasses his previous achievements. But, as this is being written with Sammy tied for first place with Smyslov after 21 rounds of play, there is no doubt in the minds of anyone who knows him that he has kept his promise to work harder than he has ever done before. Most of his waking hours, and many of them are hours when he should be sleeping, have been spent in analysis of the games being played in this tournament. Work which is done for every other participant by highly qualified technical assistants who work while their principals sleep or indulge in rest and recreation, he must do himself. He cannot afford not to know how Boleslavsky refuted Euwe's attempt to refute Boleslavsky's favorite King's Indian in yesterday's game. He must know how Gligorich won from Taimanov tonight. He must know why Petrosyan's apparently sound game against Keres collapsed. In a tournament in which theoretical and tactical history is being made, he has so far prevented any of it being made at his expense. If genius and experience and hard work and perseverance and guts will do the trick, he will continue to prevent it.

Can he win the tournament? It's doubtful. The cards are really stacked the other way. By the hard work which has been mentioned, by tenacious, never-say-die tactics, and with a few streaks of luck, he has dented the pre-tournament complacency of the Soviet delegation by holding, sharing, or being close to the top spot all the way. He has lost one game to Bronstein, and Smyslov has lost one to Kotov. There is not an undefeated player in the tournament. With the pressure piling up for the final drive through the last few rounds, with the players who were off form in their first games now hitting their peaks, with those at the foot of the standings deciding there is no use in playing it safe any longer and really shooting the works in every game—anything can happen. He may win every one of his remaining games, although the odds are high that he will not. He may lose them all—although he probably will not—and in view of the strength of the opposition and the tension which pervades the Kongresshaus atmosphere, no one could criticize him. Our guess is that out of the next and final seven games he will win one or two, lose one or two, and draw the rest. If he can win the two, and lose only the one, he'll have a chance for the number one slot. If he loses two, the Russian tide will close over his head without leaving a ripple.

Win or lose, you know that he will be in there fighting for every point and half-point that he can pry loose from frightening opposition. And win or lose, the United States should be proud of the representation it has received from this tired, over-worked, tension-racked, little man, who doesn't like to play chess, and whose grit and skill and nerve in the face of discouraging odds have already cracked the sound barrier of chess—the myth of Russian invincibility. Well done, Sammy, we're proud of you!

**EPILOGUE**

The tournament is over. Smyslov is the winner, and Sammy winds up in a three-way tie for second place with Bronstein and Keres. After the foregoing estimate of his chances was written, he lost three games, while Smyslov nursed his chances home to victory with no more defeats.

One of the most touching stories to come out of World War II was that told of the skipper of a U. S. bomber crew whose ship had been disabled and who had ordered his crew to take to their parachutes. As the men were jumping, a cry came from a crewmember who had just recovered consciousness after being fatally wounded in the blast which had wrecked the aircraft. "Don't leave me," he begged. The skipper looked at the boy hopelessly pinned in the wreckage, then at the last crewman who was standing in the door ready to jump. "Go ahead," he said, "Jump. I'm staying here and riding down with the kid."

In our book, Sammy Reshevsky made such a decision back in August when,

against his better judgment, he decided to play in this tournament. And, having made his decision, knowing that his best efforts were foredoomed to failure, he "rode down" through this tournament, with no illusions about his fate at the end, and with no hope of anything other than the maintenance of his own self-respect, and the satisfaction of knowing that he had done his best for American chess. For this he will get no medals, and no songs will be sung about him, for anything other than first place in a tournament like this is like yesterday's newspaper. He is, of course, bitterly disappointed over his failure to achieve the impossible. All Americans should help lighten his load by paying tribute to the nerve and fighting spirit of Sammy Reshevsky.

**RUY LOPEZ**

Rzeschewski		White		Griffith		Black	
1.	P-K4	P-K4	16.	QR-B	P-QB4		
2.	N-KB3	N-QB3	17.	RxB	PxB		
3.	B-N5	N-B3	18.	NxP	P-QB4		
3.	Castles	NxP	19.	P-B5	B-N4		
5.	P-Q4	B-K2	20.	RxP	R-B		
6.	R-K	N-Q3	21.	RxR	QxR		
7.	BxN	NPxB	22.	P-B6	R-K		
8.	PxP	N-N2	23.	N-K7	RxN		
9.	N-QB3	Castles	24.	PxR	PxP		
10.	N-Q4	N-B4	25.	R-KB	Q-K		
11.	P-B4	N-K3	26.	Q-Q5	B-Q		
12.	B-K3	NxN	27.	RxP!	QxR		
13.	BxN	P-Q4	28.	QxB	Q-B		
14.	Q-B3	B-KB4	29.	QxQ	KxQ		
15.	P-KN4	BxBP	30.	K-B2	Resigns		

(Played between Samuel Rzeschewski and R. C. Griffith, British champion in London, England, both blindfolded. Early in 1920)

**FALKBEER COUNTER GAMBIT**

(Philadelphia, Jan. 1, 1921)

Rzeschewski		White		Sharp		Black	
1.	P-K4	P-K4	15.	K-R	QxKP		
2.	P-KB4	P-Q4	16.	QxQ	NxQ		
3.	N-KB3	B-KN5	17.	B-K4	P-QB3		
4.	N-QB3	N-KB3	18.	B-B4	N-N3		
5.	Q-K2	N-QB3	19.	B-N3	QR-Q		
6.	PxKP	BxN	20.	QR-Q	RxR		
7.	QxB	QNxB	21.	RxR	R-Q		
8.	Q-KN3	N-N3	22.	RxRch	BxR		
9.	P-K5	N-K5	23.	K-N	K-B		
10.	NxN	PxN	24.	B-B5	K-K2		
11.	P-Q3	B-K2	25.	K-B2	K-B3		
12.	Q-K3	PxP	26.	B-B8	P-N3		
13.	BxP	Castles	27.	B-N4	P-QR4		
14.	Castles	Q-Q4		Drawn			

**ENGLISH OPENING**

(Cleveland, January 27, 1921)

Rzeschewski		White		Spero		Black	
1.	P-QB4	P-K4	18.	BxP	BxB		
2.	N-QB3	N-KB3	19.	RxB	BxP		
3.	P-KN3	B-B4	20.	QxN	R-K2		
4.	B-N2	N-B3	21.	B-N2	Q-Q2		
5.	P-K3	Castles	22.	QR-KB	K-N		
6.	KN-K2	P-QR3	23.	N-B4	BxN		
7.	Castles	P-Q3	24.	QxB	Q-K		
8.	P-Q4	B-N3	25.	Q-N5	Q-Q2		
9.	P-Q5	N-K2	26.	Q-B4	Q-K		
10.	K-R	N-N3	27.	Q-N5	Q-Q2		
11.	P-B4	PxP	28.	R-B6	QR-K		
12.	NxP	N-K4	29.	R-K6	RxR		
13.	P-N3	K-R	30.	PxR	RxP		
14.	N-Q3	R-K	31.	Q-N4	Q-B3ch		
15.	N-K4	NxN	32.	K-N	R-K2		
16.	BxN	N-N5	33.	BxP	Resigns		
17.	R-B4	P-KB4					

May 29, 30, 31

**U.S. AMATEUR AGAIN AT ASBURY**

Although the details have not yet been settled, it looks like the Monterey Hotel at Asbury Park, N.J. for the annual U.S. Amateur Chess Tournament. The date has been decided upon, Memorial Day weekend, May 29, 30 and 31, so save that weekend for another record tournament. Last year's event drew 142 entries, and was won by Dr. Erich Marchand, of Rochester, N.Y. For further details see future CHESS LIFE ads, or write to Frank Brady, 80 E. 11th St., New York 3, N.Y.