

## Under The Chess-Nut Tree

By William Rojam

For Chess is Life — both are the same;  
Temptation pitfalls each.  
We win a pawn — then lose the game;  
A sermon without speech.

**C**HESS, a game for moralists, philosophers and poets! Did not Pope Innocent (my authority is Hone's Yearbook, London, 1832) publish a grave Morality on Chess, in which he likened life itself to the conflict on the checkered board? For did he not say:

The world is nearly like a Chess Board, of which the points are alternately white and black, figuring the double state of life and death, grace and sin . . . In this chess-game the Evil one says, "Check!" whenever he insults and strikes one with his dart of sin; and, if he that is struck cannot immediately deliver himself, the arch enemy, resuming the move, says to him, "Mate" carrying his soul along with him to that place from which there is no redemption.

And has not Omar Khayyam, astronomer, philosopher and poet, sung (my source is Edward Fitzgerald):

Impotent Pieces of the Game He Plays  
Upon this Checker-board of Nights and Days,  
Hither and thither moves, and checks and slays,  
And one by one back in the Closet lays.

But not always has the Church smiled its approval upon Chess, for we know that the sober St. Peter Damian, sometime cardinal bishop of Ostia (*circa* 1061), thus thundered at a wayward bishop: "Was it right, I say, and consistent with thy duty, to sport away thy evenings amidst the vanity of chess?" Even John Huss, that embattled reformer, while pondering in a prison cell gave lament to the hours idly wasted in playing chess, so dangerous to the soul because it might arouse a violent passion in the player.

With board crown not your foeman's pate  
In manner quite discourteous;  
It shows a soul in sinful state,  
Alarming most to one John Huss.



William Rojam

## EDWARD I. TREEND NEW SECRETARY

Among the most important changes in the personnel of the USCF Executive Board was the election of Edward I. Treend of Detroit as the new Secretary. Mr. Treend has long been prominent in his state chess circles both as



Edward I. Treend Vice-President and as Secretary of the Michigan State Chess Association and so brings unusual qualifications to the important post of Secretary for the USCF. As one of the official spokesmen of the USCF he will be no stranger to these pages in the days to come, and the USCF is to be congratulated upon the good fortune in obtaining his services.

## NEW DUTIES CALL PAUL G. GIERS

In leaving the post of Secretary, which he has so ably filled, Paul G. Giers steps in



to even a more arduous task in the newly created office of Executive Vice-President. Into his hands have been entrusted the delicate matters pertaining to USCF participation in international chess affairs, general supervision over the publication and distribution of chess material, and the program for the development and expansion of the USCF. In all these affairs he had always had a hand, but hitherto was hampered by the volume of business pouring through the Secretary's office. By a special amendment to the By-Laws the new office was created to relieve Mr. Giers of the routine and permit him to devote his time and talents exclusively to these important projects for the USCF long-range program.

## CENTER GAME

Pittsburgh Open Tournament  
Championship Finals  
Notes by Erich W. Marchand

White	Black
F. YERHOFF	H. STEINER
1. P-K4	P-K4
2. P-Q4	PxP
3. QxP	.....

The Center Game seldom appears in tournament play since White's Queen is embarrassed for a good place. Black probably has in mind two questions (1) Can I remember the intricate details of the theoretical refutation? (2) Has my opponent cooked up or looked up some new analysis?

3. .....	Kt-QB3
4. Q-K3	Kt-B3
5. B-Q2	.....

Black could refute the powerful looking 5. P-K5 by 5. ...., Kt-KKt5; 6. Q-K2, (if 6. Q-K4, P-Q4!); 7. P-KR3, KtxKtP; 8. P-KB4, KtQ5; 9. Q-K4, P-QB4; 10. PxKt, P-Q4; 11. Q-Q3, B-B4; 12. Q-KRt3, KtxP ch., then 23. Q-Q2.

5. .....	B-K2
6. Kt-QB3	O-O

Black usually plays 6. ...., P-Q4 here before White can prevent it with 7. B-B4. Steiner's move seems no better.

7. B-B4	Kt-KK5
8. Q-B4	KKt-K4
9. B-K3	P-Q3
10. Kt-K2	Kt-R4

The elimination of this powerful Bishop fully justifies the loss of time involved as well as the opening of the Rook file.

11. Kt-Q5	KtxB
12. KtxB ch.	QxKt
13. RPxKt	P-KB4
14. P-KB3	PxP
15. QxP	P-B3

Up to this point Yerhoff has held his own. Now he weakens somewhat. In such a position, control of the only open file is fundamental. White's idea was probably to swing the Knight to K4 and then to K15 or B5. But this Black now prevents. Either 22. R-K2 or 22. B-Q4, KR-K1; 23. Q-B3!, Q-K2; 24. Kt-B5!

would be preferable.

22. .....	Q-K2
23. B-Kt5	Q-B4 ch.
24. K-R1	KR-K1
25. Q-B3	Q-B1
26. P-B4	.....

The illusion of an attack with this move and the next soon fades, and how will this poor Pawn survive?

This breaks Capablanca's rule: Place your pawns on the opposite color to that of your Bishop. But the center is of more importance here.

16. Kt-Kt3

A good alternative would be 16. P-KB4 in order to exchange Queens. If then 16. ...., B-B4; 17. Q-K3, etc. With the Queens off, White can safely restrain the center with P-QB4.

16. ....

P-Q4

17. Q-K2

Q-Q3

18. O-O

B-Q2

19. B-K3

QR-K1

20. Q-Q2

P-QR3

21. QR-K1

.....

One cannot accuse Steiner of playing dull chess. But, if White adopts a Missouri attitude, it is not clear how Black can get compensation for his Pawn sacrifice. For instance if 22. RxP, P-Q5; 23. Kt-K4, Q-K1?; 24. BxP. Or if 23. ...., Q-K3; 24. BxP. Or if 22. ...., Q-Kt1 at once, threatening P-Q5 and KtxP ch., then 23. Q-Q2.

21. ....

R-K3

22. R-Q1

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Q-K2

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Q-B4 ch.

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KR-K1

25. Q-B3

Q-B1

26. P-B4

.....

The illusion of an attack with this move and the next soon fades, and how will this poor Pawn survive?

is good to know that they will now have a still wider circulation through a channel going direct to the entire membership.

With a newspaper of its own, any other "official organ" of the Federation would be superfluous, and henceforth the AMERICAN CHESS BULLETIN will cease to serve as such. It goes without saying that the friendly and helpful cooperation, hitherto existing, will be continued for the benefit of the Federation and chess in general.

Therefore, it is with real pleasure that I extend the hand of fellowship to Mr. Montgomery Major, the editor of CHESS LIFE, at the same time congratulating the Federation upon the acquisition of an executive of proved ability. I feel sure that, under his trained guidance, the new venture is bound to succeed.

HERMANN HELMS,  
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regional play-offs east of the Mississippi. At last the climax comes when the All-Eastern winner meets the All-Western winner in a match to decide the U. S. Correspondence Championship.

The Grand National Tournament is almost as old as the Correspondence Chess League of America (a USCF Chapter) which sponsors it. And, unlike other CCLA tournaments, it is open to all the chess playing public, members and non-members.

26. QR-K1 would make sense.  
26. .... Kt-Kt5  
27. P-B5 R-K4  
28. B-B4 R-K6  
29. BxR KtxB  
30. QR-K1 KtxR  
31. RxKt Q-B3  
32. Q-Kt4

White does well to decline the exchange of Queens. In any case he has three strikes against him (1) a weak Pawn (2) Black's control of the King's file (3) the advantage of Bishop over Knight on an open board. For example 32. QxQ, PxQ; 33. Kt-R5! K-B2; 34. P-KKt4, R-K7; 35. R-B1 does not hold out for long. (But if 34. K-K1, R-K7; 35. RxR wins a Pawn.)

32. .... B-B1  
33. R-K1 RxR ch.  
34. QxR K-B2!  
35. Q-R5 BxP  
36. Q-B7 ch. K-K3  
37. QxKtP BxP  
38. QxRP Q-K3

Black has much the better of it because of his control of the board. Of course, not 38. ...., BxP; 39. Q-Q3 ch. Yerhoff still puts up a vigorous resistance.

39. P-KR3 P-R4  
40. Q-R5 Q-B3!  
Excellent restraint! A Pawn can mean so much in almost any ending. But 40. ...., BxP; 41. Q-B3, B-B5; 42. Q-B2 ch. gives counter-chances.

41. K-Kt1 B-Q6  
41. ...., BxP looks quite playable, but other fields look greener to Steiner.

42. Q-R8 Q-K3  
43. Q-Q8 Q-K4  
44. Kt-R1 K-R2

45. Q-R4 B-K3  
46. Kt-B2 QxP  
47. Kt-Q3 Q-K8 ch.

Of course, not 47. ...., BxKt; 48. QxP ch. with perpetual check. Steiner continues to play for positional factors instead of grabbing more Pawns. Besides, he lays a neat little trap to terminate the game.

48. Kt-K1 Q-Q8  
49. K-R2 B-K5  
50. P-KKt4 Q-Q7 ch.  
51. K-Kt1 P-Kt4  
52. QxP ch. K-K2  
Resigns

If 53. K-B1, B-K3 wins the Queen. A hard-fought, difficult, and well-played game.

## NEW TOUR IS PLANNED BY KOLTANOWSKI

George Koltanowski, blindfold expert, plans a continental tour following the Pan-American Tournament at Yankton, So. Dak. where he will serve as Tournament Director. Plans for the tour, which will start October 1st, include simultaneous and blindfold exhibitions together with lectures on chess. Last season Koltanowski played in over one hundred chess clubs throughout the country, and expects to better that record in the coming tour.

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