

NO. 4 BULLETIN OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CHESS ASSOCIATION SEPTEMBER 1961
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Address all correspondence regarding the BULLETIN to the EDITOR,
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Charleston, S.C.

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PRESIDENT, S.C. CHESS ASSOCIATION: Prof. Lanneau L. Foster, 1704 Green
St., Columbia, South Carolina.
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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ALL SOUTH CAROLINA CHESS PLAYERS

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 1961 CLOSED SOUTH CAROLINA STATE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP, AT THE NEW FOSTER SCHOOL OF THE DANCE, 4600 TRENHOLM ROAD, COLUMBIA, S.C., NOV. 24, 25, 26, THE FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY FOLLOWING THANKSGIVING DAY. THE FIRST ROUND STARTS AT 1 P.M., FRIDAY, NOV. 24.

The State Championship will be a 5-round Swiss System tournament. The first two rounds will be Friday afternoon and night. The second two rounds will be Saturday morning and night. The last round will be on Sunday morning.

Since this is a closed type of tournament, it will be open only to bona fide residents of South Carolina. All persons stationed within S.C. at naval or military establishments will be considered as bona fide S.C. residents.

The Hotel Hampton is probably the best place to stay in Columbia. The Columbia Hotel is also good. Those whose spirits are not dampened by a little austerity might try the Y.M.C.A. Possibly the best arrangement would be to stay at a motel or in tourist cabins near the site of the tournament, which is quite a distance from the center of town. To get the names and addresses of such places, write to Prof. Lanneau Foster, 1704 Green St., Columbia, S.C. The three days following Thanksgiving are not a busy season for Columbia hostelryes, so for that reason you could even wait until after your arrival in Columbia to find a place to stay.

All persons taking part in the tournament must also be members of the U.S. Chess Federation. The \$5 fee for USCF membership will bring you the bi-weekly magazine CHESS LIFE and an official published rating for every USCF member. An entry fee of \$3 will be charged all those taking part in this tournament, to which will be added a \$2 fee for membership in the S.C. Chess Association. Members of the S.C. Chess Association receive the BULLETIN of the Association. All monies from the \$3 and \$2 fees mentioned above are applied to the handsome trophies to be awarded to the winner, runner-up, S.C. State Junior Champion (21 years of age or under) and possibly there will be other trophies if the entrance into the tournament is large enough to bring in money for them.

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BENJAMIN FRANKLIN VARN, 1904-1961

Almost everyone who is active in South Carolina Chess has known Ben Varn, probably the most interested and persistent chess, checker and go player in all of South Carolina. He was strongest as a checker player, but as an average-strength chess player he could occasionally hand a resounding defeat to an over-confident S.C. chess expert. Ben's death occurred on Aug. 9, 1961. Burial was on Aug. 10 in the Sardis Methodist

Church Cemetery, near Branchville, which was Ben Varn's native town before he moved to Charleston. A floral offering was sent to the funeral by Tad Lisicki, President of the Charleston Chess Club, of which Ben Varn had been a member for almost twenty years. The remaining members of the Charleston Chess Club also sent a floral offering. Of the six pall-bearers three were old boyhood friends of Ben's, the other three being members of the Charleston Chess Club, namely Prof. Robert F. Brand of The Citadel, Prof. Philip Stockton of The Citadel and Thomas Read of 60 Murray Blvd., in Charleston.

Ben Varn is survived by Mrs. Ben Varn of 13 Parkwood Ave., Charleston and five children, four sons and a daughter. All five children were taught chess by their adoring father. He also gave them instruction and practice in those other two excellent board-games whose appeal is to the finest faculties of the intellect, checkers and GO.

Benjamin Franklin Varn, Jr., the eldest son, is now in his last year at The Citadel, expecting to finish his four-year course next June. The second eldest of the Varn children, Dewey Varn, is one of the leading S.C. chess players and has for the last few years held the title of S.C. Junior Champion. He is now in his second year of studies at Furman University in Greenville, S.C. Douglas, Joan and George are all in school and living with their mother in Charleston.

PETER GRANT, LANNEAU FOSTER AND ALEX EDELSBURG, 1960 CO-CHAMPIONS
OF SOUTH CAROLINA, STATE CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIP, NOV. 1960,
SUMTER Y.M.C.A., SUMTER, S.C.

Lanneau Foster and Alex Edelsburg have previously held the State title, but this was the first time for Peter Grant to attain this honor. No tie-breaking system was applied as in previous years. Of the 18 contestants, 9, or half of those competing, were from the strong Columbia Chess Club. Then there were 5 from the Charleston Chess Club, and 4 from the Sumter Chess Club. That is the full extent of strong and serious chess in South Carolina, we are sorry to have to admit, although there are a few other groups in operation in this State.

Here are the scores:

****TIED FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP, WITH 4 GAMES WON OUT OF 5 PLAYED:

ALEX EDELSBURG, 116 Academy Way, Columbia (S.C. CHAMP., '52; CO-CHAMP '56)
PROF. LANNEAU L. FOSTER, 1704 Green St., Columbia (CO-CHAMP. '56).
PETER GRANT, 811 Eaton St., Columbia, S.C.

****TIED FOR 4th & 5th PLACES WITH 3 WINS AND A DRAW:

ERNEST E. HOENCK, 5811 Stewart St., North Charleston (S.C. Champ., 1955)
DEWEY J. VARN, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. (S.C. Jun. Champ.)

****TIED FOR 6th THRU 9th PLACES, WITH THREE WINS:

ROLAND L. GOAD, 476-B Cedar St., Sumter, S.C.
PROF. ROBERT F. BRAND, The Citadel, Charleston, S.C.
JAMES D. HANLON, Rt. 3, Box 241, Summerville, S.C.
MRS. N. COMPTON, Columbia, S.C. (THE 1960 S.C. WOMEN'S CHAMPION)

****TIED FOR 10th & 11th PLACES, WITH 2 WINS & a DRAW:

MR. G. BROWN, Columbia, S.C.
HASKEL SIKES, 21 S. Blanding St., Sumter, S.C.

****TIED FOR 12th THRU 14th PLACES WITH 2 WINS:

THOMAS READ, 60 Murray Blvd., Charleston, S.C.

(1960 S.C. CHAMPIONSHIP, CONTINUED --- TIED FOR 12th THRU 14th PLACES)---
 EDWARD GEDDINGS, Route 1, Box 124, Sumter S.C.
 C. ARTHUR VENABLE , 3070 Beechhaven, Columbia, S.C.

*****TIED FOR 15th AND 16th PLACES, WITH ONE GAME WON:
 W. EARLE HOUSTON, 3722 Hanson Road, Columbia, S.C.
 M.L. ALPERT, 404 NORTH MAGNOLIA ST., Sumter, S.C.
 CHARLES ANDREWS, Sumter, S.C.

*****NO SCORE:
 Robert Andrews, Sumter, S.C.

JAMES PERRY, CITADEL CADET, WINS 1961 CITADEL CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP
 James Perry, in his first year as a student at The Citadel, now started on his second year since September of this year, started in Oct. of 1960 by defeating Homer Dotson, the 1960 champion. He then went on to defeat all the other outstanding Citadel players, so that there never has been any doubt that he stands head and shoulders above all the others. A trophy was awarded him in May of this year for his winning of this year's title. He is now the President of the Citadel Chess Club and intends to compete in the 1961 S.C. State Championship Tourney. Before coming to The Citadel he was Champion of his High School Chess Club in Alexandria, Virginia.

 ST. ANDREW'S HIGH SCHOOL STARTS CHESS CLUB -- MUCH ENTHUSIASM
 A new chess club has been started (Oct. 1961) at St. Andrew's High School, in the St. Andrew's subdivision of suburban Charleston, west of the Ashley River. Meetings are held every second Friday from 11 A.M. to noon. Thirty to thirty-five students are always in attendance, as the meetings are held on school time, when all students at the high school are required to attend the club of their choice. The initiative in organizing the chess club was taken by Mrs. Maurice Mc Laughlin, herself an enthusiastic chess player and member of the faculty. Prof. Robert F. Brand, Secretary of the S.C. Chess Association, attends all the meetings for the purpose of giving instruction. About half a dozen of the members of the club are girls. Following Mrs. Mc Laughlin's example, it would be perfectly simple to organize chess clubs in every high school of this state. The enthusiasm on the part of the young people is almost instantaneous. They are all eager to learn and are waiting only for some teacher or older person to take the initiative. After they get started they will develop largely on their own.

 PROF. PHILIP B. STOCKTON of the Citadel Faculty, member of the Citadel Chess Club and the Charleston Chess Club, spent the school year of 1960-61 in residence at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia. While there he completed his first year of work toward a Ph.D. degree in the field of Political Economy (i.e., Economics). Last September he returned to his residence in Charleston at 22 Church St. He has again taken up his teaching duties at The Citadel.

 SOUTH CAROLINA CHESS HISTORY ITEMS GLEANED BY BEN VARN FROM NEWSPAPERS
 When on Sunday, July 1, 1888, the "Charleston Daily News and Courier" first started its Sunday issue, was the first appearance of the column entitled "The Chess Chronicle", with diagrams, news, games

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and problems. This column continued regularly every Sunday from 1888 thru 1905.

Records indicate that for all of the nearly 17 years (except during 1899) was edited by the late George S. Holmes, an attorney whose office was at 29 Broad St., Charleston, S.C. In 1899 it was E.F. Witsell of 4 Glebe St., Charleston who was designated as "chess editor".

Reading therefrom on Sunday, February 12, 1899: "Chess, Whist and Checkers Club of Charleston, S.C. was organized on the 6th instant, and the following officers were elected: Capt. Frederick G. Latham, President; Mr. Roswell T. Logan, Vice-President; Mr. Edward F. Witsell, Secretary; Mr. F.E. Robson, Treasurer; The Rev. H.A. Whitman, Mr. W.A. Fludger, Mr. B.S. Screven, Directors."

"They expect to 'begin play' at the Mills House (every Monday starting at 7:30 P.M.), where a fine room with 'electric lights' has been secured, as soon as the same can be furnished and put in readiness.

Another item, of slightly earlier date, appears in the Sunday, Jan. 22, 1899 issue of this same Charleston paper: "Charleston City Chess Tournament, 1898-99 (commenced November 1898). Requirements, two games with each contestant. In addition to most of the names of officers given above, we find the following names in the "score to holidays": Col. Oliver J. Bond (subsequently President of Citadel as well as winner of the S.C. Chess Championship); "Hy" Plenge, (Charleston pharmacist and for long the strongest player in Charleston).

Reading from page 3 of the "Sunday News", Charleston, S.C., Jan. 15, 1905, from the column entitled "Chess Chronicle": "Among the recent social organizations found in Spartanburg, S.C. is a chess club, which meets every other Friday at the home of one of the members. The club was organized several weeks ago and several meetings have been held and the gatherings have been pleasant and interesting. Officers of the club are: Prof. W.H. Morton, President; (later the first S.C. Chess Champion) and Prof. A.M. du Pre, Secretary. In addition to the two already mentioned, the club is composed of the following well-known gentlemen: S.J. Simpson, Dr. T.E. Nott, R.I. Woodside, J.E. Evans, G.W. Nichols, R.C. Simpson and Prof. J.A. Tillinghast.

Going back a couple of years, we find the following in the Nov. 8, 1903 issue of the "Sunday News", Charleston, S.C.--

"The Third Tournament of the Pillsbury National Correspondence Chess Association is in the final round, with the winners as follows:

	WON	LOST
H. Plenge (of Charleston, S.C.), ATLANTIC DIVISION..	5½	1½
Hermann Helms (of New York), EASTERN DIVISION).....	4½	1½
C.W. Waterman, WESTERN DIVISION.....	5½	1½

"Mr. Helms will probably win the game he is now playing, thus tying Plenge and Waterman. In that case the three survivors of the 130 players who began will play each other for the GOLD MEDAL, which is the first prize. Success to the Charleston player!"

HANS LAUFER, former member of the CHARLESTON CHESS CLUB, is now living his home near Florence, S.C., where he is still pursuing the welding trade.

ERNEST HOENCK of North Charleston, 1960 CHARLESTON CITY CHAMPION, is in the lead for the 1961 CHARLESTON CITY CHAMPIONSHIP.