



ACF Bulletin

Since 1952, the official publication of the American Checker Federation
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News

Elbert Lowder has died. See next page.

Vote! Included within this *ACFB* is a ballot.

Ron King defends World GAYP Title: Ron King of Barbados successfully defended his World GAYP Title beating Jim Morrison of Kentucky by a score of 3-0 and 18 draws. The match was held December 4-9 at the International Checker Hall of Fame in Petal, MS. The match was sanctioned by WCDF and refereed by Alan Millhone. Special thanks goes to Deloris Walker for the accommodations and for keeping everyone well fed. Prize fund, split 60/40, was \$3740, which came from Oldbury fund and donations by V. Niederhoffer, R. Beckwith, A. Millhone, and S. L. Green.

World Ladies 3-Move World Title Match: Oct. 27 to Oct. 31, 2007. The Champion, Patricia Breen from Carlow, Ireland, will play the Challenger, Amangul Durdyeva from Turkmenistan, at the Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, Co. Donegal, Ireland.

Repeat: William Carter is planning to restart the various **ACF mail play ladders**, and add an email ladder. Please contact him (P.O. Box 701, Port aux Basques, Newfoundland, Canada AOM 1C0 or wls Carter@nf.sympatico.ca) if you would (or might) like to play on one or more ladders.

IMPORTANT!!! DUES REMINDER ... Many of our veteran members renew dues at the end of the year. Please check expiration dates of membership cards and, as appropriate, send \$25 (for U.S. members) to the ACF Treasurer, currently Don Brattin, 126 Mountain View Dr., Berea, KY 40403. Please do not send dues to past treasurers! Also, tournament directors who receive dues at tournaments should promptly send dues to the treasurer. We are also looking into adding expiration dates to our mailing labels to assist members with knowing when their membership expires. Also, please inform the ACF secretary of any address changes, as bulletins may not be forwarded.

Attention Overseas Members and Canadian Members! Due to rising overseas postage costs, ACF annual dues for overseas members will be restructured as described herein. In an effort to address costs while still offering paper bulletins to collectors, we offer one of the following options:

1. Annual dues of \$40 (Europe/Africa/Australia/New Zealand/Asia) with traditional hard copy bulletin delivered by airmail. For Canadian subscribers, the annual dues are \$35. Everyone else remains at \$25.
2. Or, receive an electronic copy of the bulletin by e-mail in pdf format with no membership dues increase (remains at \$25). For this option, you must provide a valid e-mail address and have Acrobat Reader 6 (or equivalent), which is available for free download off the internet.
3. Upon request, we will also consider delivery of the bulletin by boat for the same \$25, although delivery time will be much slower.

This policy goes into effect with any new memberships on January 1, 2007, as well as any renewals in which the current membership expires on or after January 1, 2007. Junior and associate memberships are not affected. Please note that ACF has not had a dues increase in 11 years.

Jim Loy's comments: I have now been editor of the *ACFB* for more than two years, and I would like to thank the members and officers for putting up with me. I certainly do not do perfect work, but forgive me for being a little bit proud of what I have done. Enough of that; back to the future!

Obituary - Many Tributes to Elbert Lowder from our WWW site

The Sanford Herald, 17/12/06, Pg A03, by Jonathan Owens, Herald Staff Writer, reprinted with permission: **Checkers community remembers Lowder**

SANFORD - Sanford resident and world-class checkers grandmaster Elbert Lowder died Thursday [Dec. 14, 2006] at the age of 74. A native of Albemarle, Lowder was respected nationally, as well as worldwide, as one of the greatest checkers player of all time. At his death, he was ranked as the fourth-best player in the country. Lowder won the first of his 36 state checkers championships - the most ever in the state's history - in 1952 at age 20, and for more than 50 years he dominated the North Carolina checkers scene. After suffering injuries in a near fatal car crash in January 2004, Lowder recovered to win his last state crown later that year in Kinston. He won 12 southern region tournaments and three U.S. Open "Go-As-You-Please" competitions. Lowder was also the world champion in 11-man ballot play, where one piece is removed from the table to start, and participated in more than 140 regional and national tournaments.

"He's done about all you could do in the world of checkers," said J.R. Smith, secretary of the N.C. C h e c k e r s Association. "He's probably played more games than anyone alive."

Smith said Lowder never got the respect he deserved as a master player of the game. "He always seemed to be in the shadow of Marion Tinsley (who is widely considered the greatest player of all time)," Smith said. "He always played right beside Tinsley and the greats, but never could quite beat them." Nonetheless, Lowder became somewhat of a pioneer in the game, dominating the 11-man ballot, which Smith said is hard to master because it takes so many moves. "It's really amazing what that does to the game," he said. "And Elbert dominated it." Tim Laverty, who lived and worked with Lowder at the Piano House in Jonesboro for more than 25 years and is himself a well respected checkers player, said his friend taught him everything he knew about fixing pianos, and a lot about checkers as well.

He said the pair worked well in tandem and made each other stronger players. "He would always have his board," Laverty said. "He would come up with an idea, his own little innovation, and I would try to knock it out. Two great players together can really help each other. It was give and take." Laverty remembered Lowder as an "easygoing fellow who liked to work on pianos," and added he was a genius at the game. Smith said world-class players like Lowder "certainly have a brilliant mind," and an average checker player wouldn't stand a chance against him. "There's no way an average player could play with Elbert," he said. "He had so many patterns memorized; he could immediately recognize what they did wrong." Fellow Sanford checkers enthusiast Clint Pickard said he sold Lowder a car in 1960, and rented him one year later so Lowder could drive to a tournament in Texas. Pickard remembered his friend as a hard worker and a checkers master most of all. "He was always well respected," Pickard said. "And he tuned a lot of pianos."

The Stanly News & Press, Published: December 18, 2006 02:05 pm, reprinted with permission:

Sunday, December 17, 2006 - Elbert Lowder, 74, of Sanford died Dec. 14, 2006. He was the youngest son of the late L.C. and Icie Cody Lowder. He is survived by two sisters, Ramelle McDonald of Michigan and Louise Cranford of Badin and many nephews and nieces. He was a member of First Street United Methodist Church. He was well-known in North Carolina and other states as a checker champion. A memorial service will be in Albemarle at First Street United

Methodist Church on January 13, at 2:30 PM. Contributions in his memory may be made to First Street United Methodist Church in Albemarle.

I first met Elbert in 1956 at Bethlehem, Pa. Nat. Ty. Always remember him with the chew tobacco and spittoon in his early days. He was a gentlemen, a good sport--he never used any underhanded means. We were tough competitors, but still friends. Elbert never won the 3 move NT, but in 1992 at Hot Springs, Ark. all he needed was a draw heat w/Ron King in 8th Rd. It was 3 on 3 position, 2 singles and a king a piece. Elbert said agreed draw, Ron lets play. Position was a draw. They proceeded and Ron sprung a trap and Lowder lost. He Lowder smashed all the checkers off the table. I was playing Cravens in next room, but Herschell Smith came in to tell us about it, That was a heart breaker.. Best, Ed Bruch

Good morning: I am Elbert's niece. Uncle Elbert had a lot of nieces and nephews and we were proud of him. I received a link to your site from my cousin and was amazed at the notes posted on how much he was admired and is missed. I would like you to post the following to your site, which brought me great comfort, to let your members know how much this meant to us as Uncle Elbert's family. Thank you for your kind words about our Uncle Elbert. We grew up watching him play checkers and have many fond memories of his playing. He was our Uncle, so it was hard for us to realize how important he was to the game, as he would sit and play children's checkers with us, letting us win! Thank you for letting us know what he meant to each of you and the game he loved. We will miss him. Sincerely: Saundra Chambers

Please post this message on your website. I am another niece of Elbert Lowder. He had eleven brothers and sisters. The only two remaining are my mother, Ramelle (Lowder) McDonald, age 83, and Louise (Lowder) Cranford, age 80. ... I would also like to join my cousin Sandy in thanking everyone for all their thoughts and prayers for the family in the loss of our Uncle Elbert. He was truly a special person and we were all very proud of him. Thank you, Myra Gonino

I'm complete dummy, nothing to say. This is a great loss for checkers fraternity and we never fill this gap. I am proud I had a chance in my life to meet him, play with him and learn from him. Alex Moiseyev, 3-move checkers World Champion

The ACF and Checkers has lost a true Icon of our game. I just now got off the phone with Mr. Lowder's business partner and long time friend Mr. Tim Laverty. Mr. Lowder had no life insurance, etc. and Tim could use some help for Mr. Lowder's funeral expenses. I told Tim when we had finished talking that I would go onto our forum and make a posting asking if anyone was so inclined to make a donation to contact Tim. I show his address below.

Mr. Tim Laverty, 302 West Raleigh Street, Sanford, N.C. 27332

We will all miss Mr. Lowder, but his games, etc. will live on forever in Checkerdom. Sincerely: Alan Millhone, President, American Checker Federation

I am personally sad that I never met this player which original and creative games stand for themselves as a worthy lifetime achievement. Mein tiefstes Beileid an alle, die persönlich mit Ihm verbunden waren. Ingo Zachos

This is a time which I am proud to say I got to meet this man. He had a kind heart and was a fine

player. His games and the person he was will never be forgotten. Kim Willis

A sad occasion, indeed. Elbert was one of the characters of the game. I met him during the 3rd GB V USA match, in Bournemouth in 1973 and later in Dublin in 1979 during his match v Derek Oldbury. On behalf of the Irish Draughts Association may I offer condolences to his relatives and friends. Liam Stephens - Editor IDA Newsletter.

We can all be very thankful for the many wonderful memories that Elbert has left with us, both on and off the checkerboard. "The Dixie King" has moved on to his "Kings Row" leaving behind memories that will live on with us forever. Ms. Becky

Prayers to his loved ones. A great loss. "I just like to play checkers" ~Lowder. Patrick Parker

My thoughts and prayers are with Elbert's family and close friends. I met Elbert in 1973 during the international match at Bournemouth, England, and several times over the next twenty years. He will be sorely missed. Lindus Edwards

I want to express my sympathy. I never meet him but yet I did enjoy his aggressive and unusual style of play. He will live on in the hearts of the players and as well in the various books and publications he is a part of. Dennis Pawlek (editor, English Draughts Association Journal)

Our commiserations to all concerned in the life and death of the great Master Elbert Lowder. To his good friend and companion Tim Laverty we offer our deepest sympathy from all at the NWDF Ireland.....God Bless. Tommy Canning

I met him once, in Sanford at the first tournament I ever played in. The year was 1975 or so. I never played him, but since that tournament I have gone over many of his games. I too am saddened by his death. It is a great loss for the game. Pedro Saavedra

When I first started studying the game of checkers I noticed that Mr. Lowder played an unusual style of checkers. I liked this idea and so I copied it. I have told many that he is the reason I like to play so many odd lines. He was a true Grandmaster and an awesome innovator. I will miss him and I am proud to have played him. I am also proud to say I continue to try and play more like him every day. Michael Holmes

I [Jim Loy] have been working on a book of Elbert Lowder's greatest games for well over a year now. It will take a while longer, maybe another year, as I have to study about 2000 games in some detail just to decide which ones are brilliant and which ones were played by an impostor (just kidding there). I've got 120 or so games chosen and briefly annotated, so far. I will annotate them in greater detail later. I would like to show you one of these games:

10-14 24-19 11-16 22-17 7-10 (14-18 draw PP) 17-13 3-7 25-22 14-17 21-14 9-25 29-22 10-14 (8-11 draw PP) 28-24 16-20 32-28 8-11 19-16 12-19 24-8 4-11 23-19 7-10 19-16 14-17 16-7 2-11 27-23 (22-18 10-15 18-14 15-18 26-23 11-16 13-6 probably draws) 10-15? (5-9 23-19 11-15 19-16 seems to draw) 23-18!! (I assume that Rolader thought he was winning after this, while Lowder probably saw the following play, right down to Red's resignation) 17-21 18-14 15-19 22-18 11-16 31-27 6-9 13-6 1-17 18-14 WW!, E. Rolader - E. Lowder, 1977 Southern Open

Thank you for all of your prayers. Tim Laverty

Lowder's Record (compiled in 1996, by R. L. Fortman and updated by [Jim Loy]):

* Played in 21 consecutive US National 3-move Tournaments since 1956: 4 2nd place finishes; 1 3rd place; 4 4th place - out of prize list 4 times [five more Nationals, including two 2nds and one 3rd]

* Played in 41 Southern Tournaments since 1949: Winner of 12; runner-up in 9; 3rd in 11; Note: There are gaps in: 1950, 1951, 1953, 1954, 1957 and 1965, in which neither ECB or the ACFB give his entry. Since only the top prize winners are given, it is quite possible Lowder also played in some of these. [add two 4ths and a 3rd]

* Played in 38 Florida Open Tournaments since 1957 - perhaps several more, due to incomplete records: Won 10 with one tie; 2nd in ten, with one tie; and 3rd in 7. High water mark in the 1970's, then a gradual decline to present.

* Played in 9 US National Go-As-You-Please (GAYP) Tournaments from 1977 to 1995: 1st 3; 2nd 1; 3rd 4; 7th 1. [probably played in five more]

* Played in 30 Northern States Tournaments; Won 12 (with one tie), 2nd 7, 3rd 3.

* Overall tournament record [numbers adjusted by Jim Loy]: 26 US Open 3-move, 14 US Open GAYP, 44 Southern States, 38 Florida Open, 30 Northern States, 50 or so North Carolina tournaments, and numerous other state and regional tournaments, Grand Total: at least 200 Tournaments (Remarkable!)

J. Loy adds that Lowder played in three International Matches against Great Britain + Ireland, and that the following are his individual matches (WCM means World Championship Match):

Lowder - Cravens, 1969 match
Lowder - Scheidt, 1975 match
Tinsley - Lowder, 1979 WCM
Oldbury - Lowder, 1979 GAYP WCM
Hallett - Lowder, 1983 match
Lafferty - Lowder, 1989 GAYP WCM
Lowder - Levitt, 1990 World 11-Man WCM
King - Lowder, 1995 GAYP WCM
Lowder - Moiseyev, 2002 World 11-Man WCM
Moiseyev - Lowder, 2002 WCM

J. Wyllie claimed to have played nearly half a million games in his long lifetime, mostly "casual" games, but many against tough opponents. But, as far as tournaments and matches go, Elbert Lowder probably played more games than anyone in history. Being an aggressive player, he surely won more games of that type, and may even have lost and drawn more such games, than anyone in history.

Tournament Results

Reminder: We would like to see how much prize money each player won.

2006 Arkansas Open November 4th , 2006: Congratulations to Don West for winning the tournament and to Jerry Childers for retaining the Arkansas State title. On a side note, Childers was leading the tournament heading into the last round but lost to West in the last game

Masters				6	Hugh Hawkins (TX)	9	--	
1	Don West (KY)	16	--	7	Gayle Helterbrand (MO)	9	--	
2	Jerry Childers (AR)	15	--	8	Bill French (TX)	7	--	Arkansas State
Champ. (27th time)				9	Clint Hodges (AR)	5	--	
3	Joe Tucker (MO)	12	--	10	Larry Jordan (AR)	--	--	withdrew after 3
4	Obra Hawkins (AR)	10	--					rounds
5	Richard Drake (AR)	9	--					

2006 Alabama Open & District 5 - Windwood Inn, Haleyville, AL November 17 & 18th

Masters (7 Rounds of Round Robin)

1	Alex Moiseyev	OH	2638	25	\$225.00	Wins Tournament & Trophy
2-4	Anthony Bishop*	TN	2223	15	\$110.00	District 5 Co-Champion Trophy
2-4	Larry Pollard*	AL	2175	15	\$110.00	2006 Alabama State Champion Trophy & D5 Co-Champ
2-4	Albert Tucker*	LA	2184	15	\$110.00	District 5 Co-Champion Trophy
5	Dallas Ramsey	AL	1662	12	\$50.00	2006 Alabama State 2nd Place Champion & Trophy
6-7	Neal Austin	AL	1865	11	\$38.00	
6-7	Frank Davis	TN	2134	11	\$38.00	
8	Clyde Hallmark	AL	1698	8	\$25.00	
					\$708.00	

*Anthony Bishop, Larry Pollard, and Albert Tucker were Co-Champions for this 2006 District 5 Championship. This is Larry Pollard's 6th Alabama State Championship.

This was a wonderful tournament, nice playing facility and restaurant. 18 Entrants representing 8 States. Mayor Larry Albright of Haleyville opened our tournament with a warm welcome and presented everyone with a 911 lapel pin. Haleyville, AL is "Home of 9-1-1" introducing the nation's first 9-1-1 system, which allow Senator Rankin Fite to implement it by dialing the first 911 call from a phone in Haleyville, AL. February 22, 1968. World's First 9-1-1 Call We had plenty of meal coupons, grab bags, snacks, and bottle water throughout the ty. We are grateful for Frank & Mary Davis who officiated as scorekeeper and for our Tournament Directors Larry Pollard and Dallas Ramsey. Thank You! to all who helped bring this event together. Channel 6 TV and Haleyville News reported the event.

Congratulations! Hollis - Ken - Earl

Majors (7 Rounds of Swiss - repair last round)

1	Earl Harvell	TX	1787	19	\$135.00	Wins Major Class & Trophy
2	Hollis McClard	TN	1662	18	\$100.00	
3	Ken Christian	TN	1735	17	\$80.00	
4	Ken Shultz	TN	1872	16	\$70.00	
5	Bill Shoffner	TN	1346	15	\$50.00	
6	Wade Holder	NC	1912	14-97	\$35.00	2-Way Tie for 6th place - Split \$40 6th, \$30 7th place money
7	Clifford Daniels	MS	1475	14-86	\$35.00	" " " "
8	Gayle Helterbrand	MO	1815	11-92	\$28.00	2-Way Tie for 8th place - Split \$30 8th, \$25 9th place money
9	JR Smith	NC	1373	11	\$28.00	" " " "
10	Riley Cole	AL	1012	1		withdrew 3rd Round Alabama Youth Trophy
					\$561.00	

Tournament Calendar

Tournament organizers, see the ACF abbreviated guidelines on the inside back cover of the June 2006 *ACFB*. Announcements repeated from previous issues may be greatly abbreviated.

Reminder for tournament organizers: The ACF requests that all tournament organizers, etc. submit any upcoming events, so we can list them in the *ACFB* as they arrive. Send as much information as possible: contact person, location, etc. Tournament announcements and results may be sent to tournaments@usacheckers.com or theunites@yahoo.com. You may also copy R. Beckwith as a backup assistant at beckwith24@msn.com. (E-mail is preferred, but regular mail can go to R. Beckwith 34490 Ridge Road #115, Willoughby, OH 44094-3035 for distribution). Results should also include round-by-round information (usually found on master scoresheet) for the purpose of computing ratings.

2007 Florida State Checker Tournament will be held Feb. 24 & 25 at Joe Schwartz's home, 1000 Parkview Dr., Apt. 714, Hallandale, FL. Everyone is welcome. Free refreshments and cash prizes. Submitted by Joe Schwartz.

Tennessee State Open Checker Tournament will be held on March 2-4, 2007, at the Americas Best Value Inn & Suites, in Lebanon, TN. **PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE.** The inn is located on Highway 231 (822 Cumberland Street) near I-40 (take exit 238 north). The tournament consists of 3 divisions. Two rounds will be played on Friday, four on Saturday, and two on Sunday. Registration will begin at 1 pm followed by a business meeting at 3 pm. Play will start at 4 pm on Friday and end Sunday at 1 pm. For reservations, call 1-615-449-5991 and tell them you are a checker player. Please make your reservations early. For more information, call Frank Davis at 1-931-552-4246. Submitted by Frank Davis.

102nd Illinois State Checker Tournament will be held on March 31, and April 1, 2007 (Note: Change of date. April 8, 2007 is Easter) at the Illinois Centre Mall, which is located near the intersection of 57 and State Highway 13 (Exit 54B), Marion, Illinois. Registration on Saturday is from 8:00-9:00 a.m. with the business meeting at 9:00 a.m. and playing beginning at 9:45 a.m. There will be four rounds on Saturday and three on Sunday. I hope to have enough players for a "C" division to attract beginners. The entry fee will be \$10.00. A recommended motel is the Super 8 in Marion, Illinois. Phone number for the Super 8 is 618-993-5577. This is a newly renovated and very clean motel. Room rates are \$34.88 plus tax. Directions to Super 8 is located to the left off the first stop light West of Exit 54 B. The mall is located at the 3-rd stop light west of the same exit. Turn right at this third light and go to the back of the mall toward the Target parking lot. Park in the lot before Target and the door will lead to the food court where we will be playing. For more information please call Gene Ellison, at 618-962-3321 or email ellison@clearwave.com. The American Checker Federation requires membership (\$25.00) for all participants at ACF-sanctioned tournament. All Class "A" players must have ACF membership to play. Class "B" player will not be required to have ACF or Associate membership to play this year. Submitted by Gene Ellison, Secretary and Treasurer

English Open: May 14 - 18, Morecambe, Lancashire. For details, please contact John Reade, 123 Andover Ave., Middleton, Manchester M24 1JQ, England

2007 North Carolina Open Checker Tournament will be held at The River Lodge & Palomino Motel on May 18th & 19th, 2006. Directions: Take US #1-15-501 Bypass South Sanford, NC

Palomino Motel 1-800-641-6060 Special Checker Rates: \$35.00 Double Bed. Registration: 9:00-10:00A.M < > Play Begins at 10:00 < > Registration Fee \$15.00. 3-Move Restriction Style of Play-Swiss Style Play - 8 rounds of 2 hour per 2 game rounds Four Rounds on Friday & Four Rounds on Saturday Scoring each game as 2 points for Win - 1 point for Draw - 4 points for Bye. Finish position determined by score points, then honor points. Tim Laverty - Scorekeeper & Referee. For more information call Tim Laverty at 919-356-6755 or lavertylowder@alltel.net. "If you're married, this is one checker event your wife will enjoy." Let's Have A Wonderful NC State Checker Tournament! NC Open Checker Tournament is always scheduled on the 1st Thu-Fri-Sat after Mother's Day (2nd Sunday in May). This is the 117th continuous State Tournament, excluding WWII years '43-'44-'45.

District 3 & Pennsylvania State will be held June 9th - 10th , 2007 in Comfort Inn, Grove City, PA. More details later. For more information please contact Tony Kozenski at 724-652-1247.

Scottish Open: July 16 - 20, Stonehaven, Scotland. For details, please contact Graham Young, East Bendings, Stonehaven, Kincardenshire, AB39 2XX, Scotland

NEWS FLASH!!! The **2007 Go As You Please National Tourney** will be held in Las Vegas from July 22 through 27. The arrival date is Sunday, July 22 and play will take place from Monday through Friday, July 23 -27. Players will pay \$29 plus tax to the hotel from Sunday through Thursday and \$65 on Friday when prices go way up in all of Vegas. In addition players will pay \$12 a day to an ACF representative to pay for our playing room. Two persons to a room are allowed at the \$29 p.t. rate. Family & friends of checkers will pay only \$29 plus tax from Sunday through Thursday and \$65 p.t. on Friday & Saturday. The rate of \$29 p.t. for visitors also includes two persons to a room. \$15 extra is charged for each person beyond two to a room.

We highly recommend that reservations be made as early as possible since rooms are limited at that price. It takes a one day deposit to hold your room. You may cancel your reservation and get your deposit back if you notify the hotel in advance.

Make sure that you mention that you'll be there for the Checkers Championship to get the special rate. Let's make this one of the biggest tournaments ever in order to show the Las Vegas hotels that it's worth it to have checker tournaments there! The number for reservations is; 1-800-634-6575. The Plaza is a great hotel in a great location. It has a swimming pool, tennis courts and plenty of restaurants that cater to all tastes. Food is very reasonable also. Any questions, call Gerry Lopez at (951) 695-2499.

2007 GAYP World Qualifying Tournament will be held September 17th - 21st, 2007 in Las Vegas, NV. Note that this is a restricted field event. ACF is permitted to send 3 players to each division. All other federations in good standing (including ICHF) may send two participants per division. Hotel information will be provided at a later date. Submitted by John Reade, Hon. Sec. WCDF. (14 October 2006). [abbreviated by Jim Loy]

We plan to host men's, women's, and youth event. Donations may be sent to Kim Willis (31 Sandstone Rd., Eldon, MO, 65026), who has set up an account for this tournament. (Thanks Kim!) The winner of the men's and ladies tournaments will earn the right to challenge for the world GAYP titles. The event will also decide a World Youth Champion. More info will be posted as it becomes available. For more information please contact R. Beckwith, J. Reade, or K. Willis. Submitted by Richard Beckwith, ACF Player Rep. and Leon Creek.

All-Ireland Open 2007 will be held at the Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana, County Donegal,

from Sat 27th - Wed 31st October 2007 inclusive. The P. Breen Vs A. Durdyeva WCM (3 Move) will be held alongside this. More on this later. Submitted by Hugh Devlin.

2008! Canadian Open: Leroy Adams is now the President of the Canadian Checker Association. The next Canadian Open will be held in his home city of Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2008. Leroy has a great desire to build Canadian checkers, has much community support, and plans to get sponsors to build a large prize fund for the 2008 tournament. Leroy wants the Canadian Open to be near Canada Day (July 1); therefore, the tentative dates—Leroy is pretty firm about them—will be: Sunday, June 29, Monday, June 30, and the morning of Tuesday, July 1, 2008 – i.e. 7 rounds. This will leave the rest of Canada Day to enjoy the Winnipeg festivities. Put it in your calendar and plan to attend to go after the first prize of \$2000 which Leroy announced on Friday morning will be the top prize.

Club Calendar

Louisville Checker Tournament, every week, (every Tuesday at 10 am right now, and updates will be added if there are any changes) by Charles Freeman at 1632 Story Ave, Louisville, Ky 40206. Phone #502-589-5690. Directions: Take I-264 to Story Ave exit, first red light take a left, next red light take a left, go to second red light take a left, go around the bend ½ block on the left and park in the driveway or street. E-Mail charlesfreeman@peoplepc.com.

Kings Row C.C. in Omaha, Ne. We are going to have a city tournament in August and a club championship in September. We will be promoting ACF and should bring several new members. Submitted by Dave Stovie kingsrow@cox.net, 2222 South 148 Ave. Omaha, Ne. 68144.

Burlington Checker Club (Burlington, NC) meets every Thursday evening from 6:00 to 9:00 at John Kernodie Activities Center, 1535 S. Melbane St. Call Center at 222-5135 or Mike Ross 584-8652, Bill McClintock 674-5402 or J. R. Smith 228-6620. Submitted by J. R. Smith.

2007 BC (part 7), by Jim Loy

Corrections to Fortman's *Basic Checkers*. Most of these note letters are the same as in the book:

Op.#31: 9-14 22-18 10-15 18-9 5-14 25-22 7-10 29-25(**D4**) 3-7 22-17 11-16 25-22 16-19 23-16 12-19 17-13 8-12 22-18 14-23 27-11 7-16 24-15 10-19 26-22 4-8 22-18 16-20 21-17 12-16 31-27 8-12 17-14 19-24 28-19 16-23 14-9 12-16 18-14 1-5 27-18 6-10 draw

D4 30-25 15-18 22-15 11-18 24-19 3-7 26-22 7-11 22-15 11-18 31-26 8-11 [10-15 draw, Case (W. strong), continue 19-10 6-15 25-22 18-25 29-22 1-6! 22-17 6-10 27-24 2-7 17-13 14-17 draw] 19-15 10-19 23-7 2-11 28-24 11-15 26-23 4-8 25-22 18-25 29-22 8-11 24-20 6-10 32-28 1-6 22-17 15-18 23-19 6-9 19-16 12-19 27-24 11-15 17-13 18-22 13-6 15-18 24-15 10-19 6-2 (the following two moves are missing from BC) 22-25* 2-7 18-22 7-10 14-18 10-14 18-23 draw, B. Martin.

Op.#32: 9-14 22-18 11-15 18-11(**B**) 8-15 25-22 5-9 24-20 7-11 22-17 4-8 17-13(**I1**) 1-5 28-24(**K**) 12-16 29-25 8-12(**N**) 25-22 3-7 21-17 14-21 23-19 16-23 26-19 9-14 22-17 5-9 27-23 15-18 32-28 18-27 19-16 12-19 24-8 27-32 8-3 7-11 3-8 11-15 20-16 14-18 16-12 18-23 8-11 15-18 12-8 18-22 8-3 23-26 30-23 9-14 23-19 21-25 draw, W. Hellman - M. Chamblee, 1951 WCM

B 18-9 5-14 and here the supplement in vol. 7, p.61 gives: 23-19 8-11 25-22 4-8 (11-16 29-25 W. best, R. Fortman - J. Mourning) 22-17 15-18 17-13 18-22 as R. best, M. Tinsley, but WW?

I1 28-24 2-7 (the better 12-16 is note I2) 23-19 15-18 17-13 18-23 27-18 14-23 26-22 (typo: 25-22) 10-14 22-17 7-10 29-25 3-7? (11-15 draw, KingsRow) 25-22 23-27 32-23 11-15 22-18 15-22 19-15

10-28 17-3 28-32 21-17 32-28 23-18 28-24 17-14? (18-15 WW KingsRow) 24-19 14-5 19-23 18-14 (Taylor's 13-9 also draws) draw, N. Banks - L. Taylor, 1939 exhibition.

K) 29-25 3-7 28-24 14-18 23-14 9-18 21-17 12-16 26-23 8-12 23-14 16-19 30-26 19-28 26-23? (26-22 draw) "draw" Rees, is a RW!

N) 2-7 23-19(**N1**) 16-23 26-19 14-18 is a draw, continue 20-16 11-20 21-17 9-14 31-26 14-21 26-23 draw.

N1) 32-28 14-18 23-14 10-17 21-14 9-18 27-23 18-27 24-19 15-24 28-12 27-32 31-27 32-23 26-19 5-9 19-16 "WW," A. Fogle - H. Boucher, is a draw according to KingsRow.

Op.#33: 9-14 22-18 11-16 18-9 5-14 25-22(**B**) 16-19 23-16 12-19 24-15 10-19 22-17 6-10(**E**) 27-24 2-6 24-15 10-19 17-10 7-14 29-25 8-11 25-22 4-8 (this is note H3, and is the most popular move at this point) 31-27 8-12 26-23 19-26 30-23 3-7 28-24 7-10* draw, credit A. Huggins - J. Meyer, 1954 USA vs. GB Mail Match

B) 23-19 16-23 27-9 6-13 24-19 (the following two moves are missing from BC) 8-11 26-23 11-15 28-24 1-6 30-26 7-11 26-22 6-9 draw (WW later), W. Hellman - A. Long, 1962 WCM, g.28.

E) 9-14 22-18 11-16 18-9 5-14 25-22 16-19 23-16 12-19 24-15 10-19 22-17 7-10 29-25 8-11 27-23 11-16 31-27 4-8 25-22 8-12 17-13 3-7 22-17 (here I find the capitalized "After" confusing, and prefer "Continue") 1-5 30-25 14-18 23-14 6-9 13-6 2-18 28-24 19-28 26-23 draw, W. Hellman - M. Tinsley, 1956 U.S. Nat.

Op.#34: 9-14 23-18 14-23 27-18 12-16(**C**) 18-14 10-17 21-14 6-9 32-27(**F**) 9-18 22-15 11-18 26-23 8-11 23-14 11-15 30-26 1-6 (note I begins here) 26-23 15-19 24-15 7-10 14-7 3-26 31-22 16-19 25-21 4-8 21-17(**I**) 8-11 17-13 11-16 27-24 19-23 24-19 16-20 22-18 23-26 18-15 26-30 19-16 30-26 15-11 26-22 11-7 2-11 16-7 22-18 7-3 18-15 3-7 15-19 29-25 draw, W. Hellman - D. Oldbury, 1965 WCM, g.17

C) 5-9 26-23 11-15(**C1**) ...

C1) 12-16 (this strong attack is not mentioned in BC) 30-26* 8-12(**C2,C5**) 32-27 10-14 (10-15 draw PP) 18-15 11-18 22-15 7-10(**C6,C7**) 24-20 (25-22 also draws, A. Mantell) 10-19 20-11 3-7 23-16 12-19 27-24 7-16 24-15 4-8 28-24 (or 26-23 draw PP or 25-22 draw, PP) 16-19 (6-10 draw PP) 24-20 6-10 15-6 1-10 20-16 8-11 draw, M. Tinsley, ICHF *Checkers* 1987.

C2) 16-20 32-27 10-15(**C3,C4**) 18-14 9-18 23-14 15-18 (or 8-12 draw, PP) 22-15 11-18 26-22 8-12 22-15 4-8 24-19 7-11 25-22 11-25 29-22 8-11 22-18 11-16 19-15 16-19 31-26 draw, M. Tinsley

C3, off C2) 11-15 18-11 8-15 23-18 draw, PP.

C4, off C2) 10-14 22-17 8-12 17-10 7-14 26-22 3-7 22-17 draw, M. Tinsley.

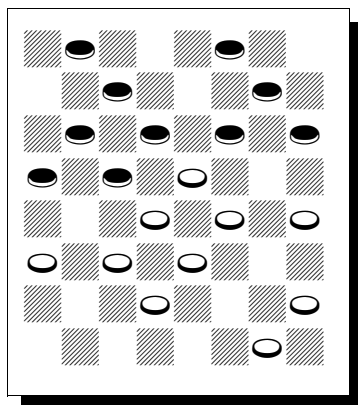
C5) 16-19 (10-14 32-27 8-12 = C1, above) 24-15 10-19 23-16 11-20 22-17 (32-27 draw PP) 9-13 (7-11 draws, R. Fortman - J. Charles, mail, 1981) 18-14 13-22 25-18 8-11 32-27 4-8 26-23 8-12 28-24 draw, PP.

C6) 16-19 23-16 12-19 27-23 (others draw) 3-8 23-16 8-11 15-8 4-27 31-24 6-10 24-19* 9-13 19-16 14-17 21-14 10-17 25-21* draw, M. Tinsley.

C7) 16-20 25-22 9-13 24-19 4-8 22-18 6-9 26-22 2-6 27-24 20-27 31-24 8-11 15-8 1-5 24-20 14-17 21-14 6-10 22-17 13-22 18-15 10-17 23-18 22-26 20-16 26-31 15-11 7-10 18-15 10-14 11-7 3-10 15-6 draw, M. Tinsley.

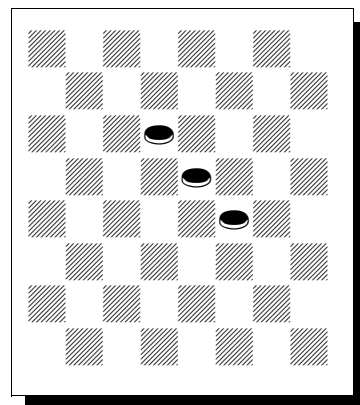
Beginners' Page – The Center, Part I

The center is the small group of squares 14, 15, 18, and 19. Some players consider the center very important; others do not. Study of the center concerns two related topics, (1) occupying the center (or not), and (2) moving toward the center or laterally away from it. In this part I, I will cover the occupying of the center (or not).



Crowded Center

The first diagram is a position by Drummond, showing an impressive but losing center (losing for White). The problem is that it is virtually immobile because it is too crowded. Now, one can easily come up with a similar position which is a WW, simply by making Red even more immobile than White. So, be aware that the strength or weakness of a center may depend upon timing. In general, if we choose to seize the center, we want a somewhat sparser



Dyke Formation

center than that show above.

Does such a sparser center give an advantage? In many cases, it does give an advantage, but it depends on other factors, to a large extent. The opponent may be able to wipe out the center with simple trades. Or the opponent may threaten to win a piece, or block pieces, or king early, or whatever, which may sometimes give a much greater advantage.

The second diagram shows a classic dyke formation, which may come up from 11-15 22-17 15-19 (the Black Dyke) or many other openings. The player with the dyke establishes a piece on 19 (or 14 for White) and then may try to establish other pieces into the dyke squares of 15 and 10. It is a relatively strong center, also depending greatly on other factors.

My Trophies At Last I Lay Down – Obituary

Thomas Richard Steagall (May 8, 1912 -- October 3, 2006): Thomas Steagall of Rockvale, Tenn. was a major class checker player when TN had more checker players than any state in the United States. In a Southern Tournament, he extended International Grandmaster Basil Case to four games before losing by the odd game. Mr. Steagall earned his place in checkers history by promoting the largest checker tournament ever held, the 1974 National Tournament. Submitted by Carl Bishop

A. Y. (Addison Yarbrough) Saul Jr., 68, of Burlington, NC, died on Friday, Dec. 8, 2006. He was born in Alamance County, son of the late A. Y. Saul Sr. and the late Ruth Smithey Saul. He is survived by his wife, Georgie Irene Crumpton Saul, one daughter, two sons, five grandchildren, five stepgrandchildren, two step-great-grandchildren, three sisters, two brothers. He was preceded in death by one sister. [typed from the NCA website]

Checkers Market Place

The ACF does not charge fees for advertising, but will accept donations. The Treasurer's address is on the cover.

THOUSANDS OF CHECKER BOOKS. The Estate of the late Don Goodwin wishes to sell the extensive library of Don Goodwin, estimated to be worth 1 million dollars. The asking price is \$250,000. Individual books are still offered for sale. Write Evelyn Micallef, 16 Romac Drive, Scarborough, Ontario, M1C 4V6, Canada. Email dgoodw9616@rogers.com or call 416-287-9616.

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ACF JEWELRY WANTED. Particularly the tie-tac that Clayton Beebee once sold. Send a description of items for sale with price including shipping. F. Alan Millhone, P. O. Box 1, Belpre, OH 45714.

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MIKE TRURAN: If anybody has complete runs of the following magazines for sale, I'd be very interested to hear from you: The American Checker Monthly, The Draught-Board, The Draughts Review, The Draughts World, The Draughts Players Quarterly Review, The Canadian Checker Journal, The British Draughts Journal, The American Checkerist. Please contact Mike Truran on mike@mtruran.fsnet.co.uk if you can help.

MISSOURI CHECKER ASSOC. NEWSLETTER: Wilma Wolverton, 8505 S. Karr Rd., Grain Valley, MO 64029. \$10 per year (Canada \$13, overseas \$15). Highly recommended.

ICHF 2006 CHECKERS ANNUAL is ready for shipping on April 15, 2006: \$30 in the USA and \$40 for the rest of the world. 358 pages. It contains News about checkers along with various articles and problems. [Sorry the 2005 Edition is SOLD OUT] Order from ICHF, Box 365 Petal, MS 39465. Overseas players may order your ICHF Checkers magazine from John Reade, Andover Avenue, Middleton, Manchester M24 1JQ, England.

GAMES FROM THE 2005 GAYP NATIONAL TY! Michael Holmes has typed the following, which are now for sale by the ACF: (1) 53 selected games fully annotated (looks good and informative) for \$15, (2) 265 games from the Masters (lightly annotated) \$30, (3) combo (sent to you by email) of 138 games from the Majors + 80 games from the Minors + 18 games from the junior ty., for \$10, or (4) the entire set for \$40. I personally recommend the entire set. Order from Alan Millhone, Post Office Box # 1, Belpre, Ohio 45714-0001.

GAMES FROM THE 2005 OHIO STATE TOURNAMENT + 2005 OHIO MATCH CHAMPIONSHIP + MORE. This book includes: Games from 2004 & 2005 Ohio Tournament (Masters), Moiseyev-Beckwith Match (2005), Beckwith-Cowie Match (2005), Cowie-Zuber match (1984), Louis Cowie checker problems, Alex Moiseyev contributed a few original problems, Other miscellaneous info, Ohio history, opening index, etc. Price is \$20. Games are annotated, with diagrams. Write to Richard Beckwith, 34490 Ridge Road #115, Willoughby, OH 44094. Checks can be made out to Ohio State Checker Association. Paypal users may purchase this item at the <http://usacheckers.com> store under "game transcripts."

GAMES FROM THE 2005 GERMAN OPEN. It is limited to 50 books total. This year it once again has plenty of color pictures and games from the German Open 2005. The annotations were done by one of the best mail players these days, Nigel Proffitt, and myself. It will cost 10 Pounds for the UK, 15 Euros for Germany, Ireland and the rest of Europe, 25 Dollars for the USA. All includes shipping. You can submit orders or payment (via Paypal) by sending it to DennisPawlek@lycosxxl.de. For postal orders please write to Dennis Pawlek, Jahnstr. 43, 72793 Pfullingen, Germany. P.S: Please, no cheques, as this will charge a lot here. :)

THE 1939 10TH ACA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT. The ACF presents a selection of games played in the 10th ACA National Tournament at Flint Michigan, Aug. 21st – Sep. 2nd, 1939, with annotations by Richard L. Fortman, and comments by the tourney winner Asa A. Long, Toledo Ohio. Further annotations, proof reading, and type setting by Jim Loy. Most of these 58 long-awaited games (selected from the later rounds) have never been published. There will be 50 numbered copies, signed by Richard L. Fortman, Jim Loy, and Alan Millhone, for \$20. Order from Alan Millhone, P.O. Box 1, Belpre, OH 45714-0001.

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one soon. The regular copy costs \$40 in the U.S. and \$45 outside of the U.S. The numbered copy which costs \$100 goes toward helping the ACF defray the expenses of the match. This great book will be a limited edition so send your checks or pledges to Gerry Lopez, 41858 Corte Selva, Temecula, Ca. 92591. Phone # (951) 695-2499. If you want a book you'll treasure, don't miss this opportunity!

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2005 ACF INTERNATIONAL MAIL TY: 90 pages, \$15 (add \$3 for overseas shipping, foreign currency will be accepted), the games of this ty., which was won by William Carter, annotated by Jim Loy. Plenty of new play on both new and old openings. **2004 I-D BOOKLET,** 44 pages, \$10 (add \$2 for overseas shipping). **2005 NYC:** 36 pages, \$10 (add \$2 for overseas shipping), games of these two tournaments (NYC 3 move and GAYP), which were both won by Alex Moiseyev, annotated by Jim Loy. Order either book from Jim Loy, 1104 S. Montana, H7, Bozeman, MT 59715. Also, I really need the 50 games from these tys.: U.S. GAYP Nat. 1979, 1997; Northern States 1984, 1989, and after 1995; Florida Open after 1989, assuming those tys. were published.

THE CHECKER PLAYER'S FRIEND BY JEAN DUFRESNE, published in the late 1800s, first English translation as far as I know. Sections on English, international, pool and losing pool checkers, 133 pages, translated to English by Richard White. \$22 postpaid in the US. \$25 overseas. Richard White, 8 Pine St., Dover MA, 02030.

JIM BROCNARO, 161 Summerfield Gardens, Selton, CT 06484-6308. For sale *ACF Bulletins*, issues 220, 223, 224, 239, 242, and 269 through 321, all told 58 issues. Make an offer.

2006 NATIONAL TY. GAMES: Remember the old days when tourney books were issued for each National Tournament? I am pleased to announce that our 3-move world champ, Alex Moiseyev, has graciously accepted to annotate the 2006 games package. He is already hard at work, and I know he will provide a high-quality publication with many diagrams. For those who already made early-bird contributions to the 2006 National Prize Fund, the games will automatically be sent to you when available. For everyone else, you may order your copy by check to American Checker Federation sent to R. Beckwith, 34490 Ridge Road #115, Willoughby, OH 44094, or Paypal through ACF Store under Donation/ACF Donation. Suggested minimum donations, including shipping, are \$15 (50 select games) or \$35 for all submitted games (3 divisions & youth, pictures, and more). Add \$5 extra for overseas. Submitted by Richard Beckwith, ACF Player Rep, and copied from the ACF WWW site.

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Notable Players of the Past that I have Known

by Richard L. Fortman

Chapter One: John T. Denvir (1859-1943) continued from last issue.

In round three [1st IM], Denvir lost to Allan Hynd of Manchester, England, 0-1 with 3 draws, going into a P.P. loss from a Bristol Cross variation that Head also lost to Searight. It was in this round that Reynolds collapsed, losing all four games to Richard Jordan.

In round four, Denvir met the retired (undefeated) World Champion Richard Jordan of Edinburgh. Venturing a weak line with Black in a regular 9-14 22-18 Double Corner, and misplaying in late mid-game. The Chicago expert also lost the Black side of 11-16 21-17, again faltering in the mid-game.

In round five, Denvir met one of the weaker links in William Halliwell, also of Manchester, missing a win in game one, then winning game three, with the remaining drawn. At the half way point, the British held a commanding lead, 40 to 19, with 141 draws.

Round six, Denvir met another of the weaker English players, the current English Champion, Herbert Morrall, who later emigrated to America, and was active in the Boston area. Playing Black in game one, Morrall tried an unusual line in a 12-16 single corner, misplaying in late mid-game, and Denvir winning after the oversight. In game two, Denvir, using the popular Flora Temple line, went on to win after another blunder. In the evening session, 9-13 22-17 13-22 produced one draw and one win for Morrall. This round was one of the better rounds for America, 5 wins each and 30 draws.

In round seven, Denvir met the veteran Willie Gardner of Leeds, who at one time held the world record for simultaneous blindfold play, contesting 22 boards, later broken by Stewart with 25 boards. Denvir lost the Black side of a Kelso Cross, along with three draws.

In round eight, Denvir was paired with the current Scottish Champion, "Wee Geodie" Buchanan, of Glasgow. Once again, the Single Corner was balloted, Denvir taking the 18-14 break after 12-16 in game one, and drawing very handily. In game two, Denvir used the Flora Temple variation again, but the Scotsman was well versed, and drew with no problems. The regular Kelso, 10-15 21-17 was played that evening, with two even draws.

In round nine Denvir met another of the Scottish "Big Five," James Searight, also from Glasgow. As many have commented, his name aptly described his Master rating. Denvir, once again going into a P.P. loss, this with the White side of a Switcher, with the remaining three standard draws.

In the final round ten, Denvir was paired with a future World Champion Robert Stewart of Kelty, Scotland. In their first game, Stewart used an "odd" line (per Heffner's later note) in a Pioneer, Denvir later gaining a piece and a clear ending win, but perhaps mentally tired, permitted Stewart to regain his man and draw, thus spoiling what might have been "a feather in his cap!" In game two, he played the White side of a 26-23 Fife, losing with little resistance. In game three, 10-14 24-19 was balloted, Denvir with Black turning it into a weak three-mover with 7-10. This produced one of the longest games of the match, over 140 moves, consuming all four hours of the night session, with Stewart (perhaps weary also) missing a mid-game win, and later agreeing to a draw. To permit the closing ceremonies to take place, game four was not played.

And thus concluded this First International Match, with the British team clearly superior, winning 73 games, losing 34, with 284 draws. Denvir finished with 3 wins, 9 losses, and 27 draws. In his Chicago Inter-Ocean Newspaper column, he laid claim to the vacant two-move World Title by virtue of his win over English Champion Morrall and his drawn round with Scottish Champion George Buchanan, with his nine lost games unmentioned. This claim was dismissed, with the title remaining open until the Alf Jordan - Banks matches of 1914 and 1917, Banks winning the latter but going on to lose to Robert Stewart in 1922, who then rejected all challenges, and took the outmoded title with him until his resignation in 1937, dying four years later.

After this resounding defeat, America also adopted the two-move style, and organized the first USA National Ty. at Boston in 1907, under the auspices of the new American Checker Association, open to all, with the exception of one unnamed player (see later comment).

Some six months after the conclusion of this International Match, the world of checkers was presented a new book, entitled: "John T. Denvir's Report of the International Games, Played at Boston, Mass." This was published without the consent of the New England Association, who had taken numerous orders for their official match book, annotated by A. J. Heffner. Denvir had secured copies of all the games by a source never revealed. Aware that the actual moves of a checker game cannot be copyrighted, only the annotations, he published these games in a cheap format, inferior paper, printing, and binding, to be sold for \$2.00. This was one of the most controversial books ever published, creating a virtual storm of indignation and ire by the New England officials, resulting in a black list of Denvir. John Bradford told me that Denvir was shocked at the censuring, and never again would play in any organized tourney or match, confining his play to the Chicago Club and the out-door boards at Lincoln and Garfield Parks. But he still continued to publish books: *Denvir's Guide* in 1934 and the later *Denvir's Three Move Guide*.

In the summer of 1933, my coach, Harland Richards, took me up to Chicago to see a Cub game. Aside from being a checker expert, Harland also loved Major League Baseball, which also instilled my interest, which has remained throughout my life. After the game, we paid a visit to the Chicago Chess and Checker Club. There were half a dozen chess games in progress, but just one checker game. Two light skinned "colored" (as they were known back then) players were at the board, with one elderly white gentleman as a spectator. Richards knew one of the players, J. H. Scott, as both had played in the 1929 "Rump" National Ty. in Chicago. Scott then halted play and introduced us to his opponent, George Tanner, also from Chicago. Tanner had been ranked among the top dozen Masters, and in 1927 had won a qualifying match for a place on the 2nd International Match team, but due to the racial prejudices existing at the time, he was demoted to a substitute role, and never played. Scott also introduced us to the spectator as "Senator John Denvir, who you not doubt have heard of." After shaking hands, Richards suggested to Denvir, "a game with my young friend here." But the later politely declined, citing a "business engagement," donning a brown derby hat, and a walking cane, and exiting with a good bye wave. I never saw him again.

Both Bobby Martin and Barney Talis later mentioned to me that Denvir liked to play on the open-air boards at both Lincoln Park and Garfield Park. Bobby said Denvir would play only GAYP, always 11-15 with Black, and alternating with the Single Corner or 2nd Double Corner with White, openings which he had written books on. And, as he told Bobby, "This restricts my opponent's opening choices, and makes him play MY game, instead of his." It was this life-long practice that may have been partly responsible for his death. Barney told me the players were caught unprepared in a sudden rain shower, and were thoroughly drenched before reaching shelter. This resulted in a chest cold which later developed into pneumonia, which he was unable to resist, and died on Oct. 23, 1943, at the age of 84 years. His obituary was given in Ryan's *American Checkerist*, and also in the *Chicago Tribune* newspaper, written by Barney Talis, and also given in *ECB* weekly, Oct. 25, 1943. As Barney said, "One of the last of the 'old guard' in Chicago, the grand old lion of checkers, and we are all grieved over his passing."

C – May be best.

D – 14-18! 23-14 10-26 19-10 7-14 30-23 (31-22 RW E. Churchill) R. strong.

E – Plausible. 21-17! 14-21 23-18 W. strong, probable draw.

F – Interesting game.

Variation 1

JL

25-22 11-15 27-24 8-11 23-18 14-23 17-14* 10-17 21-14 7-10* 14-7 3-10 31-27 5-9(A) 27-18 2-6?(v.3) 29-25 9-13 18-14?(B) 10-17 19-10 6-15 25-21 4-8 21-14 15-19 24-15 11-25 30-21 draw, Alan Millhone – Tim Lavery, Masters, round 7, game 2

A – 2-6 draw PP.

B – 25-21 6-9 21-17 4-8 17-14 WW, B. Lucas – P. McCarthy, 1985 English Open.

The other games of this match (two draws) will be shown under 11-16 22-18 8-11.

Variation 2

JL

9-13(A) 22-18 11-16(B) 25-22 8-11 29-25 4-8 18-14 16-20(C) 22-18 11-16 25-22 6-9 22-17 13-22 26-17 9-13 30-26 13-22 26-17 2-6(D) 17-13 6-9 13-6 1-17 21-14 7-10 14-7 3-10 18-15 10-14 15-10 5-9 10-7 9-13 7-3 14-17 3-7 17-22 19-15 16-19 23-16 12-19 7-11 8-12 32-28 WW(E), Alan Millhone – Gerry Lopez, Masters, round 8, game 1

A – Rare.

B – 11-15 draws, *BDJ* 4/52 g.1C, also in *CC* where there are a couple moves missing.

C – This may be the loser. 7-10 W. strong, but may draw. 6-9 may lose PP.

D – Others lose.

E – A good win.

Variation 3

JL

1-5 29-25(A) 9-14(B) 18-9 5-14 26-23 2-6 25-21 4-8(C) 22-17(D) 15-18 30-26 18-27 32-23 6-9 17-13 11-15 13-6 15-18 6-2 18-27 2-6 27-31 6-15 31-22 15-10 22-17 10-15 17-22 24-20 22-26 20-16 draw, Gerry Lopez – Alan Millhone, Masters, round 8, game 2

A – 32-28 draws, PP.

B – This may be strongest.

C – 6-9 draws, *KE*.

D – 30-26 draw, L. Taylor – R. Gould, 1954 U.S. Nat.

These were the only two games of this match.

10-15 24-20 6-10 (No. 81)			Game 67			Jim Loy, annotator	
10-15	26-10(C)	9-18	4-8	1-6	8-12	16-19	
24-20	7-14	30-26(F)	22-15	19-16	16-11	22-18	
6-10	25-22	5-9	11-18	12-19	7-16	6-10	
28-24(v.1,2)	14-18(D)	29-25	31-26	27-23	20-11	18-15	
10-14(A,v.3)	22-15(E)	8-11	3-7	18-27	12-16	draw	
22-18(B)	11-18	26-22	24-19	32-16	25-22		
15-22	23-14						

Richard Hallett – Ed Bruch, Masters, round 5, game 3

A – 1-6 PP.

B – = 10-14 24-20 6-10 22-18 10-15 28-24.

C – 25-18 G. Lopez – J. Childers, 1966 U.S. Nat.

D – 1-6 draw PP.

E – 23-14 9-25 29-22 5-9 21-17 11-15 27-23 3-7 31-26 7-10 17-13 9-14 32-28 8-11 13-9 1-5* (4-8 9-5 WW in Churchill) 30-25 14-17 draw.

F – 24-19 draw in Churchill.

Variation 1

JL

27-24(A) 1-6 23-19(B) 11-16(C) 20-11 7-23 26-19 8-11 21-17(D) 3-7 17-13 11-16 31-27 16-23 27-11 7-16 22-18 9-14 18-9 5-14 25-22(E) 4-8 29-25 8-11 32-27 16-20 24-19 11-16 27-23 14-17 22-18 17-22 25-21 22-26 21-17 26-31 18-14 31-27 RW, **Ed Bruch – Richard Hallett, Masters, round 5, game 4**

A – Rare.

B – 23-18 draw PP.

C – 15-18 draw PP. Others may be even stronger, like maybe 9-13 26-23 15-18.

D – Weak. 30-26 or 32-27 or others may be easier.

E – This may be the loser. 24-20 16-19 32-27 4-8 25-22 8-11 or 10-15 seems to draw.

The other games of this match (a draw and a win by Bruch) were shown under 10-14 22-17 7-10.

Variation 2**JL**

22-17(A) 1-6(B) 28-24(C) 15-19!(D) 24-15 10-19 23-16 12-19 25-22 11-15 22-18(E) 15-22 17-13 8-11 26-17 4-8 30-26 11-15(F) 27-23 8-12 23-16 12-19 20-16 15-18(G) 16-11 7-16 26-23 18-27 31-15 3-8 32-27 16-19 29-25 8-12 15-11 12-16 11-8 16-20 8-3 19-24 27-23 24-27 23-18 27-31 18-15 31-27 25-22 20-24(H) 22-18 24-28 3-7 2-11 15-8 27-24 18-15 28-32 8-3 24-19 15-11 19-15 3-8 15-10 8-12 10-15 12-8 draw(I), **Bob Murr – Mike Heckert, Majors, round 3, game 2**

A – = 10-15 22-17 6-10 24-20. Or 28-24 PP.

B – 15-19 R. better.

C – 17-14 may be a lot better.

D – Good.

E – As good as any. 30-25 L. Levitt – T. Landry, 1989 IM.

F – Or 7-10 27-23 2-7 23-19 8-12 R. strong, probably a draw.

G – Essentially forces the draw. 7-11 16-7 2-11 is considerably more aggressive, but probably draws.

H – 27-24 15-11 24-19 draws.

I – Good, clean defense by White.

Variation 3**JL**

1-6 23-19 15-18 22-15 11-18 32-28(A) 10-14 25-22 18-25 29-22 7-11 22-17(B) 14-18 17-13 3-7 19-16(C) 12-19 24-15 18-22 26-17 11-18 20-16?(D) 8-11?(E) 16-12 18-22 12-8 11-15 8-3 7-10 27-23 22-25 28-24 25-29 23-19 29-25 17-14 9-18 21-17 18-22 30-21 15-18 19-16(F) 22-26 31-15 10-28 16-11 28-32 3-8 32-27 8-12 27-23 12-16 1/2-1/2!!(G), P. Davis – H. Schreiber, 1974 U.S. National (p.117)

A – 26-22 7-11 22-15 11-18 32-28 8-11 19-15 10-19 24-8 4-11 21-17 9-13 17-14 3-7 30-26 11-15 26-22 6-10 22-17 13-22 31-26? (14-9 draw) 22-31 RW, R. Hallett – K. Albrecht, 1988 U.S. Nat.

B – 26-23 lost J. Sprague – G. LeClair, 1952 National, and Fortman points out that 26-23 is also WCP, g.917. Fortman's comment also says, "30-25 is starred by Walter Hellman in the 2nd NCA book . . . After 30-25 then 9-13 19-15 11-18 22-15 3-7 24-19 8-11 15-8 4-11 20-16 11-20 25-22 and Red must pitch back correctly by 14-18* 22-15 13-17 21-14 7-10* to draw, WCP g.917." He further says that he sees no win against 22-17, at note A. The computer would seem to agree, 22-17 is a draw.

C – Or maybe 19-15 18-23 draw?

D – 27-23 (or 30-25 draw) draw.

E – 8-12 RW?

F – 17-14 draws, R. Fortman. And 24-20 and 19-16 and 3-7 looks strong for White.

G – Now the game gets even more interesting. But the players have bowed out, and now the annotators take over. Continue 6-10 16-12 23-19 17-14 10-17 21-14 2-6 12-8* 19-23 8-3 23-26 "RW, a game of many vicissitudes," R. Fortman. But continue further 14-10!! 6-15 11-7* 15-18 7-2 draw!! I was shocked when my computer told me this was a draw. Eventually, Red's two kings will try to crowd White's two kings, in some way, and we have Miller's Draw, page 95, in Boland's *Famous Positions*. And the ending database agrees all the way; it's a draw. And now we come to the real puzzle: the players agreed to a draw back at note G; did they see all this? I'm sure that Red would have continued playing if he HAD seen all this.

10-15 24-20 15-19 (No. 83)			Game 68		Jim Loy, annotator	
10-15	15-22	1-6(D)	10-17	15-8!(G)	14-18	7-10
24-20	25-18(B)	25-22	21-14	4-20	8-3	12-16
15-19	7-10(C)	8-12	6-9?(F)	10-7	5-9	10-15
23-16	24-15	18-15(E)	14-10	2-11	3-7	9-14
12-19	10-19	3-8	9-14	27-24	18-22	28-24
27-24(A)	32-27	22-17	20-16	20-27	26-17	WW
11-15(v.1)	6-10	9-13	8-11	31-8	13-22	
22-18	29-25	17-14				

John Webster – Rich Beckwith, Masters, round 5, game 1

A – Or 22-18 6-10 18-15? (25-22 PP) 11-18 26-23 19-26 31-6 1-10 25-22 8-11 30-26 4-8 26-23 8-12 29-25 9-13 28-24 2-6 23-18 6-9 27-23 10-15 21-17 7-10 25-21 9-14 18-9 5-14 32-28 3-8 23-19 14-18 RW, P. Davis (misspelled "David") – R. Jones, 1986 U.S. Nat.

B – Or 24-15 to same.

C – 7-11 has also been played.

D – 9-14 PP, in Pask's *Key Openings*.

E – 22-17 draw *MP*.

F – 6-10 draws.

G – An interesting choice, as the win by 16-7 may be more obvious. Dr. Beckwith has improved greatly in recent years. I suspect that he correctly judged the shot after 15-8! to be a WW, as one might expect from the top players.

Variation 1**JL**

7-10(A) 24-15 10-19 22-18(B) 6-10 18-15?(C) 11-18 26-23 18-27 31-6 1-10 25-22(D) 8-11 32-27(E) 4-8 27-23(F) 11-15 28-24 9-14 23-19 8-12 30-25 3-8 22-17 5-9 20-16 15-18 17-13 18-23 13-6 2-9 24-20 23-26 25-22 9-13 21-17 14-21 22-18 10-14(G) 18-9 26-31 9-6 31-26 6-2 21-25 29-22 26-17 2-7 17-14* 19-15 12-19 7-3 8-12 RW, **Rich Beckwith – John Webster, Masters, round 5, game 2**

A – The preferred move.

B – 21-17 11-15 22-18? (32-27 draw PP) 15x22 25x18 9-14 17x10 6x22 26x17 8-11 30-26? (32-27 draw MP) 4-8 29-25 8-12 25-22 11-15 32-27 5-9 20-16 2-7 27-23 7-11 16x7 3x10 23x16 12x19 31-27 9-14 27-23 draw, T. Lavery - J. Webster, 1992 U.S. Nat. and this final position is a RW.

C – A published loss in CC, but Nemesis' opening book suggests that it is a draw. 25-22 draw PP.

D – Seems as good as there is.

E – 30-26 (others seem to lose) 4-8 26-23 11-15 23-19 15-24 28-19 9-13 RW. Presumably, Nemesis' draw does not exist.

F – 30-26 loses PP. Others lose?

G – Giving up the piece on 8 also wins.

The other game of this match (a draw) was shown under 9-14 22-18 11-16.

11-15 21-17 8-11 (No. 84)**Game 69****Jim Loy, annotator**

11-15	4-8	29-25(D)	8-11	25-21	3-7	17-13
21-17	24-19(B)	15-24	31-26	11-15	9-5	18-23
8-11	15-24	27-20	10-14	22-17	12-16?(H)	32-28
17-14(A)	28-19	10-15	18-9	14-18	20-11	16-20(I)
9-18	7-10!(C)	26-23(E)	5-14	17-13	7-16	26-22
23-14	25-22	6-10(F)	13-9	19-24	13-9	draw
10-17	11-15	23-18(G)	15-19	21-17	15-19	
22-13						

Gerry Lopez – Alan Millhone, Masters, round 6, game 3

A – Weak. Instead 17-13 4-8 23-19 15-18(A1) 22-15 11-18 24-20 9-14 26-23 14-17 23-14 17-21 31-26 10-17 25-22 8-11 27-23 6-10 22-18 2-6 18-14 10-15 19-10 6-15 23-19 15-24 28-19 1-6 29-25 6-10 25-22 11-15 32-28 15-24 28-19 3-8 22-18 8-11 13-9 12-16 19-12 10-15 26-23 15-22 23-19 22-25 9-6 25-29 12-8 29-25 8-3 25-22 3-10 11-15 6-2 15-24 “draw!” L. Mills – E. Morrison, 1988 U.S. Nat., continue 10-15 WW.

A1 – 9-14 25-21 15-18 22-15 11-18 29-25 14-17 21-14 10-17 24-20 17-21 26-23 8-11 23-14 6-10

27-24 10-17 19-16 12-19 24-8 3-12 31-26! 1-6? (7-11 draw) 25-22? (28-24! WW) 21-25 30-14 6-9 13-6 2-25 26-23 25-30 23-19 30-26 19-15? (28-24* draw) 26-23? (5-9* RW) 15-11? (28-24* draw) 7-16 20-11 12-16 11-7 16-20 7-2 5-9 RW, E. Rolader (misspelled "Rolander") – G. Lindsay, 1986 U.S. Nat.

B – Or 26-23 draw, J. Bletcher – T. Fletcher, 1874 match, in Gould's *Memorable Matches*.

C – A good move, and may be even stronger than 6-10 draw, MP.

D – 27-24 is also difficult, but probably draws. Continue 5-9 29-25 9-14 25-21 15-18 22-15 12-16 19-12 10-28 26-22 8-11 30-26 11-15 22-17 15-18 (6-10 draws) 17-10 6-15 31-27 2-7 (2-6 may be stronger, but a draw) 13-9 7-11 26-23 18-22 27-24 22-26 23-19 15-18 9-6 1-10 19-15 10-19 24-8 26-30 8-4 18-23 4-8 30-26 8-11 26-22 11-15 WW (Red may have lost on time, as this final position is a draw), *gst_dammer* – Yearof57, Nov. 2002 Fast Ty. #2, ItsYourTurn.com.

E – 31-27 or 25-21 may lose.

F – 15-19 23-16 12-19 20-16 2-7 16-12 8-11, Red is strong and may win.

G – 25-21 or 31-27 may draw, R. strong.

H – Several moves win, like 15-19 RW or 24-28 17-14 15-19 RW.

I – Or 2-7 draw. The other games of this match (two wins by Millhone) were shown under 10-15 22-18 15-22.

11-15 21-17 9-13 (No. 85)**Game 70****Jim Loy, annotator**

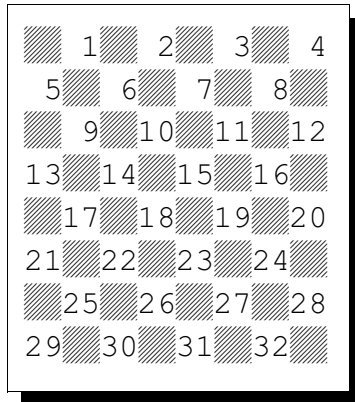
11-15	18-11	16-20?(F)	24-20	10-19	7-16	26-30
21-17	8-15	26-23?(G)	8-11	30-25	20-11	14-9
9-13	24-19?(D)	20-27	23-19	13-22	23-26	6-10
25-21	16-23	31-24	11-15	25-18	21-17	9-5
5-9(A)	27-11	2-7	19-16	19-23	9-13	RW(H)
23-18(B)	7-16	32-28	15-18	16-11	17-14	
12-16(C)	28-24(E)	4-8	22-15			

Larry Jordan – Doug Hughson, Majors, round 4, game 3

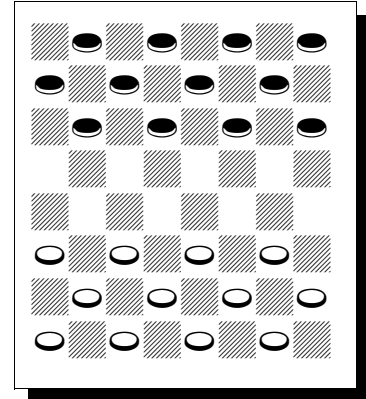
A – 8-11 is much more popular, but this is strong, too.

B – 29-25 PP.

C – Or 1-5 PP. Lees' Guide continues 18-11 8-15 24-19 15-24 28-19 7-11 27-23 3-8 32-28 11-16 22-18 13-22 26-17 9-14 18-9 6-22 30-26 22-25 29-22 5-9 22-17 8-11 17-13 9-14 (11-15 and a draw by R. Clegg is recommended) 26-22 11-15 13-9 15-24 28-19 4-8 22-18 2-7 9-6 14-17 21-14 10-17 6-2 7-11 2-7 17-22 18-14 "WW," H. Devine. But continue further: 22-25 14-9 25-29 9-6 29-25 6-2 25-22 2-6 22-17 6-9 17-22 9-13 (7-3 16-20 draw?) 22-18 draw.

**Numbered Board**

Numbered Board: Feel free to make a copy of this, and keep it handy for reading checkers moves. The two players are called Red and White, and in the past they were called Black and White. Notice that Red's pieces begin the game on 1 through 12, and White's begin on 21 through 32. The game is played on the dark squares, but books and magazines (including the *ACFB*) normally reverse the colors of the squares of diagrams to improve readability. In the *ACFB*, Red is at the top of the diagram. Moves are

**Starting Position**

recorded as from-to, an example being 11-15. A multiple jump is normally written like 10-26 unless that is ambiguous, then 10-19-26 is written.

Kim Willis is running for ACF Secretary: I would like to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Kimberly Willis, I live in Eldon, Missouri. I have been playing checkers online for years. I started in a games site Vinco Online Games. I had played checkers as a child but never realized that this game was far more than a child's game. The strategies of this old game amazed me. I had never went to any live tournaments but I had a man named Ronald Suki King take me under his wing and teach me just the basics of the game. I then started wanting to see how I would do at a live tournaments. My first tournament was Niagra Falls, it was a National tournament, I had no idea how tough it would be even with a small crowd. I never won a game. But really wanted to get better. I truly think there is no end in what you can learn.

Within my years of traveling in the US and Internationally to tournaments, I have met many players. The encouragement from better players was wonderful. Alan asked me if I would run for Sec of the ACF position. I never said no because I believe that each and everyone of us need to be active to keep the ACF and Checkers alive. Alan asked me to give you all my qualifications.

I believe within the last 2 yrs my greatest concern is the Youth and getting them involved.

Teaching the youth in my spare time.

I am Youth Director for the ACF.

I also worked on getting the World Qualifier in the US. Which we won for 2007.

I also am the Missouri Checker Associations President.

Plus I also try and help players understand something about tournament play and where and when tournaments are. I think that if I can keep communications open to all, that we all can make the ACF grow. I thank Alan and others for letting me be a part of the American Checker Federation, I feel very honored to be a member. And I hope others feel the same. Kim Willis

Jim Loy's comment: In the *ACFB*, two years ago, I lost a candidate's biography. I belatedly apologize for that. I regret the mistakes I make, but I predict that I will continue making them.

American Checker Federation
Alan Millhone, President
P.O. Box 1
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Critics' Corner

J. Loy, ACFB #293, p.63, v.3: 10-14 22-17 7-10 17-13 3-7 25-22 14-17 21x14 9x25 29x22 10-14 24-19 7-10 27-24 14-17 24-20 11-15 19-16 12x19 23x16 8-12 16-11 10-14 32-27 14-18 28-24 18x25 30x14 6-9 13x6 1x17 26-22 17x26 31x22 5-9 22-17 9-13 17-14 13-17 14-10 17-22 10-7 22-26 7-3 26-31 27-23 31-27 23-19 15-18 11-8 4x11 3-8 18-23 8x15 27-32 15-18 23-26 18-23 26-31 23-18? (19-15* draw) 31-27? (32-28* RW) 18-14? (19-15* draw) 32-28 14-18 2-6 18-14 27-23 19-16 28x19 16-11 19-16 RW, B. Hinkle - E. King, 2000 U.S. Nat. (and v.4 on the next page, the final position is a draw).

J. Loy, ACFB #296, p.104, note E is a draw.

J. Loy, ACFB #297, p.110, v.3: 11-15 22-17 15-19 23x16 12x19 24x15 10x19 25-22 8-11 30-25 4-8 22-18 9-13 17-14 (not a loss in BC) 8-12 27-24* 11-16 24x15 7-10 14x7 3x19 26-22* 19-24 28x19 16x23 18-15 6-10 15x6 1x10 22-17 13x22 25x18 5-9 32-28 12-16 28-24 16-20 24-19 23-27 31x24 20x27 18-15 9-13 15x6 2x9 19-15 9-14 15-10 27-31 10-6 31-27 6-1 14-18 1-6? (1-5* draw) 18-23 6-10 23-26 10-14 27-23 RW, L. Balderson - L. Keen, 2000 U.S. Nat.

J. Loy, ACFB #299, p.144, g.80: 12-16 21-17 9-13 24-20 8-12 25-21 16-19 23x16 12x19 17-14 10x17 21x14 4-8 29-25 6-10 27-24 10x17 24x15 11x18 22x15 7-11 32-27 11x18 26-22 17x26 31x15 13-17 28-24 2-7 27-23 5-9 23-18 17-22 15-11 8x15 18x2 22x29 24-19 9-14 19-15 14-18? (14-17* draw) 15-10 18-23 2-6? (note I: 20-16* 3-8 2-7 8-11 16-12 11-16 7-11 16-20 "draw" is actually a WW) 3-7 10x3 draw, H. Burton - L. Balderson, 2000 U.S. Nat.

J. Loy, ACFB #297, p.115, g.66: 11-15 23-18 15-19 24x15 10x19 21-17 7-10 17-14 10x17 22x13 9-14 18x9 5x14 27-24 3-7 24x15 7-10 25-22 10x19 29-25 6-10 13-9 10-15 25-21 14-18 22-17 18-22 17-13 22-25 32-27 12-16 21-17 25-29 17-14 16-20 14-10 19-24 28x19 15x24 9-6 2x9 13x6 24-28 6-2 8-11 10-7 4-8 27-23 11-15 7-3 8-12 3-7 15-19 23x16 12x19 7-10 19-24 10-14 24-27 31x24 20x27 26-22 27-31 22-18 28-32 14-17 32-27 17-22 27-23 18-14 23-27 14-10 27-32 10-7 32-27 7-3 27-32 3-7 32-27 7-10 27-32 10-15 32-27 15-19 27-32 2-7 1-5 7-10 5-9 10-6 9-13 6-10 32-27 10-14 27-32 14-18 31-27 19-15 27-31 18-23 31-27 23-19 27-31 19-16 "draw," G. Lindsay - R. King, 2000 U.S. Nat. The final position is a WW.