

1978 NATIONAL TOURNAMENT SMASHES ALL RECORDS!MARION TINSLEY WINS HIS 6TH U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP

Winning 6 rounds, and drawing 2, World Champion Marion Tinsley, Tallahassee, Fla., won the 31st American Tourney and \$1500 first prize over a field of 163 entrants. Elbert Lowder, Sanford, N.C., was runner-up by winning 5 rounds, drawing 2, and losing one (to Tinsley) - his second prize was \$850. Tied in Match Points for 3rd through 6th were Hugh Burton, Everett Fuller, Don Lafferty, and James Morrison. (These and all other tied positions are reported alphabetically - Honor Point positions will be listed in the October Bulletin.) Then 7-8 were Karl Albrecht and Clem Crawford; 9-15 were Ed Bruch, John Caldwell, Jerry Childers, H. L. Cravens, Paul Davis, Ed King, and Lloyd Taylor; and 16-21 were Joe Bassett, Earl Ingram, Vic Monteiro, Jerry Ingram, Ed Scheidt, and John Webster. Prizes for each of the four tied groups were \$441, \$239.50, \$215.50, and 191.50, respectively, for each player in the group.

Lester A. Balderson, Richmond, Va., earned his promotion to Master class, by winning the Major tournament and \$850; he won 6 rounds and drew two. There was a 6-way tie for 2nd through 7th among these players (again, alphabetically): R.B.Bracey, Hoover Grant, Jim Guthrie, Belton Jones, F.W.Leonard, and Luther Stubblefield - each received \$292.50. Then 8-12 with \$96.50 each were A.Bishop, L.Bolden, B.Lewis, E.McQueen, and H.Owen; 13-20 with \$88 each were R.Baty, E.Bowersock, W.Casteel, K.Donoho, V.Dowsey, D.Midler, C.Nesbitt, and P.Schwartzberg; 21-33 with \$79 each were E.Cullen, V.Defenderfer, Q.East, T.Gabbard, R.Hill, W.Lawless, H.Looser, C.MacMillan, R.Munzinger, J.Seay, A.Simpson, A.Tucker, and L.Wilkinson; and 34-51 with \$70 each were R.Agee, E.Cook, R. Embree, H.Kelley, M.Long, J.Manire, E.McConnell, C.Miller, J.Morris, J.Nelson, J.Priest, F.Ramsey, D.Ready, C.Reno, K.Steege, J.Swift, V.Tarter, and E. Wallace.

Joseph E. Schwartz, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., won the Minor tournament and \$450. Runner-up with the same number of Match Points was Tim Laverty, Durham, N.C. - he had fewer Honor Points than Schwartz - and he also received \$450. Both won 6 rounds, drew one, and lost one (to the other). Then 3-4 with \$250 each were A.Cunningham and B.Romine; 5-8 with \$60 each were R.Brooks, H.Curtis, A.Estes, and B.T.Jones; 9-16 with \$54 each were L.Castello, J.Estes, J.Herberger, J.Hickey, A.Hulvey, J.Rania, E.Schmalz, and S.Smith; 17-20 with \$49 each were L.Boozler, R.Francis, M.Lusk, and S.Misner; and 21-31 with \$43.50 each were E.Brooks, J.Crownover, H.Cunningham, W.England, C.Frizzell, L.Jordan, C.Moore, C.Pickard, V.Smith, M.Stancil, and T.Steagall. Playing in this group was "Checker Challenger #52820", entered by Fidelity Electronics; this amazing 2-pound competitor played creditably, drawing 5 rounds, and losing 3, to score 10 Match Points. It generated considerable publicity throughout the tourney, following a demonstration of the Challenger line by Mr. Sidney Samole, President of Fidelity, on Sunday before the start of the tourney. Jules Leopold of New York and Palm Beach operated the Challenger throughout the tourney in dedicated fashion.

A total of 103 prizes were awarded to players qualifying with 16 points or more, out of the original 163 entrants. The number of entrants exceeds by 46 the previous entry record of 117 of the Paxton 1950 tourney. This year, there were 32 playing in the Masters, 79(!) in the Majors, and 52 in the Minors; 21 prizes were awarded in the Masters, 51 in the Majors, and 31 in the Minors. The total cash paid out in prizes was \$16,000 !!! (A small trophy was also awarded to first place in each division.) Of this total, \$7,250 was paid in the Masters, \$6,000 in the Majors, and \$2,750 in the Minors. The total fund raised for the tourney was \$17,214 from the following sources: Fidelity Electronics-\$5000; "200 Club"-\$5000; Venue Bid-\$3500; Entry Fees-\$2700; and Contributions-\$1014. The fund was disbursed as follows: Prizes-\$16000; Trophies-\$65; Reserved for Annotators' Fees-\$700; Other Expenses-\$449 (Room charges, Ladies' program, Local transportation, and 50-Games mailing and printing). The prize payout smashed all previous records by over \$8,000 ! A complete list of all contributors will be published in the October Bulletin.