

Victor Traibush

by NM Todd Bardwick

Eugene Victor Traibush passed away on December 26, 2011 from kidney failure at the age of 85. Victor was the Colorado State Champion in 1955, 1967, and 1970. He lived in Boulder. In his youth, he played at the New York City Chess Club where he became friends with some of the great chess players of that era.

He was also very good at the ancient game of Go, and was a member of the local Go Club for decades.

I remember his son Tom, who played in CSCA tournaments back in the 1973-1974 time frame.

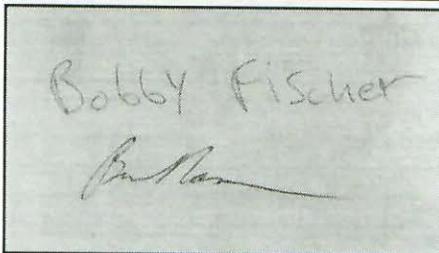
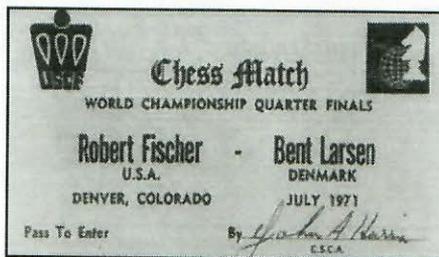
Victor pursued his passion for the guitar in his early twenties and was proud of the fact that he could "hang" with some of his blues and folk music mentors, such as Pete Seeger, Woody Guthrie, and Lead-belly.

One of his longtime chess friends was GM Larry Evans. A few years back Victor told me that Evans told him that Fischer's famous book, "My 60 Memorable Games" originally contained 50 games (although looking it up today online, there appears to be some internet controversy whether it was 50 or 52 games - and I don't clearly recall the exact number Victor told me). Fischer was very careful not to publish something that was incorrect. His problem in writing the book was that he didn't want to give some of his pet opening lines to the Russians by publishing them before he had a chance to play them (according to Victor per his discussions with Evans). Fischer stalled the publishing of the book for several years because of this dilemma. When the book was finally published, Fischer added more games to bring the total to 60.

Chess Exhibition and Lecture
BOBBY FISCHER
 International Grandmaster
 and
 U. S. Champion
 First Transcontinental Tour
 Brown Palace West Grand Ballroom
 Sunday, 2:30 p.m., April 26, 1964
 Denver Chess Club, Sponsor

Adults \$1.00 (Cash)
 Players \$3.00 (Ref)
 Juniors \$0.50 (Cash)

Victor was the official scorekeeper of the Fischer-Larsen match in Denver in 1971. He told me that Fischer was very much a gentleman on the chessboard. When he moved his pieces against Larsen, Fischer very carefully and politely slid them to the center of the square. During the famous Game 1 of the match, Victor noticed that when Fischer played the famous breakthrough move, 19.f5!, Fischer tilted the pawn ever so slightly toward Larsen. In the car on the way back to Victor's home in Boulder, he asked Fischer if he knew he tilted the pawn when playing 19.f5. Victor said Fischer was very embarrassed and said, "That was very bad form of me".

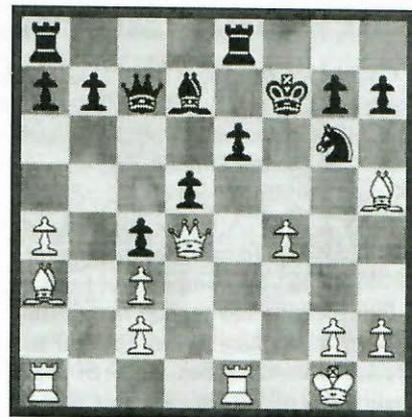


Here is Fischer's autograph (along with Larsen's autograph from their 1971 match) given to me by the late John Howell. Apparently Fischer didn't give many autographs... first he had to trust you and then he had to be in the right mood... according to Howell. Apparently there are quite a few forgeries of Fischer's autograph for sale out there - so be careful before you purchase one! Ray Alexis published an article in Chesstamp Review #120 (Volume 27 Number 4; Oct-Dec 2005) entitled, "Bobby Fischer Forgeries" by Lawrence Totaro.

Unfortunately, I couldn't find any of Victor's games to publish... perhaps someone else will have better luck finding some of his games.

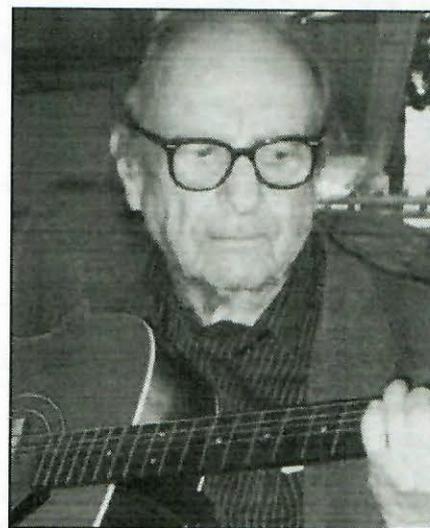
The following diagrammed position is from Game 1 of the 1971 Fischer-Larsen World Championship Quarter Final Match in Denver (referenced above).

Bent Larsen (Denmark)



Bobby Fischer (USA)

Fischer demonstrates the power of the bishop pair in this game that set the stage for his 6-0 victory over Larsen. This match was a stepping stone for Fischer who took the world chess title from Boris Spassky in 1972. The game continued:
19.f5! e f5 20.Qd5+ Kf6 21.Bf3 Ne5
22.Qd4 Kg6 23.Re5 Qe5 24.Qd7 Rad8
25.Qb7 Qe3+ 26.Kf1 Rd2 27.Qc6+ Re6
28.Bc5 Rf2+ 29.Kg1 Rg2+ 30.Kg2
Qd2+ 31.Kh1 Rc6 32.Bc6 Qc3 33.Rg1+
Kf6 34.Ba7 g5 35.Bb6 Qc2 36.a5 Qb2
37.Bd8+ Ke6 38.a6 Qa3 39.Bb7 Qc5
40.Rb1 e3 41.Bb6 Resigns



Victor Traibush



Jack stands (or sits) toe to toe with GM Sammy Reshevsky circa 1955. Sitting on Jack's left is Vic Traibush (1926-2011), who looks different without his bolo tie. I don't recognize anyone else.