

Warren Barter 1924-2010

by Liz Wood



A long-time chess player, organizer, and TD, who started the Pueblo Chess & Checker Club in 1948, Warren Barter died October 22, 2010 after a short illness; he was 85. In the "HotWire", the Southern Colorado Power's publication Volume 14, Issue 2, dated February 1984, Barter is quoted as saying:

"Chess is a complete escape for me. I can focus on the chess board and there are no interruptions..."

"When I quit smoking, I would get real nervous and bad-tempered. Chess was one of the only things that helped."

Barter first learned how to play the game in 1944, against his Dad who was recuperating from a broken leg. Using money obtained by bagging groceries to purchase a combination game of chess, checkers, and dominoes, Warren and his father taught themselves how to play chess from books borrowed from the public library.

Instrumental in developing the Colorado State Chess Association, Warren originally proposed the name of the Columbine Chess League, looking at individual memberships. The initial concept for the organizations was for the members of the state organization to be clubs rather than individual memberships. The CSCA was founded at the organizational meeting in September 1958 in Colorado Springs.

Warren Barter was an avid and active player. He won the Pueblo City Championship twice, and placed once 4th and once 11th in the Colorado State Tournament. He organized and directed the Colorado Open in Pueblo on September 2, 1961, when the entry fee was \$5.00, and the attendance was 24 players. He participated in a number of national tournaments, e.g., Las Vegas and the US Open at Fort Worth TX.

An avid collector of chess sets, he boasted of 60 - 100 sets from all over the world (I've been able to identify 17 countries!). Most of these sets were donated by his son, George, to the Pueblo Chess Club, and will become part of the payout for tournaments around the state (hopefully).

Personally, I only met Warren Barter a couple of times, but I feel that part of Colorado, and Pueblo chess history has passed with his demise.

