

## Christine L. Hendrickson

February 8, 1949 – June 27, 2005



Christine Hendrickson grew up in Denver and was a lifelong devotee to chess, the strongest woman chess player in Colorado for almost 30 years, and perennially ranked in the Top 50 female players in the United States.

In September of 1977, she was ranked 29<sup>th</sup> among women chess players in the country and in April of 1994 she was ranked number 43.

Hendrickson received a BA in Psychology (she also specialized in Slavic languages) from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1971 and worked for over twenty-seven years at the C.U. Library (as a cataloger, specializing in the disposition and cataloging of books in foreign languages). Chris spoke many languages, several of them fluently.

She was also a volunteer firefighter with the Four Mile Fire Protection District for twenty-one years.

Chris built her own log cabin and was a world traveler, playing overseas in international chess tournaments.

Hendrickson always had an amazingly positive attitude and was a friend to all. She was a huge fan of the CU Buffalos and the Denver Broncos. For decades she would attend the CSCA Membership Meetings during the Colorado Open dressed in her CU football gear to cheer on her Buffalos against the rival Colorado State Rams.

Chris ran the CSCA Prison Chess program from 1981-2003 and was a Department of Corrections Program Volunteer. Over the years she arranged for many Colorado masters to visit prisons to give simultaneous exhibitions. She donated books, magazines, and chess boards to the prisoners. Hendrickson also served on the board of the United States Chess Federation Prison Program.

Hendrickson, a gifted artist, drew illustrations for the CSCA Bulletin including portraits of the entrants of the U.S. Junior Invitational held in Denver from August 27-September 2, 1977. Her sketches of various chess players appeared in the CSCA Bulletin from 1979-1985. Chris was also the artist for *Chessman* comic book, written by John Watson. She helped John Watson run the Chess House near downtown Denver in the early to mid-1970s. Chris's rating of 1975 earned her an invitation to play in the 1989 US Women's Championship held July 6-16 in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

One of Hendrickson's greatest chess accomplishments was representing the United States by playing Board 4 on the 1992 Ladies Correspondence Chess Olympiad V chess team.

IM John Watson thanked Chris for her support and friendship over the years in his 2022 US Chess Hall of Fame acceptance speech <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SophxPYqt4k> 6:12 into the speech, he says Chris was the "most remarkable chess personality" in his chess journey. She promoted women's chess, got John started teaching, organizing tournaments, working with school kids, and volunteering for prison chess programs. "Chris was beloved by all and one of a kind."

Christine Lynn Hendrickson passed away way far too soon on June 27, 2005 from cancer.

CSCA Bulletin - 1980, Volume 7, Number 1

**THE IRRELEVANT ADVENTURES**  
OF **CHESSMAN** **THE COSMIC CHESSPLAYER**

UNAPPROVED  
BY THE  
  
USCF

"DREARY SORT OF COLLEGE HUMOR" M. Lee Hyder

"BADLY CONCEIVED, POORLY DRAWN, UNFUNNY...  
WOULD INSULT THE INTELLIGENCE OF A GRADE  
SCHOOL PUPIL" Harry T. Conover

"OUR EDITORIAL EFFORTS WERE NOT INVOLVED"  
Chess Life & Review

BY AN AMAZING STROKE OF BAD LUCK YOUR EDITOR HAS ATTAINED THE "SECOND HALF" OF THE "CHESSMAN" COMICS THAT WERE MISTAKENLY PUBLISHED IN THE OCTOBER 1979 ISSUE OF CHESS LIFE & REVIEW. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

AND IT SOON BECOMES CLEAR THAT CHESSMAN IS FIGHTING FOR SOMETHING MORE THAN MERE MONEY! YES, IT'S A ...

NORM

WHICH SEEMS TO AFFECT HIS ATTITUDE...

DRAW? DRAW? DRAW?

Гулько



Aug - Sept 1978 CSCA Bulletin, page 5

CHRIS HENDRICKSON, CSCA Bulletin Artist extraordinary, is on her way to Denmark!! Yep, the sweetheart of Colorado Chess has made it big, and will play in Esbjerg, Denmark at the Danmarksgade Skola from July 16th through 22nd. Four grandmasters, four IM's and six untitled Danish players will play in the top section; Chris will play in a Master section (Danish masters are equivalent to our 1900-2100 players). Chris is one of America's leading female players and her trip in part is being sponsored by the CSCA Events Fund. She asked that thanks be expressed to all those who contributed to the fund, and especially "Ruth Wiley, Haynes Hendee and Gary MacDonald".

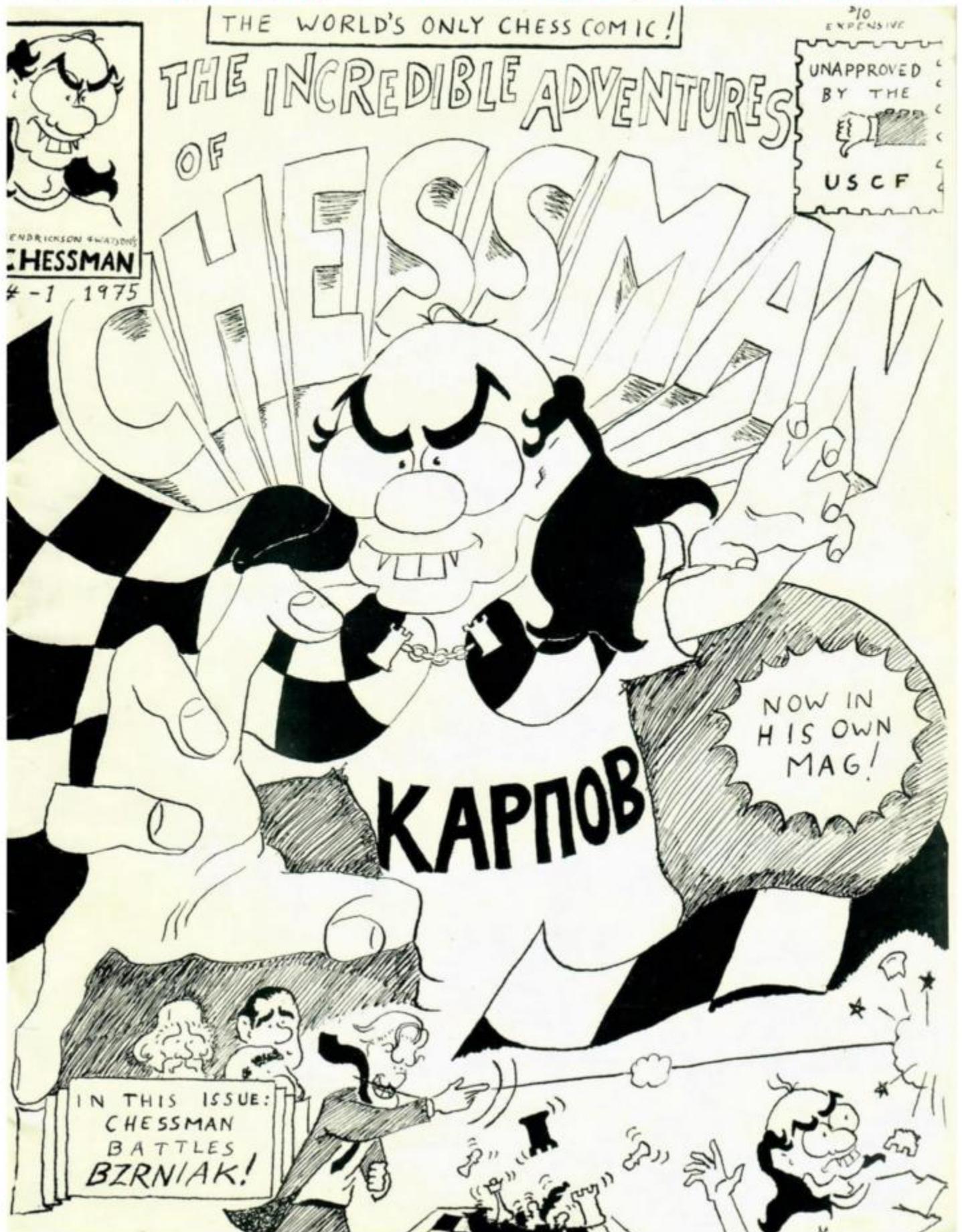


Christine sketching during tournaments

Her sketch of John Watson



# Chessman Comics Issue #1 1975 Illustrations by Christine Hendrickson



# Chessman Illustrations by Christine Hendrickson Oct. 1979 Chess Life & Review

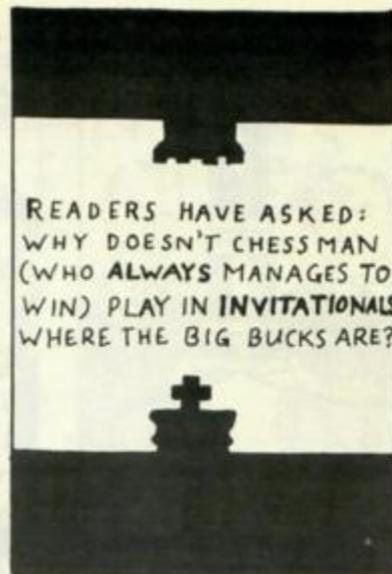
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT? RIGHT HERE, IN THE PAGES OF *CHESS LIFE & REVIEW*...

# CHESSMAN

THE COSMIC CHESSPLAYER  
=IN=

## CHESSMAN HITS THE BIG TIME!

by JOHN WATSON/drawn by CHRIS HENDRICKSON



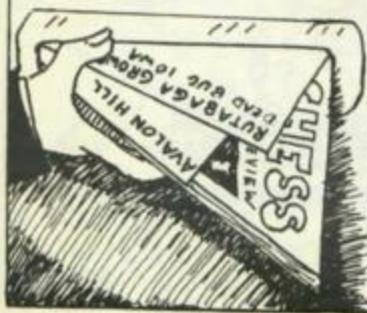
READERS HAVE ASKED: WHY DOESN'T CHESSMAN (WHO ALWAYS MANAGES TO WIN) PLAY IN INVITATIONALS WHERE THE BIG BUCKS ARE?

THE THOUGHT HAS CROSSED HIS MIND...

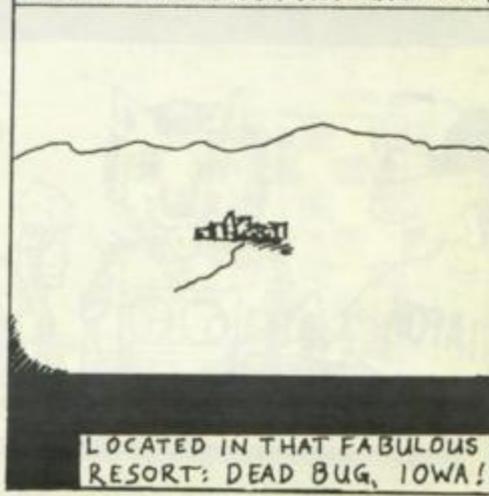


BUT FIRST, ONE NEEDS AN INVITATION!

### E4



YES, CHESSMAN'S BEEN INVITED TO THE 1979 RUTABAGA INTERNATIONAL!





MADE POSSIBLE BY THOSE WEALTHY PHILANTHROPISTS, THE RUTABAGA GROWERS!

WHO INVITE ALL THE BIG GUNS AND PUT DEAD BUG ON THE MAP!



SO, AFTER FEVERISH PREPARATION...



... AND TRAINING BY HIS MENTOR PROFESSOR ZUGZWANG...

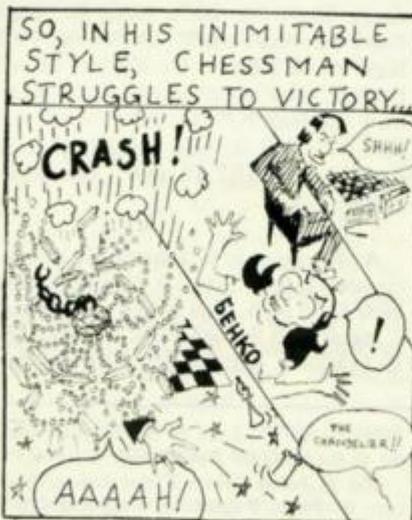
CHESSMAN ARRIVES AT THE TOURNAMENT!



IN THE FIRST ROUND, CHESSMAN IS LOSING (AS USUAL) TO GRANDMASTER ZAINAR TRAGNYLB, ANTARCTICAN ZONAL CHAMPION!



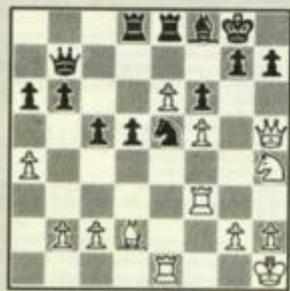
SUDDENLY, AT THE CRUCIAL MOMENT IN TIME PRESSURE, TRAGNYLB'S WIFE IS ACCOSTED BY THUGS!



Due to circumstances beyond our control, Chessman will continue ...

**Can You Solve This?**

White needs all four attacking pieces and two pawns to do it.

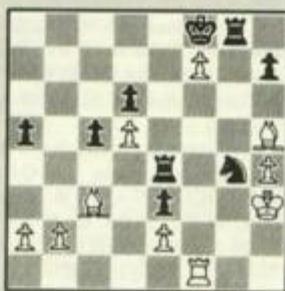


White to move ♙

1. RfN Pxf2 2. Qxf6! KxQ 3. N-N6 and mates.

**Or This?**

Leave White the advantage of the two Bishops and a lost game.

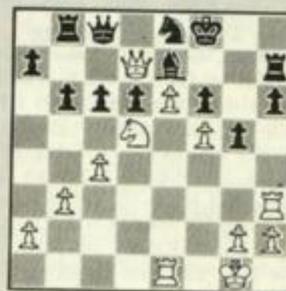


Black to move ♚

1. ... N-B7ch 2. RfN Rxf6h! 3. KxR PxfR

**Or This?**

It's the second move that's hard to find.



White to move ♙

1. RxfP QxQ 2. RxfR Q-Q1 3. R-B7ch K-N1 4. Nxf6h K-R1 5. R-K3

## Brian Wall tribute from July 2005

Colorado Chess Informant

www.colorado-chess.com

July 2005, Volume 32 Number 3

### REMEMBERING CHRISTINE HENDRICKSON

FEBRUARY 8, 1949–JUNE 27, 2005  
WITH BRIAN WALL

I talked to Christine Hendrickson 2 days before she died.

Her last words to me were, " I love you, Brian but I have to go now."

I asked if I could visit her in Boulder but she said it was only family now.

When she was 18 she wanted to move to Haight-Ashbury and become a hippie. Her mom went with her for a month to get her set up and then left her alone.

The love of her life was IM John Watson who was her friend to the end. Many of us that were around 30 years ago remember the Chess House at 5th and Bannock in Denver, Colorado they set up - Chess tables on the first floor and living quarters upstairs. Chrissy said John was the first man she met that could remember whole games in his head.

Chrissy also had a crush on the Highlander guy - she belonged to this club that would set up Highlander events around the world. She once told him - " You are the ultimate man. "

After her big affair with John was over she decided she was going to support herself. She went to the Boulder library, told them she was going to work there 30 years and retire (she

almost made it). She built her own log cabin which is worth about a quarter million today. She said when she was building it she had lots of muscles and felt like Superwoman.

Chrissy told me once she had a policy that if any man asked her to marry her she would say Yes. I asked her last week if it was too late for the honeymoon.

Christine Hendrickson is also known as the artist of Chessman Comic Book, written by Watson.

Christine told me that she really enjoyed going to Europe to get John his IM title. They were young and foolish without much money. Christine would draw a guy in a bar and tell him the next drawing would cost him \$10. One time John got interested in something and took off. Christine did not know what to do. She said she just stayed exactly where she was and John came back later that day.

Christine was also very proud of her US Postal Women's Olympic team jacket. I smiled when I saw a handmade black, wooden Chess table from the Chess house in her log cabin.

Christine was also a highly valued member of the Boulder Volunteer Firefighter Squad. Christine told me once a fire had cut her off and she was prepared to

die. She survived by bounding down a steep mountainside like a mountain goat, the only way out. Her fellow firefighters had given her up for dead and were quite shocked to see her.

Christine always hand drew her own Christmas cards displaying important events of the year. She used a funny drawing of me when I was very young as her artist calling card for many years.

One time John prepared Chrissy with an innovation in the French against GM Shamkovitch. I think it was a U.S. Open. Chrissy was winning for a long time and the GM was sweating. He did not know what was wrong and told his friends, "I just cannot play against women! " Eventually the difference in playing strengths was too much. Chrissy still remembered what she did wrong in that game. IM Watson is a world renowned French expert, writing 3 books and numerous articles about it. At my first Denver seminar with Roman Dzindzichashvili 3 years ago Chrissy played the French and drew Roman which I made an email about. Roman roared when he saw it - " Thanks a lot, Brian!! "

You can see more writing about Chrissy at [www.walverine.com](http://www.walverine.com) and type Christine in the search field.

*(Continued on page 14)*

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One time 30 years ago I was bragging to friends I could beat Watson and Chrissy at a nearby table shocked me by shouting fiercely, " I will bet you money you don't win your game!! ". I had to back down. From that moment to now, I realized how much Christine loved and believed in John down to her DNA. It was visceral. Later in the 1977 Colorado Open I did manage to beat Watson in the last round, beating Dave Jellison on tie breaks for the title. Beating Watson felt like an impossible task. I was 23 and I guess I just wanted it more. Watson told Christine, " I can't even win in Colorado any more ". The game wasn't that great. John played 1 c4, which he wrote at least 4 books on. I answered with the King's Indian because Nikitovitch and I used to play a lot of those in college together. At some point John just had a momentary lapse and dropped an exchange. He almost lost on time and I pleaded with him to hurry up and make the time control and to trust me. They had some unusual, tricky deal going that tournament. I got my best piece of Chess advice ever that game. I had no clue what to do and was quite terrified and Curt Carlson said, "Remember, Brian, he has to beat you, you don't have to do anything. " which calmed me down because usually I have to create chances from drawn positions.

I don't know how some people do it but I never heard a bad word from anyone about Chrissy. Everyone liked her. She was fun to be around. Chrissy told me she considered it a major breakthrough when I could no longer beat her at 5 minutes to 30 seconds. She always liked playing blitz with me. She was one of the highest rated women to ever play in Colorado. I think only Chrissy and Debra Johnson became experts. Christine was highly sensitive and cared about everyone and everything. She said some local teenage jerks stole a cat and sold him to science or just killed him for fun. It haunted her deeply for many years. Her father is still alive - he must be in his 80's. I saw him at the hospital.

Danielle Rice and I remember the Chess House days and visited Christine in the Boulder hospital 2 months ago and both played her blitz. Renae circulated a card from the Colorado Springs crowd and sent it to her. Chrissy had a lot of friends at the hospital from all the different parts of her life, like Chessplayers, firefighters, family, Highlander girls and library people.

Christine was still playing postal Chess with people all over the world. Her European adventures made her extra useful at the library with rare volumes in foreign languages.

Christine was one of the really fun, interesting people to be around when I started in Chess and she stayed that way her whole life. If I can get some old scoresheets of hers, I can bring her back to life.

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**David Letterman's  
Top Ten Moments  
When You Should  
Sense Danger in Chess!**

10. Your opponent has 3 bishops.
9. Your draw offer sends all the people watching your game into uncontrollable laughter.
8. You don't control any squares at all.
7. Just as you make your opening move your opponent announces mate in 11.
6. After completing your development you sense your opponent playing the endgame.
5. Before game begins you notice your opponents 1st initials are 'GM'.
4. The Tournament Director tells you not to bother turning in your scoresheet after the game.
3. You have a position won but your opponent has a gun.
2. Your opponent begins to throw pawns at your eyes.
1. There has been a change in the pawn structure. Your opponent has 8 and you don't have any.

Rocky Mountain News obituary from August 1, 2005

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2005

# Farewell to one who moved us

Christine Hendrickson, Colorado's strongest female chess player for the last 30 years, died June 27 at her home outside of Boulder at age 56.

Hendrickson received a bachelor's in psychology from the University of Colorado in 1971 and worked for more than 27 years at the school's library.

She also was a volunteer firefighter with the Four Mile Fire Protection District for 21 years.

In the early 1970s, Hendrickson and John Watson ran the Chess House near downtown Denver.

Hendrickson was a gifted artist and illustrat-

ed *Chessman Comic*, written by Watson.

One of Hendrickson's greatest chess accomplishments was representing the United States by playing Board 4 on the 1992 Ladies Correspondence Chess Olympiad V chess team.



Todd Bardwick

**COLORADO CHESS**

For 30 years, Hendrickson ran the prison chess program for the Colorado State Chess Association, where she arranged simultaneous exhibitions in the prisons, taking Dave Jellison, Joe Eversole, Glenn Miller, Jim Burden, Randy Canney, Brian Wall and myself to play against the inmates. Hendrickson also served on the board of the United States Chess Federation Prison Program.

Hendrickson always had an amazingly positive attitude and was a friend to all. She was a huge CU Buffaloes fan and Denver Broncos buff. The Colorado chess community will miss her dearly.

Here is one of Hendrickson's favorite games from the 1992 Ladies Correspondence Chess Olympiad V against Marie Bazantova of the Czech Republic.

Todd Bardwick is a National Chess Master and runs the Chess Academy of Denver. He can be reached through his website at [www.ColoradoMasterChess.com](http://www.ColoradoMasterChess.com)

Hendrickson



Bazantova

Bazantova (Czech Republic) - Hendrickson (United States), French Defence

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ndf3 Qb6 8.g3 cxd4 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Kf2 Nf8 11.Kg2 Bd7 12.Ne2 Be7 13.a3 Na5 14.b4 Nc4 15.Nc3 Rc8 16.Na4 Draw Agreed



This is Chris's favorite game from the 1989 U.S. Women's Championship.

[Event "1989 U.S. Women's Championship"]

[Site "Spartanburg, South Carolina"]

[Date "July 7, 1989"]

[Round "2"]

[White "Chris Hendrickson (1975)"]

[Black "Natasha Us (1945)"]

[Result "1-0"]

1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Bb4 3. g3 Bxc3 4. bxc3 d6 5. Bg2 Ne7 6. e4 O-O 7. Ne2 Be6 8.d3 Nd7 9. O-O Qc8 10. h3 Nb6 11. Kh2 f6 12. Be3 Qd7 13. a4 Nbc8 14. f4 Nc6 15. f5 Bf7 16. g4 N8e7 17. Ng3 Na5 18. g5 fxg5 19. Bxg5 c6 20.Nh5 Bxh5 21. Qxh5 d5 22.cxd5 exd5 23. Bxe7 Qxe7 24. exd5 Nb3 25. Ra2 Ne5 26. Be4 Qd6 27. Rg2 Nxa4 28. f6 Rxf6 29. Qxh7+ Kf8 30. Qxg7+ Ke8 31. Rxf6 1-0



Position after 27...Nxa4

John Dunning became a Senior Master in 1995.

[Event "Colorado Springs Open"]

[Site "Colorado Springs"]

[Date "March 3, 1990"]

[Round "3"]

[White "Chris Hendrickson (1894)"]

[Black "John Dunning (2386)"]

[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1. Na3 Nf6 2. c4 e5 3. g3 e6 4. Bg2 d5 5. d3 Nc6 6. Nf3 Be7 7. O-O O-O 8. Bg5 b6 9. Rc1 Bb7 10. exd5 Nxd5 11. Bxe7 Qxe7 12. Nc2 Rfd8 13. Qd2 e5 14. Qg5 f6 15.Qg4 Bc8 16. Qh5 Be6 17. Bh3 Rac8 18. Bxe6+ Qxe6 19. Nh4 Nde7 20. Ne3 Nd4 21.Rfe1 a5 22. b3 Rd7 23. Ne4 b5 24. Ne3 Ra7 25. Rxc5 Raa8 26. Rxc8+ Rxc8 27. Nf3 Nec6 28. Kf1 g6 29. Nxd4 exd4 30. Qd5 Kf7 31. Qxe6+ Kxe6 32.Nc2 Kd5 33. a3 Na7 34.Rc1 Rc3 35. Ne3+ Ke5 36. Rxc3+ dxc3 37. Ke1 Ne6 38. Ne2 b4 39. a4 Nd4 40.Nxd4 Kxd4 41. Kd1 Kd5 Draw



Position after 24...Ra7

This is one of Chris's favorite games from the 1992 Ladies Correspondence Chess Olympiad V.

[Event "1992 Ladies Correspondence Chess Olympiad V, Board 4"]

[Site "Correspondance Game"]

[Date "1992-1993"]

[White "Marie Bazantova (Czech Republic)"]

[Black "Chris Hendrickson (United States)"]

[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 Nf6 4. e5 Nfd7 5. f4 e5 6. c3 Nc6 7. Ndf3 Qb6 8. g3 exd4 9. exd4 Bb4+ 10. Kf2 Nf8 11. Kg2 Bd7 12. Ne2 Be7 13. a3 Na5 14. b4 Nc4 15.Nc3 Rc8 16. Na4 Draw



Position after 16.Na4