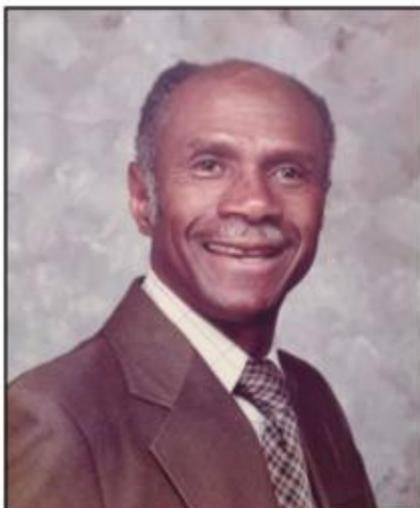


## John A. Harris

*March 18, 1925 – October 27, 1995*



John Harris was born and raised in Denver. He graduated from Colorado State University and was a Senior Planning Engineer for the city of Denver.

John and his wife, Naomi, have two children, Jay (John, Jr.) and Melanie.

Harris came onto the chess scene in Denver soon after CSCA's inception in 1958. His contributions to Colorado Chess in the 1960's and early 1970's helped form the organization that is enjoyed today by Colorado chess players. Other organizers of that era were John Howell, Bob Shean, George Pippingos, George Bailey, Pat Mahoney, and Caswell Silver. This group brought the U.S. Open to Snowmass at Aspen in 1968, numerous Grandmaster simulms to Denver including Bobby Fischer in 1964, and the Fisher-Larsen World Championship Quarter Final Match in 1971.

Harris was the first Historian of Colorado State Chess Association. "Reflecting Back" was a series of historical columns he wrote in the CSCA Bulletin (1977-1978). John also wrote a column in the March-July 1983 Colorado Chess Informant entitled, "Colorado Open History", an Obituary to Caswell Silver in the January 1989 Colorado Chess Informant, and "Chess at Lowry AFB Fades Away" in the October 1993 Colorado Chess Informant. Much of the known history of CSCA at that time is from John's writings.

### **Other highlights of Harris's contributions to Colorado Chess:**

1962-64 Secretary of the Denver Chess League (which sponsored biweekly team matches between a large number of local clubs)

1963-1967 Secretary of CSCA

1966-1967 President of the Denver Chess League

President of the Colorado State Chess Association from 1968-1970 and 1971-1972

1975 CSCA Board member and 1976-77 Vice-President of the CSCA

Alternate Delegate to USCF from Colorado from 1976-1977

Harris was on the committee with Royal Franklin to get CSCA "tax-exempt" status in 1976

Colorado State Tournament Director for USCF for 8 terms

Permanent Member and Team Captain for CSCA Traveling Team

Along with others and John Howell, Harris founded the Colorado Junior Championship Tournament in 1967 and was its Tournament Director from 1967-1969.

John Harris (along with John Howell) was instrumental in bringing the U.S. Open to Snowmass at Aspen in 1968 and was the Official Host at the event.

Also in 1968, Harris directed the Denver Open and founded the Lowry Air Force Base Championship by contacting Joseph F. Sparling, who was directing very informal chess activity at the Air Force Base, and together they set up a tournament which involved 16 men, the top two to go to the Air Training Command Tournament. Harris directed the Lowry Air Force Base tournament for many years. (Lowry won four years in a row from 1972-1975, Donald Sutherland, was the Individual U.S. Armed Forces Champion and Colorado State Champion in 1973.) The Lowry Air Force Base Championship lasted many years until the base closed in 1994.

Harris was the Admissions Director for the 1971 Fischer-Larsen World Championship Quarter Finals Match and played tennis with Bobby Fischer during breaks of the match.

Harris established the chess prison program and team at Colorado State Prison in Canyon City and set up their Chess Library.

John designed the artwork for every Commemorative plaque given out at Colorado Tournaments, 1970-1980s.

From 1969-1975, he served on a 3-man USCF Merit Committee which presents Honor Awards to individuals across the nation who have distinguished themselves by their dedication and service to chess.

Harris was the Founder and Team Captain of the Glenarm Chess Club and the Director of the Explorer Scouts Chess Olympics in 1970 and 1972.

Harris, a Class C rated player, was the first official recipient of the Appreciation Award in 1974.

John Arberia Harris, Sr. passed away on October 27, 1995.



*Harris and George Pipingos - 1975*



*Bent Larsen and John Harris at 1968 Larsen Simul*

SIMULTANEOUS CHESS EXHIBITION

**BENT LARSEN**  
Danish and U. S. Open Champion

sponsored by

**May - D & F University Hills**  
Shopping Center, Third Floor  
2700 Colorado Boulevard

Arranged by: Colorado State Chess Association,  
John A. Harris, President  
U. S. Chess Federation,  
John A. Howell, Regional Vice President

# COLORADO STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION

AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION

CSCA NEWSLETTER

Vol 1, No 2

May, 1974

## APPRECIATION OPEN

May 25, 26, 27, 1974  
Sponsored by CSCA

Dedicated To

JOHN  
HARRIS



JOHN A. HARRIS: Secretary of Denver Chess League 1962-1964; President of Denver Chess League 1966-67; Secretary of the Colorado State Chess Ass'n 1963-67; President of the Colorado State Chess Ass'n 1967-1969, 1970-1971; Colorado State Director for the United States Chess Federation...7 terms; Original Founder and Team Captain of the Glenasm Chess Club; Permanent Member and Team Captain of the C.S.C.A. Traveling Team; Founder of the Colorado State Junior Championship Tournament... also the Director of this Tournament for 1967-68-69; Instrumental in bringing the United States Open to Colorado in 1968, where John served as Official Host; Founder of the Lowry A.F.B. Championship Tournament, which he has Directed for the Last 6 years; Director of Explorer Scouts Chess Olympics 1970, 1972; Director of the Denver Open 1968; Director of Multiple 30-30 Tournaments; Admissions Director for the World Semi-finals Match Between Fischer/Larsen, 1971; Instrumental in Establishing the Chess Team at the Colorado State Prison at Cannon City, Including the Founding of their Chess Library; Has Designed Art Work for Every Commemorative Plaque Given Out at Colorado Tournaments.

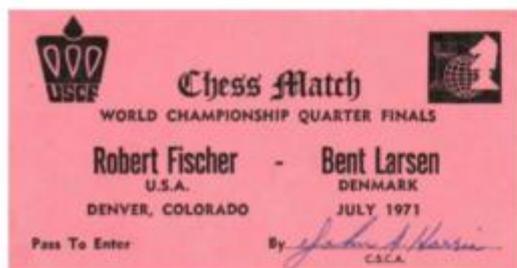
The primary problem encountered when writing a testimonial for a man such as John Harris is knowing when to stop the credits; they seemingly go on and on forever. John is involved. He always finds the time and energy for one more chore, one more committee, one more office.

For some time now, John has served on a three-man United States Chess Federation Committee...the Merit Committee. These men search out, investigate and present Honor Awards to Chess Players across the nation who have distinguished themselves by their dedication and service to Chess. When a man like John Harris, with his own record, is utilized to hand out the awards, those winners must be really something else!

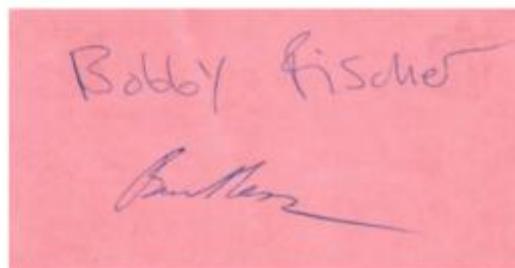
All of the Chess Players in the Rocky Mountain Region owe John Harris a debt of gratitude; we here in Colorado are intensely proud to have him. Thank you, John.

APPRECIATION OPEN OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM - PAGE 15

May 1974 CSCA Newsletter cover



Front of 1971 Fischer - Larsen Match Entry Pass - signed by Harris



Reverse of 1971 Fischer-Larsen Match Entry Pass - signed by Fischer and Larsen

**21st SEASON**  
 Colorado's First and FAVORITE  
 Historic Cripple Creek  
 June 16 thru Sept. 7

**Imperial Hotel**  
 Cripple Creek, Colorado

**COLORADO STATE CHESS ASSOCIATION**  
 ORGANIZED UNDER THE UNITED STATES CHESS FEDERATION

August 17, 1968

**Follow Chess Players!**

In honor of the Colorado State Chess Association, it is my pleasure to welcome those of you to the 21st Season of the Colorado State Chess Association at the historic Cripple Creek, Colorado.

We, of the participating community of Colorado, have pleasure in extending our warmest wishes to you and your family in connection with the present tournament at the C. S. Chess Federation.

As desired that the Colorado State Chess Association, State Chess Club and the most illustrious Colorado State Chess Association, respectfully, we have been given to Colorado a memorable event.

Respectfully yours,  
*John A. Harris*  
 President

In  
 Memory  
 of  
**Al Wallace**

Planning the 1968 US Open - from program book

John Harris letter in 1968 US Open program book



1977 US Junior Invitational - seated from left to right - John A. Harris, Bob Shean, Rod Avery (Assistant TD), GM Isaac Kashdan (TD), John A. Howell, Gil Humphrey

**FUTURE COLORADO CHESS CHAMP '77**

**Shean Wins Boulder Open**

**REGION NINE NEWS**  
 Royal Franklin  
 USCF Regional VP



Trophy from 1960

April - May 1978 CSCA Informant, page 15 Harris and son at 1978 Al Wallace Memorial tournament - John Harris, Jr.



John at work as a Senior Planning Engineer for the city of Denver



Harris and Howell - 1977 Denver Chess Club Breakfast Banquet



John at work at work as a Senior Planning Engineer for the city of Denver



John Harris - Rocky Mountain News - Dec 31, 1967



U.S. Open in Aspen Snowmass 1968



A Tribute to John Harris - Jan 1996 Colorado Chess Informant, page 20

