

## Royal E. Franklin

May 5, 1930 – January 26, 2018



Royal Franklin was born and raised in Sterling, Colorado. As a boy he worked for Goodrich Dairy and in his twenties founded Royal Printing Company with his brother Earl.

Royal's son, Rod, believes his father learned how to play chess soon after graduating from high school. Royal later became a Class B tournament player.

Royal raised five kids with his wife Dollee, who he married on February 5, 1950.

In 1961, he sold the printing company to his brother and moved to south Denver. Royal worked as a trader at Boetcher & Company for a year in 1961-62 and started a map company, Royal Map Company, which he ran for 4-5 years. He joined Permalite installing and selling storm windows into the 1970s.

Early in the 1970s, Royal started a part-time printing business in his basement, which turned into Royal Printing in the 1980s. He ran Royal Printing through 2014. He bought the printing press that he used to print the CSCA Bulletin with from the Denver Broncos in 1971.

Royal was on the CSCA Board (Secretary) from 1973-75 and starting in 1974 he was a CSCA Advisor to Bulletin Editor, John Watson (in June 1975 Robert O'Donnell took over editorship of the CSCA Bulletin from Watson).

Franklin was President of the Colorado State Chess Association from 1975-76.

Royal was a leader in the move toward getting chess organizations recognized as non-profits. In 1976, the CSCA Articles of Incorporation were amended to apply for tax-exempt status (CSCA was one of only three State Associations to enjoy tax-exempt status at that time). Franklin was the author of a booklet called *Chess Organizations and 501 (C) (3)* which he distributed to other USCF State Affiliates. USCF recognized his work, naming Franklin Chairman of the USCF Non-Profit Committee. Royal received inquiries from state organizations and gave advice on getting tax-exempt status. In his booklet he gave Colorado's Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws as examples of the documents that were needed. [The chess rating system was presented as a teaching process (ie – educational) as a main argument to getting 501 (C) (3) status from the IRS.]

Franklin was Editor of CSCA Bulletin from 1976-1978, gaining national recognition for the quality publication.

In a letter from Dean College in Massachusetts, the Chairman of the Math/Science Department, Peter E. Sakkinen, one of the driving forces behind the birth of the program, wrote to: Royal Franklin, CSCA Bulletin editor (June 27, 1977) "...You should be very proud of the high quality and content of your bulletin. For a chess player in Colorado, the inclusion of photos along with games of their efforts must make the bulletin a very personal document with lasting value. One of our objectives is to put together a superb library. I shall be arguing for funds for securing, among other items, key state publications from across the country. The CSCA Bulletin will surely be included because of its exceptional quality."

CSCA President Haynes Hendee wrote on page 3 of the Oct-Nov 1978 CSCA Bulletin, "...Royal Franklin performed so well as Bulletin editor that he gained considerable national attention. The Illinois delegation to the annual delegates' meeting wanted to replace the *Chess Life & Review* editor with Franklin. The USCF Policy Board went so far as to invite Royal to dinner to discuss the possibility of becoming editor of *Chess Life & Review*. However, the Policy Board also invited Burt Hochberg, the present editor, to the same dinner, thus putting Royal in an awkward position. Royal laid out his ideas anyway."

Franklin stayed on the CSCA Board from 1976-78 and was an Alternate Delegate to USCF from Colorado in 1976-77.

He was also USCF Vice-President for Region IX from 1977-1980.

Victor Korchnoi's Denver visit in 1977 was arranged by Franklin. Korchnoi gave a lecture on political and personal pressures of being a Soviet chess player and the reasons for his defection, before giving a simultaneous exhibition. Denver was one of only 12 cities in the U.S. to host Korchnoi.

In April of 1978, Royal hosted former World Chess Champion Tigran Petrosian's visit to Denver. Dollee and Royal took Tigran and his wife Rona shopping and to a Denver Nuggets playoff game. Petrosian beat all 25 players in only two hours on April 17 in the simul.

Royal was friends and corresponded with chess luminaries George Koltanowski and Arpad Elo.

Franklin was also a professional rosarian. In the early 1980s, Royal studied the soil and invented Mile High Rose Food fertilizer (kelp and alfalfa were supplements added to the rose feed mix) which was specifically tailored for Colorado soils and was well known up and down the Colorado front range for decades.

Royal was an avid skydiver and traveled the world. At age 80, he visited the base camp in Nepal where climbers begin their final ascent to the summit of Mount Everest. Three years later, he met the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India. Royal took a trip down the Yangtze River in China, across Russia on the Trans-Siberian Railway, climbed Ayers Rock in Australia, and Mount Sinai in Egypt. He visited the rock-cut city of Petra in Jordan, petted lions in Zimbabwe, and hiked the Grand Canyon more than 25 times in the 1980s and 90s.

Royal Edwin Franklin passed away on January 26, 2018 of neck squamous cell cancer.



1951 Sterling Chess Club - Royal standing with pipe



1953 - Royal playing his brother Stan



1975 CSCA Board - standing left to right - Scott Lett, Bob Shapiro, Gil Humprey, John Harris, Robert Overdorff - seated left to right - Rudy Ramsey, Royal Franklin, John Stine



Royal Franklin with Jay Whitehead at 1977 US Junior Invitational



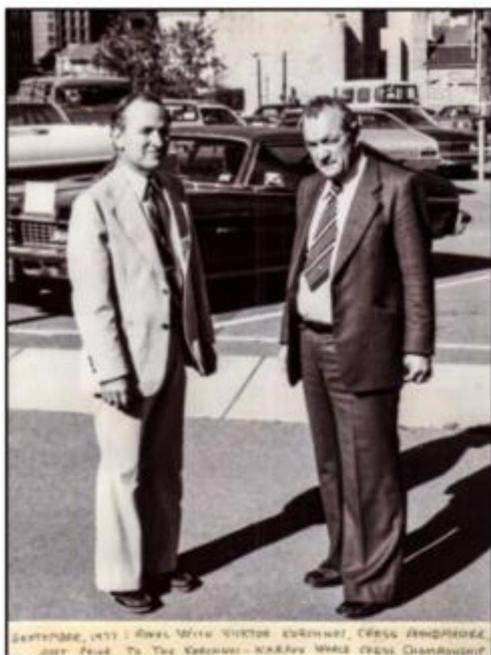
1975-1977 CSCA Bulletins and 501 (c) (3)



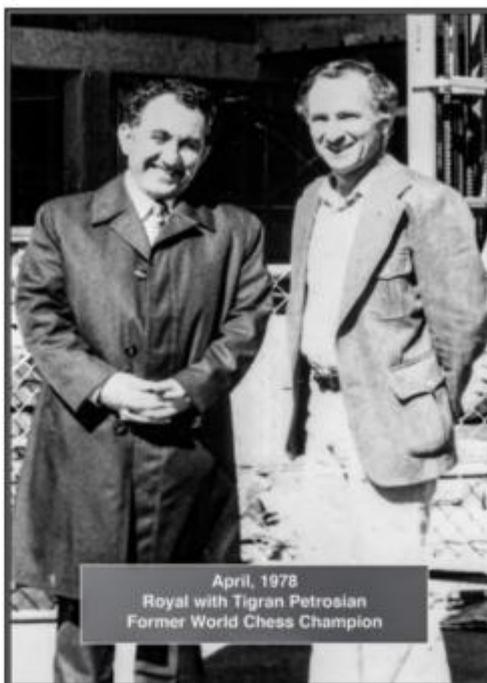
Printing press used to print the CSCA Bulletin purchased from the Denver Broncos in 1971



Royal trimming his miniature roses in 2008



Royal Franklin (l) welcoming Victor Korchnoi to Denver in 1977



April, 1978  
Royal with Tigran Petrosian  
Former World Chess Champion

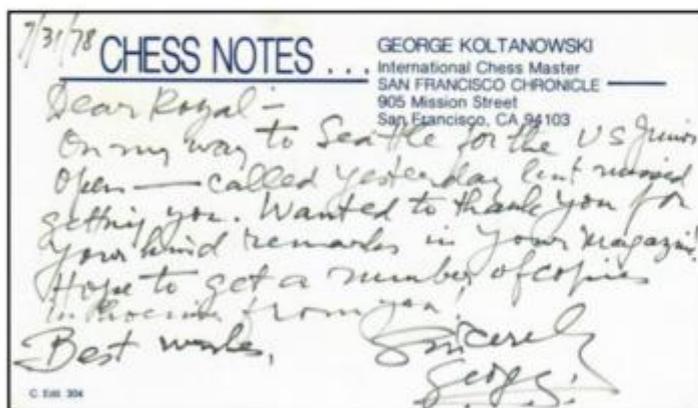


Royal with Mrs. Tigran Petrosian

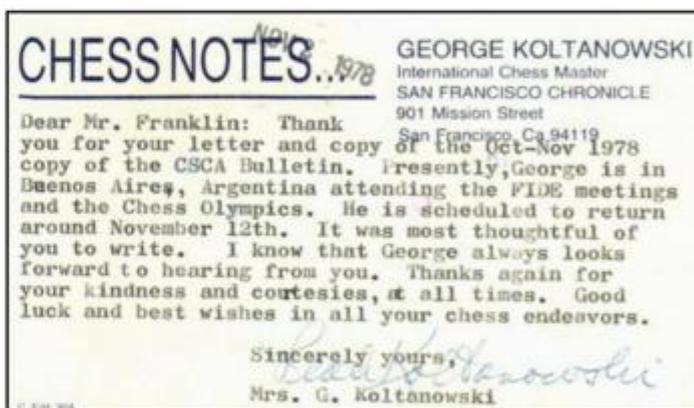


Dollee with Mrs. Tigran Petrosian  
Denver Nuggets Basketball

Tigran Petrosian and his wife with the Franklins in 1978



Chess Notes from Koltky - July 31, 1978



Chess Notes from Mrs. Koltky - November 2, 1978



Royal making chess boards for the Denver Chess Club with their name on them - these were at the DCC when it was at the Capital Hill Community at Chessemann Park in the early to mid-1980s



Hall of Fame Induction on September 4, 2015 with Randy Canney

Royal E. Franklin, 3872 E. Peakview Cir., Littleton, Colo.  
 September 15, 1977

I have this date received \$500.00 cash from Mr. Royal Franklin for simultaneous exhibition and lecture of September 14.

*[Signature]*  
 Viktor Korchnoi

Receipt of payment from Korchnoi -September 15, 1977

Arpad E. Elo  
 2300 ROBERTS ROAD  
 BUCKINGHAM, WASHINGTON 20812  
 July 17, 1978

Mr. Royal Franklin, Editor  
 CCA Bulletin

Dear Mr. Franklin:

Thank you very much for sending me the copies of the CCA Bulletin. You have put together a fine little magazine, well organized and interesting all the way through. You can feel justified pride in your product.

Your selections from the papers presented at the Lincoln Conference were well chosen. I think you got the essential lines across very well for your readers. It was good reporting.

It was very nice to meet you in Lincoln and I hope we may have another opportunity to meet and talk about chess and culture.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely,  
*[Signature]*  
 Arpad E. Elo

Arpad Elo letter, July 17, 1978

*[Stamp]*

Dear Royal:  
 Thanks for the information. You should be getting posters, publicity and scorebooks by the middle of July.  
 Have some stories and articles - but don't know if they are up to you. Will have to look for further photos. Am going to Pasadena to hand out the prizes in the U.S. Championship next Monday.  
 Best wishes,  
*[Signature]*  
 Jozsef Koltanowski

Koltanowski letter - June 21, 1978

MEMO  
 from the desk of  
 GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI  
 6/24/78

Dear Royal:  
 Enclosed a couple of small articles.  
 Have a story, never published before, but...  
 ① Too long  
 ② Has not been corrected  
 ③ Doubt if it has any value.  
 So will see what I can come up with, after I return from Pasadena, where I have to hand out the prizes in the U.S. Championship.  
 Best wishes,  
*[Signature]*  
 Jozsef Koltanowski

ANSWERED JUL 27 1978

Koltanowski letter - June 24, 1978

**Rod Franklin is with Luke Gallegos**  
 February 2, 2018

Here's a sad one from one of those guys who doesn't post very much on Facebook.

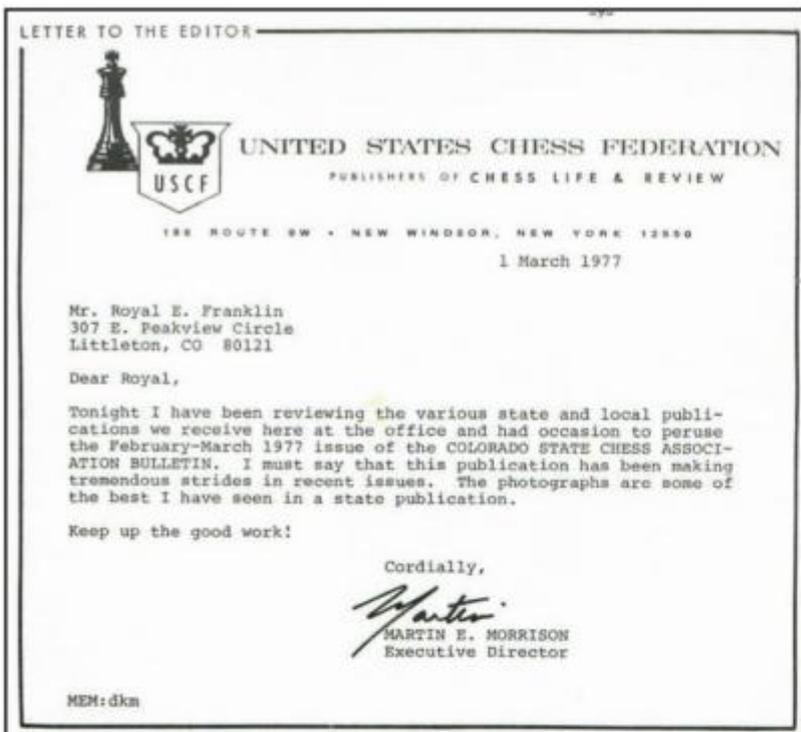
A tribute to Royal Edwin Franklin, my wonderful 87 year old father, who died of squamous cell cancer on Jan. 26, 2018.

Love you so much, Dad, for everything you did, for everything you taught, and for everything you are.

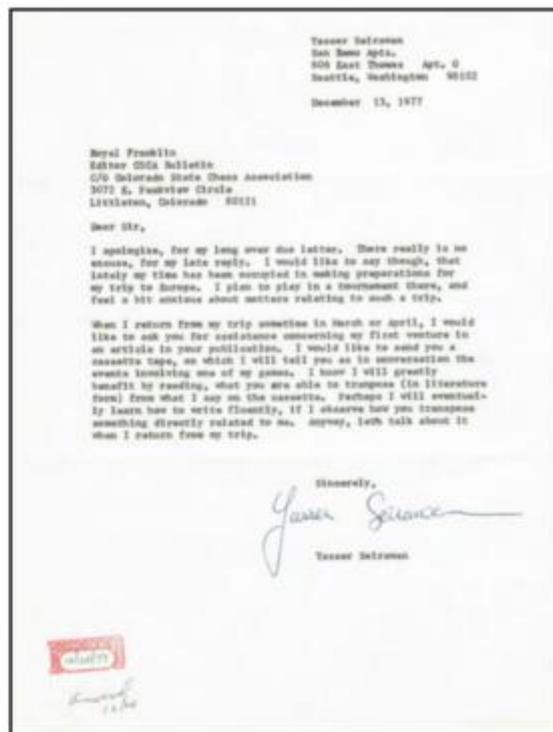
- \* A man who grew up in the farming community of Sterling, Colorado, but who always went his own way and raised his five kids on Beethoven, Mozart, Tchaikovsky and Bach instead of country and western music.
- \* A man who was always a biker at heart, but of the loving family-man variety and not the tough-guy variety. A man who kicked off his lifetime of adventures on a huge Harley Davidson Electra Glide way back in the late 1960s, with a trip down to the Panama Canal, and followed that with additional bike trips all over Alaska and the United States. A man who still continued to own one of those giant Harley Davidsons in his late 70s.
- \* A master rosarian who did so much to bring the beauty of roses into this world when he invented Mile Hi Rose Feed (<http://milehirosefeed.com>), a rose fertilizer specifically tailored for Colorado soils and well known up and down Colorado's front range for decades.
- \* A traveler extraordinaire who led his wife Dollee around the planet time and time again, visiting more places than I can even recall. Even at age 80, he felt compelled to visit the base camp in Nepal where climbers begin their final ascent to the summit of Mount Everest. Three years later at age 83 he met the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India. Dad loved to take lengthy trips, like the one they took down the Yangtze River in China, and another across the length of Russia on the Trans Siberian Railway. He climbed Ayers Rock in central Australia. He climbed Mount Sinai in Egypt. They visited the rock-cut city of Petra in Jordan. Dad petted lions in Zimbabwe. He traveled all over Europe with one of his friends to visit the homes of classical music composers.
- \* An early riser and outdoorsman who lived his whole life in beautiful Colorado, but was totally addicted to the Grand Canyon, hiking it with friends and family more than 25 times in the 80s and 90s.
- \* An old-school publisher who worked for years out of his basement to print business materials for Denver area clients, using an offset printing press once owned by the Denver Broncos.
- \* A brilliant chess player who read books on the subject, served as president of the Colorado Chess Association, and used to greet the grandmasters from Russia and elsewhere when they arrived in Denver for national and international chess tournaments.
- \* A self-taught carpenter, electrician, welder and plumber who built his own garage and wired his own house.

Love you always, Dad.

Facebook Tribute from Royal's son Rod



USCF Letter from Executive Director- page 9, April-May CSCA Bulletin

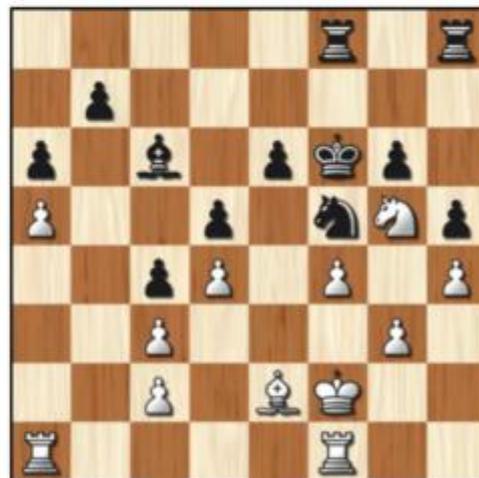


Yasser Seirawan letter - December 13, 1977

Wicker won the Premier Section of the 1974 Colorado Open winning 5.5 out of 6 points with a draw Franklin. Wicker was a quickly improving teenager who took clear second behind John Watson in the 1975 Colorado Open and tied for first in the 1976 Al Wallace Memorial tournament with Paul Nikitovich and Bob O'Donnell.

[Event "1974 Colorado Open"]  
[Site "Heart O'Denver Motel (1150 E. Colfax Ave.)"]  
[Date "August 31, 1974"]  
[Round "2"]  
[White "Scott Wicker (1618)"]  
[Black "Royal Franklin (1472)"]  
[Result "1/2-1/2"]

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 e4 7. Qg4 g6 8. a4 Bd7 9. h4 h5 10. Qf3 Nc6 11. Bg5 Nce7 12. Nh3 Bc6 13. a5 a6 14. Be2 Qd7 15. Bxe7 Qxe7 16. g3 O-O-O 17. O-O Rf8 18. Qe3 Nh6 19. Qg5 Kd7 20. Qxe7+ Kxe7 21. f4 Nf5 22. Kf2 f6 23. exf6+ Kxf6 24. Ng5 Nd6 25. Kg2 Nb5 26. Rf3 Nd6 27. Bf1 Nf7 28. Nxf7 Rxf7 29. Re3 Re8 30. Kf3 Rfe7 31. Bh3 Kf7 32. Re5 Kf6 33. Rae1 Bd7 34. R1e2 Kf7 35. g4 hxg4+ 36. Bxg4 Kf6 37. Kg3 Kf7 38. h5 Rg8 39. h6 Kf6 40. Kf3 Rh8 41. Rh2 Reh7 42. Rec2 Re7 Draw



Position after 24.Ng5



At Mt. Everest Base Camp  
September 15, 2010



Meeting the Dalai Lama in 2013



Lion Walk, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe,  
November 18, 2019