

# VALLEY OF THE MOON

Just before heading for Seattle to direct the 1966 U.S. Open, USCF Tournament Administrator George Koltanowski reported that his 16th Annual Valley of the Moon Outdoor Chess Festival at Sonoma, California, was a great success. This comes as no surprise to anyone who has ever attended one of these happy and festive chess events, for they are **always** hugely successful and enjoyed by all—and that includes the chessplayers' families, too!

The 1966 tournament had 248 players in 62 sections of 4 persons each, plus 4 players giving simultaneous exhibitions. There were another several hundred friends, kibitzers, and family members, all gathered under the lovely shade trees of Sonoma's central park area, enjoying not only the chess but the picnic lunch, the good fellowship, and the attractions of historic Sonoma and the nearby vineyard areas.

Individual trophy winners were: A Championship, John Blackstone, Saratoga; B Championship, Paul Vayssie, San Francisco; C Championship, tie between Manuel Rivera, Pittsburg, and Rodger Tucker, San Francisco; Over 60 Championship, Carl Huneke, San Francisco; Women's Championship, Mrs. Jean Oyler, Antioch; Junior Championship, Ridgley Schneider, Redwood City; Furthest Distance, G. Sehm, Los Angeles.

San Francisco's Kolty Chess Club took the trophy for most participants and the following clubs received trophies for cumulative scores of members: Bank of America, San Francisco; Concord Chess Club; Presidio, San Francisco; Richmond, Oakland, and San Bruno Chess Clubs.

A special prize donated by "Off the Square Arts" of Sonoma went to the youngest participant, Donald King of Santa Rosa, all of six years old!

In the exhibitions, California Champion Don Sutherland of San Francisco won 24 and drew 1; California Open Champion Captain John Hudson, Mather AFB, won 22, drew 1, lost 2; in tandem, John Blackstone and Aki Kanamori won 12, drew 3, lost 1; and Ridgley Schneider, junior champ in this event, defeated 5 other juniors in a simultaneous.