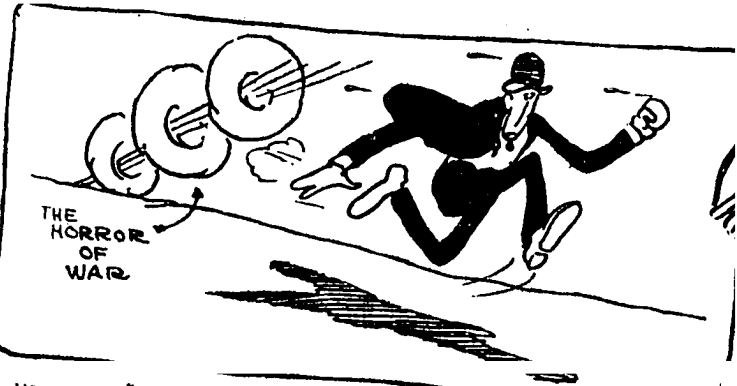


FRANK J. MARSHALL, CHESS CHAMPION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Master, Playing in German Tourney When War Is Declared, Sees Several of His Competitors Taken Prisoners.



HE WAS "PLAYING" IN THE WAR ZONE WHEN THE TROUBLE BROKE BUT MANAGED TO FLEE IN TIME.

BY HARVEY T. WOODRUFF.

United States Chess Champion Frank J. Marshall thanks his nationality that he was not interned in the European war zone. He was playing in the masters' tourney at Mannheim, Germany, at the time war was declared on Aug. 1. Most of the players were continentals. Those of German nativity are now serving in the kaiser's army, while the others, with a few exceptions, are held as prisoners of war. Marshall was conversing with John, the brilliant German master, when the latter received the telegram summoning him to join his regiment and telling him where to report. "I must go," remarked John quietly, and departed without telling where or why.

Janowski, the French champion, who was born in Poland but lives in Paris much of the time, was Marshall's opponent in a protracted game at the time war was declared. He was subjected to arrest, so were the Russian players, and at last accounts they still were prisoners. Alechine, 22 years old, a young Russian of whom much is expected in the chess world, took flight at the first tidings and made his escape. He was one of the few foreigners who did.

With the tournament rudely interrupted by the advent of Mars' hosts, Marshall hurried from the country with the American refugees. He departed so hurriedly that his baggage was left behind. When he will recover his effects and when the tourney at Mannheim will be finished, if ever, he does not know. But he considers that he is fortunate to have escaped and to be able to tour this country in exhibition matches, even though he lost a chance for the chief prize money abroad.

Marshall was born thirty-seven years ago—on Aug. 21, 1877, to be exact—in New York City, where his father was engaged in the flour business. He is of English-Scotch descent. The head of the family was born in England and the mother, who is still living, is Scotch. When Frank was 8 years old his father removed to Montreal, where three brothers were added to the family. Two of them are in the railroad business in Minneapolis, while another is located in Kansas City.

It was in Montreal that Marshall learned to play chess. He absorbed the rudiments of the scientific game from his father, who was a good performer but not a club player. Frank began as a schoolboy when 10 years old and showed such aptitude that two years later he beat the best player of the Hope Coffee house, in whose back room chess and checkers held sway.

When 16 years old he won the championship of the Montreal Chess club and held the honor for three years, when the family returned to Brooklyn, where he assisted his father in business but gave most of his time to chess, for he then had practically decided to make the game a profession.

It must not be supposed that Marshall's precocity at chess kept him from being a regular boy in other respects. Far from it. While in Montreal he was catcher on an amateur nine, for baseball was just beginning to enjoy a vogue there, was forward on a hockey club, forward on a lacrosse team, and an excellent speed skater on the ice, winning numerous prizes. He also competed in several professional foot races. In his first effort at two miles he pumped himself out after a quarter mile against his veteran and seasoned opponents, but later had the satisfaction of defeating a chap calling himself the champion of Holland over the 220 yard route. The chess master still enjoys a turn on the ice when opportunity offers.

But since this is a chess story, let us revert to Marshall's career. In 1897 he won the junior championship of the New York State association, but was beaten in the Brooklyn club tourney by Napier,

reversing the result the following year. He attained international prominence in 1899, when he was sent abroad by the Manhattan and Brooklyn clubs and com-York State and Manhattan club tourneys, being denied admission to the masters' event. He won first prize, losing only one game. Returning home, he won the New York State and Manhattan club tourneys.

At Paris in 1900 the young American, only 23 years old, now admitted to the masters' class, was the only entrant to win a game from Dr. Lasker, who took first prize. He also defeated Harry Pillsbury, the American champion, who finished second, in their individual match. He was tied at the close with Maroczy, the great Hungarian, for third place. In 1903 he proved himself a notable gambit player by finishing second to Tschigorin in a special gambit event at Vienna, distancing Pillsbury and Maroczy.

Although he has scored many notable triumphs, Marshall's greatest year, artistically and financially, was 1904, when he won his first great tournament and the first prize of \$1,000 at Cambridge Springs, near Erie, Pa. Finishing behind him were the greatest masters of the world, as follows: Janowski, Lasker, Marco, Showalter, Schlechter, Tschigorin, Mieses, Pillsbury, Fox, Teichmann, Lawrence, Napier, Barry, Hosger, and Delmar. In this company the young master did not lose a game. He still carries the gold watch which was presented to him by the Manhattan Chess club, New York, in honor of his victory.

The fact that Marshall's earnings in 1904 from tournament play, exhibition matches, lectures, and the sale of books, of which he has written three, were in the neighborhood of \$5,000 shows that chess masters are not overpaid as compared with emoluments in some other branches of sporting endeavor.

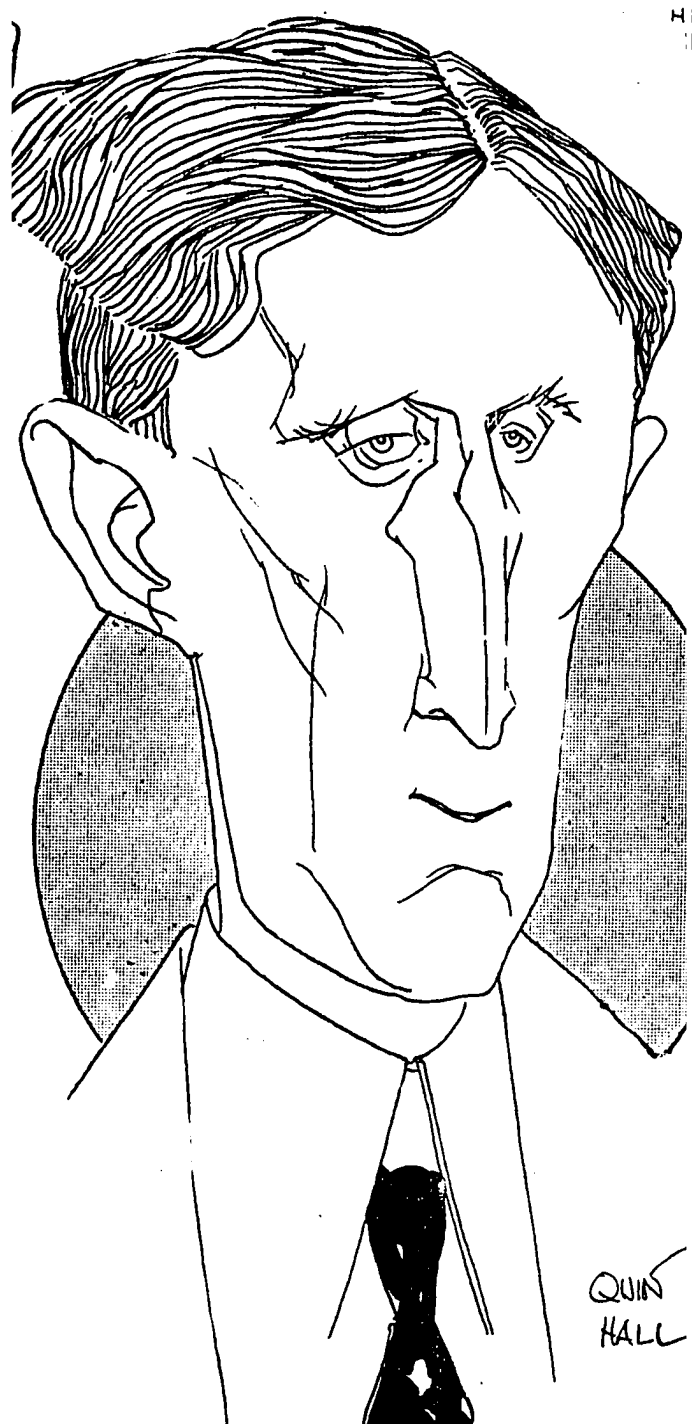
Since 1904 Marshall has been an international figure, usually spending his summers in Europe with matches and exhibitions and his falls and winters in this country. In 1909 he became United States champion by defeating J. W. Showalter of Kentucky at Lexington and Louisville in eight out of thirteen games for the title and a purse of \$500. The title had reverted to Showalter upon the death of Pillsbury in 1906.

Marshall played Dr. Lasker, now 48 years old, who has been world champion since 1894, in a series of games for the title at Chicago and New York in 1907. He was beaten decisively, and it always has been claimed for him that he is a better tourney than match player. He is perhaps most noted for what the Germans call his "schwindels."

Tournament matches usually are limited to two hours for thirty moves. The "schwindels" consists in making unexpected moves when the match is nearing a close and one's opponent is limited for time, so far from the orthodox that they are confusing and may cause an adversary to go wrong at the critical time.

In his exhibitions Marshall prefers simultaneous chess to the so-called blind-fold variety of which Pillsbury was a past master. Because of Pillsbury's pre-eminence in that field (his best record being a twenty-two game sweep at one sitting) the present champion has not given much attention to that style of play. Of 172 games of simultaneous chess played in his recent exhibitions against the best players of Chicago, Marshall won 149, lost 9, and drew 14.

Marshall was married in 1905 to Miss Caroline Krause of New York and has a son 9 years old, Frank J. Jr., who plays the game, but has never taken it up seriously, as his father thinks school work needs more attention now because the boy has lost some time by traveling with his father on European trips. So whether Marshall Jr. has the temperament and aptitude to succeed his father as champion remains for the future to unfold.



FRANK J. MARSHALL UNITED STATES CHESS CHAMPION.

QUIN HALL

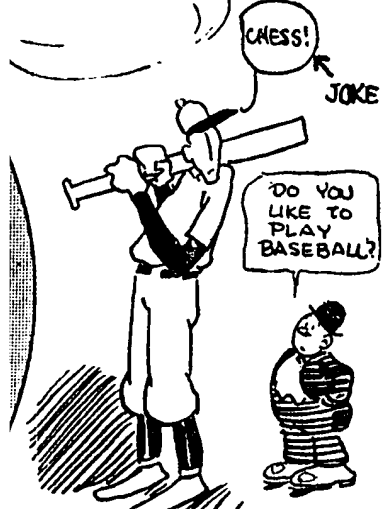
HE IS VERY FOND OF SKATING



THAT MARSHALL FELLOW OVER THERE IS NOTED FOR HIS "SCHWINDELS" MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE'S MAKIN' HIS GETAWAY TO EUROPE



DURING HIS CAREER MARSHALL HAS MADE MANY "MOVES" ACROSS THE POND.



EARLY IN HIS CAREER HE PLAYED BASEBALL.