

# Just Chattin! . . . A Fabulous Character . . .

By W. W. Edgar

One night, some years ago, a tall, broad-shouldered man with iron gray hair and a twinkle in his eye, walked into the sports department of the Detroit Free Press where I had just begun to labor in the vineyards of metropolitan journalism.

"I'm Newell Banks, the world's checker champion," he said by way of introducing himself, "and I just dropped in to confirm the rumor that I am going to engage in a blind-fold exhibition against 20 opponents, simultaneously, over at the Tuller Hotel."

I had been forewarned that I would meet many fabulous

characters along the sports trail, but little did I suspect at that moment that I was

face to face with one of the most fabulous men I ever would meet.

## Observer-land FEATURES

Wednesday, September 21, 1966

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## \$ \$ Investing Inquiries \$ \$

### SHOULD I SELL MY BLUE CHIP STOCKS NOW?

Q. Around three years ago I bought a number of blue chip stocks namely, General Motors, G.E. and U.S. Steel. I notice now that they are down considerably from their earlier highs and at their present prices I still have a small profit. What I want to know is should I sell them now and try to buy them back at lower prices.

A. I believe you answered your own question when you said "try to buy them back at lower prices." What you would be doing is attempting to play the role of a professional stock trader. A role which demands the utmost in skill, training and time to do it successfully. It has been my experience that when investors turn to trading in the market, they would have been better off leaving their stock holdings alone. My advice would be that in markets like the present, it would be better to add to your present holdings, rather than trying to fill the roll of a stock trader.

By LAURENCE A. WYSONG  
Stockbroker — Palme,  
Webber, Jackson & Curtis

(Send your inquiries on investments to The Observer, "Investing Inquiries," 33030 Five Mile Road, Livonia, Michigan. The answers are the opinion of Laurence A. Wysong, an expert on the subject and a Farmington resident.)

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"Are you actually blind-fold in these matches?" I asked while he was regaining his breath.

"Not actually," he confided, "but that is the term we use in checkers and chess. What we do amounts to the same thing. The checker and chess boards are set up in one room and I am in another. Then, when the match starts I walk into the room, look at the boards and start to make my moves. It is quite interesting and you should come over and take a look at it."

After chatting a bit he glanced at his watch and, noting it was 9:30 o'clock in the evening, he remarked, "Well, I've got to be on my way because I am in training for a checker match."

"Sure," he confided, "I train just like a fighter trains because one must have stamina for a match like I have scheduled."

This was something new—training for a checker match. "I run about five miles a day," the champion explained. "I also walk a few miles and do some swimming to get my legs in shape. Then I read a lot to build up concentration and for two days before the match I eat a lot of Spanish onions to keep my eyes sharp."

I had to take his word for it, but he did arouse enough

curiosity in me to make me want to see the exhibition. And what an awakening it had.

As he said, there were 20 boards—14 for checkers and six for chess. The 20 opponents were in one room and he in the other. When the match started, he walked into the "contest" room and made the first moves on each board. Then he left while his opponents moved the objects.

I walked in and out of the rooms with him, just as a means of studying this character and was almost on the verge of thinking that the games were rigged much like wrestling matches. Then I got the surprise of my young

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