

Youths Organize New Chess Club



CHESS MOVE . . . Robert Davidson, seventh grade student at Anza School, moves one of his chessmen while finishing lunch. During the recent storms, students formed a "meet-and-eat" chess club under the leadership of teachers George Floratos and James Hamilton.

Every cloud is rumored to have a silver lining.

But as far as seventh and eighth grade students at Anza Elementary School are concerned, the clouds that deluged Torrance a couple of weeks ago were lined with bishops, knights, rooks, and pawns.

What started out as a rainy lunch hour with no prospects of playing in the schoolyard turned out to be a blessing in proverbial disguise for nearly 80 youngsters who presently comprise the charter membership of the Anza Noon Hour Chess Club.

WHEN POURING rain confined students to their classroom during their lunch hour, science teacher George Floratos suggested students play chess in lieu of outdoor activity.

Interest was so keen, that when the bell rang for classes to resume students asked Mr. Floratos if it would be possible to continue the noon hour games.

Result was formation of the Noon Hour Chess Club. Twice a week, Tuesdays and Thursdays, students bring their chess sets and a sack lunch to school to "meet and eat." The club is divided into two groups, intermediates and beginners.

INTERMEDIATES play matches each time on a rotating basis, so that eventually each of the 38 intermediate players will have played 37 games — one with each of the other intermediate players.

While the intermediates

munch their sandwiches and contemplate moves, beginners receive instruction on rules and etiquette of chess from Spanish teacher James Hamilton, who offered to co-sponsor the club.

Lt. Cmdr. Richard L. Voller, USN, son of Mrs. Max Kress of 781 Amapola St., is on maneuvers aboard a U.S. dock landing ship, the USS Hermitage, in the mid-Atlantic and Caribbean Sea, as part of "LANTFLAX-66," the largest composite training exercise for the U.S. Atlantic fleet this year.

Eventually, when they have the rudiments down pat, the beginners will play matches within their group.

Future plans include a possible tournament near the end of the year.

Biggest problem? "Keeping all the interested bystanders outside the classroom during the meet-and-eat sessions," Floratos said.

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Press-Herald

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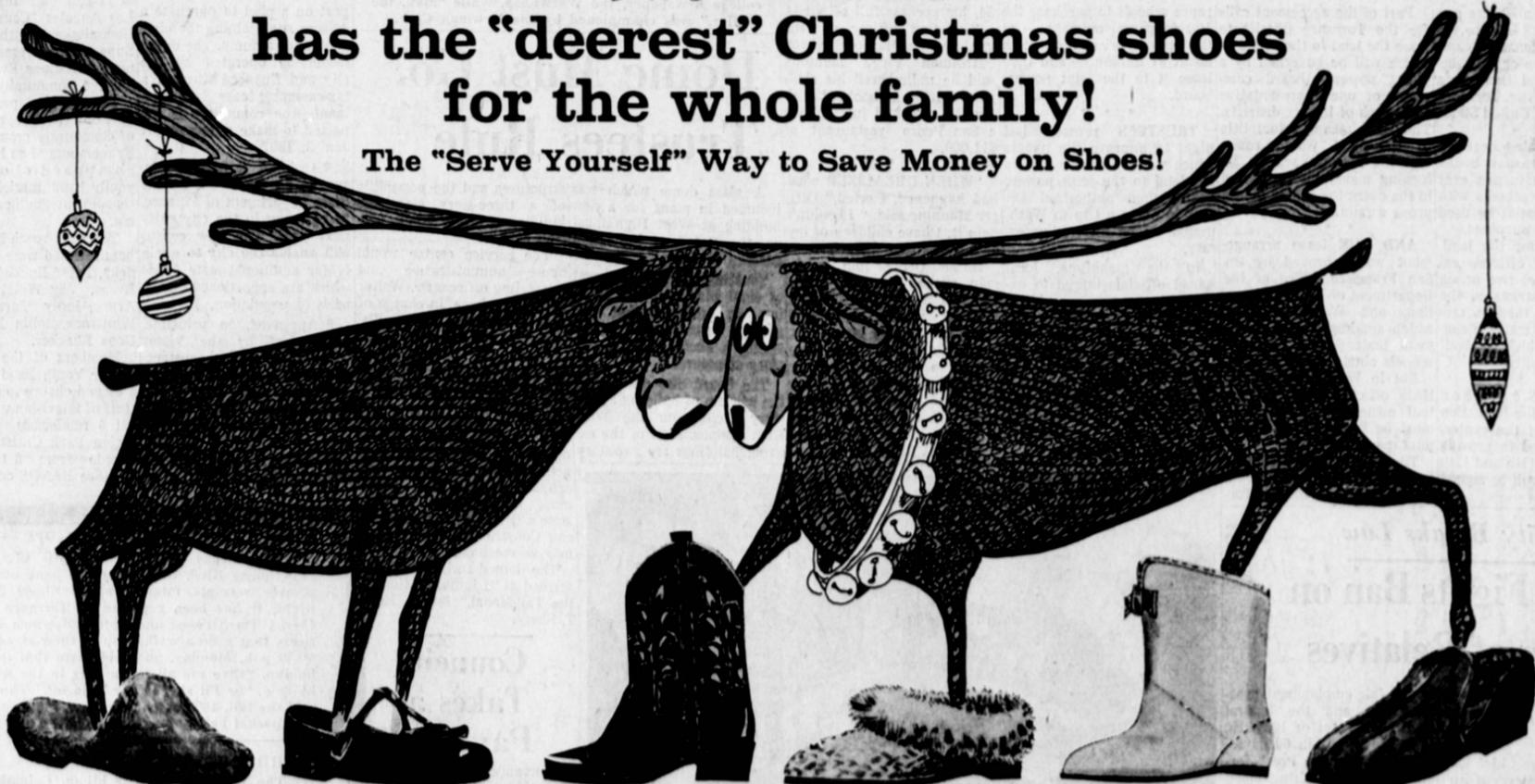
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