Istvan G Lauko* (iglauko@uwm.edu), George Berzsenyi and Gabriella A Pinter. Problems from The Mathematics Student Competition Corner (1979-1981).

The Competition Corner, edited by George Berzsenyi, ran from 1979 to 1981 in the NCTM publication The Mathematics Student. It provided interested students motivation to test their creativity and problem solving skills and recognized students for well-formulated solutions, extensions and generalizations to problems. Each year, the 3-4 winners of the year-round competition were recognized with the Pólya Prize for Problem Solving and were awarded programmable calculators by Hewlett-Packard; they were among the first on the market. The competition also built a community of problem solvers who still remember the excitement and challenge that each new problem set generated. In this talk we present a few memorable problems and emphasize the open-ended nature of problem solving, the creation of new problems, extensions and generalizations. Our aim is to highlight a few great problems that could be developed into Math Circle activities or used in other programs aimed at exposing students to creative problem solving. (Received August 31, 2020)