

## Pin Tales

As many changes are taking place in bowling, some of us have been asked to recall the past for what may be the last issue of the PIN TALES for the AWBA. In the spring of 1978, there was much excitement around Enterprise as we watched the building of Linda Lanes. During the summer Evelyn Latham, Gen Bergstrom and Janie Hardy met with us to help in the renewing of our charter and getting our leagues started. Those of us who had bowled for a while jumped in with both feet and got our Association established again and our leagues started in late September.

Mary Griffin was elected President and held that office twenty six years. Our first year we recognized Ophelia Wicker for her 582 series and 249 game and Darlene Hollisters 158 average as our first year highs. Our Junior bowlers led by Beth and Eric McHenry and Sherri Peacock ran Operation Santa Claus and collected food and toys for the needy.

In the Spring of 1979, our first state tournament teams headed to Gadsden. Later that year our Board decided to sponsor an Association patch contest. By the November deadline, we had eighteen entries to select from. Our Board chose a bowling pin standing along side a ball submitted by Sgt. John Akers and by January we had eighty ladies displaying our new patch. March was state tournament time again and we had thirteen ladies attending the convention meeting in Mobile and displaying our patch on their blue blazers. Mardi Gras was the theme and fun was had by all. We had our first city tournament in May 1980. Barbara Williams coined the phrase "B R F"...BOWLING R FUN...that carried through our competition. Judy Kazee rolled a 637 series for the first six hundred series rolled on the new lanes. Fall leagues started and we grew to five mixed leagues and two ladies leagues. JoAn Raley took first place in singles at the National Peanut Festival Tournament.

April 1981, I had the opportunity to be a delegate to the National Convention in Baltimore and to attend the Alberta E. Crowe retirement dinner. I traveled with Sandy Hall and Sherri Peacock. It was exciting observing the workings of the National Meeting for the first time and later doing the Harbor Shops and Williamsburg on the way home. The true test came when we had a flat tire just east of Atlanta. Did you ever see three ladies' with four days shopping packed in every nook and cranny of the car...unload the trunk to get to the spare.....change the tire ...reload and be back on the road in twenty minutes! And not a soul stopped to assist!!!

Over the next years we continued to grow, we earned the HUG Award, purchased our Association flag and our ladies have enjoyed the excitement of earning WIBC and Presidential Sports Awards. Margaret Summers rolled a 285 game (1985) for the highest ladies' game to date and JoAn Raley won the first local BVL Award. Our city tournament held a hat contest (1986) won by Kermit Franklins western hat decorated with frogs.

1987's City Tournament had four sets of mothers and daughters bowling and DeDe Maye won the Budweiser roll-off. We also initiated a plaque at the lanes and each month we recognize the lady with the highest series. Our lanes officially changed to Boland Lanes in 1987 and in 2000 twelve more lanes were added. Our Tuesday and Wednesday Leagues went to twenty four teams each. Helen Knoebel coached YABA and how special it was to see Kinika Morrow move up to the adult league and roll a 682 Series her first year.

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Helen coached YABA for 12 years. In 1998, Kristy Mulvenon rolled a 277 game, earning the Century Patch and in 2003 Neysa Hernandez rolled a perfect 300. Neysa also has our highest ladies series to date with a 707 followed by Lisa O'Neals 706. Evelyn McNab and Janice Whittington have the honor of picking up the Big Four in league play and Rosemary Odell is our Most Improved lady with a +22.64 in the 1992-93 season.

Until last year, Hiliary Von Berg was our "youngest" bowler at age 92 still participating in league play. She opened the 2002 Senior Tournament for us. She still bowls, but not in sanctioned play. Our own Jenelle Boland and Marlene Resecker won trips to National play in 2002 and Clara Hicks and Jenelle won trips to National play in 2004. As bowlers come and go, Mary Griffin, JoAn Raley, Peggy Bowdoin, Betty Gill and Evelyn McNab are the only ladies who have bowled without a break since the lanes opened in 1978. All have held office at one time or another through the years.

Now as we get ready to make the big turn in the road, we can think back to all the convention meetings and workshops, when we have delegated at least one time, and learned to march with the Flag without poking the person in front of you, clearing the door facing, and heaven forbid breaking that Eagle...the white dresses required at one time...dining on chicken and green beans...chicken and broccoli, chicken and "what's that" and OH MY chicken and carrots.

We have Watusi-ed Twisted, Jitter Bugged, Bunny Hopped, done the Chicken, Mashed some Potatoes and lined up to do the Congo... and who will ever forget Judy Rhea's rendition of..."R E S P E C T"... and someone told me they "let the dogs out in Oxford that night"...! We've gone western and we've Mardi Gras-ed, we've nominated and we've nominated and YES we've nominated AGAIN...Who will ever forget that marathon meeting in Huntsville, the snowstorm in Birmingham, the tornado when the tournament was in Dothan...and did you use the umbrella park?.....the casino trip to Biloxi, meeting rooms that were too small, door prizes won and swapped...Mary Lynn's devotion to the BIG ORANGE, those ardent fans of the CRIMSON TIDE and AUBURN TIGERS.

We have pledged to the Flag of our country, inducted into the Hall of Fame those who have given so unselfishly of their time and talent and we have Honored those who have passed on. When I moved to Alabama, Judy Midkiff was one of the first ladies I met.....what a trip...need I say more...Love you, Judy.....Our house is not big enough to host a state tournament, but we had the pleasure of having the State Senior Ladies here in 2002 and 2004.

We have served up fried peanuts, all you can eat...rustled up buckets of peanut butter and THANKS to all those who stood at attention in 2002 while the Swedish National anthem was played by mistake, we clapped our hands and went on with the program, Mayor, Chamber of Commerce, Sheriff, State Officers and all! Yes, we've had good times and not so good times, we've made mistakes along the way but where else could you meet such nice people.....

We should always remember why we started bowling, to have fun, meet people that become like our family and the added plus is to bowl a good game, pick up that difficult spare and have a great series. No matter how bad we bowl, we continue to return every week. And last, I would like to say THANKS to all those who have helped me along the way.

## *Pin Tales*

After 22ish years as Sec-Treas of the Enterprise WBA, the computer age caught up with me. The transition is ahead - Please support the workers in the job ahead of them. Even though things are a changing, remember...B R F ...BOWLING R FUN.....This is Mevelyn signing off. See you at the state tournament and workshop.....

Evelyn McNab

**Note.** Mevelyn is a combination of Mary & Evelyn. Jodi Kisk from Montgomery couldn't keep our names apart – so she called us both Mevelyn!

\*AWBA – Alabama Women's Bowling Association

\*HUG – Help Us Grow

\*WIBC – Women's International Bowling Congress

\*BVL – Bowling Veterans Link

\*YABA – Young American Bowling Alliance