

**SAN ANTONIO
WBA**



1934 - 1984

HISTORY

**The Members
of the
San Antonio Women's Bowling Association
Express Their
Appreciation and Indebtedness to
Ella O'Quinn
For Her Many Hours and Efforts
In The Compilation of These Records
Which Preserve
The History of our Organization.**



*Helen Baetz
General Chairman
SAWBA 50th Anniversary Committee*

Lovingly Remembering...

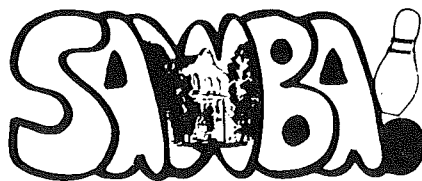
**Our Beginning...
Our Achievements...
Our Heartaches...
Our Triumphs...**

As We Celebrate...

San Antonio Women's Bowling Association

50th Anniversary Season

1934 - 1984





Finding a place for women to bowl in the late 1920's and early 1930's was extremely difficult, we know today as the San Antonio Women's Bowling Association celebrates its 50th Anniversary year.

But men of that era told the women to stay out of "their" bowling alleys.

Undaunted, the ladies - and there were many of them who were dedicated and dynamic nine pin bowlers who were interested in the game tenpin game.

One of those women was Mrs. Clara Grasso, who was quoted in a daily newspaper many years later, "The first organized nine pin league was formed in 1927."

The league consisted of ten teams of 120 women with twelve members, including two substitutes on each team.

The actual transition to American Tenpins was in 1931 when local women organized a bowling league in the Grand Bowling Alleys, under the old Texas Steam Laundry on Losoya Street (downtown San Antonio).

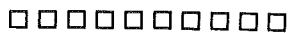
Even then the men bowling there allowed the women to use just two lanes -- so dilapidated the men wouldn't touch them, and certainly they didn't allow women on any lanes on which they bowled.

But even this didn't stop the ladies. They formed eight teams, and bowled whenever they could on the dilapidated lanes. There was no regular schedule - one week the ladies might bowl on Monday - the next Thursday - then Tuesday - and so on.

One year before the San Antonio Women's Bowling Association was actually formed, our parent organization - now the Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC) - had already celebrated its 15th annual tournament in the city of WIBC's birth, St. Louis, Missouri.

At that long-ago annual meeting, collection of state dues by Local Associations was the prime topic of concern. Constitutional wording changes in the WIBC and Local Bylaws were reconciled at this conclave. Mrs. Jeannette Knepprath, WIBC president, and secretary Mrs. Emma Phaler were unanimously elected to their posts, beginning a new year of good fellowship and a wider scope of interest, the next year to include International competition and membership.

In that season - 1933-34 - there were just sixty eight local associations affiliated with the WIBC.



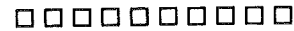
Here in Texas there was no organized bowling for women, but 'up north' in Minnesota, an energetic and inquisitive young lady, Violet E. "Billy" Simon, was introduced to the game of tenpins during the 1920's.

Intrigued by the two bowling pins hanging beneath the doorway of the local Y.M.C.A., Billy and her friend, Babe Campbell, consumed with curiosity, decided to enter that male domain to find out about those two pins.

Giving it a "try", they found the game both challenging and entertaining, and the men there allowed them to use their lanes. Billy practiced often, then joined one of the leagues. Billy's and Babe's enthusiasm for the game led them to inquire about a National tournament - known then as the Women's National Bowling Association.

In 1924 Billy entered her first National Championship in Indianapolis, Indiana, and the next year followed the tournament trail to Cleveland, Ohio.

In ill health the following year, Billy and Babe stuck a pin in a map to find an area where the weather was warmer - and that pin prick brought the two friends to Texas -- and San Antonio!



As Billy recuperated and enjoyed the more pleasant weather, she started to look for a place to bowl, but discovered that nine pins were popular, but tenpin bowlers were rare.

It wasn't long afterward that Billy and Babe met Clara Grasso and through their love of the tenpin game, searched for those illusive few lanes available to women.

"Where there's a will - there's a way" -- and Billy's "way" was to give the women a place of their own, so she bought one-half interest in the bowling alley at Lions Field (on Broadway). Solid wood roof and canvas sides which rolled up for more "comfort."

Here the ladies learned of the Southwest Men's Tournament in Dallas, and of Clara Fox's interest in having a companion ladies event when the men bowled. With help from Nelson Burton, Sr., Clara compiled the rules, regulations, prize lists and schedules and all the necessary data for a women's event. With assistance from Billy, invitations were sent to Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana -- and the first Southwest Tournament for Women was held on November 4 and 5, 1933. Bowlers from Oklahoma, San Antonio, Dallas, Houston and Galveston accepted the invitations and entered teams.

Billy Simon took the first team from San Antonio to the Southwest Ladies event.

The president and secretary of the Ladies Major league in Dallas held a breakfast meeting at the Jefferson Hotel, and Billy told the ladies about the

Nationals in which she had competed up north. She advised that if the Southwest Ladies was organized, ladies from Texas could compete in Nationals.

After the first tournament the ladies were even more enthusiastic and made plans to make the Southwest an annual affair, and Houston was selected as the second site.

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Billy returned home and gathered thirty-six women who were nine pin bowlers to her lanes. That March of 1934 Billy "sold" the game of tenpins to those ladies, telling them of the Southwest and the Nationals. This resolute group of pioneers elected Erna Haufler as the first president, Irene Carter was named first vice president, Edith Titsworth was secretary, Erna Mathews was named treasurer and Linda Dullnig served as sergeant-at-arms -- and the San Antonio Woman's Bowling Association was born!

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At the Houston Southwest Tournament for Women, San Antonio was selected as hostess city for 1935. Erna Haufler was named president and Clara Grasso was named secretary-treasurer.

At that meeting, which lasted until the wee hours of the morning, the Houston secretary became weary and went home. Billy, who is termed as "the real ramrod" of Texas women's bowling, sat down beside the president (Mrs. Ethel Vollmer of Houston) and took notes.

In San Antonio, under the new name of Women's Texas State Bowling Association, five cities were represented and dues were paid by 188 members. That first entry in Dallas was 16 teams, and in San Antonio in 1935 there were 36 teams, with a total prize fund of \$251.00. The tournament was rolled on lanes operated by Billy, and during the competition, Past President Vollmer rolled an all-spare game of 181, and Billy paid her the house award of one silver dollar!

Lineage at that first San Antonio "State" tournament was five cents per line. In the middle of the second game, the pinboys went on strike for more money, and all officers of the association, who were attending a meeting, had to return to the lanes in evening dress, to settle the dispute so the tournament could continue.

Later that same year Billy took the first San Antonio team to the Nationals, and what joy reigned when they returned and San Antonio ladies learned that Billy and Erna had won the National Woman's Bowling Association Doubles title, with the highest score rolled up to that time -- a 1219!

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The year 1935 was the better-half of the Great Depression and the bowlers of the era sought entertainment other than just bowling competition to forget the "bad days." So with great ingenuity "Bowlers' Days" was originated by Eddie Kohr an active male bowler and San Antonio businessman.

Bowlers' Days activities included team and individual competition on Saturday at centers all around the city. Bowlers and sponsors planned and staged a parade to promote the game. Saturday night entertainment was a dinner-dance complete with a floor show at Turner Club. The weekend was climaxed by an all-day barbecue and picnic at Oak Grove Park.

Bowlers' Days drew teams from El Paso, Dallas, Galveston, Houston, Schulenburg, Corpus Christi, Austin, Fredericksburg, New Braunfels, Seguin and San Angelo. Those first Bowlers Days were all termed "successful", and the celebration would continue for several years into the future.

Membership on the local level was 134 and dues of \$34.50 were sent to the national office from the three sanctioned leagues.

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Membership in 1936 was 96 and the same three leagues were sanctioned. Cash on hand for the association was \$95.88 at the end of the season, according to a report sent to the national office. City Champion that year was Erna Matthews who won her title at Billy's Alamo Recreation Lanes.

The two previous City Champs were also from Alamo Recreation Lanes leagues, Katie Bohan in 1936-37, and our first City Champion, Mrs. R. W. Titsworth, who won in 1934-35.

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As an indication of the growth and popularity of women's bowling in 1937, there were 246 members rolling in 14 sanctioned leagues.

In 1938 twenty two more women swelled the ranks and one more league was added.

This was the year the association formally adopted the Constitution for the association following suggestions at the WIBC level.

Membership continued to grow and those attending the national meeting and tournament ruled that women should bowl just in sanctioned leagues and women members in mixed leagues should have their bowlers sanctioned as well.

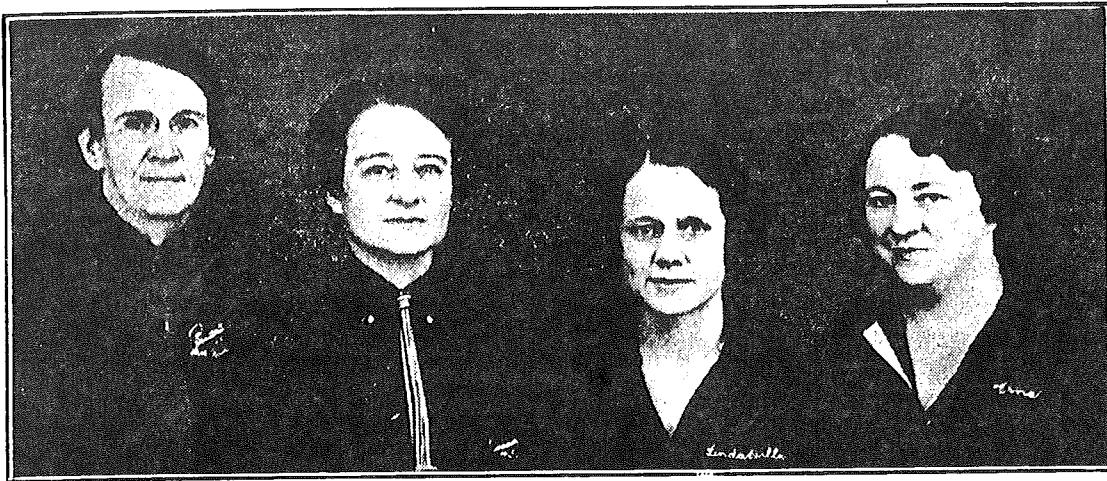
From Billy's center, Alamo Recreation Lanes, came the first women's tenpin league championship team, the G. A. Duerler team of Babe Campbell, Erna Haufler, Alice LaBroche, captain, Tillie Deininger and Billy, Simon.

The same year saw the first all-ladies team in an all-men's league, led by Helen Dresch, who "crashed the old kindling for a nifty 652 series, with games of 248, 197, and 207."

The above note appeared in what could have been Texas' first bowling publication - "Spares and Strikes" - published by Billy Simon in March of 1937, and covering all bowling action and association news.

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As storm clouds of War gathered abroad and that villain in Germany rose to power, SAWBA's membership in 1939 reached 314 members in its 16 sanctioned leagues.



Clara Grasso, secretary; Irene Carter, vice president; Linda Dullnig, sergeant-at-arms; Erna Haufler, president.

The ladies continued support the Woman's Texas State Bowling Association tournament for women, and in the 1938 meet Billy Simon placed her brand on the State Title with an 1801 all events score, plus winning State Doubles as well. She was rolling for the Southern Select Beer team. For two consecutive seasons, 1937-38 and 1938-39 she won the City crown as well.

But she continued her national bowling promotion and gathered together six teams for a promotional "pitch"... a train trip to Oklahoma City for the Nationals! That year delegates ruled that WIBC would make available membership cards if the city and state associations didn't provide them.

The Gold Ball, one of WIBC's most coveted symbols was initiated and the WIBC flag was unfurled for the first time. The Gold Ball is symbolic of a local association's hostessing of the national members.

On the home front the local tournament drew 105 teams, 74 sets of doubles and 68 singles. The ladies rolled for a total prize fund of \$123.50, after paying 25¢ per line and fees to foul line judges.

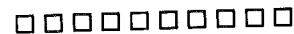
Bowlers' Days fun continued with increasing numbers of cities participating. Two local newspapermen who were avid bowlers started a "Balloon Club" to add spice to the game. Charlie Trueter and Harold Scherwitz, both later to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame, caused many a red face around the lanes. Rules called for any bowler rolling a game under 120 to blow up a balloon the next week (in front of his league-mates) to change his (or her) luck! The fun-club continued for several years thereafter, with member's names printed each week in the Sunday bowling column.

But the ladies of the city also again expressed their desire to be hostess to the state's women bowlers - and to help defray expenses, a Headpin tournament was held at three local lanes - Broadway, Turner Club and Alamo Recreation. Headpin competition required that the bowler hit the headpin on the first ball, and they received the number of pins knocked down. A miss of the headpin resulted in a zero.

Later that year 105 members attended the Open Meeting at Turner Club. Presidents of the leagues

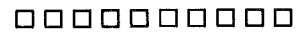
served on the Ways & Means Committee, and all league secretaries were to serve on the scorekeeping committee for the tournament at Alamo.

It was interesting to note that the daily newspaper took special notice that in the ladies league at Broadway Lanes, there were four female lefthanders in the same league.



Membership reached 473 even though 1940 was a terrifying year all around the world, but the bowling scene was truly worthy of note. WIBC President Jeannette Kneprath named her first Publicity Chairman- Mrs. Alberta E. Crowe of New York - who would in the future serve as President for more than two decades.

Here at home husbands and sons were caught up in the civilian draft and our country was "at ready" militarily. That may have been the reason for the drop in the number of sanctions, since the 1940 report reflected just 14 sanctioned leagues.



Sunday, December 7, 1941, that dreadful time in our lives when shocking word of the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor was relayed to the world. The next day our Country was at War.

During the War years, local bowlers joined their WIBC sisters around the world in "War Service" work. Available funds were sent to the "Wings of Mercy" program - later to become our beloved BVL Fund. Our stay-at-home members joined in many service and patriotic projects - conducting War Bond drives, hostessing service members, awarding defense stamps but contributing too to the purchase of three ambulance planes and one bomber nationally. Bowler's nickles and dimes helped fund this project and the rehabilitation of War wounded and blind which were to follow.

Membership was 570 in thirty sanctioned leagues. During the year, one of our members, Miss Josephine "Jo" Novak was working on the musical composition which would make history. Working with Mrs. Edna Junger of Grafton, Wisconsin, the talented duo composed the "WIBC March". The stirring music is still played at national, state and local bowling functions, but never has it been cheered as when first introduced at the 1942 WIBC annual meeting.



The year 1942 was a good one for women's bowling with membership soaring to 690 in 33 leagues. And on hand in the treasury was \$130.58.

Much bowling activity was curtailed from 1943 to 1945 and the War dampened ladies' enthusiasm so membership increased at a much slower pace.

The 1943 Nationals were cancelled at the request of the Government, but on the national level a new organization cropped up in Chicago which would affect all our bowling days. The National Bowling Council was formed to unite every phase of bowling into the War effort, assist in local state and national bowling programs wherever they may come up.

Membership in 1943 was 569 and in 1944, as reported by SAWBA secretary Helen Baetz, 476 members in 32 sanctioned leagues.

At the first meeting of the year the 24 members attending decided, "Let's go for State again - we'll be ready for it in 1945." The state organization was then operating under the new name of Texas Women's Bowling Association, and alley managers and the Junior Chamber of Commerce were solicited for support of the SAWBA bid.

With government restrictions on travel in 1944, SAWBA's War Service Fund called for each league president to set up a "free will" donation collection. Billy Simon offered her lanes each Saturday afternoon from noon until 6 p.m. to benefit the fund. All money collected with the exception of 5¢ per line for pinboys was donated. By September SAWBA's donation had escalated to \$390.00.

SAWBA president Clara Grasso announced the impending visit of Mrs. Knepprath, Mrs. Phaler and Mrs. Crowe to promote the National Bowling Council plans, Wings of Mercy donations and continued War Service projects.

The annual meeting was held at the Municipal Auditorium and 60 members attending gave a vote of confidence to president and secretary, Clara Grasso and Helen Baetz.

With pride Mrs. Baetz announced that the tournament drew 38 teams, 174 sets of doubles and singles who earned \$457.30 in prize money.

Local champion was Tonye Schera, joining former champion Elna Palmer (1939-40) Billy Simon who

again captured the title in 1940-41, Elna Palmer (1939-40), Melvah Uecker (1941-42) and Lois Lutz, 1942-43 and 1943-44 champ Jeanette Callsen.

The long-awaited State tournament would be at Texas Bowling Centers with lineage of 60¢ for three lines, including foul-man fee. Tournament dates would be April 8-9 with an entry fee of \$1.50 per person per event, and Class A was set up for ladies with averages of 155 and up.

Mrs. Grasso proposed the first SAWBA Nominating Committee asking that they prepare a slate for the coming season.



At long last the travel restrictions were lifted, and members elected Billy Simon and Helen Baetz to serve as delegates to the WIBC annual meeting. There they helped approve the purchase contract for the acquisition of "The Woman Bowler" magazine, effective July 1, 1945, and a committee was named to supervise the magazine for women bowlers.

Although statistics indicated that the war still dampened bowling participation, city associations and leagues showed a slight increase. San Antonio had 534 members rolling in thirty sanctioned leagues in 1945, this being the first year of compulsory state dues.

The association agreed to sell ads in the TWBA tournament program and to sponsor twelve Booster teams. Members urged local offices to make local tournament changes and it was agreed that members could bowl twice in the tournament - if they were bonafide members of both teams in their league play. Bowling fees increased to \$2.00 and the handicap was set at 60% within class; Class A being 170 scratch.

Fifty two teams participated with 94 sets of doubles and singles and 179 optional all events for a total prize fund of \$1,270, plus medals. It was to begin the Grace Baskin era of dominance in women's bowling activities. Secretary Baetz reported that every squad went on the lanes on time after a brief memorial was said for the President of the United States.

At the 12th annual meeting of TWBA in Waco, secretary Grasso presented the Association with its WIBC State Charter. In an emotional address to the delegates, she declared, "I won't be here, but some of you will be. The life of this Charter is 50 years. I present this to you on behalf of the San Antonio Women's Bowling Association, who have helped defray the cost of filing."

On the membership roster locally were 580, with 33 sanctioned leagues in 1946.



What a bright new era was dawning for bowling - with the end of wartimes came the resumption of American manufacturing ingenuity - new pinsetting machines - automatic foul detecting devices - and air conditioning!

At the local level in 1947 members again were asked to raise money for the State Pioneer Fund. Secretary Helen Baetz suggested a "Lucky 13" bowl to run for

two weeks. Each lady would pay 50¢ for a Bowl Card. 25¢ would go into the prize fund, 25¢ to the Pioneer Fund. Each league could have it's own prize fund. The ladies loved it - and \$147.00 was sent to the State Fund.

The Dallas WBA hostessing of the WIBC in 1948 gave local bowlers a dual opportunity - the opportunity to bowl in the Nationals and the opportunity not to travel too far a distance. San Antonio set a goal of 50 teams for the event.

It was an ambitious goal considering that membership was 611 and only 48 teams had entered the local tournament. Additionally there were 96 sets of doubles, 179 singles, and 173 optional all events, shooting for a total prize fund of \$1,222. From the tournament \$50.00 was also sent to the TWBA Pioneer Fund. Ending the 1947 bowling year, the report to WIBC reflected just \$6.30 in the treasury!

For the 1948 WIBC in Dallas, San Antonio "cowgirls" started their drive for entrants with 19 team captains at the association meeting pledging their teams. A dance as a means of fund raising brought \$96.00 plus \$32.00 in donations, and the cowgirls arrived in Dallas in a chartered bus for which they paid \$8.00 per ticket.

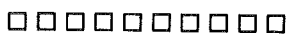
The Dallas event was spectacular, and as the number of delegates had been growing by leaps and bounds, it marked the end of another WIBC tradition - the WIBC annual breakfast. Appropriately the breakfast was replaced with a Texas Barbecue and all Board and Delegates became Texas Cowgirls. It was also the formation meeting of a new group - the National Women's Bowling Writers who would single out several of our members for honors in the years in the future.

To give a big boost to the Dallas girls efforts, San Antonio members really pitched in to help. A gigantic ice sculpture was provided. In the center were bluebonnets collected by local members and carried on the plane by secretary Baetz for freezing and the dazzling ice display at the banquet.

The bowling boom which was sweeping the country was also reflected in increased membership at the local level. One thousand members were now issued cards in SAWBA with 44 sanctioned leagues on the floor.

Team entry into the local tournament almost doubled with 84 teams, 160 sets of doubles and singles rolling. The ladies were awarded \$2,084.00 in prize money.

Because the TWBA Championships were in the Spring of the year, SAWBA membership adopted the rule to move the city tournament to the Fall of the year, with November 6 and 7 chosen as dates. Four classes had been the norm, but a new Class D. was added for those ladies averaging 124 and down. Entry fee remained at \$2.00 per person per event.



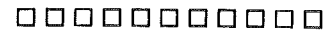
At the November 1948 meeting, president Alice Ittis welcomed 47 members to the meeting and advised that TWBA asked for nominations for state offices. Billy Simon urged that SAWBA send more than one delegate, and the members suggested Estha Perkins

as a TWBA director. She would later serve a longer presidential term than any other woman.

Once again the members agreed to bid for the 1950-51 TWBA tournament and annual meeting, and since this was the first time in history that the association treasury had funds available (\$248.00 in the bank balance), it was suggested that expenses of national delegates be aided. \$15.00 was approved providing that the delegate attended all meetings.

President Ittis and the SAWBA Board received approval of several notable changes in the association operation and leagues. All leagues were to have handicap; each league was to have a Rules Committee; and each league was to elect a secretary and treasurer. It was agreed that 18 games would be used to establish a league average and each league was to include in their rules a certain fair handicap.

The Nominating Committee report suggested Doris Turner as President and Marjorie Coffin as secretary. Once again a headpin tournament was conducted to help defray association expenses, and netted \$85.25.



At the August board meeting in 1949, president Doris Turner instituted a regular meeting schedule with Board meetings to be held the third Wednesday of each month.

SAWBA submitted to TWBA a recommendation that TWBA pay for individual trophies for the winning girl's team of the American Junior Bowling Congress on opening squad and to provide sponsor trophy which had to be won three times before it was theirs.

All of SAWBA joined in the subscription drive for Woman Bowler magazine, and at the December meeting, President Turner brought together directors from 22 different leagues in the city. Membership that year reached 1227 with 66 leagues competing.

She recommended a stagger system for the offices of President and Secretary and that the association add the office of corresponding secretary for the future. After approval, Clara Grasso was named the first Corresponding Secretary. The Executive Board directed that an informational sheet entitled "Duties of the League President" be distributed to leagues.

A project to help raise funds for the association was another Headpin tournament. A first publicity chairman (Ina Ehlo) was named after the lack of publicity of the previous headpin tournament. Later a Rummage Sale was held on Market Plaza which also helped defray association expenses.

The tournament was again moved back to the spring of the year, this year at Woodlawn Lanes. Entry fee remained at \$2.00, 60% handicap within class.

For the fourth consecutive year the City Champion crowned was Grace Baskin - a monumental task not repeated to the compiling of this History.

Knowing that the raising of funds for hostessing the TWBA championships was paramount, the members voted the first membership assessment of 25¢ per

month from each bowler - fee to be collected the first week of each month.

Billy Simon was named Local Tournament Chairman and at the annual meeting, the stagger system, proposed by President Turner was adopted.

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It was a happy beginning of a new decade bringing the presentation of the first presidential gavel to Doris Turner from the members of the Alamo Recreation League.

The State tournament fund account had reached \$825.90 by December of 1950 and additional funds would be realized when several association members volunteered to run the Check Room and assume scorekeeping duties for the Men's Association tournament. \$466.80 was added from this venture and the State Fund reached \$1,106.90.

In March before 116 members attending the spring meeting, Lucille Gafford assumed the office of Secretary. Estha Perkins urged the members to help patients at Brooke General Hospital with the donation of at least one television set. Once again the bowlers proved to be most generous and two were provided. Estha also advised that there would be classes for girls, ages 13-15, at the local Y.W.C.A., sponsored by SAWBA to help get more young girls into the game of bowling.

Work began on delegates' gifts for the State tournament and a unique "Shoe Bag" committee was named, chaired by Ann Keel. The assistance of all bowlers was asked. Scrap material of any type was needed to make the shoe bags, and perhaps one lady bowler will never forget that drive. Her husband seeing a pile of material at their home, donated it to the drive. Later the SAWBA board members learned that it was the material for the wife's new curtains. Nevertheless the bags were gratefully received by the delegates, and the entire project cost the association nothing.

Donations were made throughout the city for the BVL fund drive and drive's end more than \$300.00 had been collected.

Once again the local tournament was moved to late October or November and average sheets were posted in all centers. Hermann Sons lanes was selected to host the local tournament, and no rules changes were made in the successful event. Lil Canfield successfully defended her crown, making her a two-time champion.

1950 membership count was 1,395 in sixty sanctioned leagues.

Estha Perkins assumed the president's chair and Helen Baetz was named Corresponding Secretary. It was great news for the membership to learn that San Antonio was 14th in the nation in contributions to the BVL Fund.

Ann Keel's shoe bag committee had completed 1100 bags, with more than 200 in various stages of construction.

For the TWBA tournament, nightly entertainment was planned for each Saturday night of the event. \$1,000 in advertising was sold for the TWBA schedule

book, and the tournament drew 342 teams with 28 teams in the Booster division. Total prize fund was \$9,125.00.

At annual banquet time, for years of dedicated service to TWBA, Life Memberships were bestowed on Billy Simon and Erna Haufler, a gift from TWBA.

President Perkins requested that the local Executive Board select the Delegates to attend the national annual meeting, and her request was granted.

On the floor that year were 77 sanctioned leagues for the 1,395 members.

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At the annual meeting in 1952 at Pearl Brewing Company, 219 members were in attendance. Once again the membership approved the assessment of 25¢ - this time allocated, 15¢ to the secretary and the balance to the general fund. (1951-52 membership, 1257 in 77 leagues).

President Perkins suggested a Headpin Tournament to help defray expenses, hotel and travel, for those delegates attending the WIBC meeting. Membership also approved the expenditure to purchase an adding machine for the office and for use at the tournament.

Those years may also have been the beginning of the "extra" team bowler, when members of the Alamo Ladies league - a four member team league - requested permission to have a fifth member on the roster, to be used when the original four were absent. Their request was granted.

All ladies joined hands in assuring the success of a March of Dimes tournament as part of a city-wide drive. \$531.04 was collected for this worthy cause.

Several changes were made in the line offices after Agatha Tapley resigned as treasurer. Dottie Shook was named in her place. Jenus Grun was named second vice president and Louise Alley was suggested as Secretary. Helen Baetz remained as Corresponding Secretary.

In November Mrs. Shook was replaced as treasurer by Jane Astasaukas and in May Dottie Shook was named Secretary; Helen withdrew as Corresponding Secretary and Starley Grona was named.

The Executive Board voted to issue arm patches for City Tournament winners - a move roundly applauded by the membership and one followed today in 1983-84.

As SAWBA membership reached 1,312 with 98 leagues at the end of 1953, the ladies on the national scene recognized the talents of Helen Baetz and named her a Director of the WIBC Board.

In April, at a meeting held at the Olmos Dinner Club, 106 members attended and voted to ask each member for 25¢ to support the BVL. Dues in the National Women's Bowling Writers Club were paid by SAWBA for the local publicity chairman, a practice which continues today.

In August 1954 membership totalled 1,430 rolling in 101 leagues, including ladies from Stockdale, Randolph AFB, Fort Sam Houston, Schertz, Hondo, Cibolo, Converse and Pleasanton.

In executive session in May the Board was increased to 16 members acting as Directors. Helen Baetz moved that no one connected with a bowling establishment in

any way could hold office on the SAWBA Board of Directors, and the board concurred.

The Headpin Tournament to benefit the March of Dimes brought a donation of \$759.99, and many women became active in the San Antonio Bexar County Hospital system, with SAWBA paying dues for one member.

Everyone pitched in to raise funds for financing the association. A television set was purchased for \$148.19 which netted a profit of \$215.36. It was agreed to discontinue the assessment of the membership, which now numbered 1,516 in 94 sanctioned leagues. In the budget adopted, the secretary was paid 25¢ per member and the treasurer was compensated at 5¢ per member.

Finding that the association was unable to compensate the officers, Billy Simon aided the salary account with a \$100.00 donation.

The Board agreed to stage a tamale party at Pearl Brewing Company with each ticket costing \$1.00. One \$100.00 matured War Bond was cashed to help defray the cost of a television film series on bowling, and another Headpin Tournament was held to payoff the remaining \$95.00 for the film.

Fame came to several local members that year as Robbie Frey was named State Champion, Dottie Brandt was the Class A Singles champ, and Lil Canfield received numerous awards for her 743 series, highest in the nation for the 1954-55 season. Lil was also gifted with a travel alarm clock from the association.

The caring members of SAWBA were credited with 2,000 hours of voluntary services to the Robert B. Green Hospital. The Bluebonnet League generously filled 44 Christmas stockings for the ladies of Stockton and the proprietors donated tournament trophies for the women's event.

The 1955 season found SAWBA "in the black" financially with \$145.00 in the bank account. Local associations were requested to pledge money to buy permanent badges for State Officers and the SAWBA donation was \$20.00.

National rules required that any member of the Armed Services was not required to pay National dues, and the Board approved all sanctions sent in. The remainder of the Shoe Bags were sold at 25¢, generating about \$25.00.

Tournament entry fee was set at \$2.10 per person and the special 25¢ all events fee was dropped from the entry form. A new Class E was added to the format.



In 1956 the members continued to approve the 25¢ assessment for operational expenses of the association, but the secretary's salary was set at a budgeted amount of \$35.00 per month, with the treasurer to be paid \$7.00 per month.

Grateful members gave a standing ovation to Mrs. Helen Baetz as she was named the first Life Member of SAWBA, and accepted the first Life Membership Pin for years of dedicated service to the association.

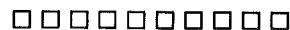
Elected to serve as SAWBA president was Marilyn Funk with Jean Renton elected as secretary. Members

voted the city tournament to St. Gerard's Bowling Lanes and the entry fee per person remained at \$2.10.

A raffle was held to help defray association expenses during the run of the tournament, and Estha Perkins requested that scorekeepers' fees be donated to the general fund.

The association joined the men's association in providing trophies for the A.J.B.C. junior tournament and the 1955-56 membership in SAWBA was 1,591 in 96 leagues.

State tournament awards were presented to the Straus Frank team who were Class A Team Champions and to Lil Canfield who was the State Champion, bringing added glory to the Alamo City.



The highlight of the year 1957 was the rolling of the first 300 game by a San Antonio member.

Mrs. Myrt DeFily rolled her first 300 game at Southside Lanes - and the perfecto was just the second rolled ever in the State of Texas by a woman. With great pride and happiness the SAWBA Board presented Myrt with a gold watch to commemorate the happy event.

It was a happy day when president Agatha Tapley led hundreds of bowlers to the grand openings of both Bowlerama of Texas and San Pedro Lanes. Bowlerama would be operated by Col. Bruce W. Canright, and San Pedro was under the management of Lewis P. Levinson.

At the annual meeting past president Clara Grasso again urged the membership to bid for the 1961 TWBA Championships, and to help in defraying expenses, an all-spate tournament was held as well as a giant rummage sale.

A growing new program was making its presence felt in the city as four centers - Turner Club, Knights of Columbus, Bowlerama and San Pedro - each opened their bowling programs to include members of the American Junior Bowling Congress.

SAWBA honored another of its own with the presentation of a paid up membership in WIBC and the national pin to Mrs. Lillian Cobb for her years of contributions to the game and the association.

Members voted to set the entry fee into the tournament at \$2.25 with 30¢ per member paid as secretary's salary.

Mrs. Grasso suggested that one month out of each year be set aside to support the BVL Fund drive and that each member should donate at least five cents toward this worthy cause. Her words were not unheeded and by December of the year the first BVL tournament was held with \$193.90 donated to BVL.

Yearly association awards were presented to Vivian Black for city high game and to Lil Canfield for city high series.

It was evident that the addition of the two new centers had a tremendous impact on the association's membership and by the end of the season it totalled 2,507 in 134 sanctioned leagues.

The following year all the ladies were caught up in the tournament "hostess fever", giving wholehearted support to SAWBA bid to host the state bowlers. SAWBA's bid was presented at Galveston.

Members approved the board's recommendation of a 50¢ assessment, but all members were saddened to learn of the resignation of Mrs. Clara Grasso after her 26 years of dedicated service to the local and state associations.

With the tremendous growth enjoyed - 1959-60 totalling 3,516 in 160 sanctioned leagues - members approved the increase in the car allowance of the secretary (\$50.00).

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No one will ever forget those "swinging sixties" - which may have been bowling's most glorious years of change. Bowling centers were becoming the magnificent edifices we enjoy today. Television bowling competition was a "must" for any ardent ten-pinner. And, the women professional bowlers were first organized. Prize funds - and scores - began to escalate as the game enjoyed its greatest "boom".

SAWBA, too, was enjoying a healthy membership - 5,858 at the end of the 1960 season with 307 sanctioned leagues, but some ladies were dreaming even greater dreams for their association - hostessing the WIBC Championships!

Added to our membership were the ladies in Boerne, Brooks AFB and Medina Air Force Base.

SAWBA performance awards were given to Jerry Johnson for high series (677) and to Martha Warburton for high game (276) and salaries for secretary and treasurer went to \$75.00 and \$20.00 respectively.

In 1961 the members voted to enter a token bid for the 1964 WIBC in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with a formal bid in Phoenix, Arizona, and Billy Simon agreed to serve as Bid Chairman.

The following year Billy resigned as chairman, beginning a year of turmoil and conflict for the association. Pleas from TWBA president and secretary, Estha Perkins and Helen Baetz came, but word from the bowlers was of their displeasure at the money needed for such an undertaking - bringing about Billy's stepping down.

In May of 1962 the SAWBA Board yielded to the pleas of Estha and Helen and voted again to continue the bid -- but this time with a budget committee appointed to plan for paying for the hostessing.

Ambitious as their plans were for WIBC hostessing, first was the hostessing of the TWBA Championships at San Pedro lanes - and entries numbered 1,206. The hard working SAWBA organization were responsible for 213 of those. The tournament began on February 17, 1961 with the annual meeting set for March 18th. It was the first appearance of "Miss Ole" - a Spanish Dancer theme which would be resurrected many years later when SAWBA was hostess to the WIBC.

Members approved an increased local tournament



entry fee of \$3.00 with scorekeepers to be provided. They were compensated at the rate of \$1.00 per shift, and rules called for team members to be five women in the same league.

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One of the brightest spots of 1962 was the formation of the San Antonio "600" Club with Jo Gebler as first president and Kitty Rizzo as first secretary. The charter members were those attending the organizational meeting - those ladies who had already rolled their first sanctioned 600 series in either league or tournament play. Eighty one members attended the meeting, and the Club would grow on to become the state's largest local 600 Club in the State for more than two decades.

SAWBA's bid for the WIBC tournament cost \$3,000 and disheartened members were saddened to learn of San Antonio's loss at Phoenix. But undaunted, the members knew that eventually, they would have their dream.

In the association, office operational funds were allocated for a mimeograph and copy machine to better service the membership and the first League Officer's Workshop was conducted by Mrs. Helen Baetz. She was also appointed 5th WIBC vice president that year, and the association ended the season with 6,927 members in 515 sanctioned leagues.

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May of 1963 was a busy time, as President Tapley continued to lead the group, but Anne Lenig replaced Marilyn Funk as secretary.

The entire membership rejoiced at the news of another 300 game by a member. Dorothy "Dottie" Spillers was authoress of the perfecto, rolled in the All Star tournament at Oak Hills. SAWBA rewarded her with a chest of silver for her performance.

National recognition came to us too, with the naming of Josephine "Jo" Novak as "Official Organist" for WIBC. Jo's music would thrill thousands of convention delegates in the years ahead, as she pounded out state songs, college songs, and pop

tunes during convention breaks.

To give even better service to the increased membership, SAWBA named additional members to the Board of Directors. The Board now totalled 18 with seven officers serving as the Executive Board. A 50¢ assessment was approved for the 1963-64 season, and officers and directors (other than president and secretary and treasurer) were to be compensated at the rate of \$15.00 per season. Once again the members voted to pursue their bid for the 1966 WIBC tournament. A token bid to be made at Minneapolis, Minnesota, after San Antonio lost to New Orleans at Memphis, Tennessee. The 1968 actual bid would be in Portland, Oregon.

Finding just \$5.96 in the bid account, a mammoth fund raising project was proposed. At stake was a mink stole, string of cultured pearls and a jeweled evening bag. Delegates fees to national were paid from the profits and the bid fund received a gigantic boost.

Legislatively the salaries were changed at the annual meeting allowing the President \$300.00 per year; Secretary \$3,000.00, and Treasurer, \$720.00 annually. Vice presidents and directors were allotted \$60.00 annually. Effective with the 1964-65 season the stagger system for electing directors was implemented with nine elected each year from both the north and south sides of town.

Myrt De Fily again made headlines by winning the State Doubles title that year. Membership at the beginning of the season was just 7,060, but by the end of the 1963-64 season had climbed to 7,898 with more than 500 league sanctions processed (524).

At the 1963 May meeting Mrs. Baetz also presented the State Team trophies to the Bowlerland Roosevelt team of Dee Waugh, Betty Wise, Carol Storms, Lou Galler, and Minnie Bounds, Class A winners. The Naylor Trophy Company team (Class B) also were saluted. Members were Tootsie Gaudern, Jean Goetz, Dottie Turbiville, Helen Flens and Joan Molnar.

Disturbing news soon rocked the city in February from President Tapley. The firm where she was employed planned to move its corporate office to Houston, necessitating her resignation. Into the president's chair came first vice president Lois M. Scott, who assured the membership that the bid work would continue.

Prior to her departure Mrs. Tapley arranged for a Parliamentary Procedure Course for all board members and interested bowlers.



The Board again adopted the colors of red and white as the official association colors, and five performance awards were approved. President Scott initiated a Membership Promotion Committee and a "Get Acquainted With Your Association" sweepster was held.

As a method of assuring closer communication with the membership a Newsletter was approved, and the association's bidding fund received a boost from the local bowling newspaper (Sports Mirror) - 50¢ for each subscription sold.

The first Policy Manual for the association was begun as well as an Association Scrapbook.

A new Association award was begun for all leagues - to be given to the lady who rolls at least 2/3 of the league, and has one game, most pins over her average during the season, being rewarded.

The first senior citizen league was formed during this season and military membership cards were issued. Bowlers generously supported the Cerebral Palsy telethon with many leagues and individuals making donations.

Just when everything seemed to be rolling along so beautifully, almost unsurmountable gloom spread over the bowling family when word was received that Wonder Bowl management, which was to be the site of the 1968 Championships, advised local association officials that they would not be interested in hosting the mammoth event.

Weeks of meetings with manager Jim Coffman, phone calls and correspondence to WIBC followed with the result being a letter from SAWBA relinquishing our bid in July of 1964 for the '68 events. Mrs. Emma Phaler at WIBC graciously but understandingly accepted our withdrawal.

By late September of that year, the Chamber of Commerce received word of the withdrawal, and another meeting was called with the business leaders of the city, hotel and restaurant representatives, downtown associations, HemisFair '68 leaders, Mr. Coffman of Wonder Bowl and other BPAA officials - together with the SAWBA Board - to discuss this setback. The 52 members attending this meeting joyously voted to re-open our negotiations, providing the membership concurred at the Annual Meeting, and that approval could again be gained from WIBC.

Armed with the assurances of community support, and the change of heart of Wonder Bowl management, the membership did agree -- and again work went forward.

Earlier in the year (June of 1964) SAWBA opened its doors to hundreds of State bowling officials by hostessing the Texas State Bowling Jamboree, an all-day rules session conducted by TWBA and TSBA, and SAWBA received assurances of support from all the state leaders in their bid.

At the TWBA Championships another San Antonio lady earned the All Events title with a 1722 total. She was one of our military dependents, Jaye Jean Smith.

With mixed emotions SAWBA accepted the news that the Boerne ladies wished to form their own association, withdrawing from SAWBA's umbrella. We wished them well.

Funds were allocated for a new Standings Board for the TWBA Championships, which were graciously accepted by TWBA.

Much of the year was spent in preparing the skit for the bid at Portland. The skit, "A Delegate's Dilemma" meant hours of rehearsal, planning and fun for SAWBA members.

Chaired by energetic Beatrice Windsor, the skit was a polished musical happening, portraying the trials of two bowlers coming to Nationals without reservations.

As they sleep in the lobby of a convention hotel, they dream of things past - past tournaments - lost bids - and what they wanted to tell WIBC delegates about San Antonio. The skit ended with music, "The Coloring Book", set to scenes of San Antonio on slides. Cooperation from the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitors Bureau was tremendous and the ladies in their velvet Mexican garb were stunning. No one will ever forget the Mexican pole dance which captured the delegate's attention in the hotel lobby.

But Fate intervened. In the middle of the skit a power failure in the projector at convention hall interrupted the performance, but like seasoned troopers, the show went on...and many felt the power failure was actually part of the skit. Such was the polish of the performance!

Nothing will ever equal the excitement - or nervousness - as SAWBA delegates awaited the outcome of the delegate's balloting. But victory was ours -- on the first ballot -- only the third time this had happened in WIBC's history.

Bringing back that good news, the members quickly gave approval of a \$1.00 dues increase - 75¢ for operational costs and 25¢ to a Contingency Fund for host Nationals.

Upon recommendation of secretary Anne Lenig, the Association issued its first Yearbook at a cost of \$1.00 each, and in September the first Newsletter "Pin Action" was issued to all members.

The Board adopted the emblem for stationery, plaques and patches and the colors of red and white were continued as association colors.

Tournament rules remained the same except that 5% of the entry prize fund in all events for each class was called for. Entry fee was \$3.25, Class A an additional 25¢ to the Class A prize fund. Any other class bowler participating in A events had to pay 25¢ additional, money to the Class A prize fund.

High series for the season was by Dee Waugh, 697, on a 187 average. She also had the most series over 650, a 696, 664, 655 and 651. High game award was presented to Gladys Gemblor for a 290 game.

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What a happy and almost frightening day came in 1965 when we received our bright red Procedure Manual from WIBC - outlining all that was expected of us in the days ahead as we planned for the 1968 events.

But again attention was focused on San Antonio with the news of a new State Hall of Fame. The very first honoree was to be Mrs. Helen Baetz, then a WIBC Vice President, and the gracious smiling countenance for which San Antonio was known. Mrs. Baetz had served TWBA for 21 years as secretary and upon her retirement a magnificent Testimonial Dinner in her honor was held in San Antonio with loving messages coming from all over the world.

SAWBA's league performance awards were being well received and membership jumped in the 1964-65 season to 7,512 with 444 sanctioned leagues. Lori Braden rolled the season high series of 691 and Jaye

Jean Smith, former State Champion, earned game honors for her 279. Ten SAWBA trophies were given - five for high series and five for high games.

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But now hostessing work began in earnest. Helen Baetz was named General Chairman and local brewery official and sponsor, Aubrey Kline, was named Honorary Chairman. The goal for SAWBA was set at 1,000 teams with 5,000 pledged from TWBA from the other cities in the state.

The Gunter Hotel was selected as Convention Headquarters and the Sheraton Motor Inn was named tournament headquarters.

The estimated hostessing fund was set at \$10,000, even though SAWBA's membership, including the merger with the Atascosa WBA into our membership that year (1965-66) was just 7,386 with 426 sanctioned leagues (including our first 6-team Senior league).

Because of the constant promotion and advertising that WIBC was coming, by the end of the 1966-67 season our membership reached 7,496 (454 leagues). Of course, a new "Bring A Friend" promotion by NBC aided our cause greatly too.

City tournament changes approved that year included the giving of two trophies: one for high scratch game and one for high scratch series, rather than the five given for league performance. Additionally 600 or better series and games over 250 patches were given.

Highlight of this time was another perfect game - this one by Shirley Mansfield on March 22, 1967, in the Air Force Wives league at Billy Mitchell lanes - the 16th of the season and 133rd by a woman in WIBC history.

WIBC, incidentally, was celebrating its 50th anniversary season with all thoughts and celebrations turning to "gold" and a large delegation from the city visited Rochester, New York, for the official commemoration of this event.

At home, the Board approved the resurrection of our theme symbol -- "Miss Ole" -- the Spanish Dancer designed to symbolize the fun and merriment that awaited the world's visiting women bowlers, used originally while the SAWBA was hostessing the TWBA in early 1960s. Miss Ole' was again unveiled at the Kick Off Rally for the mammoth event and remained as the promotional art for the 1968 event.

The approved Delegate's gift was a small Texas flag charm, and our slogan, coined by Miss Josephine Novak, was "San Antonio Will Be Great In '68" - a message rapidly echoed across the bowling world.

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More than 300 state, county and city officials, business leaders, social and military leaders ducked the raindrops the night of the KickOff to greet WIBC president, Mrs. Alberta E. Crowe, and secretary, Mrs. Freda Botkin. They gratefully accepted the first 476 paid local entries into the 1968 event at the KickOff.

What a great year of promotional activities! An Opening Night squad of senior-age bowlers, a WIBC 'first' originated by San Antonio WBA; the naming of

Mrs. Crowe and Mrs. Botkin as members of the Women's Pavilion of HemisFair '68 which was to open almost simultaneously with WIBC. HemisFair '68 was the first World's Fair ever staged in the Southwestern part of the United States. It also was the primary celebration of City of San Antonio's 250th anniversary celebration of the city's founding. President Lyndon B. Johnson declared HemisFair's theme as "Confluence of Civilization in the Americas."

Another "special day" was approved by WIBC for San Antonio - a salute to the women in the Military - this "first" was originated in San Antonio and celebrated for several years thereafter. The special day activities were coordinated by SAWBA Board Member and former Lt. Colonel in the Women's Air Force, Lois Ochoa. Military Day was to be April 10-11, 1968.

An Anchorman Project, suggested by publicity chairman, Ella Dikes, brought together women volunteers working with a group of male bowlers and businessmen to obtain sponsors of local teams. To those who contributing funds, a WIBC Sponsor Poster was given to display in their businesses. Sponsor Recognition Boards were also put in sixteen local bowling centers.

Another promotional project was "Bowler Shirt Turn In Week" proving not only useful for those bowling in the tournament, but bringing a nostalgic gathering back to the game. Old-timers who hadn't been bowling for years, searched their closets for usable shirts for ladies rolling in the tournament.

To help further with defraying expenses a Fun Carnival was held at Villita Assembly Building, bringing together friends, bowlers, sponsors, civic officials and a multitude of bowlers. Donna Kuehl, vice president, provided the rest and relaxation needed before tackling our giant undertaking - the Carnival netted a profit of \$1,421.14 to the hostessing fund.

Columbia Industries not only gave dozens of colorful balls to our visiting dignitaries when they visited the plant, but underwrote the sponsorship of 100 teams in the national event.

It was fitting that a Columbia "300" team would bring glory to the city in the TWBA Championships. The Columbia team swatted a winning score in Open Division - team members were Myrt DeFily, Nancy Prather, Dee Waugh, Evelyn Lanier, Austin, and Delores Witte, of the Valley.

The first "Nickle Week" for assisting the AJBC program was held and brought \$646.94 to their association treasury.

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A bit of the Old West was in store for visitors in the city for WIBC Opening Ceremonies. It was the 49th WIBC tournament at Wonder Bowl - sixth largest, second longest and third richest in history.

San Antonio had already planned two WIBC "firsts" and now it was a "last". An estimated 800 people, a S(tanding) R(oom) O(nly) audience was on hand for the official opening which was precluded by a 3.4 mile Western Parade -- the final time opening day was marked with a parade -- through suburban Alamo Heights to the front door of Wonder Bowl. Capping off

the evening was another typically Texas event - a barbecue with Texas-style music.

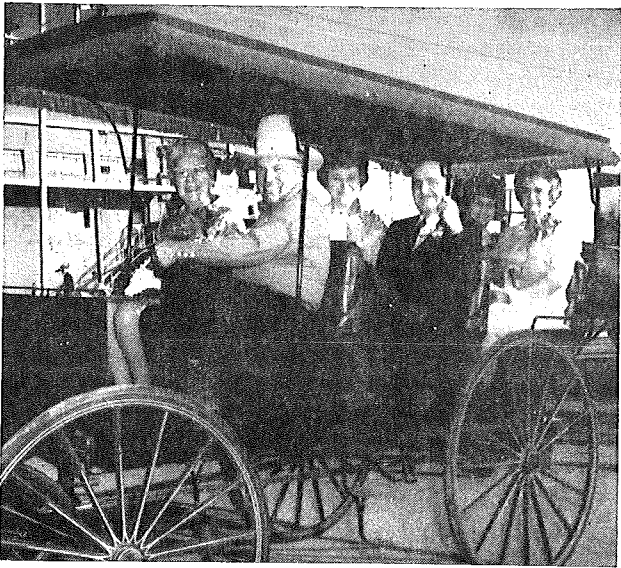
Snappy marching music mixed with enthusiastic applause as the dignitaries reached their seats. Following the invocation and the singing of the National Anthem, a host of celebrities filed to the microphone to welcome the world's women bowlers.

Inside Wonder Bowl, waiting, were the participants of the opening squad - 28 teams of senior-age bowlers - that "first" San Antonio gave to WIBC. One of those seniors was 89-year-old Elizabeth "Mama" Whall, SAWBA's oldest member, chosen to roll the first ball down the gleaming lanes.

A standing ovation greeted WIBC president Crowe, who cited many Texas traditions and commented that San Antonio can now proudly add HemisFair '68 and the WIBC Championship Tournament to the impressive list. The Congress leader also brought an appropriate message from another bowler - Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, wife of the president.

Mrs. Crowe presented to Billy Simon an emblem for having competed in her 29th WIBC tournament. Simon and Haufler were San Antonio's only former WIBC champions. Then came the traditional ribbon cutting and the rolling of the opening ball by Mrs. Whall. Then a spectacular finish to the opening - the entire center was put in darkness and on signal across the projected telescopes, one letter at a time, flashed the words, "SAWBA Welcomes WIBC".

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BIT OF OLD WEST—Passengers in this surrey in the western parade were Mrs. Freda S. Botkin, WIBC executive secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Helen Baetz, general tournament chairman, and her husband, Clarence; Mrs. Rae Fisk, WIBC seventh vice president; and Mrs. Theresa Kelone, WIBC third vice president.

On Military Day a three-star Army General, a Marine Sergeant from Okinawa and a quintet of Air Force women kicked off the other "first" for WIBC. Seventy-eight teams representing all branches of the military were competing. Fourteen military women from area bases led the march to the lanes and served as the Honor Guard as the National Anthem was sung to organ accompaniment. To make it truly an all-military affair, scorekeepers were all uniformed members from different branches of the Service.

A few weeks later Co-Ed champions were crowned the night of April 21st during the giant tourney.

Then, at long last, it was the awaited Annual Meeting week. The three-day session at the Municipal Auditorium was attended by 2,181 delegates, second only to the 1967 number registered at Rochester, New York, for WIBC's Golden Anniversary meeting.

It was fitting, too, that one of the officers elected unanimously at the San Antonio meeting was a fellow Texan, Mrs. Rae Fisk of Houston. Six directors also were named, and one, Mrs. Helen Baker of Florida, would succeed Mrs. Crowe to the WIBC presidency. Shortly after the Alamo City meeting, Mrs. Crowe elevated Mrs. Baker to the position of Sixth Vice President.

During the business session, Atlanta, Georgia, was selected by the delegates as the site of the 1971 annual meeting, and 27 Constitutional Amendments were approved. \$200,000 was allocated for a joint nationwide promotion of bowling.

With the passing of Jo Novak just prior to the annual meeting, breaks in the business agenda were filled with the organ music for each session in the proceedings by San Antonio's Sid Fisher. Often during the conclave he led the delegates in song. The fact that he was blind did not dull his enthusiasm for the over 2,000 delegates and his music and personality won the city many new friends.

The moving Memorial Service was aided by the talents of the young men and women from the Texas School For The Deaf, Austin. They dramatized the words sung by Waldo Newcomb, soloist, in sign language. Speaker for the Service was the Very Rev. Louis J. Bloom, S.M., president of St. Mary's University.

WIBC sponsored the lovely Merienda, with approximately 2,000 in attendance in the new San Antonio Civic Center at HemisFair. Fare was authentic Mexican food and wandering mariachis thrilled the guests and Spanish dancers had everyone's hands clapping to the lively music.

San Antonio 600 Club members working together for months, gathered and decorated nearly 200 wrought iron birdcages, filled them flowers and birds as table decorations for the National 600 Club annual banquet and meeting. Music was by the Chordsmen, the city's award-winning barbershop quartet.

San Antonio bowlers and the nation's bowling writers members were delighted with the naming of the Lola Yoakum Award winner for the WIBC's most outstanding member in the hostess city - Mrs. Helen Baetz, who had served as General Chairman of the '68 events.

Climaxing the tournament was the National Queens Tournament on May 19th at Wonder Bowl. A tall and attractive brunette received the "royal" treatment for her performance. Mrs. Phyllis Massey, of California, runnerup the previous year took the crown from Marian Spencer of Oklahoma in the final match.

It was a publicity dream-come-true each afternoon at 2 p.m. at the WIBC "Give Away" table. The attraction was the delivery of free copies of the daily tournament supplement, published by the San Antonio Light. A four-page pull-out section in every edition, every day for 60 days, devoted exclusively to news of WIBC and the tournament. Game by game scores of every one of the more than 21,000 participants, plus a wrap-up and several photos and WIBC history. Additionally the Express & News printed the top ten standings each day.

At tournament's end it was truly frosting on our cake to have a Texas champion! Janice Sue "Susie" Reichley, a 22 year-old Baylor University graduate student, provided that frosting. With series of 626, 646 and 621, Susie sizzled in an 1,889 all events scratch total, seventh highest on record in WIBC tournaments.

The WIBC tournament has been called many things in its 51 years, but it surely reached a new plateau when a local writer tagged it... "female bowlers Valhalla... a housewife-diverting monolith of near galactic proportions," and that's what SAWBA gave to the world's women bowlers!

With all the loving hours given to WIBC and the world's women bowlers, there was also activity elsewhere in the city as well. SAWBA's membership during that 1967-68 season was 7,477 and awards were earned by Ruth Riker for her 680 series and duplicate awards were given for season high game of 279, rolled by Sonya Lee and Margaret Hitzfeld in league play.

In June Rosalie Harrell resigned as association secretary and President Scott appointed Sylvia Broyles. The nominating committee selected Rosalie to lead the association as president beginning August 1st.

With funds remaining in the hostessing account, SAWBA made a \$1,000.00 donation to benefit all local bowling. The funds were administered by the local proprietors in conjunction with a National Bowling Council program.

The local tournament following WIBC (there was no tournament in 1967-68) drew 256 teams, 416 doubles and 832 singles, and Sylvia moved that we bid for the 1973 TWBA Championships.



Membership at the end of the 1968-69 season reached 7,567 and a new service for the membership was instituted with the origination of the League Officer's Workshops in various parts of the city.

Three senior leagues were on the floor at local centers and the first Senior Mixed tournament was planned for All Star lanes on May 24,25, 1969. Attention was given to the BVL Fund with the proposal of a special city-wide fund drive.

Columbia Industries "300" team brought home the Open Division State title, and meetings were held to consider a local Hall of Fame.

On the state level, plans were being made for a Texas Bluebonnet Queens tournament for 1970 in Beaumont.

Local association awards went to Carol Smith for a 716 series, a high average of 190, and to Barbara Solis for a 279 game. Jerry Johnson earned a 700 award for a 714 series.

Secretary Broyles proposed a special BVL league score tournament for the city, and legislatively winners of association awards were given an option as to the type of award they desired. The secretary reported that the Texas State Jamboree would be held in San Antonio in 1971.



By the 1970's mixed leagues were on the rise and San Antonio was the third largest local association in the State.

The first BVL league score tournament drew 2,307 entrants netting a donation to BVL of \$1,706.80. Entry fee was just \$1.00 with 70¢ to BVL, 25¢ to the local prize fund and 5¢ for expense. The Board voted to disperse the funds \$100 to National Bowling Council (which administers the BVL Fund) and the balance to the nine Veterans Hospitals in Texas. The tourney was conducted at all centers with 66-2/3 handicap for men, 75% for women with handicapped scores determining the bowler's place in the prize fund.

A combined Yearbook was issued with the SABA, and all funds in excess of \$300 cash on hand went to a special TWBA hostessing fund, after Secretary Broyles moved the SAWBA hostess the '73 events.

The first special awards for the tournament for seniors were approved in 1970 - one for high series, one for high game by a senior member rolling in the championships. By this time there were seven senior leagues in play, and dues had a one dollar assessment bringing the total for sanction cards to \$2.50. SAWBA's membership was 8,001 at the end of the season and awards were given to Mary Falconer for high series, 689, and to Corinne Runnels for high game of 289. Myrt DeFily again carved her name in the TWBA annals with the state's highest average of 194, and rolled her first 700 series.

It was a gala evening when the San Antonio Bowling Council staged its Hall of Fame banquet and first honorees were Billy Simon and Charlie Treuter, not only for their bowling accomplishments, which were legendary, but for their outstanding contributions over the years to the game. Mr. Treuter was honored posthumously.

At annual meeting time Pearl Yarbrough was elected SAWBA president, and another local team earned state honors. The Lone Star Ice & Food team captured the Open Division team honor, and a pretty teen, Rosalyn Raab, was selected Texas 20-Year Club "Miss Texas Junior Bowler of the Year". Volunteers from SAWBA were solicited to keep score for the Men's State Tournament at Wonder Bowl. The tournament this year for the women drew 256 teams with 393 sets of doubles and singles. Membership was at 8,001 with 452 leagues.

1971 was a banner year for us - an all-time Class A all events score and with the increasing number of ladies rolling 700 series, the association instituted a new award for its members - a 700 patch to go with the 600 and 250 patches given to the members earning them.

The record all events score came in the City Tournament and it was a great publicity boost for all local women bowlers. Rolling in Class A, Beverly San Marco shot the record all events score of 1,873 for her nine games, which included a 662 record score in Singles. Glenda Recker, rolling in Class B, also set a new record of 654 in her singles event.

The annual meeting found SAWBA with a membership of 8,326 with 424 sanctioned leagues. WIBC had discontinued the \$1.00 league sanction fee and cards were \$2.75 per person.

High individual series for the year was rolled by Myrt DeFily, 695; Jane Bischoffberger had the high game of 279 and Beverly Smith and Dorothy Jones shared high average honors with 185s.

Two State champions were saluted by the association. Myrt DeFily captured the State Singles Championship with a 695 score, and Tina Martinez earned Class A singles honors with a 673.

The BVL league score tournament drew increased entries when 2,248 participated netting a donation of \$1,785.21 and again \$100.00 was sent to the national BVL Fund office and the balance donated to the State's VA Hospitals.

Secretary Broyles issued a "summons" to league secretaries to attend the "Court of Hospitality" sessions (league officers workshops), and membership continued to escalate, reaching 8,552 by the end of the season with 314 women's and mixed leagues.

The year ended with the naming of the Hall of Fame honorees - Mrs. Helen Baetz and veteran lane star Bob Harris.



The year 1972 was a busy and exciting year as well. BVL entries topped 2,512, membership grew to 8,662 in 438 leagues, and the local association set a goal of 750 teams for the 1973 TWBA Championships. SAWBA dispensed with the formal opening ceremonies at the local tournament, and instead, paid tribute to a pioneer - Billy Simon - the first local Hall of Famer.

Legislatively, Board Members were not allowed to serve on the Nominating Committee and instead five members were to be elected by the membership. The high individual average award was added to the game and series and awards, and SAWBA operated within a \$11,925 budget. The SAWBA office typed the men's portion of the Yearbook, and members were asked to devise a different system for issuance in the future.

The newest award added to the services to the membership was the proposed SAWBA Superior Performance Award for outstanding performance on the lanes during the immediate past season. The first awarded to Myrt DeFily.

Again a San Antonio lass was named "Miss Texas

Junior Bowler" as Beth Massey was honored.

Beverly San Marco donated a new award for the City Tournament - the Donna Kuehl Memorial Trophy - in honor of the former SAWBA officer who had devoted so much of her life to the San Antonio women. The trophy travels each year to the City Champion.

The 1972-73 season ended with 8,918 anxious members ready to host the State again. Leagues numbered 431, and Pearl Yarbrough was named Local Coordinator. Awards went to Elfi Tomczyk, 197 average; Bettie Jo Geisler for a 300 game, and the high series of 730; and 700s by Polly Denham 705, Mary Falconer 701 and Ann Gentry 700.

Bid work for the '73 TWBA tournament brought lots of activity and first was a question - "EYAWTKA San Antonio BWATA" -- ??

The catchy promotion was the idea of Ella O'Quinn, chairman of publicity. Special emblems with these initials were worn on the backs of the white, grey and black official uniforms - on correspondence going out of the association office - and on the backs of all delegates at the Houston hospitality room at the annual meeting of TWBA.

They translated to -- "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About San Antonio But Were Afraid To Ask". One of the wittiest guesses came from a delegation who told us "We think the last is "Bring Water And Tequila To The Alamo," but we can't decipher the first."

A clever sound and slide presentation, again lured the delegates to the Alamo City for the 1973 events.

The tournament was to run from February 9 through April 15 at Southside Lanes and Wonder Bowl. Kick Off was October 30, 1972 and again Columbia Industries came to our aid with the sponsorship of fifty teams. It was TWBA's 40th birthday and a "birthday" theme was carried throughout the tournament. Everyone became a clown at a child's birthday party, and of course, a mammoth cake was available -- complete with a bowling pin decoration on the top.

The tournament drew 1,958 teams with a total prize fund of \$74,098.25. San Antonio entered 432 local teams, just 13 shy of the all-time record set by Houston in 1970.

But opening weekend was a Birthday Party to remember as Billy Simon, Erna Haufler, Babe Campbell and Elizabeth Whall, four of the pioneers of 1933 participated in the ribbon cutting ceremonies. The fifth member of that group, Mrs. Emma Trieber, had passed away.

Teenage girls from the junior program rolled for trophies on opening squad after Beverly San Marco Pantuso, our all-time all events record holder (in the local tournament) and National 600 Club tournament winner in Tulsa, rolled the opening ball. Blinded by television lights on each side of the lanes, Beverly left a back-row split, and graciously re-rolled her ball for the cameras -- leaving the identical split!

Many a teary eye was seen at the annual banquet when SAWBA's first president, Erna Haufler was inducted into the TWBA Hall of Fame, and the bowling writers club honored Harold Scherwitz of the San

Antonio Light with the presentation of the Wood Award for Excellence.

SAWBA presented a new plastic enclosed case for the Gold Pin and absorbed the cost of the frame of Mrs. Haufler's Hall of Fame photo. More honors came to SAWBA with the Columbia 300 team winning the Class C team event with a record score of 2643, and past-president Alice Iltis won the senior award with 234. Mrs. Iltis had the all-time record for those 55 and over, set in 1969, a 245.

But again it was WIBC glory for one of our members when Janet Goodwyn rolled games of 216, 259 and 279 for a 754 all time three game record score for the city at Southside Lanes.

Into the local Hall of Fame that year, Grace Baskin, Willie Granieri and Gus Pfeiffer were inducted. And at the local tournament Carolyn Harn won with a 1713 all events total after 280 teams, 444 doubles and 888 singles entrants participated.

Plans were announced for another bowling center in the city, Thunder Bowl. Local awards that year went to Myrt DeFily for a 194 average, Jan Goodwyn for her high series of 754 and to Norma Reininger for her 288 game. And...membership approved the giving of the SAWBA Superior Performance Award.

A memorable move took place in 1973 too. During the early years the SAWBA business office was in the home of the secretary, but in August of 1973 SAWBA moved into the North Towne Plaza Professional Building to better service its membership.

President Yarbrough announced her intention not to complete her term and the members attending the annual meeting elected a first vice president, knowing that they were naming a new President. Judith Ann "Judy" Stephenson received the confidence vote of the membership.

Prior to her departure from office Mrs. Yarbrough proposed the "buddy" system to bring new members into the activities of SAWBA. Each Director could bring a "buddy" to board meetings, have them help with Director's duties, and the buddy could begin to learn the workings of the association, and in the future serve as a Director herself.

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At the annual meeting the presidential gavel passed to Judy Stephenson and membership was 8,918 with 431 sanctioned leagues.

1973 awards went to Elfi Tomczyk with a 197, city's highest average ever for a woman, to Bettie Jo Geisler for a 730 series and 300 game and to Laverne Ellerson for a 299 game. It was the year of high scores with three games over 290 and four 700 series.

The San Antonio Bowling Council inducted eight members from the past into the Hall of Fame: H. L. Buckner, Lil Canfield, Myrt DeFily, Erna Haufler, Norbert Penschorn, Bert Weltens, Mrs. Clara Grasso, posthumously, and Miss Josephine Novak, posthumously.

Linda Fox became the 1974-75 City Champion with a 1,684 all events total. Entries in the tournament reached 208 teams, 558 doubles, 1,116 singles.

The second SAWBA Superior Performance Award was presented to Elfi Tomczyk.

Again there was no let-down following the hosting of TWBA events, and SAWBA Board Members turned their thoughts to their senior-age bowlers and the first Senior Mixed Tournament was held. But there was even more activity aimed at our senior members. Houston was hosting the WIBC that year, and energetic localites planned an 'experience' for our seniors -- ten teams of senior ladies to bowl on the same squads at the WIBC event. Billy Simon again came to the aid of the association with a \$500.00 donation, and with other donations, each senior lady participating was required only to pay \$7.00 for her part of the exciting trip. That small amount included the transportation and one meal. It was to be the beginning of a San Antonio WBA tradition, as in the years ahead Senior Trips were planned to participate in State Tournament activities each year.

SAWBA members wholeheartedly supported a request from Audie Murphy Memorial Veterans Hospital. Books were needed for our shut-in veterans and the drive was planned - "Bring A New Book To A Vet"!!

Books were collected during the month of February and the result was so astounding that more than 10,000 hardcover and paper backs were delivered to the hospital -- so much so, that the library overflowed.

The Board approved a point systems for various achievements on the lanes to determine the SAWBA Superior Performance Award winner. Points were given for any bowling feat during the previous year, and a committee totalled the points for achievement and the winner determined. The first to earn this award under the new system was Mary Falconer, who would go on to win the award for eight consecutive years.

On the national scene the delegates elevated Helen Baetz to the position of Third WIBC Vice President.

It was a happy day for local ladies when membership topped the 9,000 mark for the first time. There were 9200 sanctioned ladies in 423 ladies or mixed leagues, and to adequately service the growing number, the office acquired a 24-hour answering device.



Preparing for the country's Bicentennial Year (1976), the men's association planned an "extra-special" Yearbook of Averages, but the ladies voted to issue one just for our membership and use the funds elsewhere in the association to commemorate this occasion. In keeping with the Bicentennial celebration SAWBA voted to issue Bicentennial patches along with the 200 pins given at the local tournament. SAWBA also made available to leagues Bicentennial patches, bought in bulk and sold to the leagues for 40¢ which covered the cost of postage and handling.

For the second time in SAWBA's history membership went over the 9,000 mark for the 1974-5 season (9,756) with 497 leagues. Generosity of the city's bowlers swelled our BVL donation and five color televisions were presented to the Audie Murphy Memorial VA Hospital.

Local dues remained at \$1.75 and bylaws called for two centers to host the championship tournament,

adding that the centers must have at least one all-woman league.

WIBC was offering a new service to its members - the Leadership Training Seminar (LTS) - and Secretary Broyles recommended that SAWBA send five members (not current board members) to the Workshops. Again the association donated \$150.00 to the AJBC program locally, and BVL donations that year reched \$1,833.75.

Mary Falconer again was Superior Performance Award winner and Lil Poole, TWBA Secretary, visited to install the new officers and directors. A scrapbook covering the events of the years 1972 to 1975 was presented to the association by treasurer, Helen Kalala.

Remembering the pleasures of hosting the world's bowlers, and with the news that the city would soon have a new 60-lane center, membership again discussed the possibiity of bidding for National in 1979.

The office moved to 401 Isom Road, and uniforms were changed to red slacks, white blouses and blue vests in keeping with the Bicentennial theme. More than 200 league officials attended local Workshops to gain additional knowledge and to assure more efficiently run leagues.

A SAWBA news column, "Pin Action", was created by publicity chairman Ella O'Quinn to reach members through the pages of the Sports Mirror, now operated by Jack Yandell following the death of Gayle Hayes, who had covered bowling news for 19 years.

The local tournament title went to Glenda Recker who had a 1,717 all events total (scratch) after 363 tams, 656 doubles and singles, and 1,173 all events contestants rolled.

High average for the city went to Mary Falconer, 193 for 102 games; Cindy Johnson had the year's high series of 708 and Irma Marroquin had the high singles game of the season, 288. Linda Fox was rewarded for her 705 series.

Two new centers were added to the city's skyline with the opening of Skylark Lanes on Lackland Air Force Base and a second - Thunder Bowl - was opened on the city's northwest side, bringing additional women into our game.

Inducted into the Hall of Fame were past SAWBA president Mrs. Alice Iltis and bowling writer, Gayle Hayes. Two busloads of Seniors were part of the exciting opening ceremonies of the TWBA Championship Tournament (a record) at Irving -- and again Billy Simon provided the transportation for the lovely senior ladies. Membership in the 1975-76 season in the 543 leagues was now 10,410 -- a happy day for San Antonio ladies.



What a full year 1976 was! Early in January came the news of the closing of the Sports Mirror - and SAWBA's means of contacting members. The column formerly in the Sports Mirror was now put into the form of a mimeographed publication, distributed to each lane.

President Stephenson asked everyone to support "Bowling Recognition Week" - to interest new members in our game - and the Mayor's office issued a proclamation declaring that special week. Mayor Lila Cockrell's proclamation also recognized sponsors, veterans of the game, news media, members, suppliers and proprietors, and told of the impact of the game on the local community. The special week was celebrated the week prior to the Hall of Fame banquet -- and the game and many of its members received city-wide recognition.

February also brought the opening of another center into our family - Fort Sam Houston opened their beautiful new lanes.

It was also a nostalgic time. After giving 32 years of their lives to the bowling game, Clarence and Helen Baetz wanted some leisure time to themselves. Helen retired from the WIBC Board, a career which spanned almost twenty years on the local level, before 21 years as TWBA secretary (retiring in 1966), and 24 years on the WIBC board. Once again the bowling family gathered together to say "thank you" to Helen - and Clarence - for all that they gave to the bowling game.

A new honor, too, came to our local secretary, Sylvia Broyles, who was elected to serve a three-year term as Director of TWBA at the Longview annual meeting, and it was the beginning of her career serving on the State Junior Board of Directors.

Once again our family grew with the addition of 54 new lanes on Loop 410 - when the Sports Palace opened. Women's scores were exceptional during this period with Deborah Lauzon shooting 299; Jerry Johnson having 715, Betty Burke swatting 708 to earn the association awards. In the local tournament it was a repeat performance by Glenda Recker, this year with a 1,787 scratch all events. Later in the year Connie Sanchez, would shoot a 289 at Southside and Mary Falconer would again be named Superior Performance winner... all activities duly reported in San Antonio's newest bowling publication, the San Antonio Kegler, owned and published by Ella O'Quinn the SAWBA publicity chairman, and distributed to all lanes after the first issue dated June 4, 1976.

The men's association planned their first Fall Festival (replacing the Sponsor Day Picnic) and the women joined them, installing a cake booth at the event to help defray expenses of the association. The Board agreed to bid for the TWBA Texas Bluebonnet Queens tournament for 1978.

Inducted into the Hall of Fame for years of contributions were Lewis P. Levinson, Miss Betty Wise and Jerry Merck. An AJBC girl, who would become the city's most celebrated teen, Kathy Kirst, hammered out a 762 series at Oak Hills, at age 15. The score was the highest ever rolled by a girl in the 29-year old history.

Again SAWBA donated \$150.00 to the junior association and the annual BVL Fund league score tournament drew 3,169 entries resulting in a donation of \$2,407.55. The Board approved the funds to purchase a "Learn To Bowl" film which was donated to the Audie Murphy VA Hospital.

The women joined hands with the men again in staging the first City Mixed Tournament for the city's

bowling population. The first was held at Billy Mitchell Lanes on July 10 and for two additional weekends, for SAWBA, SABA and Boerne WBA members.

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President Stephenson recommended that the ladies work with the SABA to plan and conduct a League Officer's Tournament and to assist with the City Mixed. SAWBA named Helen Baetz, as its first Life Member of the association at the annual meeting in March of 1977, and Billy Simon was named the first Member Emeritus.

It was also the year to say "thank you" to Sylvia Broyles, who was serving her tenth year as local secretary. In her honor a League Secretaries Tournament was staged, with secretaries of all ladies and mixed leagues invited to participate. First winner wa Norma Sivells.

By the end of the 1976-77 season, all applauded our three award winners Eunice Balmos for a 290 game, Mary Falconer for high series of 710 and Shirley Mansfield for a 189 high composite average. Membership for the season was 11,757 in 593 sanctioned leagues.

All bowlers were urged to participate in the Fund Drive to help build the National Bowling Hall of Fame and Museum, and generously donated their \$2.00 during league play for that fund. SAWBA also sent an association check in the amount of \$300.00 to become members of the NBHF/M Builders Club.

Bowlers from throughout the state came to cheer the Professionals at the National Bowling Council "Bowling Spectacular" at Wonder Bowl, and the Spectacular brought an old friend back into our midst. Mrs. Alberts E. Crowe of Liverpool, WIBC president and president of the National Bowling Council was feted at a riverboat candle-lit dinner and made an Honorary Texan by Governor Dolph Briscoe. Later that week she toured Audie Murphy Memorial VA Hospital and presented a \$1,500.00 check from the national BVL office.

Secretary Broyles' name was added to the WIBC Nominating Slate at WIBC - a singular honor for her and our association. Not a dry eye was in the convention hall when Helen Baetz was named to the WIBC Hall of Fame in the Meritorious Service category.

Our teen star, Kathy Kirst, was named Alberta E. Crowe "Star of Tomorrow" for outstanding bowling, and scholastic achievement. She would become a Texas Miss Texas Junior Bowler, as well as Julia Roba, Janie Eberhart, Beth Massey and Donna Collins.

San Antonio again sent a bus-load of seniors to the opening squad of TWBA and delegates to WIBC and TWBA staged a huge garage sale to help defray expenses. A promotional coup came our way when a member, Beverly Hinsey, chartered a bus for later in the tournament. At a get-acquainted sweeper for the riders, Lil Poole, TWBA secretary, visited and was made Honorary Mayor(ess) of San Antonio by City Councilman Nielsen.

At the Amarillo TWBA Championships, another

local woman was honored. June Muskopf earned the Class A Singles title with a 607. Local publicity director, Ella O'Quinn, was named TWBA Public Relations Director and editor of the state publication, Across Texas Lanes.

Secretary Broyles recommended a Service Award for a member to acknowledge outstanding service to the local association. League service included having available 200 and 500 patches for leagues to purchase at SAWBA's cost.

The 2nd Annual City Mixed tournament was staged in conjunction with the men's association, and all integers of the game joined in the fun of "Hey, Coach Day" to say "thank you" to our junior coaches.

In ceremonies high atop the Frost National Bank, surrounded by all segments of the bowling industry, Columbia Industries' founder and Chairman of the Board, Roger Zeller, was inducted into the local Hall of Fame.

Legislatively the members voted to increase the size of the executive board to six officers and twenty directors, effectively immediately. Tournament rules were amended to allow the city tournament to be held in two bowling centers - each with a minimum of twenty-four lanes, and having at least one sanctioned all-women's league.



The late 1970s could be termed the year of the Durometer D device, used to check ball hardness -- and it was the beginning of the battle nationally to stop runaway high scores.

In March of 1977, a veteran bowling administrator, Madelyn Spreng was elected to succeed Judy Stephenson as president. 1977-78 membership skyrocketed to 12,361 in 584 leagues.

The bowling family gathered to honor two of its most celebrated citizens - Billy Simon and Helen Baetz - at a just for fun reception and an afternoon "of remembering" at Kelly AFB Officer's Club (August 28, 1977).

SAWBA was honored with a visit from its WIBC Field Service Representative Dianne Nelson of Iowa, who reviewed the bylaws of the association with the Board.

The local tournament featuring a prize fund of \$12,952 found Kathy Kirst as all events (scratch) champion with 1,796, and she represented SAWBA well in the Texas Bluebonnet Queens. High game of the 1977-78 season was by Jody Wright, 288, with the series award going to Debbie Lauzon for a 717, and the high composite average was earned by Mary Falconer, 189.5.

It was in May of 1977 when word reached the local scene that WIBC president Alberta E. Crowe had called Sylvia Broyles at the TWBA tournament office where she served as Office Manager, appointing her as Director #18 on the WIBC Board. The city's women rejoiced.

A united fund drive for the National Bowling Hall of Fame and Museum was again staged. With a western dance and an auction, \$10,577.23 was generated with women's and mixed leagues vying for incentive awards

for 100% participation. Columbia Industries donated \$500.00 to help defray the cost of the awards.

Once again the women's thoughts went to bidding for the WIBC championships, and members agreed to submit a bid for the year 1984 -- but in the meantime SAWBA would bid for the 1981 TWBA Championships as well.

At the state level more local women were saluted as champions of the TWBA State Tournament. The Wonder Women, Pat Sheehy, Shirley Lehman, Cheryl Bodenhamer, Vi Sheehy and Linda Kopczyk captured the Class A team title; Cheryl Bodenhamer and Betty Ponder, with 1224, captured the State Class A Doubles title and in Class C Doubles, champs were Chris Davila and Gladys Heinsohn with 1212.

Our secretary, now WIBC Director, Sylvia Broyles conducted the WIBC portion of the Texas State Jamboree at Victoria.

Inductees that year into the Hall of Fame were Mrs. Lillian Cobb, posthumously, E. J. "Egg" Eyhorn and the SAWBA Secretary, Sylvia Broyles. The Board and membership approved the naming of a second Life Member, Rosalie Bushick.

After a year or so of officing on Isom Road, the SAWBA office was returned to its former location in the Plaza Professional Building.

Pursuing its quest to acquire the hostessing of the TWBA events, SAWBA opened a Hospitality Room in Austin at the annual meeting and joined in a friendly rivalry with the Houston WBA for the 1981 events. Our slogan - "For Fiesta Fun -- It's San Antonio In '81"!

It was tamales and tidbits and lots of fund and more local "talent" on display. The "Gong Show" patterned after a television game show was our format with three portraying state officers. Music, dancing, a tasteful "strip", and a forever falling "gong" brought the prize we desired.

The enthusiasm was contagious and the local tournament drew 314 teams, 583 singles and doubles and 1,060 all events, netting a prize fund of \$12,817.11, in our last tournament before hostessing the state women bowlers.

SAWBA was hostess, too, to the second Leadership Training Seminar in August at the Sheraton Motor Inn, and 35 local bowlers increased their knowledge of rules, association involvement and much much more. Mrs. Helen Baker of Florida, who would become WIBC president, shared her knowledge and experience with those in attendance, and we all learned much more about the game we love so much. Secretary Broyles coordinated all phases of the LTS and WIBC extended grateful thanks to all of us.

With membership for 1978-79 set at 11,478 in 595 leagues, Mary Falconer carded the season high series of 740 together with a 734 and 707, while Arline Pape slammed in the season high game of 289. Mary carried the high composite average of 194, and receiving the special awards were Arline for her game, and Deborah Lauzon for the series of 724. Mary's award was engraved with her series. A 706 was also carded by Roberta "Bobbie" Haddock.

The 1979 inductees into the Hall of Fame were veteran sponsor Joe Straus Sr. and SAWBA past president, Rosalie Bushick.

A very special boost to the junior program came with the staging of Nickle Week by the San Antonio Bowling Council. Funds were used to establish a junior scholarship fund, and the Council later named the fund in honor of Billy Simon. The first scholarship tournament allowed the Council to issue \$3,000.00 in scholarships to youngsters in our junior program.



The 1980-81 season was a banner one for all women bowlers - and again we recorded a "first". One of our members had attained that ultimate goal of a 200-average for a full season of bowling in league play.

Mary Falconer turned the trick for us with a 201 average, and was awarded the coveted WIBC 200 Average Pin. This same year she was named Texas Woman Bowler of the Year by the Texas 20 Year Club, and won the local championship tournament, after 334 teams, 656 doubles, 1,292 singles and 1,179 all events entrants participated for the \$13,981.07 prize fund.

Additionally, our association was honored at the state level when Myrt DeFily was selected for induction into the TWBA Hall of Fame.

Board action meant the awarding of the first SAWBA Service Award, and the committee established the criteria for giving the prestigious award. They also voted not to participate in the Fall Festival as an association project.

A new means of helping defray expenses was devised. The association issued a recipe book, with favorite recipes from all members, and at the concession stand at the local tournament "From Rolling Pin to Bowling Pin" made its appearance along with bowling handtowels. The successful Ways & Means project called for a re-order of the recipe books by March.

By now the entire city was shouting "For Fiesta Fun In '81, It's San Antonio", and great interest was sparked for the TWBA Championships the following year.

Women on the Board volunteered to assist in the Southwest Texas junior tournament office and fifteen of our members participated in the Texas Bluebonnet Queens tournament. Four went as far as the semifinals round and one made the finals.

1979-80 membership at the end of the season reached 11,831 with 610 sanctioned leagues, and President Spreng passed her gavel to Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Pfeiffer.



Once again the SAWBA Board was privileged to have the State Secretary, Lil Poole, install the association officers for the coming season and Miss Poole worked with various committee chairmen in making plans for the coming TWBA annual meeting and tournament.

She found a beehive of activity as Coordinator Sylvia Broyles advised of work in progress and completed. The patches - colorfully show the San Antonio River, the Tower of the Americas and the Alamo - were approved.

Performance awards for the previous season were 191 high composite average by Mary Falconer, high series of 740 by Donna Wallace, and 299 high game by Gayle Goodwyn. Additional awards for 700 series were earned by Falconer 739, Liz Smith 734 and Debbie Lauzon 704.

But in October it was time to tell one and all about the 1981 TWBA Championships and "Fiesta Fun in '81" at the KickOff held October 24. The City proclaimed Kick Off week as "Bowler's Week", and Councilwoman Helen Duttmer read the Proclamation. Local proprietors, TWBA Board members and Life Members, sponsors and interested women and men were on hand for the festivities which featured a Spanish theme at Pearl Brewing Company.

League visitation goal was set at 750 teams with the thought in mind that we wanted at least 500 local teams from our association. The San Antonio Rose theme proved to be the most successful and posters with baskets of roses soon appeared at all lanes. The baskets were to be filled with paper roses giving team names, or sponsor names.

It was a little bit of "heaven on earth" at entry closing time and San Antonio's entry was 519 local teams, topping the previous record of 432. And more exciting was the news from Lil Poole, at a specially called Press Conference, that San Antonio had a new State Record for Teams entered in the Championships -- 3,086 -- the first time in TWBA history that state had gone over the 3,000 mark!

The Board set the budget for hostessing TWBA at \$4,825.00 with some fund derived from the sale of tournament emblems during the event. The Championships would run eighteen (18) consecutive weekends (with one week off for leaders to attend the WIBC meetings), and volunteer assistance from the memberships was truly exceptional.

But this special year was even more memorable as we remembered our men and women in the Veterans Administration Hospitals. Taking a page from the Championships, a special "KickOff" for the BVL Tournament was held. This heralded the BVL Fund league score tournament. State political leaders, veterans groups, military and civilian dignitaries joined the bowlers for a giant Kick Off at Fort Sam Houston lanes. One of our greatest contributions resulted in a \$1,061.00 local prize fund paid out, plus \$3,406.83 sent to the BVL Fund.

Inducted into the Bowling Council Hall of Fame were Mayselle Bauman, Fred List, Louie Veil and posthumously Donna Kuehl, a former association leader, much loved and remembered.



The years of planning were well worth it on opening day -- Friday, March 20, 1981, at 6:00 p.m. A mini-parade at Sports Palace (team center) complete with horns, music, flags and floats (decorated golf carts) with colorful crepe flowers. The striking all-white uniforms, topped with brilliant crimson vests were everywhere. Female members of the Council Hall of Fame rolled simultaneous opening balls and Columbia Industries' Pepper Martin served as master of ceremonies for the opening, greeting several hundred special guests and bowlers.

But the best was yet to be!

Annual banquet time, again at the Sheraton Motor Inn on May 15. "A Battle of Roses" theme was carried out again, with pink and red roses on every table and every pillar and post in the banquet room. The head table was ablaze with color - the podium covered with greenery and roses. Grecian pillars holding gigantic baskets of roses, a stark white archway covered with greenery and featuring a basket of red roses provided a breathtaking panorama of color and beauty. Over the stage for the special dignitaries at the head table were letters reading "Welcome TWBA" in the same greenery and roses as used below at the head table.

It was a perfect setting for TWBA to give their annual awards and for SAWBA, it was particularly rewarding when former six-time local champion Grace Baskin was honored with Hall of Fame distinction. San Antonio Kegler editor, Ella O'Quinn, received her fifth Texas Women's Bowling Writers "Writer of the Year" award.

Each weekend following annual meeting weekend found the dedicated volunteers hard at work at their assigned tasks - each with a cheery smile and greeting. What better way to cap off several year's work than to have not one state champion -- but three??

Laurie Jo Scales won the Championship title with an 1831 all events total; The Surprise! Surprise! team in Class B found their 2651 the winning score, and Rosita Cook captured the Class A singles with a 659. The perfect evening for a memorable tournament!

In September the members named their second Member Emeritus to the association. Jennie Everhart of Randolph Air Force Base, a former director was named. Earning high composite average honors was Liz Smith with 194, Donna Wallace had the season high series of 706, in addition to rolling two 702s and a 701, and Rita Walton, a Fort Sam Houston league member in a daytime league, was honored for her 300 game. Smith also had two series over 700, a 706 and a 703.

For the second consecutive year, Mary Falconer received a WIBC 200-Average Pin, and her eighth SAWBA Superior Performance Award.

The year 1981 was also a memorable one on the national year. Mrs. Alberta E. Crowe had announced her intention not to seek another term as president and at the Baltimore WIBC meeting thousands attended a Testimonial Dinner in her honor. The sound and slide presentation tracing her illustrious career brought back memories of the 1968 WIBC here in San Antonio and her early days and work with Billy Simon and Helen Baetz.

The Board, in September, voted to hostess the Texas Bluebonnet Queens tournament, and President

Pfeiffer announced that she would not complete her term as President. With the departure of secretary Donna O'Connor, Mrs. Pfeiffer was named secretary and Sylvia Broyles ascended to the president's chair.

The tournament drew 292 teams, 604 singles and doubles, 1,120 all events and members rolled for a total prize fund of \$16,628.05. Glenda Recker earned her third city crown with a 1,713 all events total. The association awards were presented to Mary Falconer, 200 average, Liz Smith 300 game, and 736 series, and Donna Wallace for a 710 series.

SAWBA's largest donation to the BVL Fund was generated when \$4,855.36 was sent to the National Bowling Council BVL Fund from the 4,244 entrants; a net donation to BVL of \$3,509.63.

A successful ways and means project was two-year calendar books which directors vended, and the Sylvia Broyles Secretaries tournament was discontinued.

Hall of Fame inductees were Lois M. Scott, who led us at the time WIBC was in our city, Mrs. Estha Perkins McCrory, who served as TWBA and SAWBA president (posthumously), and Columbia Industries' Robert "Pepper" Martin.

Dues for the association were increased to \$2.25 for the 1980-1 season, and 12,955 members rolled in 705 leagues. The interest and promotion of senior bowling, netted 29 teams to the state opening squad, and every season league in the city was represented.



Sylvia Broyles took another title with her as she began her term as president - Life Member, for years of contribution to the organization.

With increasing membership the local tournament drew 292 teams, 604 singles and doubles, and 1120 all events entrants, rolling for a total prize fund of \$16,628.05, and Glenda Recker earned her third city crown.

Again one of our members reached that lofty plateau of a 300 game. Liz Smith carded her perfecto in January and pounded out a 736 series as well at Ponderosa Lanes.

Delegates to the WIBC annual meeting in St. Louis anxiously awaited the groundbreaking ceremonies of the National Bowling Hall of Fame/Museum, and several pieces of the official ribbon were brought home to be shared with friends..

Once again 16 teams of senior-age bowlers participated in the opening ceremonies of TWBA, and legislatively presidential terms were limited to two 2-year terms. The BVL donation surpassed the record of the previous year. 4,863 entered for a total collection of \$5,563.50, and after payment of the prize fund, \$3,993.45 was sent to the National Bowling Council. That year a cash donation was presented to the Audie Murphy Memorial VA Hospital of \$2300.00.

How shocked our pioneer members would have been to attend our September Open Membership Meeting and hear the treasurer's report showing a balance in the checking account of \$8,900, and in savings over \$22,000. Members adopted a budget in

excess of \$29,000 for the next season.

To remember our departed sisters, a Memorial Service was added to our list of membership services, and the first was a moving remembrance. The Memorial Service is now a part of each annual meeting.

For excellence on the lanes Donna Wallace was named Superior Performance Award winner and was presented with an engraved charm and plaque to mark the feat.

Association awards went also to Mary Falconer, high series of 718; Gloria Ramos for a 280 game and Liz Smith, for high composite average of 194, high series of 736 and a 300 game.

San Antonio WBA was hostess to a record 235 TWBA Bluebonnet Queens entrants at Wonder Bowl.

But the world had their eyes on the WIBC event in Las Vegas - a tournament which merited Guinness Book of World Records recognition as the largest number of sports participants in a single event. The tournament ran 83 days, with more than 3,000 teams, rolling for \$1,617.878 in prize money.

Planning for the 50th Anniversary celebration, President Broyles appointed Helen Baetz as general chairman, with past president Rosalie Bushick as co-chairman. All officers and board members would serve on the various committees for the celebration.

Secretary Mary E. Pfeiffer conducted a near-record local tournament - 354 teams, a record 722 doubles entrants (old record 665); 1,444 singles entrants (previous record 1,330) and 1,316 all events entrants. The ladies enjoyed a new feature - Instant Cash - for converting specified splits, or strings of strikes. \$21,042 in prize money was paid out.

Into the Bowling Council Hall of Fame, Bettie Jo Geisler, Wes Merck and Tom Dugosh were inducted in beautiful ceremonies at a local country club.

Association awards were presented to Donna Wallace for a 721 series, Deborah Lauzon for a 300 game, and Liz Smith for high composite average and a 729 series.

The first SAWBA Service Award was presented to veteran bowler and control counter employee Mrs. Marie Caldwell, who had devoted her life to the juniors, adult and senior bowlers, as a center employee, instructor, bowler and friend.

Official uniforms for the association board were white slacks or skirts (or dark slacks/skirts), white blouses and denim vests, with the map of Texas and a miniature San Antonio scene in its location.

Former president Madelyn Spreng was honored with Life Membership, and \$500.00 was voted toward the purchase of a copier for the Southwest Texas Junior Bowling Association. Local dues were increased to \$2.50.



The 1983-84 season will, of course, will be our most memorable ever, but in addition to our 50th Anniversary activities, President Broyles has also recommended a joint-committee with the men's association to review the youth awards program.

During the summer the proprietors association withdrew from the Southwest Texas JBA, preferring to have an all-San Antonio junior program. The first of these tournaments was held in December with SAWBA joining SABA in providing participation patches for each youngster. Representatives from our association also serve on the junior advisory board.

The local tournament champion was former Alberta E Crowe "Star of Tomorrow", Kathy Kirst, making it the third title she has earned. Additionally for the first time a Handicap All Events Champion was named, Mary McIntosh, out of Class B.

In the tournament, the Instant Cash feature was continued at the team center, and at the singles and doubles center, a National Bowling Hall of Fame/Museum feature was added. Each member could participate by payment of \$1.00. 50¢ remained in the local prize fund, awarded to the woman who rolls most pins over average the second game, and 50¢ was donated to the NBHF/M Fund.

Several members attended the WIBC Leadership Training Seminar, and early in January, eight members attended the Certified Lane Inspectors Workshop, conducted by President Broyles and Bill Bacon of Lubbock, ABC director.

In August a new secretary was in the SAWBA office, Louise Mangelsdorf. She reported previous season membership at 13,769 in 719 fall and summer leagues.

Under the chairmanship of Dorris Tanner, the Senior Committee of six, took three bus-loads of seniors to the Texas Senior State Mixed Tournament in Houston - a monumental loving task - capped by the good news that one local team was declared State Senior Champions and one woman was named state senior singles champion.

President Broyles was re-elected 3rd Vice President of TWBA in the Spring, and later was elevated to the office of 2nd Vice President. She continues to serve as the director of the Texas Bluebonnet Queens tournament, in the tournament office, on the State Bowling Council as tournament director and of course, as Director # 18 of WIBC. At the same TWBA annual meeting Ella O'Quinn was again Texas Woman Bowling Writer of the Year and she earned the first Across Texas Lanes award for a single story.

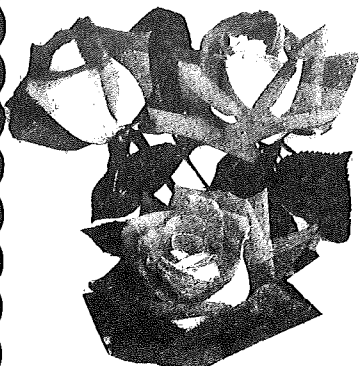
The SAWBA Superior Performance Award went to Liz Smith Williams for high composite average of 199; high series of 752.

So, as in years previous, whenever a special event is scheduled, the Board continues its extensive local program. One of the newest awards to be given by WIBC this year is the "Spotlight Award" for both state and local associations, and of course, SAWBA's extensive story of service to its members was entered.

To kick off 50th Anniversary activities, several commemorative items were included at the "Bowler's Boutique" at the local tournament. 50th Anniversary pins and patches, as well as a country store of handcrafts, donated by the membership, to help defray celebration and association expenses.

Extensive press coverage has been given to the giant celebration plans. SAWBA membership is excited over the visit to our 50th Anniversary Reception (January 15, 1984) of Mrs. Helen Baker, WIBC president.

Our Presidents & Secretaries



1935	Erna Haufler	Edythe Titsworth
1936	Erna Haufler	Clara Grasso
1937	Erma Matthews	Clara Grasso
1938	Erna Haufler	Clara Grasso
1939	Erna Haufler	Clara Grasso
1940	Erna Haufler	Clara Grasso
1941	Erna Haufler	Clara Grasso
1942	Erna Haufler	Clara Grasso
1943	Lillian Cobb	Billie Braun
1944	Clara Grasso	Helen Baetz
1945	Clara Grasso	Helen Baetz
1946	Clara Grasso	Helen Baetz
1947	Fern Jordan (6 Mos)	Helen Baetz Alice Ittis
1948	Alice Ittis	Marjorie Coffin
1949	Doris Turner	Marjorie Coffin
1950	Doris Turner	Marjorie Coffin
1951	Doris Turner	Marjorie Coffin
1952	Estha Perkins	Marjorie Coffin (8 mos) Lucille Alley
1953	Estha Perkins	Dottie Shook (3 mos) Jane Astasauskas
1954	Estha Perkins	Jane Astasauskas
1955	Marilyn Funk	Jean Renton
1956	Agatha Tapley	Jean Renton
1957	Agatha Tapley	Jean Renton
1958	Agatha Tapley	Marilyn Funk
1959	Agatha Tapley	Marilyn Funk
1960	Agatha Tapley	Marilyn Funk
1961	Agatha Tapley	Marilyn Funk
1962	Agatha Tapley	Anne Lenig
1963	Agatha Tapley (7 mos)	Anne Lenig Lois Scott
1964	Lois Scott	Anne Lenig
1965	Lois Scott	Anne Lenig/Rosalie Bushick
1966	Lois Scott	Anne Lenig/Rosalie Harrell
1967	Lois Scott	Rosalie Harrell/Sylvia Broyles
1968	Rosalie Harrell	Sylvia Broyles
1969	Rosalie Harrell	Sylvia Broyles
1970	Pearl Yarbrough	Sylvia Broyles
1971	Pearl Yarbrough	Sylvia Broyles
1972	Pearl Yarbrough	Sylvia Broyles
1973	Judy Stephenson	Sylvia Broyles
1974	Judy Stephenson	Sylvia Broyles
1975	Judy Stephenson	Sylvia Broyles
1976	Madelyn Spreng	Sylvia Broyles
1977	Madelyn Spreng	Sylvia Broyles
1978	Madelyn Spreng	Sylvia Broyles
1979	Madelyn Spreng	Sylvia Broyles
1980	Mary E. Pfeiffer	Sylvia Broyles
1981	Mary E. Pfeiffer	Donna O'Connor Sylvia Broyles
1982	Sylvia Broyles	Mary E. Pfeiffer
1983	Sylvia Broyles	Mary E. Pfeiffer Louise Mangelsdorf



Local Tournament Champions

Annual	Local Champion	Score	Establishments
47th	Kathy Kirst	1796	Astro Bowl-Bowlerama
	Mary McIntosh	2038-H	
46th	Kathy Kirst	1760	Wonder Bowl-Spare Time
45th	Glenda Recker	1713	Astro Bowl-All Star
No Local Tournament	***	***	***
44th	Mary Falconer	1828	Ponderosa-Bowlerama
43rd	Debbie Lauzon	1804	Wonder Bowl-Sports Palace
42nd	Kathy Kirst	1796	Oak Hills-Southside
41st	Glenda Recker	1787	Billy Mitchell-Thunder Bowl
40th	Glenda Recker	1717	Astro Bowl-Wonder Bowl
39th	Linda Fox	1684	All Star
38th	Carolyn Harn	1713	San Pedro
No Local Tournament	***	***	***
37th	Beverly Pantuso	1873*	Southside
36th	Myrt DeFily	1741	Oak Hills
35th	Sally Thomas	1731	Billy Mitchell
34th	Dollie Hoskins	1760	Wonder Bowl
No Local Tournament	***	***	***
33rd	Betty Wise	1716	Goliad Lanes
32nd	Myrt DeFily	1719	Oak Hills-Bandera
31st	Myrt DeFily	1848	Southside-Billy Mitchell
30th	Bettie Jo Geisler	1752	Bowlerama-Woodlawn
29th	Dottie Overstreet	1796	San Pedro
28th	Joan Paradowski	1626	Turner-Highlands
27th	Marjorie Arnold	1718	Goliad Lanes
26th	Joan Paradowski	176	Turner Club
25th	Myrt DeFily	1645	Alamo Lanes
24th	Myrt DeFily	1829	Hermann Sons
23rd	Myrt DeFily	1730	St. Gerard's
22nd	Robbie Frey	1723	Woodlawn
21st	Robbie Frey	1738	Highlands
20th	Gussie Ruedinger	1676	Turner Club
19th	Grace Baskin	1616	Alamo Lanes
18th	Grace Baskin	1661	Hermann Sons
17th	Lil Canfield	1581	Highlands
16th	Lil Canfield	1680	Woodlawn
15th	Grace Baskin	1649	Texas
14th	Grace Baskin	1719	Turner
13th	Grace Baskin	1618	No Information Available
12th	Grace Baskin	1629	No Information Available
11th	Tonye Schera	1573	Texas
10th	Jeanette Callsen	1727-H	Turner Club
9th	Lois Lutz	1545	Billy Simon's
8th	Melvah Uecker	1578	Broadway
7th	Billy Simon	1587	Main
6th	Elna Palmer	1700-H	Alamo
5th	Billy Simon	1810	Alamo
4th	Billy Simon	Unknown	Alamo
3rd	Erna Matthews	1626-H	Alamo
2nd	Katie Bohan	1782-H	Alamo
1st	Edythe Titsworth	1800-H	Alamo

* Local Record All Events
H-indicates Handicap Score

Editor's Note

Not every person nor every event could be included in this historical record, certainly, but as we attempt to recapture our heritage, every effort was made to print the highlights.

But the greatness that it is SAWBA could not have been accomplished without the efforts of every woman who has carried a WIBC card during these first 50 years.

The SAWBA is not one person, or one group of persons, it is the membership - and it is the membership who brought us where we are today.

And it is the membership which will keep us a live and vital part of our great Women's International Bowling Congress and Texas Women's Bowling Association.

It was for the membership that we delved into our past and put these facts on paper. All of us can be proud of our heritage, our accomplishments and achievements. SAWBA is one of the most unique associations anywhere with a bright future we could not enjoy without "looking back" to our first 50 Years.

As in all SAWBA projects - credit isn't just for the chairman - it's for those dedicated workers - and in preparing this history, many hearts and minds aided its completion. Special recognition is given to Mrs. Dorris Tanner for designing the cover, and to Mrs. Gail Cantu for aid in proof reading.

It was a labor of love for our great association!

Ella O'Quinn