

E.R. "PINKY" McCAN

Men's Service – Charter Member 1978



8/18/1906 – 7/14/1987

Born August 18, 1906 in Hewitt, Oklahoma, Pinky has spent 43 years as a sanctioned bowler and 29 of those in the Oklahoma City area. His service to the bowling industry is lengthy. He organized two (2) Bowling Associations – Orange, Texas in 1941 and Norman, Oklahoma in 1942. He was instrumental in forming the Oklahoma State Bowling Proprietors Association (OSBPA) and was a Charter Member. He formed the Greater Oklahoma City Bowling Proprietors Association (OCBPA) with the assistance of Walter Hockett & Ted Sieler, who with him signed the corporate papers. He has organized and directed numerous tournaments.

The following are some of his accomplishments:

Chairman OSBPA Tournament Committee for 8 years.

National Director of OSBPA for 8 years

Secretary-Treasurer OSBPA, 1945-1948, 1953-1961

Director of OSBPA several years

Charter Member of OK Bowling Hall of Fame inducted September 1967

Has run the tournaments & special events in the centers & all City Association when he was Secretary

Competed in the ABC Tournament 1953 Chicago, 1959 Ft. Worth, 1976 OKC
Has not missed an Oklahoma State Men's Bowling Tournament since 1939
Has attended most of the Southwest Tournaments since 1935
Competed in all of the Oklahoma City Men's Tournaments since 1950
Bowled in all the Times Classic or Hazel Green Tournament since 1936.
Started bowling classes for women at University of Oklahoma
Organized a Junior League in the High School division of the University of Oklahoma in the early 1940's, one of the first in Oklahoma and was called High School Bowling
Had a league out of Southeast High School at Civic Center before YBA
Helped organize the Oklahoma Youth Bowling Association, and has been a coach & instructor ever since
Was on the State Youth Committee for several years
Has been a bowling instructor for many years, certified by Brunswick 3 times, AMF 4 times, AJBC 3 times and YBA 10 times
Organized the present No-Tap Tournament at Holiday Lanes, the Holiday Doubles Tournament (Civic Center Lanes 1951-1962) & the Daily Double Sweeper which ran at Civic Center for 8 years.

From *The Oklahoma Journal*, Sunday, June 24, 1973, page 16:

'McCan' Means 'Bowling' by Clyde Horn of The Journal Staff

If there were to be a Mr. Oklahoma Bowling contest, a lot of people in the know would vote for a fellow named Pinky McCan. Pinky's real name is E.R. McCan but few of his associates use anything other than Pinky. Now, 65, he started bowling in Ardmore in 1933. A charter member of the Oklahoma Bowling Hall of Fame, he was inducted at its origination in September, 1968, he has been in management and teaching for nearly 35 years. He was a charter member of the Oklahoma Bowling Proprietors Association (OBPA), serving as secretary-treasurer of the OBPA from 1945 until 1948 and again from 1953 to 1961. He represented Oklahoma on the board of directors of the national proprietors groups from 1965 to 1968. Currently, Pinky is established as the resident pro and manager of Holiday Lanes on SE 44th. From that base, he represents Oklahoma City as a director on the board of the OBPA. McCan has watched the modernization of bowling from the old days when pins were set by hand to the modern sophisticated equipment which even tells bowlers by lighted arrows where to throw the ball on the second roll. He rode the crest of the bowling boom in the late fifties when new houses were opening up every few months. He has been at Holiday Lanes since 1965. He has done it all. He is an instructor and has been a league coordinator and organizer. He has repeatedly served as tournament director. Pinky has been particularly active in one of the basics of the bowling profession-the youth program. He is a committeeman for the Oklahoma Youth Bowling Association. Despite his long career, McCan has not always been involved in bowling. He grew up in Wilson where he was a prep baseball star. He was so good, in fact, that Oklahoma State signed him as a player and he was on the Poke team his freshman year. However, his baseball

future was destroyed the following summer. While working as an apprentice lineman for a utility company, he had an accident. The result was that his left arm had to be partially amputated. He soon learned to adjust his equilibrium sufficiently to continue his bowling. He left Ardmore in 1941 to go to Orange, Texas, to manage a house called Lucky's Bowling Center. He was soon homesick for Oklahoma, though, and came to Norman the next year to open Tol's Bowling Lanes, where he stayed until 1948. He worked for a city bowling and billiard supply company until 1951. In that job, he continued his teaching. From there he went to the old Civic Center Lanes and then the Bowlarena. "I've been teaching all my life, and I guess I'll continue doing it as long as I can," he says. His injury just slowed him down-it didn't stop him. When he recovered, he returned to OSU and earned a degree in accounting. The simple fact is---nothing can stop Pinky McCan even though it might slow him down temporarily.

His extreme loyalty and dedication to bowling for the past 43 years, as a bowler, manager, director, instructor, etc., Pinky has always been concerned with the promotion of bowling and never too busy to give bowlers help and encouragement. Even though retired since June 1977, he's still busy promoting bowling. He is presently Chairman of the Local Bowling Hall of Fame. Ernest Ruel "Pinky" McCan was inducted as a Charter Member in 1978.