

Laurence P "Larry" Witt
Born - July 3, 1922 Age - 71

Larry was introduced to bowling in 1935 at the Curtis Club, a company sponsored sports complex that had 2 bowling lanes. He and several friends did odd jobs for the club manager, who in turn, would allow them access to the club's facilities. Doing this allowed Larry to get a job as a pinboy at the club. In 1940, he started working at the Curtis Company and became a member and sanctioned bowler in the company sponsored league. World War II interrupted his league bowling as he served 3-1/2 years in the Navy. He resumed his bowling career in 1946 and today he continues to bowl in a sanctioned league. Larry's lifetime high game is 256, high series of 655, and high average of 179.

Larry and his brothers formed an all-brothers team in 1947 and competed in league play for 29 years. During that time they won many league championships, but they did not limit themselves to league bowling. The Witt Brothers competed in many tournaments; Clinton City, Iowa State, Moose Club State, and Peoria Star Journal Brothers Tournaments. They also enjoyed home and home games with area teams.

In 1966, Larry and his brother Chuck won the doubles event in the Clinton Bowling Association Championships Tournament. In 1978, he was a member of Jack's Tavern team which won the Clinton Annual Tournament of Champions.

Larry's interest in bowling was not left at the lanes. He was secretary-treasurer of the Fifth Avenue and Hawkeye Leagues for 20 years and he is currently president of the 55 Plus league.

Larry has served on the Clinton Bowling Association since his election in 1956. He served as their president in 1963. During this time he has only missed 2 monthly board meetings. You'll see him at a lot of area association delegates meetings sharing his wealth of knowledge.

In 1960 he was chairman of the committee responsible for writing the By-Laws for the Clinton Junior Bowling Association advisory board. In 1961 he was elected president of the Clinton Junior Bowling Association.

He's bowled in 46 Clinton Bowling Association Championships Tournaments and was on the tournament committee 45 of those. In 1964, 1976, and 1991 he was active at on the committee for the team house for the Iowa State Bowling Association Championships in Clinton.

He was the driver behind the Clinton Bowling Association Senior Citizen Tournament and served as the tournament director for it's initial 2 years and is still active on that tournament committee.

Larry was honored as the Clinton Bowling Association's Hall of Fame Selection in 1975. He is an honorary member of Clinton's Chapter 2 of the 700 Bowling Clubs of America.

Larry was elected to the Iowa State Bowling Association Board of Directors in 1965. In 1971-1972 he served as president. He was president of the Iowa Bowling Council from 1971 through 1973.

He has bowled in all but one state tournament since 1947 (that's 47, including this year). He has attended all but one state jamboree since 1956 (37 in all), and he's attended every state annual meeting since 1960 (35 counting today).

He bowled in 3 ABC tournaments (Des Moines, Madison, and Milwaukee).

He has managed, chaired, and assisted in many other ways to improve the sport, administer its activities, and provide fair and equitable guidelines for all.

Because of his dedication, enthusiasm, hard work and outstanding contributions to the Clinton B. A. and the Iowa State B.A., it is my pleasure to induct Laurence P. "Larry" Witt into the Meritorious Service Category of the Iowa State Bowling Association Hall of Fame.

Inducted in 1994 in the Meritorious Service Category.

