

John "Jack" O'Brien
Born - February 27, 1921
Died - December 9, 1960 at Age 39

Jack was a member and sponsor of the famed Silver Corporation team. He helped the team win eight consecutive titles in the tough Bowlum Major League at Tropic Lanes in the late 40's and early 50's. He and his teammates had many team series over 3000, when they were a lot tougher to get.

Jack is the holder of three Iowa State B.A. titles. He bowled for the Silver Corporation team that won the 1951 team title. Then in 1958 he bowled back to back 700's to win two titles. A 727 captured the singles, and a 708 with some help from his partner Harold Benion won the doubles title. He had a 1940 that year to place high in the all-events (1998 won).

In 1953, he won the prestigious Cornbelt Classic singles. His 8-game total of 1767 stood as the tournament record for 20 years.

In 1955, he won the Holiday Sweepstakes at Burlington.

Jack is the fourth member of the Silver Corporation team of the 1950s to be inducted into the Iowa State B.A. Hall of Fame. Three of them were on the 1951 champion team: Jack, Clark Haddy, and Carl Berry. The fourth, Lou Kacere, missing from that 1951 lineup would surely attribute much of his bowling success to Jack.

Jack was the proprietor of Tropic Lanes up to the time of his death. He helped teach the blind to bowl. He gave reduced rates to the seniors, and he was a strong supporter of Junior Bowling. Jack was a likeable man who took his bowling with a calm, relaxed, fun loving attitude.

He was elected to the Cedar Rapids Bowling Hall of Fame in 1978.

Because of his bowling credentials, outstanding contributions, and love of the sport, it is my honor to induct John "Jack" O'Brien into the Posthumous Category of the Iowa State Bowling Association Hall of Fame.

Inducted 1993. In the Posthumous Category.

