Thomas D. McLaughlin

Date of birth - 1/24/22

Residence - 2126 Center Court,Clinton,Iowa

Meritorious Service was his catagory and what a mark he left in Clinton and the State of Iowa for bowling.

His first introduction to the game of bowling began in 1937 when he started setting pins at the Curtis Club Lanes. In 1938 he organized and was secretary of the Clinton High School bowling league. They traveled to Sterling,Illinois,Davenport and Muscatine,Iowa for match games with other high schools.

He started bowling in sanctioned ABC leagues in 1940 and has been bowling ever since except for 1942-1945 when he was a member of the US Air Force. Tom's first Iowa State Bowling Tournament was in 1942 and he has been bowling in them every year since.

In 1951 Tom was appointed Secretary of the Clinton Bowling Association and remained in that position until he became owner of the Plaza Bowl in the mid 70's. Tom was one of the first Association Secretaries to go on the individual sanctioning systems back in 1952. Tom was always thinking of ways to keep the Clinton bowlers happy and he helped organize Fred Van Allen Day,Max Jepson Award Week, March of Dimes Tournament,Cancer-Heart Fund Tournament,Sweet 16 Roll-Off,Sponsor's Recognition Dance and many other projects.

Tom was appointed a Director of the Iowa State Bowling Association in 1957 and served as President of the ISBA the 1963-64 season. The year he was President the Iowa State Tournament was held in Clinton and Tom was local association manager working under Pat Finnegan,who was ISBA Secretary. That year was a record team entry with 1127 teams and was the first time the state tournament had more then 1000 teams.

Tom was ABC delegate from Clinton for a number of ABC Conventions and promoted "Clinton Days" at the Chicago,Des Moines and Madison ABC Tournaments. Tom was President of the Iowa Youth Bowling Council in 1963-64-65, member of the " 700 Clubs of America ", 1971 tournament manager of the Iowa State Moose Tournamenent held in Clinton, Past President of the Clinton Junior Bowling Council and in 1964-65 was selected as "Man of the Year" in Clinton.

Tom became proprietor of Plaza Bowl of Clinton in the mid 70's and his many years of being a league bowler and involved as a league officer and local and state officer,paided dividends for him because he could understand many things from the bowlers view point,as well as the proprietor. He truly is a bowlers proprietor and because of this Tom is successful and well liked by the bowlers as well as other proprictors.

Inducted into the Iowa Bowling Hall of Fame in March 1974