William M. French

Date of birth - November 10,1920

Residence - 12-14th Street SE,Mason City,Iowa 50401

Special Catagory was his contribution to the bowling game.

Bill began his bowling career in 1946 in Lytle's bowling lanes in Mason City. Early in his career Bill showed signs of becoming a great bowler. During the 1949-50 season he bowled his first 700 series a 712 and was just the beginning of many more 700 series. Over a period of 20 years his averaged ranged from 190 to 212. Bill was a member of the "700 Bowling Clubs of America". During the 1956-57 season he had a 299 game. Bill's highest series was 769 which included a 289 game and a 300 game. Bill also had a 236 tripicate for 708.

In 1957 his team won the Mason City Bowling Tournament with 3141 and he contributed 646. This same team repeated in 1958 with a series of 3172 and Bill again helped out with 672. In the City Tournament of 1957 he paired with Jack Williams to win the Doubles Championship with 1232 and Bill won the All-Events title with 1942.

In the 1960-61 season Bill paired up with Karl Groh to again win the City Tournament Doubles Championship with a score of 1353. The same year Bill was named "Mason City Bowling Association Bowler of the Year".

Bill was inducted into the Mason City Bowling Association Hall of Fame, Posthumously, on March 29,1975.

Bill was dedicated to the bowling game and this was in evidence by his continued participation and support,his efforts to interest others in the game by coaching them in the game he knew so well.

Bill managed a bowling center and also had his own Pro Shop.

Bill French passed away February 24,1972.

Inducted into the Iowa Bowling Hall of Fame in March 1976,Posthumously.