JOHN "SPIDER" CHRISTIANSEN: Clinton
Born July 1, 1932

Spider , like many others, was introduced to the game of bowling when he became a pinsetter at the Recreation Lanes in Clinton. In 1950, at the age of 18, he began his bowling career as a league bowler at Olds Bowl in Clinton. His first year produced a 134 average. By his 3rd year of bowling, his average improved to 185. He continues to maintain averages in the high 190's and low 200's in the leagues he bowls.

Spider's highest average was 206 in the Major league in 1961-62. One of his most memorable events occurred on January 18, 1963 at the Recreation Lanes when be bowled a 300 game. His career high series is 764 and he has bowled approximately 70 series over 700.

He has competed in almost all of the Clinton Bowling Association tournaments as well as many local and regional tournaments from 1959 through 1980, where he won or placed high in the standings many times.

Spider competed in his first Iowa State Bowling tournament in 1952, and has now bowled in 44 straight tournaments. In 1961 he placed 2nd in doubles with Gary Jesson, in 1969 4th in doubles with Bud Lingle, in 1974 he was the all events champion with a score of 1935 and 2nd in doubles with Bob Voda. He has been a member many times of teams that finished in the top ten. His composite average for the 44 tournaments is above 190.

Spider was elected to the Clinton Bowling Association Hall of Fame in 1961. He was also honored as "Klint Kegler" for the 1970 Clinton City tournament.

In 1968, then 1977, and again from 1989 to the present, John has been manager of the Clinton Recreation Lanes. From 1973 through 1979 and again from 1991 to the present, he wrote the bowling column for the Clinton Herald, entitled "Alley Chatter"

Some of the other areas of John's dedication and efforts through the years include being involved in Junior Bowling for over 30 years. He assisted Ray Thompson in forming the Mississippi Valley Bowling Association, and four years of raising funds for Muscular Dystrophy and Jerry's Kids. In 1993, he served as Bowling Director for the Special Olympics in Clinton.

Inducted in 1997 in the Bowling Skill Category

HALL OF FAME