Eugene Thornton Mason City, IA Special Category Inducted 2005

Gene is 80 years old and lives with his wife in Mason City. Gene started bowling in 1936 at Lytle's Bowling Center until it closed in 1945. He then started bowling at Dick Hughes bowling alley when he opened in 1945. He was selected as league secretary of the Moose league and held that office until 1985. He was also secretary of the Industrial A and Industrial B leagues and still is to this day.

Gene was elected to the Mason City Bowling Association board in 1954 and served as director until he was elected president of the association in 1958 and held that office for 20 years. He is still very active on the board. If he is asked to do something on different committees it will get done.

Gene was voted into the Mason City Bowling Association Hall of Fame in 1975.

Gene has been on several league championship teams and was on the championship team in the local city tournament in 1979 and 1985. Gene has bowled in 42 state tournaments, several Moose tournaments, Elks tournaments and Iowa State Officer's jamborees.

Gene recruited several teams from surrounding towns to bowl in the 1972 Iowa State Tournament when it was held at Lee's Lanes in Mason City.

Gene is retired from Decker's Meat Packing Plant and has his own lawn care and snow removal business that he works on his own yet today.