

Harold Metz  
Washington  
Kansas State USBC Hall of Fame  
Pioneer - 2018

In 1964 Harold Metz decided he did not want his 3 yr. old son John to go to big city schools, so he left his job with the post office in Wichita and moved his family back home to Washington. Washington Bowl was built in 1960 and had built up a good business. He found out from his brother-in-law the Ford dealer there that the owner was wanting to sell the bowling alley. On December 1, 1964, Harold and wife Dee purchased Washington Bowl. Harold had grown up on a farm north of Washington and had learned a lot about fixing all kinds of machines, as a result he had no problem fixing bowling machines.

It wasn't long before Dee knew Harold needed her help. They were very lucky to find a lady who was willing to take care of 3 yr. old John and 2 month old Jeff at their home. Harold worked at the alley almost 24 hrs. Dee would pick up the sitter and bring her to their home about 5:00 PM.

At that time there were 2 leagues every night, Tues-Thurs. On Friday they had a group that bowled Scotch Doubles. There was open bowling on Sat. and Sun. from 3:00 to closing. The leagues were 5-man teams, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday was women at 6:30 and men at 9:00, on Thursday there were 2 men's leagues.

We started Junior leagues, one on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon. We had a lot of fun with them, taking them to district and state tournaments. We also started a lot of our adults going to State and National tournaments. We had several State winners.

In 1965 we started the George and Martha Doubles Tournament which took place during February for over 20 years. Once we had 250 entries during these 4 weekends of February.

Harold did all of the maintenance of the lanes and machines. About every 2-3 years we had a crew come in and sand the lanes and put on the new finish. Between these times, usually at Christmas time, we did it ourselves with the help of Dee's brother.

We neither one took any offices in the association for the 16 years we were there. In the late 1900's Dee took the Association Secretary job and is still at it.

In 1980 we sold the lanes and Harold bought a welding and repair shop. Even then he helped teach the new owners the machines and helped at lanes in the area. He was still busy with flying, ambulance, sale barn, and as fire chief.

Harold is 81 and still bowls twice a week and sometimes on the Travel League once a month, which is 8 games. He is also the town handyman, which means anyone wants anything fixed they call him. He also helps John with electrician work, cuts trees, and does maintenance and cleaning at the First National Bank. He also helps John with teaching the physical education classes for several weeks every spring, also works with the handicapped from Twin Valley every Friday morning for a month and half in the fall.

Wife Dee stated: *"I think he should be in a Hall of Fame of some kind!"*