

Rick Thurber

Mary and I got our start in the bowling business in Washington, KS in 1980. I saw an ad in the Sunday Lincoln Journal. We never heard of Washington, KS. The following weekend we visited the center and met the Metz's. We made arrangements to buy the center knowing nothing about the bowling business. I loved to bowl and thought I could bowl all the time (yea sure)! Mary and I were the only employees along with help from Harry and Dee Metz. Syl Steinmetz signed us up to KSBPA later that year; it was one of the best business decisions we ever made.

In 1985 Bill Stivers saw me at the King Louie Open in Kansas City and told me about the center in Atchison, Kansas. We had never heard of Atchison, KS, so the next weekend we drove to Atchison. Ol' Mar said we're moving to Atchison. We purchased West Lanes in 1985. In 1996 Danny Jackson came to our center to bowl our tournament. When he was ready to leave, he asked if we would be interested in opening a new center in Kansas City with him. Well Ol' Mar said yes, and we opened Incred-A-Bowl in 1997. With different opinions on how to run the center and how important league bowlers were, we decided to move on.

In 1999 Frank DeSocio and John Crum gave us the opportunity to buy Flint Hills Lanes in Emporia on the courthouse steps. Together In 2001 we purchased Olympia Lanes in St. Joe, Missouri, and in 2002 we also purchased All Star Lanes in Salina, KS. We have sold all of those centers.

In 2010 Ol' Mar and I purchased Ranch West Bowl in Kansas City, KS from Becky and Bob Johannes. We renamed it KC Bowl. We still own this center and as long as our warranty stays in effect (Bob) and Rita keeps us in line, we will continue.

It has been a pleasure to serve on KSBPA committees and to climb the ranks from Sergeant of Arms to President in 2000-2002. I am honored and humbled to be inducted in this Hall of Fame along with all the members who made this organization great. All the friendships and memories we have together are priceless. Thank you and remember keep the bacon crisp!

- Rick Thurber