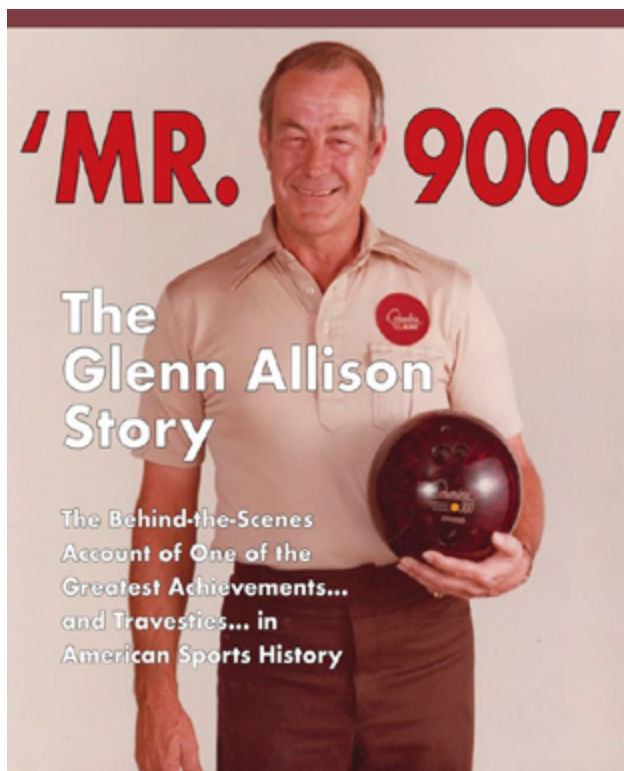


AUGUST 6, 2020

CALIFORNIA BOWLING NEWS

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NOW AVAILABLE

by Bob Johnson
Former Editor of The Bowling News

The long-awaited book about bowling hall of famer Glenn Allison, his historic 900 series and its aftermath is now available. “Mr. 900: The Glenn Allison Story” may be purchased online at Mr900Book.com.

Subtitled, “The Behind-the-Scenes Account of One of the Greatest Achievements... and Travesties... in American Sports History,” the book was written by Bob Johnson who, like Allison, is a member of both the Professional Bowlers Association and United States Bowling Congress Halls of Fame.

In addition to chronicling the night that Allison made bowling history by rolling sanctioned league bowling’s first 900 series, its rejection for official recognition by the American Bowling Congress, and the subsequent appeal and court action, the book includes chapters on a career record that led to Allison’s election to two national bowling halls of fame, bowling’s great team era, each of Allison’s teammates on the fabled Falstaff Beer team, an analysis of Allison’s physical game by long-time coach Bill Taylor, and much, much more.

All told, the book includes 36 chapters — one for each strike in the 900 series — three postscripts that update the story seven, 10 and 32 years after the fact; an additional postscript that makes a compelling case for overturning

the ABC’s original ruling and finally granting Allison his rightful place atop the all-time list of approved 900 series, and more.

“I knew Bob had been working on the book for years but that its publication had been stalled due to lack of funding for the printing,” said Terry Johnson, Bob’s brother, who himself once rolled two 300 games in a three-game set. “When he told me that it was 95 percent done and could be finished up in a few months I told him, ‘Let’s do it.’”

That’s how Read Between the Lanes Publishing, LLC came to be, and the company is offering three limited-edition bonuses to those who order early:

- Coasters that read, “Glenn Allison’s 900... Certify It Now!” for the first 300 orders (only a few left following the July pre-sale).
- Bookmarks that depict the book’s cover for the first 900 orders.
- Postcards featuring PBA & USBC Hall of Famers Allison & (Bob) Johnson for the first 2,000 orders.

Those who wish to order one, two or three copies of the book may do so at Mr900Book.com. Inquiries regarding bulk orders (four or more books) may be directed to readbetweenthelanespublishing@aol.com.

Fremont Family-Owned Bowling Center Closes For Good

by Azenith Smith

FREMONT — A fixture in Fremont for five decades is closing for good. Cloverleaf bowling center is the latest iconic business to fall victim to the pandemic.

“Obviously been here your whole life,” said Owner Mike Hillman. “It’s rather difficult to be going through this right now.”

Family owned for 57 years, Mike Hillman’s grandparents bought Cloverleaf bowling center. More than a bowling center in Fremont, it’s become a haven for senior leagues, teens and the community.

The owners fought hard when developers tried to tear it down two years ago to make way for housing. With three years left on its lease, Covid is a fight they can’t win. “You still have rent, you have utilities, bills to pay,” said Hillman.

Lanes have been silent since March 15. It’s been 20 weeks without income and the future is too uncertain.



Cloverleaf Bowling Center

“There’s never been a date where bowling centers will be able to circle on a calendar and be able to open up,” said Hillman. “It’s just wait and see, wait and see and try to find out what phase we are on.”

Experts said institutions going away could have long-term implications.

“I fear we are not only going to lose venerable

old intuitions like skating rinks, like bowling alleys but new businesses trying to open up aren’t simply going to make it because they don’t have the runway to create the clientele,” said Colleen Haight, who chairs the Economics Department at San Jose State.

“It is possible that all indoor activities where people gather are in jeopardy,”

said Mike Leong who owns Bel Mateo Bowl.

Bel Mateo Bowl has been open for 63 years. Leong is devastated about Cloverleaf.

“Cloverleaf has probably been the model of every bowling center in the country,” said Leong.

Leong worries about his business and invested continued on page 3

KELLY SEELIG - Senior League Superstar

by Frank Weiler

REDLANDS — When I started competing in the senior leagues at Empire Bowl in September of 2000 there were only three bowlers averaging over 200. One of those was Kelly Seelig.

Throughout the last two decades Kelly has never let his foot off the accelerator. Year after year he has continued putting up big numbers, proving he is an Empire Bowl “Senior League Superstar”. Adjectives like consistent, cognizant and controlled are appropriate when describing Kelly’s Bowling game.

Numbers don’t lie. A review of annual Citrus Belt Average Books shows that Kelly averaged over 200 in all but two of the last 20 seasons with a high book average of 219 in 2008.

Kelly has bagged a bushel of perfect 300 games and several 800 series during the last two decades. Simply put these numbers show that Kelly was as consistent as any senior bowler during



Kelly Seelig

the past two decades at Empire Bowl.

I have always been impressed with Kelly’s bowling game because of his ability to play different lines to the pocket, adjust his ball speed with ease and his willingness to change bowling balls quickly when lane conditions break down. These skills demonstrate how cognizant Kelly is of his surroundings and what is happening on the lanes.

Like everyone Kelly has his favorite line to the

pocket, however I have seen him adjust lines faster than anyone I ever have observed. He has a keen eye for changing lane conditions and has no fear when it comes to adjusting his approach to striking. Another example of how perceptive Kelly is.

Not many bowlers can successfully adjust their ball speed. Adjusting ball speed is a skill difficult to master. A skill mastered by only a few. Kelly is one of those bowlers who is a speed master. This skill

is a great example of Kelly’s controlled game. He is quick to perceive what is transpiring on the lanes and take control of these circumstances with adjustments to his line and ball speed.

It’s one thing to recognize what’s happening on the lanes and another thing to be willing to adjust quickly. Especially when we speak of making quick changes regarding bowling balls. Because of his decades of experience and knowledge of equipment Kelly is quick to make necessary ball changes. He is as good as anyone I’ve observed in our senior leagues when it comes ball diversification. Another example of Kelly’s control over the conditions and circumstances confronting him.

So many bowlers bowl like robots. Robots in the worst sense of the word. They don’t change, they don’t adjust, they just continue doing the same no continued on page 3



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Starting August 1st Your
Bowling Ball May Be Illegal

by Lucas Wiseman

On August 1 if you have a balance hole (or weight hole) in your bowling ball, it is officially illegal in USBC competition.

Bowlers have had more than two years to prepare for this day after USBC announced on April 24, 2018 that balance holes would be outlawed on Aug. 1, 2020.

With so much advanced notice, USBC decided not to extend the deadline despite the coronavirus pandemic closing many bowling centers and pro shops.



So what, exactly, does this mean for bowlers? It means if you have a bowling ball with a balance hole (typically drilled on the side and not used for gripping the ball), you cannot use it until that hole is plugged.

If you haven’t already, you should take any balls with balance holes to your local pro shop (when they open again) and ask them to plug the hole to make the ball legal. It’s generally an easy process but the ball may need to stay at the shop overnight for the plug to dry.

Until you have plugged the balance hole, you cannot throw the ball in USBC-certified competition. Uncertified tournaments and leagues may be a different story but you should check with the tournament director or league president for clarification as most of the time uncertified competition still uses USBC rules.

So why is USBC even banning balance holes? In a news release announcing the ban, USBC said: “Balance holes, also known as weight holes, are meant to correct static imbalance in bowling balls, but more recently have been used to change the design intent of balls.”

To compensate for the loss of balance holes, USBC also changed the specification for static side, thumb or finger weight.

“By allowing bowling balls (for balls weighing more than 10 pounds) to have up to three ounces of static side, thumb and finger weight – which is up from one ounce – and up to three ounces of top weight, there no longer will be the need for a balance hole to correct static imbalance in the typical ball layout,” USBC said in the news release.

FloBowling talked with PBA players AJ Johnson and Sean Rash about the topic and they don’t expect the move will have an impact on the PBA Tour.

“I don’t foresee it being a big deal with us,” Johnson said. “The side of it I do see it playing a bigger part in is guys who bowl league at home and guys who bowl some amateur events here and there. A lot of guys use weight holes to help get the bowling balls to flare and to hook. I think it has more of an effect on them than it does us.”

Rash said he thinks the balance hole ban will affect two-handed bowlers more than it will one-handed bowlers.

“I don’t think it affects the traditional bowler as much as it will the two-handers,” Rash said. “Two-handers use weight holes or balance holes for getting the ball to pick up sooner. Their rev rate is higher, their ball changes direction a lot more than a traditional type player and I think that will change the philosophy on how they lay out their equipment.”

BOWLING CALENDAR

SPECIAL NOTICE: PLEASE CHECK WITH EACH EVENT IF YOU PLAN TO PARTICIPATE TO BE SURE THE CENTER IS OPEN FOR THE EVENT

AUGUST

by Bette Addington

USBC Open Nationals, National Bowling Stadium, Reno, NV—CANCELED (2021 will be in Las Vegas, NV)
USBC Women’s Nationals, SouthPoint, Las Vegas, NV—CANCELED, bowl.com (2021 will be in Addison, IL)
20th Summer TAT, The Orleans, Las Vegas—CANCELED, 1/844/321-8100

Now thru Aug. 30: Sam’s Town Open Spring Trio Tournament, Sat. & Sun., squads at 11am, 1pm, 3pm, Las Vegas, NV, Entry fee \$105 per trio team, walk-ins welcome/reservations recommended, 702/454-8022

2-7 – 2020 Teen Masters, Richmond, VA, TeenMastersBowling.com
5-20 – Military Team Classic, SouthPoint, Las Vegas—CANCELED
7-9 – PBA Tony Reyes Memorial West/NW Member/Non-Member Doubles, 4th St. Bowl, San Jose—CANCELED
8 – CUSBC Diddy Watts Challenge Finals, Rancho Bowl, Santa Maria—CANCELED
8-9 – Elite Bowling Club 4 Squad Scratch 5 Gamer, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 909/450-9415—SOLD OUT!
8 – National Bowling Day, 2020
15-16 – CBT Beat the Board Doubles, Sat. squads-10/12/2/4; Sun. squads-10/12/2, Sunset Lanes, St. George, UT, 661/418-8007, cbtbowling.com
15-16 – 24th Brunswick Modesto Masters, Yosemite Lanes, Modesto, 209/524-9161
16 – 12th Laughlin Blast/Sr. No-Tap Handicap Dbls., Riverside Lanes, Laughlin, 619/251-9660
21-23 – CUSBC 2020 Sr. Singles Tourn., Kearney Mesa Bowl, San Diego—CANCELED
22-23 – Elite Bowling Club 5 Gamer, Canyon Lanes, Cabazon, 909/450-9415
31-6 – 20th Summer TAT, The Orleans, Las Vegas, 1/844/321-8100 --CANCELED

Calendar brought to you by California Bowling Writers (www.calbowlingwriters.org)
Email your upcoming events for inclusion to baddington@addington.net

An Exhibition For The Ages

by Dave Williams

Earlier this year I wrote in an article about the phenomenal back up ball performances at the 1971 Ebonite Open by both Dick Weber and Nelson Burton Jr., and then in another article about Burton’s assistance whenever I could not retain the services of Mr. Weber for a personal performance.

But when it comes to performances, perhaps there is none greater than the absolute clinic that was presented by Burton at the 1984 AMF Angle Open at Dick Weber Lanes in Florissant, Missouri, a suburb of St. Louis. For those of you that have never seen what can be achieved with one ball and a minimum amount of hook, I highly recommend that you take a look at the telecast on YouTube.

By this time in my career I had become familiar with St. Louis, both because of the construction of the Hall of Fame that was taking place there in 1983, and then later the acquisition of Dick Weber Lanes by AMF Bowling Centers. Whenever I was sent to a public event for the Hall of Fame, Bruce Gobbi, my boss at AMF, would ask me to stop by Dick Weber Lanes and some of the competitive bowling centers.

The league counts at most of the surrounding bowling centers in those days represented some of the finest in the country, as being a part of a bowling league was a way of life in St. Louis. In reviewing the league counts with General Manager Tony Hei of Dick Weber Lanes, I remember the number of bowlers per lane to be just shy of 100 - a number that proprietors can only dream about today.

Along with all of those league bowlers, AMF would also be inheriting one of the longest running events on the Professional Bowlers Tour. I’m sure that our sponsorship of the AMF Angle Open at Dick Weber Lanes had something to do with the acquisition, but it was not told to me in so many words. My roll was to observe and to assist Tony Hei and Kevin Shippy of the PBA with some of the details, local publicity and seating of the dignitaries on the day of the telecast.

What followed that day was a bowling performance that could not have been more eloquent in design than a painting by Rembrandt or Da Vinci. In Burton’s first three games, he fell short by one pin of the television record (held by Jim Stefanich at the Denver Open in 1975) when he blasted games of 278, 279 and 257, for an 814 set. Then in the championship match, Nelson topped the four-game standard of 1021 set by touring pro Larry Laub at the 1972 King Louie Open, when he recorded a final game of 236 against sentimental favorite Pete Weber.

For the record, the playoff results were as follows: Burton defeated Paul Gibson, O’Fallon, IL, 278-218; Burton defeated Marshall Holman, Medford, OR, 279-217; Burton defeated Pete Couture, Windsor Locks, CT, 257-249; and in the championship match, Burton defeated Pete Weber, St. Louis, MO, 236-184. It was indeed an exhibition for the ages.



Burton Wins AMF Angle Open Tournament
(l-r) Nelson Burton Jr., Ron Wood, AMF Vice-President of Sales, and Fred Green, Vice-President of AMF Bowling Products Group



(l-r) Jack Graziano, Woody Woodruff and Dave Williams at Hall of Fame
Although I was "cropped out" of the photo that appeared in the Hall of Fame Ground Breaking Brochure, I was there!

ENTRY INFORMATION



Bowl with the Pros

\$150,000

angle OPEN TOURNAMENT

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AMF Dick Weber Lanes
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ADULT PRO-AM— \$1,000.00 1st place

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Tues., Feb. 12: 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9:15 p.m.

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Tues., Feb. 12: 1 and 3 p.m.

YOUTH PRO-AM - Win Trophies!

Sun., Feb. 10: 12, 2, 4 and 6 p.m.

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AMF

Bowl with the Pros! The famous Dick Weber silhouette adorns this 4-page entry form

Cloverleaf continued from page 1

\$35,000 to make it safe.

“We did what we feel everything the CDC suggested,” said Leong.

He’s frustrated that County Health is quick to shut the industry down without visiting. At the business, thermal cameras check patrons’ temperature, partitions sit between bowling lanes, touchless restroom doors, an air conditioner purifier, and gloves for bowling balls.

“I was hoping and praying the center would be able to survive these last wrenching five months and open its doors,” said Hillman.

Hillman read a card left at the front door on Thursday. He said he will miss the people the most.

“It’s going to be a big hit for the schools, our special needs, and the families of Fremont,” said Hillman. “It’s going to hit them pretty hard.”

Most bowling centers are family operated. Cloverleaf used the PPP loan they received for payroll. Hillman believes the government needs to do more to help businesses, the industry, survive.

Seelig continued from page 1

matter what they see the lanes giving them. That’s not Kelly Seelig. He seizes what the lanes are giving him. Kelly is flexible.

He adapts and always demonstrates uncommon lane moxie. Another reason why Kelly is a senior league superstar.

Kelly deserves every accolade bestowed on him. Besides possessing superior athletic skills, he works as hard as anyone on his game.

He is at Empire Bowl practicing nearly every day. I see him there when I make my daily rounds. Kelly is living proof that “Practice makes perfect”.

Kelly Seelig is a senior league superstar because he is the complete package as a bowler. He has the numbers, the talent, the passion and the persona of a superstar.

TIME TO REFLECT AND RESPECT!

by Dennis McNerny

As the Pandemic continues, the question continues. How long? I held out hope for the longest, not distributing prize fund money until July 28th. As my bowlers asked, “When are we coming back?” all I could respond with was, “Hopefully January 5th, 2021.” The bowlers want to bowl. Mask? Fine. Six feet apart? Fine. Every other lane? Fine! Let’s just get the ball rolling again!

Our sport will not be the same for quite a while, but in a way, it will. Once the doors of our beloved Centers open again, whether it is for league or just practice, there will be a sense of normalcy once again. The seniors in the morning, sipping coffee and exchanging commentary about the lanes, the temperature of the building or politics. The evening leagues, bowling away their work week frustrations and laughing amongst their comrades. But I digress.

I want to take this time to recognize some of the behind the scene heroes of our sport. They’re called technicians. If it’s an AMF equipped bowling center they’re called pinspotter technicians, if it’s a Brunswick equipped center they’re called pinsetter technicians. A specialized craft, you don’t meet very many people that are trained to maintain the machines that set the pins and send the bowling balls back to you frame after frame, game after game, week after week. I have found that technicians are rarely acknowledged unless something has malfunctioned. In my 25 years in the industry, I have taken many mental notes while on the lanes, and behind the machinery. It is very satisfying to hear a bowler take note of the smooth functioning equipment in the center that you oversee the mechanical operations of. An example for myself would be: “I don’t remember any teams having to move due to equipment malfunctions in this house since I started bowling here. At XYZ Lanes, we had constant problems and ball damage!” This person did not realize that I was the Head Technician at this center. Wow, a compliment! What a great feeling! These are few and far between!

Even in 2020, there are some old school, trained, hardworking, diligent technicians out here in Southern California, and I’m ready to drop some names. I’m calling out all bowlers that read the Bowling News as well. If you know of a technician that is keeping your Center humming, speak up! Since I am a Brunswick tech, I know very few AMF techs. If there is someone out there that is familiar with the local AMF techs, speak up! Here are some of our heroes:

Eduardo Ramirez, Bowlero West Covina. Jeff Lerner, harley’s Valley Bowl. Gregg at Shatto 39. Rich Campbell, Winnetka Bowl. Manny Soto, Jewel City Bowl. Jack McQuaide, Del Rio Lanes. Randy Skaggs and Reggie, Keystone Lanes. Lalo Torres, Chaparral Lanes. Transito Bonilla, Gage Bowl. Tim and Rick Davis, Oak Tree Lanes. Tommie Wilkinson, AMF Arrowhead Lanes. Barneisha Hull, Bowlero Cerritos. Gary Love, Corbin Bowl. Dale Anderson, Gardena Bowl. David Ibanez, Lucky Strike Hollywood.

Forgive me if I left anyone out. These techs risk their lives every day that they put their hands-on moving equipment, just to keep the bowling balls rolling. Let’s respect them and hope that they are back maintaining the equipment very soon. I guarantee that they will be ready to provide all bowlers with a safe and well-functioning Bowling Center when we are allowed to return! Stay safe and healthy everyone.

The California Bowling Writers has adopted Operation Freedom Paws!
Operation Freedom Paws nonprofit organization was founded by “California Bowler and Veteran” Mary Cortani in 2010 that has provided service dogs and training support to veterans and others who suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome, complex PTSD, traumatic brain injury and other physical, neurological, psychological and mobility needs. According to experts, service dogs help empower people with disabilities to live quality lives. Operation Freedom Paws carefully matches clients with their specially chosen four-legged companions, most of which come from rescue shelters. The partners then begin a 48-week program which trains the clients to train their own dogs. At the end of the program, they’re certified together as service dog teams.

Make donations payable to CBW and mail to Treasurer Tina Martin, 57 Shields Lane, Novato, CA 94947-3877.

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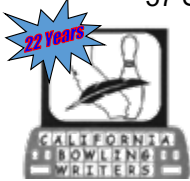
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**Operation Freedom Paws**
Four Paws, Two Feet, One Team

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- We are:** The California Bowling Writers
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Now's a Great Time to Tune Into 'Bowling Ball Blues'

by Fred Eisenhammer

ENCINO – It seems every 25 years or so a bowling song comes along and makes a lasting impression.

In 1995, the late “Rockin’ Ray” Miller carved his personal niche on the sport by writing the wonderfully adorable lyrics and music to “*Grab Your Balls, We’re Going Bowling*.” That song became an iconic bowling tune as well as a huge polka dance hit that can be played by 70,000 jukeboxes across the country.

Now, it’s 2020 and we may have another blockbuster bowling ballad. That’s courtesy of Mike Antin, a bowling zealot and a music maestro who concocted “*Bowling Ball Blues*.”

The title might be a giveaway; the song laments the deep impact COVID-19 has made on the lives of bowlers, many of whom suddenly have found they have no life with the closure of their neighborhood bowling centers.

“I bowl in three leagues and practice additionally on Friday. I had withdrawal symptoms and I’m suffering,” said Antin, explaining why he wrote the lyrics and music to “*Bowling Ball Blues*.”

Antin, an 81-year-old Encino resident, said the song has helped him “through his suffering by writing about my feelings.”

The lyrics are sung by music professional David Michael Trevino, whose two-and-half-minute rendition kept this reporter smiling the entire way – not at the misery Trevino describes but at the heartfelt emotion that he portrays.

Antin, for his part, started bowling at age 12. He’s been attached to bowling in some way every year since. Undaunted when the Los Angeles County bowling centers were ordered closed for the virus, he and a friend fled to Ventura County for a three-week spin before that bowling house was forced to close as well.

The layoff has been especially tough for Antin because he’s been bowling better than at any time over the past 10 years. A 140-average bowler five years ago, he’s now averaging almost 165 and has been accorded the prestigious anchor position on two of his league teams.

So the melancholy lyrics of “*Bowling Ball Blues*” are truly reflective of Antin’s misery.

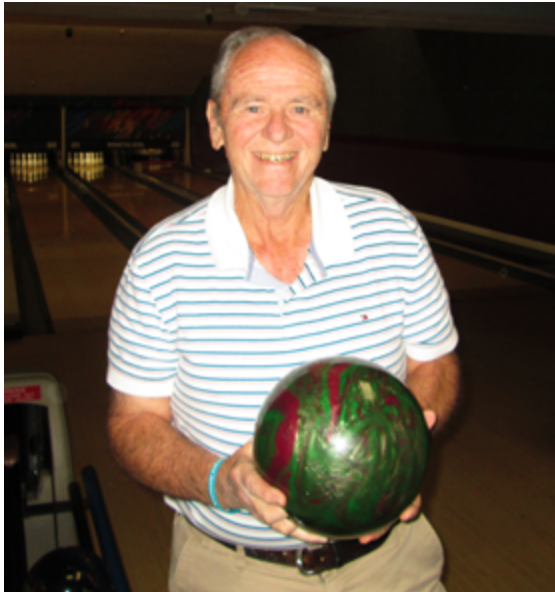
Here’s how the song starts:

“They closed us up.
They closed us down.
We can’t go anywhere.
Not even downtown.”

“I’m sitting in my house.
With nothing to do.
What in the world
Are we going through?”

“The alleys are dark.
So the leagues are through.
I thought it was a dream.
But it turned out to be true.”

“I’ve got the Bowling Ball Blues.
Yes I do. Yes I do.”



Mike Antin has composed a bowling song that reflects the sign of the times. Photo by Fred Eisenhammer

The song is not available at this point to be listened to via the Internet, but interested parties can request the song directly from Antin at mantin@ix.netcom.com. And who knows? Perhaps the song might slip onto the playlist of a radio station that is willing to be bold and innovative.

I sent the song to a friend to critique, trying to find an objective opinion. Linda Flaherty, a non-bowler but a bowling aficionado, said she felt the song was a “hit with [Trevino’s] voice and the melody. It’s a perfect time to have the bowling world hear this.”

As for whether the song will eventually get its due, don’t sell Antin short. Success comes easily for him. After working as a tax attorney, book author and law school professor, Antin wrote and composed seven musicals, six of which went Off-Broadway. One of them, “*Lili Marleen*,” had a glorious one-year run Off-Broadway.

As for “*Bowling Ball Blues*,” there’s no doubt that the song hits its target.

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Hosted by: SLAC USBC & OC USBC

2020 SoCal Queens & Princess Tournament

FOREST LANES

22771 Centre Dr. • Lake Forest, CA 92630
(949) 770-0055

Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 9:00am
ENTRIES CLOSE: September 26 at 8:30am

California USBC Certified event
Handicap: 90% of 200
USBC Cards sold on-site

**Youth girls may participate,
provided a USBC Scholarship
waiver accompanies entry.*

FOUR DIVISIONS:
*QUEENS & SENIOR QUEENS (Scratch)
*PRINCESS & SENIOR QUEENS (Hdcp)

ENTRY FEES:
\$80 per person
(pre-paid by 9/22/20 via check or paypal)
\$100 cash *(on-site entries)*
Bowl.com printouts required for Princess entries.

FORMAT: 5 GAMES QUALIFYING. The top 6 bowlers in each division will advance to a single game double elimination bracket. The four champions will bowl a one game match to determine the overall champion of the tournament. Handicap (90% of 200) will apply for the Princess champion.

Contact Andre by email at aweubanks@yahoo.com or call (323) 252-7904 or with any questions.

PAY WITH PAYPAL AND DOWNLOAD ENTRY FORM AT SLACUSBC.COM

Hosted by: SLAC USBC & OC USBC

2020 SoCal Masters & Apprentice Tournament

FOREST LANES

22771 Centre Dr • Lake Forest, CA 92630
(949) 770-0055



Sunday, September 27, 2020 at 9:00am
ENTRIES CLOSE: September 27 at 8:30am

THREE DIVISIONS:
*MASTERS & SR. MASTERS (Scratch)
*APPRENTICE (Handicap)

USBC Certified event
Handicap: 90% of 200
USBC Cards sold on-site

**Youth may participate,
provided a USBC Scholarship
waiver accompanies entry.*

ENTRY FEES:
\$80 per person
(pre-paid by 9/22/20 via check or paypal)
\$100 cash *(on-site entries)*
Bowl.com printouts required for Apprentice entries.

FORMAT: 5 GAMES QUALIFYING. The top 6 bowlers in each division will advance to a single game double elimination bracket. Champions will be crowned in each division. The three champions will bowl a one game match (scratch) to determine the overall champion of the tournament.

Contact Andre by email at aweubanks@yahoo.com or call (323) 252-7904 or with any questions.

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