



## 20th Century Bowling with Mona Chuck

### **Tell us about yourself and the creation of 20th Century Bowling?**

The 20th Century Bowling Center was established in the 1930's on Idaho Street in the 700 block on the north side the street; it was on the second floor of that building. Several years later it was moved to 606 Idaho Street on the ground floor and contained 14 wooden lanes.

My father was in the flooring business and as part of his work he would refinish the lanes for bowling centers all over the northwest. He and my mother became avid bowlers, and from there he began working in the 20th Century lanes in about 1952. A few years later he became a partner in the business and then later became the sole proprietor. In 1961 he moved the old lanes to its current location; he added 10 lanes to the center making it a 24 lane center. It was a family business then as it is now. My parents, and my brother and I, worked together with other employees running the business. After graduating from Boise State I continued working with my parents, and my brother went on to become a professor at Boise. As the saga continues, my three children grew up working along with me running the center. Now my grandchildren work there along with my son and daughter in law. Thus it has been a family business for many years. We will be celebrating our 53rd year in our current location this summer.

My Grandson is going to school in Kentucky on scholarships he earned through bowling, he is the captain of the

bowling team, carries a 227 average and is ranked 3rd in the nation for in collegiate bowling. My granddaughter also attended school for one semester at Pikeville University, and then decided she preferred Idaho to Kentucky and now attends BSU.

### **What do you enjoy the most about owning a bowling alley?**

My joy comes from having my family held closely together from not only working together, but bowling together.

I also enjoy working in the center and getting to know my customers, I like people and enjoy getting to know them and love teaching the game. Throughout my life I have made many dear friends through the bowling center business. As an afterthought, I met my husband in the bowling center and our three children each met their spouses in the 20th Century Lanes.

### **What prompted you to become an EWGA sponsor?**

I met and made a friend through bowling, Lynn Stroud, who introduced me to your EWGA group and I then became a sponsor, which is another example of a good way to meet people and introduce them to bowling.

### **How can EWGA membership show their support?**

Your members can help support us by choosing our center as the one they will bowl in and by introducing their friends to our center.

We also have a program that can be used for fund raising projects. If any of your members belong to nonprofit organizations and are interested in finding out how our program works, I would love to explain it to them.

### **Anything else you would like to share with us?**

One final response to your question about my vision for our center: as time continues, I hope we can continue making new customers and new friends.

*After all we are the oldest, friendliest bowling center in town.*