

Alfred State College Centennial

Name: John Horton, Jr.

Department: Physical Education

Dates Employed: 1958-1981

Memories:

My employment began with the Building of Alfred Tech Lanes.

Before I could start at Tech Lanes, I was obliged to attend a training session in Ohio in order to learn the complicated mechanics of the automatic pinspotters which were new in this area.

After being appointed to the faculty, I began teaching regular bowling classes.

I have many fond memories of bowling with Walt Hinkle in many Tournaments around the State.

I was honored to be inducted into the Hall of Fame - physical Education - and having my plaque placed in the gym.

I was also inducted into the Hornell Bowling Association Hall of Fame.

The attached clipping relates one of the most humorous incidents in my teaching career.

Bowling African Style

John Gorton of the Alfred Tech Lanes was telling of an unusual experience he had while hosting a group of visiting African students.

"There was about 30 of them. They never had seen a bowling lane. They knew nothing about the sport. I showed them everything and explained all about the game.

"Finally, one of the students asked if they could try the sport. So we got them all set with shoes and bowling balls. I turned on all the lights and showed them the principal of releasing the ball.

"Then I asked if they had any questions. They said they were ready. I told them to go ahead. I turned around for a moment and when I looked again I couldn't believe it.

"I had neglected one little item in my instructions. I had forgotten to tell them that you take turns on each alley and go one at a time.

"All 30 of them were rolling balls. It seemed like each lane had about four or five bowlers all trying to throw at the same time. The balls were stuck against the pin-setting racks. You never saw such a mess. When they saw the balls still at the end of the lanes, they were walking right down the alleys to get them and come back and throw again.

"Next time I have anything like this you can bet my first words will be — now you bowl all alone and then he bowls and then you bowl again."