

Woman Finds Bowling Great-- At Age Of 72

By W.W. EDGAR

At an age when most women would be satisfied to sit back in a rocking chair and watch the world go by, Mrs. Jean Hedges is having the time of her life -- bowling.

Seated in her cozy home in West Point Trailer Park in Garden City, she fondled five trophies she won during the past season and then smilingly remarked:

"You know I didn't start bowling until I was 67 years old, so I think I'm doing pretty good."

"Pretty good?" She did much better than team mates many years her junior and she has become one of the most popular competitors in four of the major bowling establishments.

HERE IS THE LIST of her awards:

- Most improved bowler at Cherry Hill lanes
- Bowled the high game (191) in senior citizens league at Town and Country Lanes.
- Trophy as member of the championship team
- High single game (219) at Skore Lanes
- Pin for 500 series at Cherry Hill
- Pin for 200 game at Garden Lanes.

Now 72 years old and counting -- Mrs. Hedges recalled that she never had been in a bowling establishment until five years ago.

"My husband and I were invited by a brother-in-law to go with him to Cherry Hill one night -- and we went," she said.

"Everybody seemed to enjoy bowling, so my husband and I tried it."

MRS. HEDGES CONFIDED that she never had ambitions to bowl -- at least not regularly -- because of illness through the years.

"I have suffered from a heart ailment," she confided, "and one year the doctors took a lot of water out of one of my knees. So, I never expected to knock over many pins."

Admitting that she was having a terrible time trying to follow the advice of the men bowlers, "hold the ball the way it feels the most comfortable," she says she just didn't feel comfortable.

"Then one day, I met Ann Setlock, instructor at Garden Lanes, and she took some

pains with me until she had me rolling the ball pretty good."

With a sparkle in her eye, this gracious lady of 72, recalled --

"One day Ann called me and invited me to bowl in a 'Stim' league with her," she said, "and it was the biggest thrill of my life. And I went on from there -- and am I having fun?"

HER BIGGEST THRILL?

"That's easy to recall," she said.

"I was bowling in the Garden League and doing pretty good, but not paying too much attention to my score. As I got a strike in the last frame, I suddenly heard an announcement over the loud speaker --

"Mrs. Hedges, our 72-year old member, has just bowled her first 300 game. The whole crowd stood and cheered. Oh, I'll never forget it."

And don't forget -- she's 72 years old -- and counting -- and one of the most delightful persons you ever could meet.



BEGINNING OF END for Southfield High in the champion of champions baseball tournament at Ford Field in Livonia. Mike Brehmer, of Taylor Kennedy, slides

across the plate as Southfield Catcher Chuck Petrillo grabs the relay. The Eagles clipped the Jays in the opening round. (Observer photo by Harry Mouhe).

Stevenson Wins Berth On All-Stars

Five members of the league-champion Livonia Stevenson baseball team landed places on the All-Inter-Lakes Conference first-squad announced by the coaches.

The Stevenson choices include second baseman Stu Rose and outfielder Bob Picano, both voted as the school's most valuable players on a team which captured the league crown for the second time in three years.

Rose hit .415 and Picano .431 during the season.

ALSO NAMED from Stevenson were: shortstop Jim Erom, third baseman Gary Croaskey and pitcher Bob Blay.

Farmington High's Tony Himmelspach, who sparkled as a pitcher, third baseman and outfielder, was picked on the all-league team as an outfielder.

Stevenson came up with three honorable mentions in pitcher Mike Gee and outfielders Jack Lucas and Steve Kuhlman.

From Farmington the honorable mention list had catcher Vic Forester and outfielders Randy Ekerman and Paul Kupferschmidt.

Lathrup placed two on the honorable mention list -- infielder Dave Singer and infielder Dick Dunn.

Mandich Tops

ANN ARBOR All-American tight end Jim Mandich was voted Michigan's senior athlete of 1969-70 by the varsity letterwinners of Michigan. Two other outstanding athletes were nominated, Ron Rapper, two time Big Ten and two-time NCAA parallel bars champion and Rudy Tomynovich, All-American and all-Big Ten in basketball.

Observing Sports

By GEORGE MASKIN

Amateur baseball ... and, for that matter, amateur football, basketball and hockey ... have their unsung heroes.

Where would most of the teams get the money to purchase uniforms, pay officials, pay entry fees and what have you were it not for men and women known as "sponsors" or "backers."

Putting a team into action these days costs a fair chunk of cash.

Time was when a couple hundred dollars would handle things nicely for a baseball team all summer. No more.

The uniform bill alone exceeds that figure. Add in the costly bats and balls and you can see where somebody has to dig deep into the purse strings to take care of the bills.

Most sponsors are small business men, like the guy who runs the gas station down the street or maybe a small printing or manufacturing plant. There are some who are in the real estate business ... others who are merchants ... still others who run bowling alleys.

And then there's the likes of Mike Adray, who operates an appliance store down in Dearborn.

In our book Mike Adray has to be the No. 1 sponsor of kids teams in Greater Detroit.

He's had as many as eight or nine baseball teams going every summer. He's backed kid football teams and kid basketball teams. And some for groupings as well.

BUT THE YOUNGSTERS, boys of high school age or early collegians, are his first love.

That's why Mike has taken over an entire league this season ... a league which operates throughout Michigan and is very close to the hearts of Observer area sandlot enthusiasts.

For almost a decade, the Free Press has sponsored what probably has been the top amateur baseball league in the state.

Out of the program have come two winners -- one from Detroit and the other from outstate -- to go to Johnstown, Pa., for the All-American Boys championships, which Michigan teams have terminated.

Redford Township, guided by Bob Atkins, has enjoyed some kind of a monopoly on the outstate Free Press crown and has gone to Johnstown the last three years like clockwork. One time Redford soared all the way to the national finals.

The Free Press has decided not to back the league this year because of other promotional ventures.

When Adray heard that the league might be in trouble, he stepped in.

"I'll sponsor it all," he said. "Whatever the expense of running the Detroit and outstate programs -- (Livonia has its own league) -- I'll put up the money."

WE ASKED ADRAY what the cost might be. "What difference does that make?" He laughed, but you know he'll have to sell a few extra TV sets and a few refrigerators.

"I think this kids baseball is terrific. Whatever the cost it's worth it to me. My wife sometimes hollers at me ... says it's a waste of money. But, then when we go down and watch the boys play or we go to Johnstown, she's as thrilled as anybody could be and thanks me for doing what I do for the boys."

There'll be more than 40 teams playing in the

Adray leagues this summer with seven scheduled to begin play next week in the Greater Livonia loop which takes in teams from Garden City to Livonia to Redford Township to Plymouth to Farmington and Southfield.

Just about anybody who has starred in prep baseball hereabouts this year or in the last couple performs in the circuit.

When the league champ is crowned, it moves on to the state tourney with the winner going to Johnstown.

"We have bigger and better plans on the docket for next year," Adray was saying. "We are thinking of expanding the number of games so that teams will play maybe five nights instead of just three per week."

"We would like to get into the American Baseball Congress tournament which is held in Battle Creek ... and there are some other things which we can't talk about now."

MIKE ADRAY'S INTEREST in the teams and the league he sponsors is so deep that often, he admits, he devotes more time to the baseball than he does to the business of running his appliance store.

Oh, sure, there's a certain advertising factor connected with Adray's sponsorships. He probably can utilize it as a legitimate expense.

"But, that's not what's important to me," says Adray.

"I'm not identifying my appliance business with the new league. I don't want anybody to say I'm commercializing. I just want to help the kids play ball."

"After all, it's important that we do something for the teenagers. Give them some extra outlets on the sports field. We know from experience that those who play baseball during the summer turn out to be better students in the fall."

Western Plans 9th Golf Meet

Western Golf and Country Club will host the first Invitational Golf Tournament in the District this year on June 11 to 14. It will be Western's 9th annual Invitational Tournament.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday's competition will be match team best ball with Sunday's finalists playing best ball medal.

Many of the District's finest players will be among the 100 teams participating.

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JUST STARTING to enjoy bowling is 72-year-old Mrs. Jean Hedges of Garden City. She won five trophies during the past season in her fifth year of competition. (Observer photo)

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