

Terry Drenth 5 Bergen bowling women honored 2005

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You never get used to the excitement, nostalgia and love that comes through during a moment of history when a sport honors those who helped make that history.

That's what Hall of Fame recognition is all about.



CHUCK PEZZANO

BOWLING

It held true when the Bergen County Women's Bowling Association officially inducted Dee Bracken, Terry Drenth, Lillian Holmes, Dona O'Connell and Helen Randall into its exclusive Hall.

The new additions bring the total enshrined to 49, a tiny fraction of the hundreds of thousands who have rolled in Bergen-sanctioned play. Selections are made every three to five years and this was the 11th dinner ceremony.

The BCWBA established its Hall of Fame in 1968, making it the first in the state and one of the first in the nation for a women's group.

Alberta Crowe, president of the Women's International Bowling Congress in 1968, then numbering four million members, made it a must to come from Milwaukee to congratulate the charter Hall members at the first dinner. Honored at the inaugural festivities were Rose Greiner, Marion Kaiser, Grace Melchiorre, Sue Pfeifer, Stella Tencza, Hilda Weiss Rurade, Tillie Taylor Yezo and Nettie Zaino.

Bracken, from Little Falls, currently is the

secretary treasurer of the association. She was a longtime bowler, then became involved in league and tournament positions before taking on the important job she now holds. She is into many activities outside of bowling, and serves on the board of the Ramapo Kennel Club.

Ridgewood's Drenth has a fantastic bowling record. She has posted a season average of 213, rolled two 300 games and a high three-game series of 813. At one time she rolled in as many as five leagues a week, including men's circuits, where she rolled one of her perfect games. Drenth has won County titles and rolled well in more than 20 WIBC national tournaments. She praises the relaxing effect of bowling, but still feels that the sport also brings out your best competitive instincts.

Holmes, a native of Georgia, started bowling when she moved to Yonkers, N.Y., and really got into bowling when she settled in Hackensack. She is an avid league and tournament bowler who fondly remembers making the 4-6-7-10 split in her first national tourney. She has a deep interest in always being of the greatest help in whatever she does, work, church activities and her bowling. She served in league offices, was elected to the board and now is a vice president of the association.

O'Connell has been a star athlete practically all her life, a standout in softball, golf and any other sport she tried. The Ridgewood resident was introduced to bowling at age 13 by her mother, Marge Shortway, and they still bowl together. Shortway is now well into her 80s and still active as a restaurateur and has a

long career in various Hawthorne offices.

O'Connell learned about competition early and in bowling won titles in County events, WASA and assorted amateur and pro events, compiling a near-200 average in her long career.

Her husband, Bob, was a fine baseball player and her late brother-in-law, Danny, played in the majors for Pittsburgh, the New York and San Francisco Giants and Washington Senators. Her daughters, Debbie and Donna, were All-County athletes at Ridgewood. She has been elected to four Halls besides the latest honor.

Randall, of Wood-Ridge, was trained in nursing and has long been a caring person. She has been involved in a number of areas: veteran's causes, the homeless, battered wives and children and the Tomorrows Children's organization.

Because of Randall's gift of giving and her longtime interest in bowling, it was easy for friends Vivian Breir and Wilma Savognani to get her interested in the behind-the-scenes work so necessary, and she has served on practically every bowling committee.

BOWLING BRIEFS: Passaic County is the first in the state to announce that the men's and women's associations will merge under the new U.S. Bowling Congress sanctioning.

AMF and Qubica will join forces to become one of the world's largest manufacturers of bowling and amusement products in the world. Pat Ciniello, who grew up in the Jersey City area, will be the president of the new firm, Qubica AMF Worldwide.