

New Birmingham Recreation Bowling Alleys Open Saturday

Latest Equipment Installed in Building

The Birmingham Recreation, one of the finest bowling alley spots in the entire Detroit area, will hold its grand opening at 7 o'clock Saturday evening. The public is invited. This week, workmen were swarming in the place, putting the finishing touches on the building which will be Birmingham's recreation spot for a good many years to come.

"Everything the very best" is the most apt slogan a reporter could find when he inspected the layout of this week. From the gleaming 12 alleys installed by Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co., right down to the most minor feature, the keynote was Quality—the best of everything for the pleasure of the bowling public.

An improvement Situated on new Hunter boulevard, on the west side, and south of Maple, the recreation spot will catch the eye of the thousands of motorists who pass daily on the new cutoff, completion of the structure marks a milestone in the improvement of the boulevard, for as the right-of-way was formerly owned by the railroad, there are still several old buildings to be seen which can hardly be called assets. The new building replaces an old lumber shed.

SPECIAL MATCH A special match game between members of the City Commission and five Birmingham merchants will be the feature attraction Saturday night when the new alleys are opened. The game will start about 7:15 p. m. The public is invited.

Modern, attractive, yet not blatant, the building itself, with its soft gray color and simple lines, strikes a pleasing note. It is 75 feet wide, and extends 135 feet back to Brownell street. The front is distinguished by graceful lines, and a curved entrance

is a neon sign, "Bowling." Shrubbery planted in front adds a natural touch. Robert F. Tillotson was the general contractor. Cinder block, Brixment mortar, and pressed brick of the new steam cured type, made by Boice Bros, Pontiac, were supplied through Parks Coal Co. The roof, supported without benefit of center posts, is made of great trusses of Douglas fir, brought from the West Coast. Lumber was supplied by Lawson & Son.

Expense of Shining Maple Once inside, the visitor's eye is quite naturally caught immediately by the great expanse of shining maple—the 12 alleys supplied by Brunswick. They are absolutely the latest thing on the market—the new Centennial type, and incidentally, each alley costs about \$2,000, making an investment of about \$24,000 for this equipment alone.

Centennial alleys are distinguished by the seating, arranged in a semi-circle around each two alleys, as shown in a picture elsewhere in this section. The ten players are then a group, making each match a more friendly affair. The new seats are lower, making for easier vision. In back of the player-seats is a double row of spectator-seats.

Over the pin-setting equipment at the rear is a huge velvet curtain extending across the building, bearing the letters "Birmingham." It might also be mentioned that at the rear a shower room has been

BOWLERS!



START THE SEASON RIGHT

With a Pair of Our New **BOWLING SHOES**

For Men and Women **\$3.65**

Williams Boot Shop
115 West Maple Ave.



Photographer Al Arnold had to set up his camera in his car to take this picture of the new Birmingham Recreation during the all-day rain on Tuesday. The building is 75 feet wide and extends back 135 feet to Brownell street. A new type of cement brick was used in the construction plus liberal use of glass brick around the front doors. The "Bowling" sign is in neon.



These 12 alleys by Brunswick-Balke-Collender are the last word in bowling equipment. Note the semi-circular seats for the bowlers arranged around each pair of alleys. The seats, too, are lower. There are 40,000 direct jobs in paint, varnish, and lacquer factories in the United States.

Only Best Maple Used in Pins

As you step up to the foul line at your favorite bowling alley and look eagerly down at those gleaming pins standing proudly at the other end, you wonder if you have ever thought that the new-looking sticks of maple you are about to send crashing into the pit were living things in virgin forests about the time this country was just emerging as a nation.

Yes—It takes 150 years, more or less, to make a bowling pin. And not only that, but we are told by The Brunswick-Balke-Collender Company, leading pin manufacturers, that red crown pins are counted before they are cut from the trees by experts who traverse the finest northern forests, and estimate the number of pins available.

The pins themselves are 15 inches high, and fashioned from the hard meaty portion of the maple, where stresses and strains of normal growth are equalized. Unequal strains, even from hard maple, are refused in better grade pins. And the best grade of pins are the ones with minimum heartwood, no checks and no knots. So you can see, it takes a mighty forest to furnish enough bowling pins to satisfy the men and women, both old and young, who crowd the nation's 48,000 alleys daily.

After a tree is cut down, it undergoes a series of processing operations before the pins emerge ready for the alley and your personal attention from the other end. After the branches are removed, the tree is planed and squared away, then it is cut up into blocks 19 inches long from which the 15 inch pins are made. Seasoning and drying are done over a long period of time, carefully and scientifically handled through every step of the pin production.

Perfect Game, Both Hands. Bowling isn't an exception when it comes to the unusual. For instance, there's a Sid Sherman, of Toledo, Ohio, who has bowled 300—a perfect game—with both his right hand and his left. That's real ambidexterity.

TO ROLL FIRST Eleven Suggestions For New Bowlers



Mayor John E. Martz, always obliging, will roll the first ball Saturday night when the new alleys will be officially opened. Afterward, a picked team from the City Commission will bowl a team of Birmingham merchants.

Black Cat Helps Joe Elger had eight strikes to his credit, all in a row. It was a

1. Select a ball with the proper holes and span.
 2. Procure a pair of bowling shoes.
 3. Hold ball naturally and try to relax at all times.
 4. Don't attempt to throw a speed ball. Rather roll the ball. "Let the ball do the work—not you."
 5. Decide on footwork; then concentrate on it. Your future as a bowler rests on footwork.
 6. Determine type of delivery and stick to it.
 7. Use angle on every shot—both squares and strikes.
 8. Follow through extremely on every shot, but remain balanced and natural.
 9. Observe the technique of good bowlers; don't copy one style but incorporate desirable points.
 10. Don't become discouraged—it takes application, study and practice to make a bowler.
 11. Remember etiquette.
- perfect game that far, but as the ninth ball rolled toward the pins a black cat suddenly appeared on the alley, just in time to be caught by the ball and swept into the pins. The result was a perfect strike—and a very mad cat.

TWELVE NEW ALLEYS IN GLEAMING MAPLE

Congratulations

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The Finest Equipment Known to Bowling Has Been Furnished for the Bowling Pleasure of Birmingham Residents

The Brunswick-Balke-Collender Co.

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THE BRUNSWICK-BALKE-COLLENDER CO.
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