

# 'The Bowling Chapmans' Are Proprietors of B'ham Recreation

## Mrs. Chapman Now State Champion

Betty Chapman, vivacious, athletic partner in Birmingham's new bowling alleys, is the best woman bowler in the State of Michigan at the present time, and her modesty equals her ability. She likes bowling immensely, but after her husband bought the Birmingham bowling alleys in 1929, it was some months before she tried the game at all.

But Mrs. Chapman took to it like a duck takes to water, and being naturally athletically inclined, it wasn't long before her average began to climb. Soon it rocketed. In 1930, she rolled her first game. In 1935, she was Women's State Champion, and this feat was again repeated in the 1939-40 season.



Betty Chapman

**On Champion Team**  
Also, last year she bowled on the State Champion E & B women's team, which calls Birmingham its home. These women scored 2,726 for a new record. Not only that, the team holds a record for the highest total ever rolled by women in any league contest—2014 pins!

In 1937, Betty Chapman rolled the best women's singles total ever recorded in Michigan—222, 232 and 233 for a total of 687. That feat was achieved when competing for the Detroit championship.

This spring, when trying for the city championship, she set a state record for nine games: 632 in singles; 575 in doubles; and 639 in team, for a total of 1,844. Last year, her average in two

Charles, also goes for bowling in a big way. When he was 14, he and his father took third place in the Detroit doubles championships. Not long ago he set a new house record for Birmingham when he rolled 717—and across six different alleys. He averages 180 and bowls with the Milks Service team.

The younger boy, Ronald, 13, averages 150. Last year, he and four other boys, all 12 years old, entered and won Detroit's first "kid" match, defeating the Whittier Cubs. Billy Wibel, Don Sweeney, Art Colville and George Buckman were the four others on the team.

**Excellent Teacher**  
All these facts were gleaned after rather persistent questioning, for Mrs. Chapman wears her laurel easily. She's an excellent teacher, and always willing to help beginners off to a good start.

One thing the Chapmans are proud of is the fact that many teams have been driving out here from Detroit ever since 1933, passing new alleys along Woodward avenue. Ten leagues keep the maps falling every day of the week except Saturday and Sunday, when the alleys are available for open play.

leagues wasn't had at all! She averaged 180 in the Detroit Traveling League and 182 in the Metropolitan All-Star league.

"Are you looking for new worlds to conquer?" the reporter inquired.

**Hopes to Score in WIBC**  
"Well, yes," she admitted. "I hope to do something at the Women's International Bowling Congress, which corresponds to the A. B. C. I hope to go out to Los Angeles next may for this meet."

Mrs. Chapman has taken money prizes in the W. I. B. C., but has yet to rank among the champions in that competition.

The Chapmans' older son,

## CHAMPION WOMEN'S TEAM OF MICHIGAN



The E & B women's team, which calls Birmingham its home alleys, won the state championship last year with a record total of 2726 pins. Left to right are Peggy Lindberg, "Eddie" Coy, Edna Chapoton, Ann Ziess and BETTY CHAPMAN.

## Spot vs. Head Pin Bowling Argument

By NED DAY

Spot and head pin bowling—this is a subject on which there is a great deal of controversy. To settle the controversy, it is optional as far as the individual is concerned. Of the two, real spot bowling is more difficult and requires a great deal more practice and concentration than does head pin bowling.

Spot bowling should not be tried by a new bowler unless he is confident that his delivery is truly grooved. When you bowl at a spot you are taking for granted that everything else in your approach and delivery is correct. There are only a few true spot bowlers—that is, bowlers who de-

liver their balls without actually seeing the pins during delivery.

A true spot bowler will pick a spot at a point where he expects to set the ball down on the alley, set his body on the approach accordingly, address the pins, look at them for the first step or two to keep his body in line, and then concentrate on the spot, without looking at the pins until the ball is delivered.

The head pin bowler is one who addresses the pins, draws an imaginary line from the pocket to the spot on the alley where he will set his ball down, sets his body accordingly, and then fastens his eyes on the object he expects to hit. Some bowlers combine spot and head pin bowling, picking the spot far enough down the alley so

they can watch the spot and also see the pins in the background. All three methods have their set place where our people may enjoy themselves.

## Elbridge Newhall, Jr. Owner of Building, Has Faith in Future

Elbridge G. Newhall, Jr., 444 Arlington drive, owner of the new building, is also owner of the Bloomfield Theatre which will open on Woodward avenue about Dec. 1.

He told The Eccentric this

week: "I am confident that the new bowling alleys will be an asset to Birmingham as a clean, refined place where our people may enjoy themselves."

"I am making this investment because I have great faith in the future of Birmingham and this area."

He has leased the recreation building to Russell and Betty Chapman and the theatre to United Detroit Theatre.

## Woman's Ten 300 Games

We can't forget the great woman bowler, Mrs. Floretta McCutcheon, who has rolled ten perfect games—a record to make any man green with jealousy.

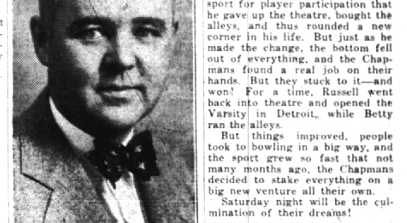
## 'Accident' Brought Them Into Bowling

One of Michigan's best known bowling families, Russell and Betty Chapman, are the proprietors of the new Birmingham Recreation bowling alleys which will be opened to the public Saturday evening. They and their older son, Charles, are known to many hundreds of bowlers in this area, and even their younger son, Ronald, is fast acquiring the art which seems to be the natural bent for the whole group. Betty Chapman, of course, is Michigan's champion woman bowler. Her husband, while not a champion, has no peer as a general manager and Mike Host, and what's more, can still roll a mean ball.

But it was just an accident that the Chapmans made bowling their life work. Originally, Russell was making a name for himself in the hotel business, and later he was one of the stars in theatre management. In fact, it was theatre work which brought him to Detroit from the East and finally to Birmingham, where he intends to permanently cast his anchor.

**Served in the Navy**  
Chapman was born in Toronto and at the age of 14, got into the hotel business, his affable personality soon bringing him jobs of more responsibility. He left the King Edward Hotel in Toronto and went to New York, where he worked with several of the best known hotels, finally identifying himself with the famous Astor House.

Then came the war, and he served in the Navy. As everyone knows, there were bowling alleys downstairs in the theatre building. Chapman did not know a bowling gutter from one outside at the street curb, but he soon found out, and what's more he took a great liking to the game. In fact, in August of 1929, so impressed was he with the future of bowling as America's greatest sport for player participation that he gave up the theatre, bought the alleys, and thus rounded a new corner in his life. But just as he made the change, the bottom fell out of everything, and the Chapmans found a real job on their hands. But they stuck to it—and won! For a time, Russell went back into theatre and opened the Varsity in Detroit, while Betty ran the alleys.



**27 Consecutive Strikes**  
"Chuck" Collier, one of the nation's best known veteran bowlers, scored his 27 consecutive strikes in an endurance match. Collier bowled alone against a five-man team. His name appeared five times opposite the names of his opponents on the score sheet and his scoring was frame for frame against each of the quintet. His 27 consecutive strikes, therefore, were chalked up vertically instead of horizontally, filling the first five frames on each line with strikes, plus two extra. But none of his line totals added up to the perfect 300. P. S. He won't show White House many times to show



This old lumber shed was torn down to make room for the new recreation building. Quite an improvement!

Best wishes to the 'wide-awake Chapmans'!

You and Mr. Newhall, in creating this recreational centre, have performed a much-needed service to our community!

**DAVID FITCH**  
BROKERS-OF  
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Best Wishes to

**The Chapmans**

Elbridge G. Newhall, Jr.

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