



### FERN L. SCOTLAND

Fern L. Scotland was born in Cattaragus County, Salamanca, New York, in 1919. At age six, Fern and her family migrated to Baltimore. She was raised in the Druid Hill Avenue and Hoffman Street areas. Fern attended the Baltimore Public School systems and was graduated from Frederick Douglas High School in 1936. She returned briefly to New York to attend New York City College. Upon returning to Baltimore, Fern graduated from the Cortez Peters Business School.

In 1943, Fern attempted to bowl tenpins at the Strand Bowling Alley under the leadership of Stanley Jackson of The National Bowling Association. After a few years, Fern became proficient enough to join the Eastern Majors League.

After years of competing in the Eastern Major League and local leagues under the sanction of TNBA, Fern had to set aside her bowling career for a few years. She again became involved in bowling. She and Estella Finks purchased the New Walbrook Lanes on West North Avenue in 1955. During the 25 years as owner-operator of the New Walbrook Bowling Center, Fern actively promoted and encouraged participation in the Baltimore WBA local tournaments. She put together many teams and was the sponsor of several of the teams. If you were a league member in her center, Fern made certain you bowled in the local associations tournaments. Fern never had an unsanctioned league in her bowling center and all who bowled there were members of TNBA as well as ABC and WIBC. In 1980, due to the unavailability of loan money, Fern reluctantly gave up ownership of the bowling center.

Prior to the existence of the Maryland State WBA, Fern served on the Virginia State WBA holding the office of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. While a member of Virginia State, Fern bowled in every Virginia State Tournament. She had a service record on the Baltimore WBA Board of Directors of Sgt-at-Arms ten years, and 19 years as a Director. She served on just about every committee. She attended at least 60 Baltimore WBA open meetings. When the Maryland State WBA was organized, Fern was a charter member and served as a director on that board for several years. She attended 12 WIBC Annual Meetings and has served as a WIBC Assistant Sgt-at-Arms. She attended earlier WIBC Annual Meetings at her own expense even though she was a delegate for the Baltimore WBA.

Fern was a board member of The Chesapeake Bay Bowling Senate of TNBA and also secretary-treasurer of the Baltimore Bowling Proprietors Association. She was a member of the Board of Governors of the Maryland State Proprietors Association and a member of the Baltimore Bowling Council since its inception and she served that Council as Chairman for several years.

Fern was instrumental in encouraging blacks to bowl. Prior to 1952, she bowled under the National Bowling Association sanction because at that time the ABC prohibited blacks from becoming members. Prior to the passage of legislation in the middle 1950s which changed this situation, Fern was requested not to become a part of the Baltimore Bowling Proprietors Association, even though she was an owner-operator of a bowling center.

During her active involvement with the Chesapeake Bay Bowling Senate of TNBA, Fern helped bring its membership up from 40 to over 300 members because you had to be a member of TNBA to bowl in her establishment. Fern was responsible for many youth leagues and ran a youth travel league for the BBPA.

Not only was Fern an active promoter of the sport of tenpin bowling, for many years, Fern performed very well on the lanes. She was invited to bowl in every Sunpapers Tournament, and usually placed somewhere in the money in most local association tournaments. She was Baltimore WBA scratch and handicap champion for All Events in 1959. For her dedication and service to women tenpin bowlers in the Baltimore area, Fern was inducted into it's Hall of Fame November 1, 1986. Fern passed away some ten years ago.