

just had offices here, as there was also a pool hall in this location. **1921** business notes tell us **Ed Mitchell's Tire shop** was located here in the corner room of the "Christie Building," replacing a pool hall.<sup>20</sup> **People's Grocery Store was located here during the decade of the 1930's** and were listed at 1006 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the 1937 phone book.

**On October 26, 1936, a Duck Pin Bowling alley opened in the basement of this corner business location.** The entrance was off 10<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Called a Packard bowling alley<sup>21</sup>, the Duck Pin business was owned and operated by the Packard Co. who operated alleys all over the U.S. and Canada.** The Marion manager was Glenn Hamlin. Ralph Reynolds was his assistant. There were big crowds on opening day and Mayor John H. Pazour rolled the first ball.

Players in the Marion duck pin bowling alleys of the late 1930's and early 1940's had skill levels from beginners to state champions. What are duck pins? Half size bowling pins with comparable sized alleys. Marion had a lot of good bowlers and the best was felt to be Marshall "Tony" Oxley (Oxley owned the Peoples Grocery store) who held the mid-west duck-pin championship, won at Eldora in 1937 with a score of 880 for five games. Right behind him and leading the local scorers was Harry Ford. Ford held the record of the highest single game score, 259, ever compiled by a patron on the local alleys.

For sheer love of the game, the prize had to go to Lyle Touro,<sup>22</sup> a young man (probably late 20's at this time) who lived five miles north of Marion in the late 1930's and early 1940's. He bowled every Saturday afternoon, coming in through rain or snow, unless the roads were so blocked by ice and snow that getting through was impossible.

Leagues, consisting of nine teams, contributed to the enthusiasm. Each team played once a week with the yearly schedule divided into a first half and last half. At the end of the last half there was a banquet for everyone. There were traveling teams which brought out plenty of competition for team places. They competed with teams from neighboring towns such as Vinton, Maquoketa, Manchester and Independence.

The manager by the 1940's was George Newlin and he started a special bowling hour for women about 1940.

Pin setters worked in shifts of four every other day; there were no automatic pin setters in those days. High school students who worked as pin setters about 1940 included: Marion Kinhead, Marvin Peterson, Don Flockhart, Lyle Peterson, Otto Welper, Richard Pinch, Steve Oakley and Carl Nebendahl.

<sup>20</sup> Oxley, page 494

<sup>21</sup> Marion Sentinel, 29 Oct 1936 and article in Sentinel about 1941 and phone interview with Steve Oakley 14 March 2008

<sup>22</sup> From Voanne Hansen, July 2008, "I believe he lived there (north of Marion) most of his life. He was a very upright person. He had baseball teams for youngsters into the 1970's. He was a good citizen."