



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

Jim Greenfield Town Historian 283-6384

Hi-Way Recreation Closes

In the Spring of 2021, bowling ceased in Wynantskill. Art Hoffman announced that the Hi-Way Recreation Bowling Alley would close. In November 1948 three men Walter Vanderpool, Roy Ottman and Bill Sturgess invested in the construction of a bowling alley at 115 Main Avenue. Sturgess managed it for a percentage of the profits.

After World War people had more leisure time and the hobby of bowling took off. In the early "dark ages" of bowling, pins had to be reset by hand using "pinboys" who replaced the pins and returned the ball. Today everything is automated.

In 1974, the three founders sold the business to Arthur H. Hoffman whose son Arthur P. Hoffman "Artie" ran the bowling alley for 48 years, expanding the lanes to 12 and adding a lounge.

Throughout its history, Hi-Way sponsored many leagues. There were leagues for seniors, children, parents and children together, men's and classics. Hi-Way hosted tournaments with trophies and awards given. Schools including St. Jude's, Averill

Park and Gardner-Dickinson formed teams for competition.

Often there were special occasion bowling parties for birthday and holiday celebrations. There was even a gender reveal party with blue pins only.

Hi-Way had a moment on the national scene when YouTube played a Comedy Central segment filmed in Wynantskill which spoofed a bowling match between two characters named "Sober vrs. "Boozy". You probably can guess who won.

The end came when COVID-19 restrictions mandated capacity limits and social distancing hurting the financial bottom line. After 48 years, Artie called it quits.

Facebook has posted many tributes to the bowling alley. One tribute says it all. Hi-Way is the "Cheers" of Wynantskill. You always found a friend there.