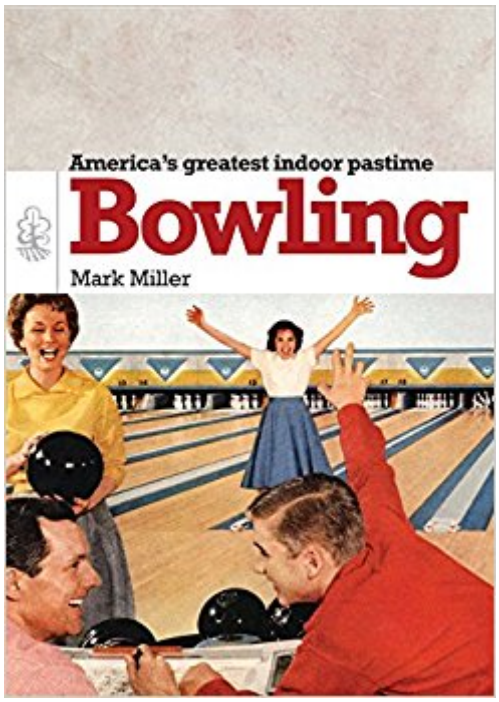
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Bowling (Shire General)



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Synopsis

Popular in various forms the world over, bowling became one of America’s favorite pastimes as early as the 1800s. Bowling rules were standardized in New York in 1895. But it wasn’t until after World War II that bowling really swept the nation, and by the 1950s and ’60s, bowling was ubiquitous in towns and cities small and large. Local and national competitions, television specials, and the Professional Bowlers Association helped fuel the fire. Soon, adults and children alike were participating in bowling on a regular basis, often in weekly leagues. Though popularity has waxed and waned over the years, today more than 95 million people count themselves as regular bowlers. Bowling expert Mark Miller traces the history of bowling in the United States in this colorful and concise exploration of bowling as both a sport and a leisure activity. From its ancient beginnings to the mid-century boom to today’s bowling and entertainment centers, Miller captures the essence of bowling.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Mark Miller worked for the United States Bowling Congress and its predecessors for more than twenty-four years. He is an authority on bowling past and present, having been called the "Fountain of Bowling Knowledge." A former sports writer in Arkansas and Illinois, he also helped establish the International Bowling Museum and Hall of Fame in Arlington, Texas. His work has been published in a variety of publications and media, including Examiner.com, BowlingDigital.com, RoadSideAmerica.com, and the Bowling News Network.

Read this book about bowling for keen insight into how America accepted waves of immigrants, adopted their ideas and created new business and recreational opportunities for a growing nation. You see how over the last century social institutions designed to keep women and minorities in their places responded to pressure for fairness and inclusiveness. It's also a study in how American business adapted new marketing techniques, labor saving-equipment and architectural improvements. The book lets you know how bowling was impacted by Prohibition and World War II. And sadly enough, you learn how America's pursuit of recreational pastimes at home has impacted sports like bowling because fewer people are willing to abandon their computers and television sets to compete in leagues and interact socially.Though, the author, Mark Miller traces the story of organized bowling all the way back to ancient Egypt and surmises that even cave men likely played games that were similar, he didn't write a difficult tomb that will exhaust your interest and your patience. The book is only 64 pages long and it has a lot of great pictures and illustrations. The narrative is well organized and relevant even if you aren't an avid spectator or bowling participant.As a history enthusiast, I enjoyed reading about nine pins, the sport of Rip Van Winkle, and advances in bowling's popularity in the 1800s, especially in communities that had a large influx of German immigrants.As an organized sport, bowling long tried to establish itself as a sport for white males, but ended up far ahead of other sports when it came to including women and minorities. While Miller covers some serious issues, the book also takes a fun and nostalgic look at bowling. The cover features a family bowling scene from the 1950s. You could imagine Laverne, Shirley, Ritchie, Potsie and the Fonz perhaps bowling at an adjacent lane.

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