

# "Meritorious Service"



Prescott G. (Pres) Coale was born in Baltimore on December 5, 1928. Since birth, Pres has resided in the Bel Air area.

In 1958, having always been interested in sports, Pres began formalizing the idea of a bowling center in Bel Air and soon a corporation was formed. The original group joined forces with Bob Turley, then with the New York Yankees, and in August 1960 opened the 24 lane Bob Turley Bowl.

The popularity of the sport grew rapidly and an additional 16 lanes were constructed two years later. In 1985, Pres stayed with the center as the sole member of the original group and continues the operation of Bel Air Bowl. Pres' devotion to the game is readily apparent through the "Learn to Bowl" clinics, which are credited with forming many of the current successful leagues at Bel Air Bowl. He instituted the Saturday Youth Program and the Scout Program, both which continue to grow. He also formulated and instructed a gym Bowl Program in selected area schools, which was done annually until it was turned over to the Physical Education teachers to continue. A bus was purchased by the lanes to transport the youth from the school to the lanes as well as hiring a bus to transport area bowlers who entered tournaments in the Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia areas.

He was instrumental in forming the Youth and Adult traveling leagues in the early 60's, and the Bel Air Women's Association, which became the Harford County Women's Bowling Association. Pres has provided sponsorship of many teams into the National and Local tournaments throughout the years. Pres founded the first Harford County Invitational Tournament and continued to conduct it for several years.

Many bowlers will remember the thrill of seeing some of the country's top women bowlers perform when the PWBA Classic Tournament came to Bel Air Bowl in 1972.

Though not known for his bowling, Pres does have a thorough knowledge of the game and is an excellent instructor who really enjoys teaching. He has a great love for the sport and still bowls in league and tournament play. Pres is past President of the Maryland Bowling Proprietors Association and is still an active member. He also holds membership in the Bowling Proprietors of America and the Maryland State YABA. Those who know Pres are aware of his sincere dedication to the sport and to the bowlers.

Because of this dedicated service and commitment to the betterment of bowling, the

Cecil-Harford Counties Bowling Association is proud to induct Prescott G. Coale into its Hall of Fame in the Meritorious Service category.