

There's not a Scrooge or a Grinch among us that doesn't feel some degree of pain and sorrow for the victims of the recent tsunami across Asia and east Africa. This week, a tragedy of similar proportions struck the bowling community here in Henry County through the loss of our long-time friend Ed Coy.

A quick look at the Hall of Fame board shouts of his absence there. To earn that distinction is to have served your fellow bowlers in an exemplary fashion and promote the sport of bowling to the best of your ability in any number of ways. Few with that honor have done it as well as Eddie, and even fewer have done it as long. When the news of the accident was broken to the Tuesday Night Church League that he was the secretary of for so long, even the "old-timers" couldn't remember who held that position *before* Eddie. At 78, he may have been the *only* one. Does anyone know? At this point, does anyone really care? Ed Coy and the church bowling league were one in the same.

Just as God knows of every earthquake before it begins to rumble, He knew what was on Eddie's calendar before the day even started. We can ask 'why' all we want, but since He chose to allow something we wouldn't have, our main job is to strive to be more like the things that made our friend so special. It would be hard to summarize someone like Eddie on a 3 x 5 card because he was so many things to so many people. Amongst his fellow bowlers, helpful, caring, pleasant, easy-going, kind—*especially* kind—were words that kept coming up again and again, not just toward some, but toward everyone he met.

To one he was the husband of 57 years, to three he was Dad, to five he was a brother, to six, Grandpa, to others he was an uncle or a cousin. To some he was a 4-H Leader, school bus driver or teammate; to many he was a friend. To all, in the days ahead, remember one thing: though he died an untimely death, he is *not* dead. And though he'll be missed, the separation is *not* permanent.

The life Ed Coy lived softens the good-bye for many of us. Whether timely or tragic, death is inevitable. For the Christian, it's like curling up on the couch after a long day at Grandma's—and waking up the next morning at home.

Thanks, Eddie, for the legacy. May the same be said about each one of us.

Last week saw another 300 game rolled, this time by veteran bowler Mark Brown. With bowling running through the family blood lines, Brown's perfect game Thursday night in the Big Six Plus league "marked" the second of his career. His first, some five years ago, was shot on the same day (a couple of decades or so apart) as his father and Hagerstown bowling legend Dick Brown's one and only 300. Thanks to a not-so-perfect second game, Mark finished with the second high series of the week, a 713. Tim Dale finally made the left-handers proud with a great 296 game, followed by Grant Becker 268, Lloyd Werking and Paul Helderbrand 267. Tim Dale fired the high series of the week of 754, followed by Brown's 713, Scott Shafer's 704, and Werking's 692. (Lloyd is 77 years old, folks!)

With the lone exception of Martha Biehl, it was another Hildebrandt-Chesher week for the ladies. High games include Brittney Chesher 246, Martha Biehl 241, Cathy Hildebrandt 233, Cindy Chesher 232 and 231. Hildebrandt, who owns the high series of the season for the ladies with 699, also recorded the high set last week with 667. Other high series went to Cindy Chesher 650 and Brittney Chesher 647. Left out of last week's list of high series for the first half of the season was Sue Elkins' 636.

Teachers of Henry County and surrounding area unite! The Teachers League will be starting its 16th season next Thursday, January 13. Doubles teams of any combination will

bowl a two-game set (same as High School Bowling Club) each Thursday at 4 PM. The short, 10 week schedule includes a divisional playoff system and a Strike or Nine Tournament at the conclusion of the league. The league is open to anyone who is paired with a school employee of any position and the cost is only \$6.00. Call to register your team or show up on the 13th.

The 39th Annual Strike or Nine Doubles Tournament gets underway today and will run through March 27. Entrants may shoot for the \$400.00 first place prize (based on 200 entries) anytime lanes are available. Weekly highs and 300 games pays your money back. Handicap is 90% of 210 scratch.

Also, a new 12-week mixed "convenience" league will be starting at the end of the month. Four person teams of any combination bowl at their convenience in one of the shortest seasons known to mankind. More on that next time.