

All three fans of the Ten Pin Spin have been clamoring for months about its return to syndication. Today's column should end all speculation and debate once and for all.

Whoever coined the phrase "Promises are made to be broken" didn't have children and didn't own a bowling center. Concerning the latter, one promise kept this season has been the return of the high scoring conditions that bowlers today expect. Twenty different men have recorded a 700 series at the half-way mark, two of which also shot a 300 game. Scott Shafer notched his 10th perfect game in the Big Six Plus league while humbly owing his success to the expert care he gets from the Michael J. Barrett chiropractic office in Richmond. Shafer also owns Henry County's highest average at 220. (Hey Mr. Chiropractor—the rest of the league hates you!) Returning to league competition after a six year break due to work schedule, Steve Miller rolled his first-ever 300, also in the Big Six Plus. Shrek and Fabio impersonator Karl Niles, aka Mr. Rock 'N Bowl, strung the first 11 in a row for a super 297 game, and Michael Hutchens and Charlie Luellen both shot 290 each. Other high games include Jeff Clark 289, Chad Dale 288, Wade Truitt, Alan Gard, Danny Chesher, Jim Miller, and Rick Taylor all with 279. Vic Mukes, Steve Beavers, Rob Chesher, Charlie Helderbrand and Steve Miller all had 278's, with Caleb Holcomb and Chris Layton at 277, and Tracy Moistner and Tim Dale rounding out the 275-plus games at 276.

First half high series honors for the men goes to Jeff Clark with a whopping 770. Due to extremely rare machine problems, Clark rolled his association-leading series on three different pair of lanes in the Monday Morning Men's league. Other great sets (mostly by righties) were rolled by Jim Miller 768, Mark Holzinger 760, Danny Chesher (who had a 300 game and 800 series in Muncie this season) 748, Steve Miller and Bill Kendall 744, Chad Dale 742, Joe Lowe 736, Wade Truitt 734, and Charlie Luellen and Bob Eversole with 732 each.

Cathy Hildebrandt and Cindy Chesher continue to dominate the women's scoring with the top two averages and most of the top games and series. Chesher's 198 average beats Hildebrandt's by three, but Cathy's 279 game and 699 series is tops for the ladies at mid-season. Chesher's daughter Brittney, who holds the only other 190 average at an even 190, slipped into the number two spot on both game and series with 257 and 689 respectively. Rounding out other high games are as follows: Cathy Hildebrandt 256, 247, and 245, Cindy Chesher 256 and 248, Carolyn "Aunt Sue" Cooper and Sharon Weddle 245, Jane Shafer 238, Tiffany Helderbrand and Veronica Blalock 236, Kim Hannon and Brittney Chesher 235, Sue Elkins 234, and Sue Keisling 231.

Other high series for the ladies include Cindy Chesher 676 and 662, Cathy Hildebrandt's 669, 664, and 651, Jane Shafer 647, Sue Keisling 636, Brittney Chesher 635, and Tiffany Helderbrand 632.

With nearly one hundred in the book, and many more that probably didn't get recorded, the "Lum Edwards 5-7-10 Club" will probably always be a Rose Bowl favorite. If it was just any "5-7-10 Club" it might be different. But because it bears the name of the one who made the occasion so famous, it will always bring back fond memories of the Lum we all miss each day of the year. Even the Courier's own Darrel Radford (who bowls regularly just to keep up with son Derek) is a member of the club. Many unfortunate souls have left it more than once, but we're not sure how many, if any, have ever left it two frames in a row—until now. Rachel Sosbe, bowling in the Henry County Church

league, left the 5-7-10 recently in back-to-back frames, and if that doesn't deserve special recognition, we don't know what does.

What recap would be complete without the kids? Here's a quick rundown of the fall youth league highlights.

Bumper Boys: Tyler Morrison 124, Chase Helderbrand 116, Tyler Howlett 112.

Bumper Girls: Hanna Boggs 126, Neva Orr 111, Destiny Fielden 101.

Bantam Boys games and series: George Gray 123 and 217, Kyle Martin 92 and 172, Colton Nicholson 86 and 147.

Bantam Girls games: Kayla Kendall 148, Haley Morgan 71, Shelby Huffman 50. High series: Kendall 253, Morgan 120, Eva O'Dear 81.

Prep Boys games: Tyler Sidwell and Nik Bush 166, Nolan Snyder 158. High Series: Bush 450, Snyder 402, Sidwell 380.

Prep Girls games: Kati Jackson 175, Taylor Ramsey 145, Rachel Boggs 140. High series: Jackson 385, Boggs 373, Ramsey 345.

Junior/Senior Boys games: Bays Gard 238, Josh Vardaman 208, Ryan Sidwell 205. Series: Gard 578, Kevin Meredith 503, Vardaman 499.

Junior/Senior Girls games: Destiny Werner 212, Amber Murray 210, Amber Neal 208. Series: Murray 589, Werner 537, Shay Haltom 512.

The new year will be here before you know it, and the Rose Bowl has something special planned on New Year's Eve. At an earlier starting time than usual, we'll be having Christian Youth Night from 8-10 p.m., followed by our annual New Year's Eve Rock 'N Bowl from 11 p.m. till 1 a.m. So for all you people who've moaned about the usual 10 til midnight being too late, or for you night owl partiers looking for something to take you right into the new year, why not plan on spending New Year's Eve with us!

The 39th Annual Strike or Nine Doubles Tournament will start Saturday, January 8 and run thru March 27. Also kicking off in January will be our Merchants Challenge "convenience" league. Four-person mixed teams bowl a short 12 week season "at their convenience." Call the Rose Bowl for full details.

Remember the "Reason for the Season." As subtle as it is, consider the gradual but consistent evolution of "Merry Christmas" to "Happy Holiday." It's time for it to stop.

Happy Birthday, Jesus.

Merry Christmas, Sue.