

## Steinsiek finds humor in nearly everything bowling-related

Syndicated cartoonist Walt Steinsiek sees the real world of bowling through his world of animation as much as another well-known Walt—Disney—saw the subtle shades of reality through his cartoon characters.

When tournament seating directors tell media members to find a seat somewhere with the audience over to one side, they always offer Walt a ring-side seat so he can see all of the action of televised tournament finals. Why all the fuss over Steinsiek? Because they appreciate the uncanny way he describes a thousand words of tournament activity into one big picture. They simply love the way he draws them.

Steinsiek's cartoons, which appear in publications worldwide, normally depict the lighter side of bowling, and he nearly always inserts much-needed humor into this much-maligned sport. He leaves no stone unturned in his relentless search for bowling humor by skewering everybody with his pen, from the highest officials of the bowl-

ing kingdom to the typical league bowler.

"Writers interpret humor by composing something funny or cute about bowling, photographers capture an unusual occurrence on film that can be interpreted as humorous, and I do it with my drawings," Steinsiek says.

This talented gentle giant can animate any bowling event, big or small, based on his years of bowling insight. When directors of The Villages decided to take their PBA Senior Tour finals to the streets outdoors, Walt was there drawing every little nuance of the audience and the bowlers as they sweltered under the Florida sun.

His massive cartoon of the whole event was spread across the front page of the local *Village Sun* newspaper the following day.

Steinsiek also has drawn a series of cartoons showing the various activities of The Foundation at Kegel Training Center in Sebring, Fla., where pros and amateurs alike go to tune up their games. In addition, his artwork for The

Kegel Company, Inc., currently is featured in advertisements in *Bowlers Journal International*.

Steinsiek even writes a weekly bowling column for the *Vero Beach Press Journal* near his home in Micco, Fla.

The 74-year-old cartoonist began his bowling journalism career with his own publication that covered bowling in the Baltimore-Washington area, and he moved his operation from Laurel to Florida in the early '90s. He is a past president of the Bowling Writers Association of America, and his life is devoted to the sport. Always giving of his time and talent, he's like your favorite uncle or Santa Claus at Christmas for those who work in the bowling industry.

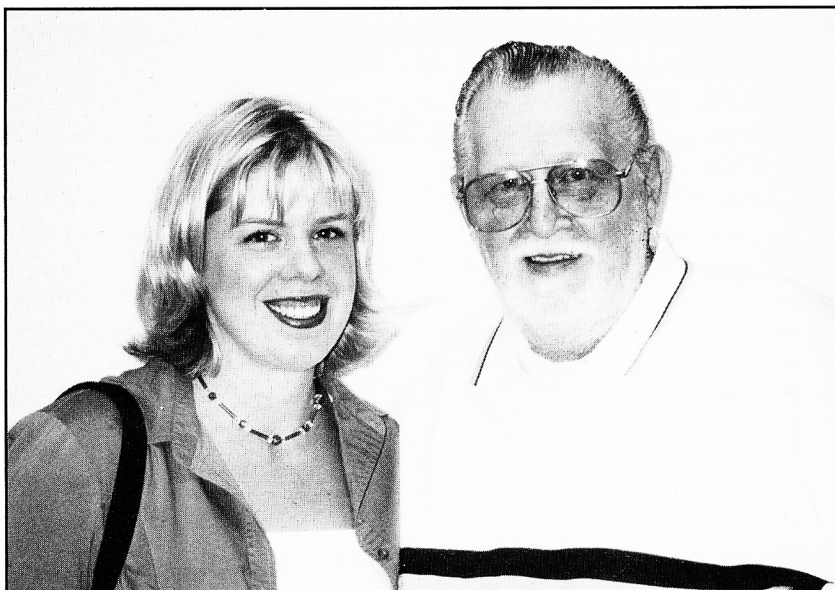
Steinsiek has composed three books full of his entertaining, sarcastic, and, on occasion, "colorful" cartoons. The Passaic, New Jersey native's original book was titled *Balls – Bowling of Course!* and was published in 1973. His second book, *A Funny Approach*, was released in 1995, and his third, which premiered last year, spoofs the previous title as *A Funnier Approach*. The first two books are now out of print and considered collector's items, but his most recent publication can be purchased directly from the author or ordered at your local bookstore.

No less a figure than legendary Hall of Famer Dick Weber is quoted on the back of the latest book: "Steinsiek's hilarious bowling cartoons are enjoyed and appreciated by millions of bowlers around the world. He is a master at showing the humorous side of the sport of bowling, and *A Funnier Approach* is his best and is a treasured addition to anyone's library."

In 1999, AMF distributed a cartoon calendar last year featuring one of Steinsiek's cartoons for each month of the year.

The next time you get depressed about shooting a bad series at the lanes or the actions around the sport of bowling get you down, just take a look at Steinsiek's cartoons and you'll feel much better in the morning.

Syndicated columnist Richard Kolb is a member of the Bowling Writers Association of America. (Walt Steinsiek can be reached via E-mail at [ztlaw98@hotmail.com](mailto:ztlaw98@hotmail.com).)



RICHARD KOLB

Walt Steinsiek appears with PWBA champion and fellow Florida resident Kendra Cameron. Both previously lived in Maryland.