

ORLANDO – Jerry Krauss is a proprietor who knows a good thing when he sees it, and he certainly liked what he saw during the 2008 International Bowl Expo at the Orange County Convention Center.

He migrated from Manhattan to Florida after the Korean War and got into the bowling business, building the first center in now bustling St. Petersburg in 1957.

“While in college in New York, the professor suggested we get into the leisure business, and not much later I saw in the paper that AMF was exhibiting an automatic pinspotter.” That led to a family decision to go into the bowling business and it was decided to set up shop in St. Pete.

It was a wise decision. Jerry and his family once associated with four bowling centers in the St. Pete area. Now they run two – Seminole Lanes, the 60-alley bed showcase center, and 32-lane Sunrise.

He estimates that he has attended more than 40 conventions of the Bowling Proprietors’ Association of America, “long before they were called Bowl Expo and long before the giant trade shows,” he said.

Jerry Krauss also attended the Wednesday business section and had two things he wanted to say he really enjoyed.

The first was the induction of Bill Bunetta into the Trailblazers division of the new Coaches Hall of Fame. Krauss said that Bunetta was instrumental in teaching him how to teach bowling. Krauss also supplied a lot of the information that the Hall of Fame committee had on Bunetta’s fabled coaching career.

Then Krauss added that in all the years the BPAA has been named its Victor Lerner Hall of Fame winners, none was more deserving than Howard Baum. “He is a fabulous proprietor.

The International Bowl Expo is the showcase event of the Bowling Proprietors’ Association of America, which is located in Arlington, Texas.