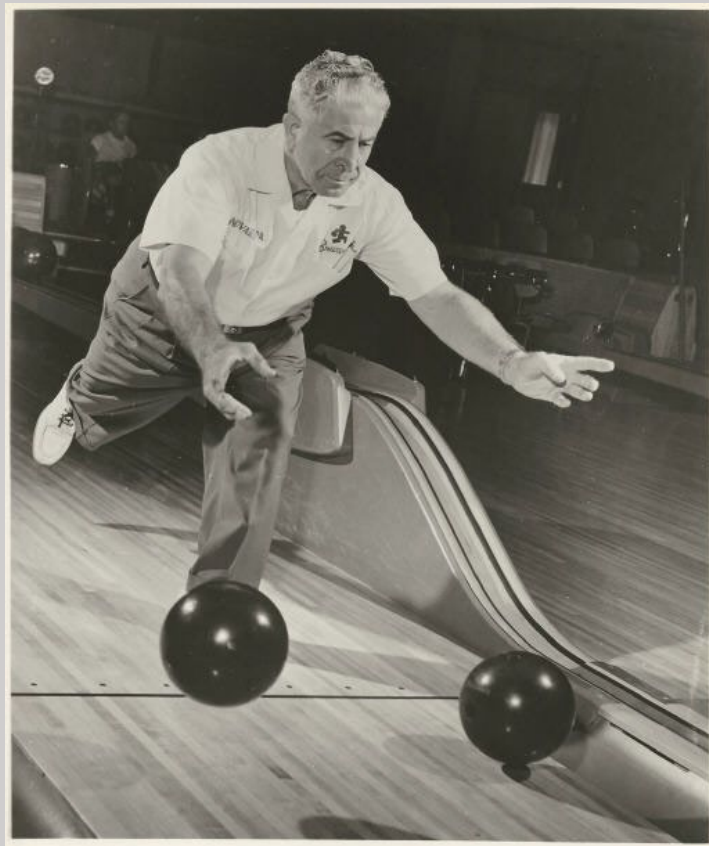


Andy Varipapa



Entertaining the U.S. Military
1940's - 1960's



Andy Varipapa

Three Decades of Serving the U.S. Military

From the 1930's through the 1980's Andy Varipapa traveled extensively throughout the U.S. and the world, competing in tournaments, performing trick shot exhibitions, and training thousands of new bowlers.

While we all heard the stories of Andy's many travels over the years what I didn't know until I inherited the very comprehensive scrapbook that Andy's daughter and my aunt, Lorraine Ruffolo, compiled over the years was how much time and travel he dedicated to entertaining and training the members of the U.S. military over a 25-year period from 1940 to 1965.

From signing on as a representative of the U.S. Treasury to sell war bonds, to training soldiers and sailors during World War II, to an exhibition tour of the European command in 1951 and visiting five U.S. military bases in Germany in 1965, I am very proud of the time that my grandfather dedicated to entertaining and training members of the U.S. military during his time in the public limelight.

The tremendous amount of pride that I have in my grandfather's dedication to the U.S. military has led to my desire to carry on the family tradition by becoming a strong supporter of BVL and the great work they do for our wounded and retired veterans.

Andy Varipapa II

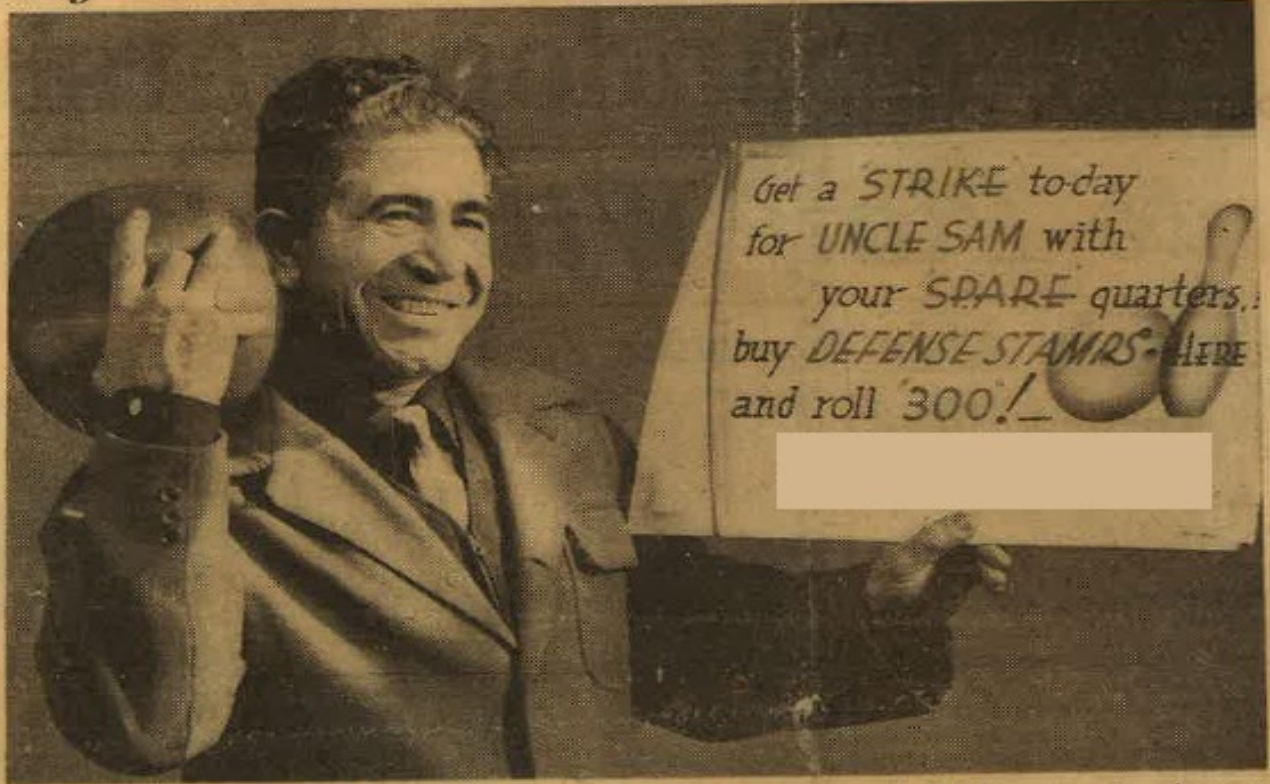
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Andy the Teacher Is Now Andy the Salesman



Andy Varipapa, who has shown thousands of Detroiters how to bowl, has turned salesman. He is selling War Bonds and Stamps.

Andy Signs On To Sell War Bonds

– *Detroit News, February 21, 1943*

See next page for full article....

Varipapa to Show Bowlers a 'Strike' for Uncle Sam

By JOHN WALTER

Andy Varipapa has shown hundreds of thousands of bowlers throughout the country how to score a strike on a bowling alley. Now he is going to show them how they can score a strike for Uncle Sam.

Varipapa has just been appointed a special representative of the extension staff of the United States Treasury Department to help stimulate the sale of war bonds and stamps by Chairman Frank N. Isbey of the Michigan Defense Savings staff.

He has a big job cut out for him. Andy is taking the place of Patrolman Patrick Welch, of Palmer Park Station, who was responsible for the sale of an estimated \$1,000,000 in war bonds and stamps at bowling establishments throughout the city in the last year.

Patrolman Welch began a one-man campaign a year ago to push the sales of war bonds and stamps throughout Detroit's many bowling alleys. In addition to getting the co-operation of bowling proprietors in selling stamps he also succeeded in getting many bowling leagues to convert their prize funds and awards into stamps and bonds.

ONE-MAN CAMPAIGN

"Get a 'strike' for Uncle Sam with your 'spare' quarters by buying defense stamps and roll 300 against the Japs," was the slogan Patrolman Welch conceived, and his one-man campaign produced such big results due to his resourcefulness and untiring efforts that he gained official recognition from the U. S. Treasury Department.

Now "Pat" Welch is turning the job over to Varipapa to carry out nationally. "Pat" selected Andy for the job himself.

"After all, nobody gets more strikes than Varipapa, so he's the logical man to carry on this work," says "Pat."

As Varipapa continues instructing Detroiters in the fundamentals of good bowling he also will campaign for more war bonds and stamps. In a number of his instruction programs throughout the country earlier in the season Varipapa co-operated with proprietors who made the admission charge to Andy's trick shot bowling exhibition a couple of war stamps.

Bowlers seeking Varipapa's autograph in the future will get it—on a war stamp book with the purchase of a dollar's worth of

stamps. Varipapa is enthusiastic about his new duties. Earlier in the season, wishing to get in actual war work, he sought a commission in the Navy because of his work at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in his youth, but wasn't successful.

PICK ANDY'S 'VICTIMS'

Varipapa has entertained members of the armed services with his bowling exhibitions at a score of camps throughout the country. He is much in demand and volunteers his services at every opportunity. While conducting The Detroit News Free Bowling School he has given exhibitions at Fort Wayne, Fort Custer and the USO Club.

Andy makes four appearances in Detroit and three in neighboring cities this week as he continues The Detroit News Free Bowling School. Today he will bowl Morris Miller, Al Risch and Ralph Mathenson, among others, in his exhibition matches at the Maplewood at Milan, Mich.

A. N. McKay will be among his opponents Monday at the Vogue. The bowler who rolls the highest series in the Plymouth Classic will be Andy's first opponent Tuesday night at the Plymouth Recreation. Ford Butler, the proprietor, will be another. Jerry Howard will seek revenge for an earlier defeat when he bowls Andy at the Playdium Wednesday night.

Fred Breckle and Charles Kotarski, ace bowlers from the All Star Classic League, will face Andy at the Beacon Thursday. Friday he bowls at Angelo Gadioli's Northville Center at Northville, Mich., and Saturday Jacob Bomze, the marathon bowler, and Manager Carl Schwikert will test Andy at the Wy-7 Recreation.



Patrick Welch

Highlights

- Andy signed on as a representative of the U.S. Treasury to help stimulate sales of War Bonds & Stamps
- Teamed with bowling proprietors to require War Stamps as part of admission charge for exhibitions
- Andy's autograph came with the purchase of a War Stamp book
- During this Detroit visit gave exhibitions at Fort Wayne, Fort Custer, and the USO Club

Varipapa Carries His 'Duties' to Sam's Forces

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1942—THE HOME



Andy Varipapa as he gave a bowling lesson Monday to sailors at Naval Armory. Later he instructed soldiers at Ft. Wayne.

Andy Teaches Army, Navy, Then Outrolls Joe Norris

By JOHN WALTER

Andy Varipapa taught bowling fundamentals to the U. S. Navy, the Army, his regular class in The Detroit News Free Bowling School and topped it off by nosing out Joe Norris by 11 pins in an exhibition match at Springwells Recreation Monday, making it one of the busiest he ever has had in Detroit.

He started off the day by spending an hour with members of the U. S. Navy quartered at the Naval Armory. It was like old times for Andy. Varipapa worked in the Brooklyn Navy Yard in World War I, finishing up as a first class machinist. Many of his Navy pupils Monday are attending the machinists' school.

In the afternoon Varipapa had an overflow crowd of pupils eager for instruction at the Springwells Recreation. Taking just enough time off to get a bite to eat, he hurried to Fort Wayne. There he gave some more instruction in fundamentals

and some of his trick shots on the four alleys at the Army post, then back to Springwells.

At the end of the second game in his exhibition match with Norris, Varipapa was trailing by 60 pins. Norris opened with 187 and 258 as Andy hit 190 and 195. Varipapa came back with eight consecutive strikes in his third game for 267 as Norris hit 237. Andy followed up with 216 and 226 to nose out Joe as Mort Luby's No. 1 All-America bowler finished with 179 and 220.

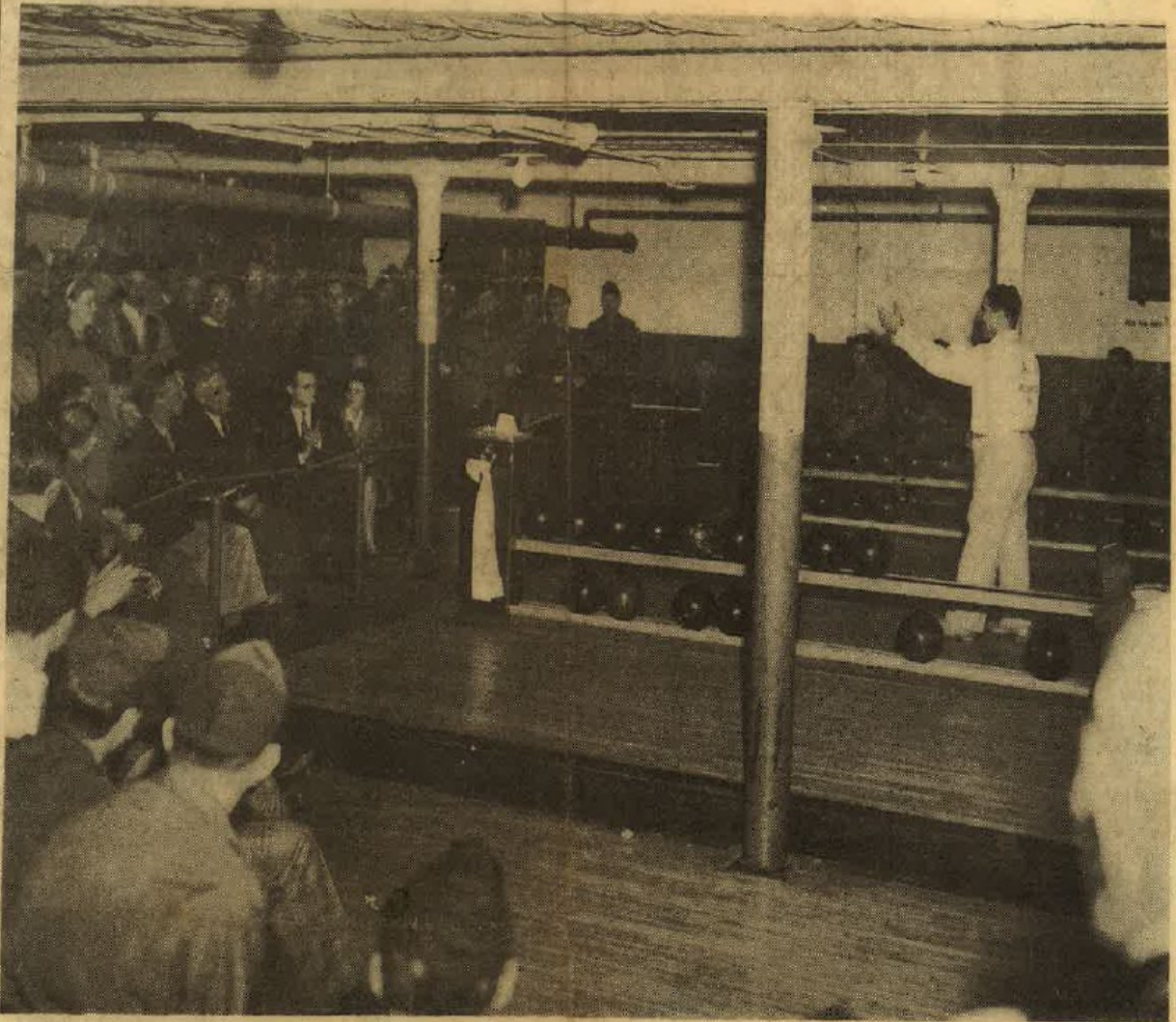
Andy had 1,092 to Joe's 1,081, an average of 213.2 for Varipapa to Norris' 216.1. After turning in an excellent demonstration of his trick shots, Varipapa went back on the drives to give more individual instruction.

Before the evening was over, a return engagement between Norris and Andy was arranged for Palace Recreation Monday, Feb. 2. It will be Andy's final appearance here as he is scheduled to continue his

See VARIPAPA—Page 18

Andy worked in the Brooklyn Navy Yard during World War I, finishing up as a first class machinist

Varipapa Performs for Soldiers



Andy Varipapa, nationally famous exhibition bowler who is in Cincinnati conducting the Times-Star's free bowling school, took time out the other night to demonstrate trick shots and teach a number of Uncle Sam's soldiers the fundamentals of the bowling game on the Army post's lanes, Ft. Thomas. Varipapa is seen in the above photo addressing the interested group of Army men.

He conducted the Times-Star classes at Doc Crocker's Valley Alleys Friday. He will appear at the new Mt. Lookout Lanes on Sunday at 2 p. m., he will show at Mergard's Court Street Lanes, and at 12 midnight he will appear at Mergard's Northside Lanes. Monday at 2 p. m., and 11:30 p. m., Varipapa appears at Snapp's new lanes, and he will conclude his local stand on Tuesday at Walz Cheviot Lanes, at 1:30 p. m. and 11:30 p. m.

Teaching bowling fundamentals to soldiers at Fort Wayne in Cincinnati



During World War II, Andy Varipapa (second from left) toured Europe with other bowlers including Joe Norris (second from right) to provide entertainment for U.S. military troops.

Visiting military bases with Joe Norris*

*Although this historical article states that Andy and Joe Norris toured Europe during World War II, it could not be independently verified. This photo was most likely taken at a U.S military base

Top U.S. Bowlers, Varipapa, Norris To Tour EUCOM

By HANK FISHBACH, Staff Correspondent

NURNBERG, Aug. 23 (S&S)—Colorful Andy Varipapa and Joe Norris, a pair of America's top bowlers, start flashing their pin magic for EC fans here Sunday night when they open their 10-day European tour on the Monteith Barracks alleys.

Varipapa, the highest average-game bowler in America, and Norris, one of the top U.S. team

All America bowling team in 1946, 47, 48, and 49.

The little Brooklyn bowler has the highest game average—204.66 pins—of any of the leading bowlers in America and in 1948 was selected as "bowler of the year" by the Bowling Writers of America.

One of the game's top showmen, Varipapa plans to present a variety of trick shots following his exhibition match play with Norris.

Norris, who boasts a 201.50 pin-per-game average, has performed on national and international championship teams and is a former winner of the \$5,000 Pacific Coast Bowling Classic in San Francisco.

Billiard fans will see the nation's top trick-shot artist in Mosconi, who has displayed his magic in many movie shorts. The Havertown, Pa., billiard ace has won the world's title six times, including the last three years in a row.

He boasts an exhibition high-run score of 309, a tournament high-run score of 125 and a best-game-an-inning score of two.

Baker's part in the bowling-billiard show is to describe the activities of the American Bowling Congress between the exhibitions.

After the exhibitions Sunday night in Nurnberg, the troupe is tenta-



Andy Varipapa
... Brooklyn's little giant

players, will be accompanied by Willie Mosconi, world pocket billiards champion, and Frank K. Baker, secretary of the American Bowling Congress.

Five-game matches between Varipapa and Norris, trick bowling shots and a billiard exhibition by Mosconi are included on the 10-strike program which will be presented in Salzburg, Munich, Stuttgart, Heidelberg, Berlin, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt.

Known as the "Little Giant" in U.S. bowling circles, Varipapa was crowned U.S. All Star champion in 1946 and 47, and was named on the



Joe Norris
... 201.5 pin average

tively scheduled to perform at Salzburg, Aug. 27; Munich, Aug. 28; Stuttgart, Aug. 29; Heidelberg, Aug. 30; Berlin, Sept. 1-2; Wiesbaden, Sept. 4 and Frankfurt, Sept. 5, 6 and 7.



Willie Mosconi
... world billiards champ

Highlights

- Touring bases in the European Command (EUCOM) during the Cold War in the 1950's
- Joining Andy on the tour were bowling champ Joe Norris and world billiard champion Willie Mosconi

During a multi-country European Tour sponsored by AMF in 1965, Andy entertained the U.S. Military at five of their bases in Germany

AMF INTERNATIONAL BOWLING



from the office of bowling public relations

25-28, OLD BURLINGTON ST., LONDON, W.1. TEL. REGENT 8070

ANDY VARIPAPA TOUR

Wednesday
September 22.

Depart London. Arrive Frankfurt.
LH.223. Arriving 20.00 hrs.

GERMANY

Accompanied by H.Hammerschlag and
T. Rhoades.

Thursday
September 23.

TV rehearsal with Gigi Robin.
Exhibition at Rhine-Main Air Base
16.00 hrs.

Friday
September 24.

To Berlin with H.Hammerschlag and
T.Rhoades.
Exhibition at City Bowling, Berlin.

Saturday
September 25.

German National Television show with
Gigi Robin.

Sunday
September 26.

Note: Gigi Robin returns to Geneva.
H.Hammerschlag returns to London.

T.Rhoades remains with A.Varipapa for
remainder of German tour.

"
Wurzburg Military. 16.00 hrs.

Monday
September 27.

Bowling Kassel.

Tuesday
September 28.

Bowling Karlsruhe.

Wednesday
September 29.

Heidelberg Military. 19.30 hrs.

Thursday
September 30.

Bremerhaven Military. 19.30 hrs.

Friday,
October 1.

Day off in Hamburg.

Saturday
October 2.

Astra Bowling, Hamburg.

TRUMAN CALLS VARIPAPA TO WHITE HOUSE

An invitation to demonstrate his trick shot artistry in the White House for President Harry Truman was included among the numerous congratulatory telegrams received by National Bowling champion Andy Varipapa last night.

The occasion was a dinner tendered by the Chamber of Commerce at the Paraglide restaurant, marking "Varipapa Day" in Hempstead. The 54 year old, two-time national singles champion was the recipient of several gifts from merchants and friends.

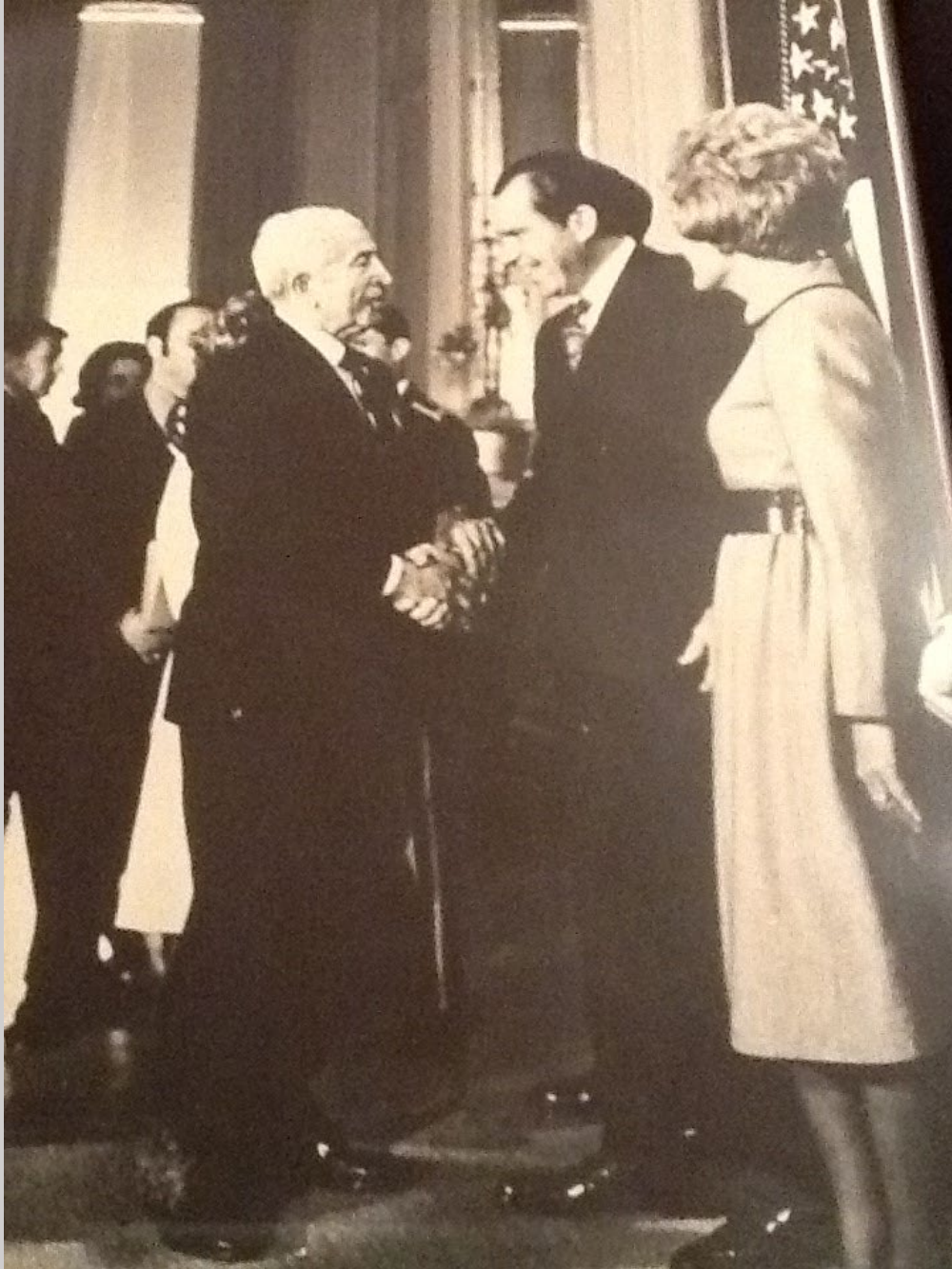
Mayor Ernest Ashdown of Hempstead was the principal speaker at the Hempstead theatre earlier in the night and presented the all star championship trophy to Varipapa.

Following the world premiere of Varipapa's newest bowling movie short, the champion was escorted to the Paraglide for the dinner which was attended by officials of the Brunswick-Balke-Collender company and leading local bowling

- In December 1947, Andy was invited to the White House by President Truman to demonstrate his legendary trick shots, as well as receive congratulations on being crowned National Bowling Champion for the second consecutive year

*Source: Nassau Daily Review Star,
Dec. 30, 1947*

**On September 25, 1970, Andy was appointed by
President Richard Nixon to the President's Council
on Physical Fitness & Sports**



**On November 1, 1980, President Jimmy Carter
inducted Andy into the Italian-American Sports
Hall of Fame**



Andy Varipapa...Bowling's First Superstar



www.andyvaripapa.com