

RMS BULLETIN

THE VOICE OF THE HOBBY
SINCE 1941



RMS BULLETIN NO. 501

March/April 2003

Your Dream Hobby Room!

by
Mike Prero

It was September 12th, 2001. My daughter, Allyson, was just about to leave for her first year at University of California, Santa Barbara. She was the last of the kids to 'leave the nest'. I was just getting the last (of many) boxes from her bedroom into her car...

What am I going to do with all the rest of her stuff still in the room? I wondered. "I'm just about all set, Dad. I'll get my car keys from the house, and I'll be off," she said excitedly. "Allyson, I don't know what I'm going to do without you," I said, with a tear in my eye. *I can move her bed in the boys' old room and box up all those stuffed animals under the house. Boy, those walls are going to have to be painted! What about all those stickers on the..* "OK, Dad, I'm ready. You know, though, maybe I shouldn't leave until tomorrow. Then I can.."



"What!!" I exclaimed. "...I mean, it's a long drive to Santa Barbara, and, even though we moved you into the dorms last week, you need time to get settled, start making friends, and get familiar with everything. You don't want to be rushed." *I wonder how many book cases I can get along that big wall. Where am I going to put that huge desk?* "You're right, Dad. OK, I'll call you when I get there. Love ya. Bye!" she waved.

Was there an outlet on that wall? Gee, I've got all those computer cords to deal with! "Bye, Allyson. I miss you already, Honey!" *That room won't hold all my*

continued on p.3

The President's Message

The promise of Springtime is the new growth that occurs around us. The many opportunities that we have in meeting new match collectors with our swapfests and conventions gives us many chances to grow. Make it a point to meet new collectors and make new friends. It can be very rewarding to establish new contacts and help new members become a part of the family of collectors. You can help foster new members by being a friend and encouraging new collectors by sharing your duplicate covers in their areas of interest.

A collector recently noted in the Forum on our web site that they had seen in a restaurant a framed display of matches on the wall. There are many restaurants that feature collectibles to decorate their establishment. How about making an 8X10 display and presenting it to the management of your favorite eating establishment that has a similar decorating scheme? You could include a convention cover as a possible contact in the display for those that might not know we exist as an organized hobby. Including a cover from the restaurant where it will be displayed will increase the odds of the decoration being added to the wall.

Have a great time at all your local club meetings and begin to make plans to spend a week in Cincinnati this coming August. You'll have a great time and continue your own new growth.

Charles Specht

President, RMS

RMS 2003 NEEDS YOUR COVER DONATIONS!

The RMS 2003 convention isn't all that far off now, and, as always we need your donations of covers to make the freebie tables, registration bags, etc. a success. Send those good dupes that are just gathering dust, please. We can certainly use them. You can send everything to Stella Williams, 1359 Surrey Rd., Vandalia, OH 45377-1646[E-mail: matchjsw@gemair.com] *Thank you!*

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CALL NOW! Anxious to sell. Arnold L. Cole (913) 897-1779 (in Kansas City area).

THE RMS BULLETIN

The RMS Bulletin is a bimonthly publication of the Rathkamp Matchcover Society. RMS dues are \$15 (single) for North America and \$20 (single) for overseas. Add. family members are \$4 each. Dues are to be submitted to Treasurer. All articles, advertisements, comments, and letters should be sent to the Editor. Publication dates are: Sept., Nov., Jan, Mar., May, and Jul. Deadline for all submissions is 30 days before the publication month. This publication is owned by the Rathkamp Matchcover Society and is made available for public distribution through first class (Canadian and overseas) and bulk mail rates.

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albums, but I'll bet it can handle most of them. "Bye, Sweetheart!" *Can't do anything until I paint and put new carpeting in, though...* And, thus, after almost 18 years, my little baby had left home, leaving behind an emotionally-wracked father...and her *empty* bedroom!

Twenty-three years I had waited for that room...and now...it was MINE! It had originally been my study, of course, when I had first bought the house, but, when the kids started arriving, it became first the boys' room and then Allyson's room. In the intervening decades [*wince!*], I did my hobby work on the living room coffee table, while the garage and every closet housed my albums, shoe boxes, and collecting paraphernalia. I even had large trays of covers stored under several beds.

The dust from Allyson's car hadn't even settled on the driveway before I was cleaning out 'my new hobby room!' I put everything that was left into her old bedroom (the one my youngest son had vacated a couple years earlier). By the end of the week, I had the room repaired, painted, and freshly carpeted [*OK, so I had the carpeting ordered already!*]. Then came the best part...watching it take shape as the hobby room I had always wanted.

I removed the sliding closet doors from the two large closets as either end of the room. Then I went to my local 'Oak Depot' store and ordered exactly what I needed [*OK, so I had already 'browsed' there once or several times!*]*—*a large L-shaped oak desk and nine book cases. The desk was big enough to house my computer (plus screen, plus printer, plus scanner) and my 'used-all-the-time' reference sources, and still give me plenty of working space to sort covers, work on albums, etc. I installed a nice, antique-looking swag lamp overhead. I put the six 6' book cases in the two closets, which, without the sliding doors, now looked like custom-made recessed storage areas. I put the three 4' book cases side by side, along the large remaining wall. A smaller book case went against the left side of the desk, along with an easy chair for reading. The color copier I use to do the color pages of the *Sierra-Diablo Bulletin* went to the right of the desk, and the final piece of furniture, a small filing cabinet (oak, of course) finished off the floor plan.

Next, came the moving of albums—334, mostly 3" 3-ring binders. While I couldn't fit my entire collection into my new hobby room (I have several huge photo album-types, for example, that are just too big to put anywhere in the house), still it's soooo nice being able to just walk over to a shelf and retrieve what I want rather than having to run down to the garage in all sorts of weather! I also moved in



quite a few of my paperbacks. I'm an avid reader and I keep all the books I enjoy so that I can reread them over the ensuing years. Above my hobby room desk, close to the ceiling, is a wall-to-wall shelf that I found perfect for putting many of my favorite books on, along with the stereo speakers at either end (I had already put in a nice stereo). The small book case by the desk is also crammed with paperbacks.

Finally, I addressed the decor of the room. Since it *continued on p. 15*

Knights To Remember!

Ah, and what knights they were!...At least that's what we'd like to believe, but, as with most things, they've gotten bigger and better with each re-telling over the years. To be sure, there were heroes and great deeds, outrageous courage, pious devotion, and noble goals—but the majority of knights, when held up to such standards, were...somewhat lacking.

Knights were a product of Europe's Age of Feudalism, c. 800-1400, and Feudalism was Europe's answer to the Terrible Centuries (800-1100), when Europe was literally beset on all sides by pagan enemies. From the east came the Magyars, nomadic horsemen from Central Asia; from the South came the hated Saracens, Moslem pirates who attacked the bottom of Europe; and from the north came the worst of all—the Vikings, who attacked the north and the west. When Charlemagne's empire collapsed in the West with his death in 814, there was no strong central authority left to defend Western Europe.

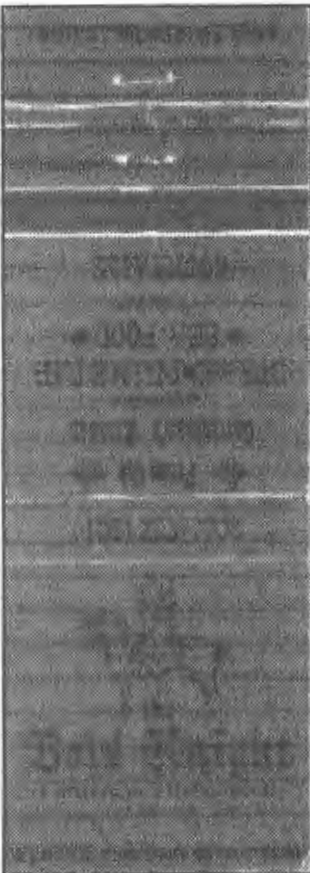
Thus was born Feudalism—basically a contract between the peasants (now called 'serfs') and the local nobles in their respective areas all over Europe. The local noble would use his small band of soldiers to protect the peasants, and they, in turn, would move onto the noble's land and farm it. And so it was that the noble's home was fortified into a castle and the poorest of nobles became professional soldiers (i.e., officers over the grunts). It wasn't long, though, before the position of knight became so glorified that the knights' employers—vassals, lords, kings—went through the ceremony of knighthood, themselves. And, part of that ceremony was every knight's pledge to follow the standards of the Code of Chivalry.

Oath of Knighthood: I vow to be brave and honorable, to maintain the right, to redress the wrong, to protect women, to give help to those in trouble, and to show mercy to the weak and helpless. To defend his lord, the Church, widows, orphans and the poor, and to pursue evildoers, those were the standards, and those are the standards we see in such representations as "King Arthur," and we tend to picture knights as "Sir Lancelot," but the vast majority of knights were quite different than this idealized picture that has come down to us.

For example, the average Medieval knight stood 5'4" (people were much shorter then—basically a result of their poor diet). Knights also tended to wear their hair long, so that it could be piled on top of their heads to form a cushion under their helmets. A knight's armor could weigh up to 140 lbs, so, despite what you see in the movies, there was no running jump to mount a horse! In fact, knights often needed a crane-like device to be hoisted into the saddle.

And what was the ultimate symbol of knighthood—the great broadsword? The family crest emblazoned on his shield? His noble war-horse? Nope, his spurs, for only knights rode into battle on horses, and, thus, only knights could wear golden spurs.

Knights worked by contract to their vassals, lords, etc., but they normally owed such service only 40 days of each year, and most knights, alas, were a far cry from the chivalric heights of a Galahad or a Percival. Indeed, the Pope excommunicated the entire Fourth Crusade for sacking the Christian city of Constantinople while on their way down to the Holy Land to fight the Moslems!



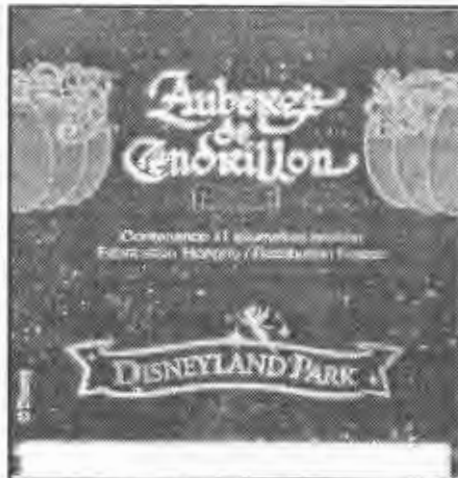
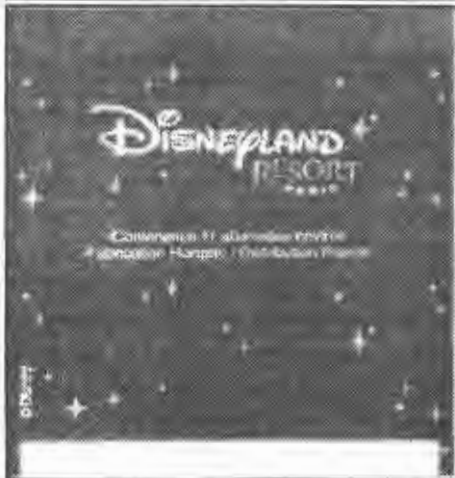
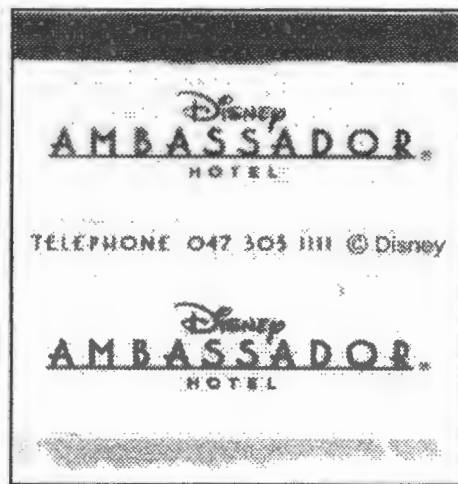
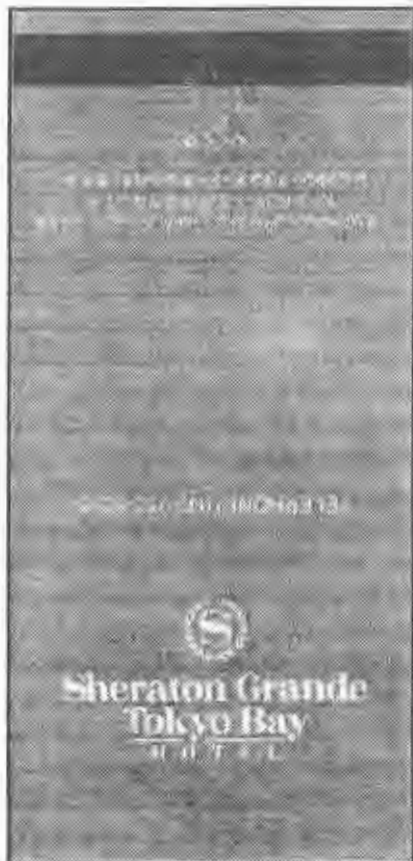
What's New!

by Joe DeGennaro

Tommy LaSorda, former manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers, used to say there are three kinds of ball players, Those who make things happen, Those who watch things and Those who say: What Happened? To some degree the same can be said about matchcover collectors. There are those who actively pursue matches, go out searching for them, write people and places asking for them. There are those who attend meetings and swapfests and get their matches from others as well as the grab tables, auctions and dealers. Lastly, there are those who sit back and look at other's collections and wonder why they don't have the same covers and ask themselves why?

I have two traders, Mark Quilling and Bill Gigantino who fit into the category of making things happen (actually I have a number of traders who fit

into this category but for this article I'm just highlighting these two) and I am very thankful for that. They both collect a number of the same categories as I do and consequently they are always surprising me. Recently Mark, in his pursuit of covers/boxes from Tokyo Disneyland and Disney's Tokyo Sea wrote to a number of people there and I was lucky enough to share in what he was able to get. Pictured here are a box from the Tokyo DisneySea Hotel Miracosta, a box from the Disney Ambassador Hotel and a cover from the Sheraton Grande Tokyo Bay Hotel which, although it doesn't say Disney, is a Disney sanctioned hotel on the edge of Tokyo Disneyland. Three wonderful finds that came as a result of making an effort. Bill Gigantino recently sent me xerox copies of two new Paris Disneyland boxes that he was able to obtain from a business associate who visited the park. These are just some of the many wonderful covers and boxes I've received or found out about from two guys "Who Make Things Happen". Happy Hunting and Happy Collecting!

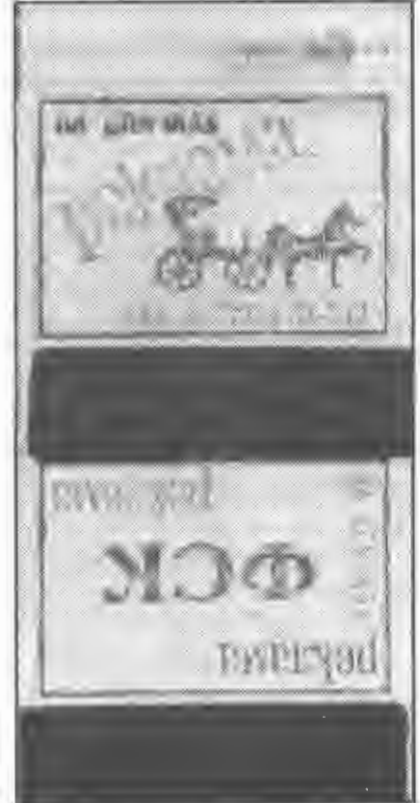
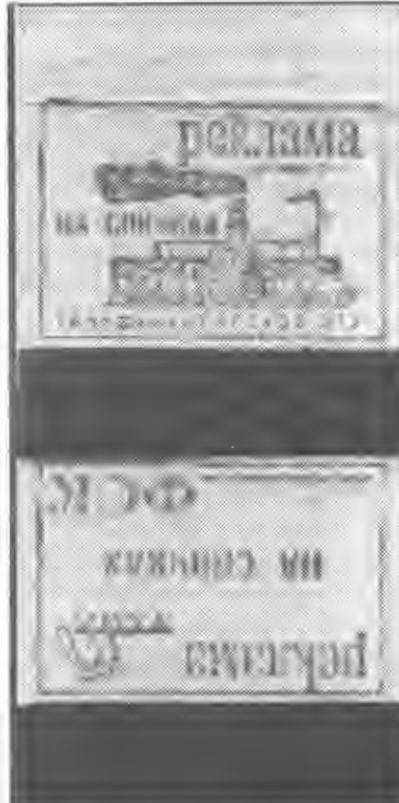
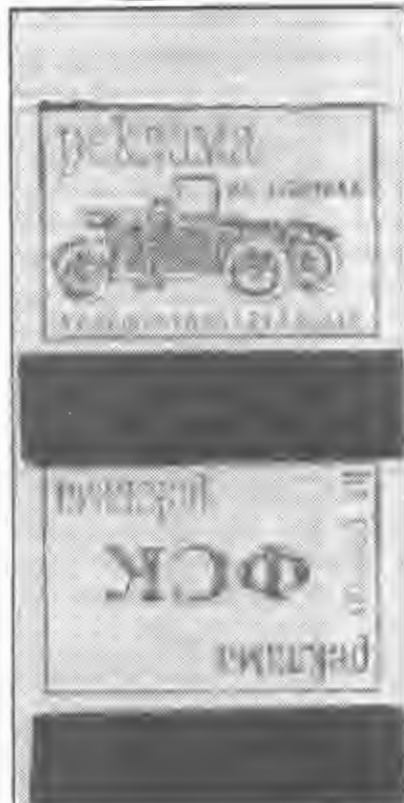




Around The World

2002 Set of boxes from Belarus

[Special thanks to Hans Everink, Netherlands, for this information]



HOBBY HISTORY

National Matchcover Week April 22-28

There actually was a “National Matchcover Week”. It was April 22-28, and it was initiated in 1962. The only thing was...it wasn’t “official”.

I’m not an expert in “National Weeks,” but the term ‘National’ would indicate that the federal government would have to be involved, but I’m told that that’s not the case...and that wasn’t the case here.

No, this was the brainchild of collector Warren Delk in late 1961. He suggested in the March 1962 *RMS Bulletin* “that we work hard to make this a gigantic affair, one to hit the whole United States.” He was planning to contact each state governor to ask that the week of April 22-28 be so designated in that state. Delk went on to suggest “that during the one week dedicated to matchcovers...we make a special effort to get an exhibit display somewhere in our locality. That we make sure to ask our local newspaper, at least, and even local Radio and TV stations, to cover our display of matchcovers.”

Well, *Bulletin* Editor at the time, Ernestine Abbott, latched onto the idea immediately...and why not? So, as the week approached for the next few years, the *Bulletin* announced it, reported it, and hyped it.

By June 1962, National Matchcover Week newspaper articles were already beginning to appear in the *RMS Bulletin*, and the July *Bulletin* reported receiving “many, many articles from members who contacted their local newspapers for coverage.”

Delk’s idea actually caused quite a wave of publicity about the hobby throughout the entire

country as a number of individual collectors took up the crusade that he had started. The late, great Evelyn Hovious of San Francisco, alone, had one newspaper article, two radio, and two TV appearances during the week of April 22-28!

Apparently the *Patterson Evening News* (NJ) was the first to pick up on it in its April 10, 1962 issue. Many other papers, magazines, and journals across the country ran similar stories—*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Swappers’ Paradise and Hobby Heaven*, *Sunday News*, and so on. True, some ran them a little late for National Matchcover Week (the *Allentown Evening Chronicle* ran theirs on May 10th; the *Kankakee Sunday Journal* ran theirs on May 13th; and the *West Orange Chronicle* ran theirs on May 17th, for example), but publicity is publicity—although, sometimes you have to wonder...the Elmhurst, IL, article referred to Joshua Pusey as “Mr. Pufey” (!) and called “phillumensists” “thilluenists” throughout the entire article.

There were public exhibits put up by collectors in Vineland, NJ; Des Moines, IA, and elsewhere; There were radio interviews and TV spots. The ball was rolling!

The *Bulletin* continued to carry National Matchcover Week items through 1969, although by 1967, judging from bulletin space donated to it, it was already petering out. After 1969, it disappeared completely. No reason was ever given that I could find. Editor Frank Gosztyla simply says in the May June 1971 *RMS Bulletin*, “Seems like it just fell by the wayside and no one cares to pick it up.” I did notice, though, that in 1969 Warren Delk was having medical problems, so my guess is that he either passed away soon after or became inactive. He was a Committee Chairman, and neither he nor his National Matchcover Week Committee are even mentioned in the 1970 convention business meeting minutes. I’m surprised RMS didn’t try to keep it going. Gosztyla suggested an “Annual Convention Week,” but that never went anywhere.

Too bad. It was a good idea, and it got results.

Arranging Those

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"900" - 9/64 BW/BE 30s

If you're a Best Western collector...or a Holiday Inn collector...or many another Chain Hotel collector, you have, or you will, face the question of how to arrange all those stock designs in your albums. There are certainly different ways, but I am assuming that the majority of such collectors have them by state, then by location, then by...? That's where the crunch comes...you have seven different stock designs from the same location. What order do you put them in? For a few collectors, it may not make any difference, but collectors on the whole tend to be a very structured, organized type, and with me it's even worse, because I have a History background, and I NEED everything in chronological order! I want the older stock design first, then the next one that was issued, and so forth.

Fortunately, for BWs, HIs, Hiltons, etc., the information allowing us to do that is already out there, courtesy of earlier collectors.

It was in 1949 that one conscientious motel owner (BW's wording) in Long Beach, CA, organized the chain. As the chain progressed eastward, the name was changed to Best Western/Best Eastern. But, this was

"900" - 9/64 BW/BE

"1019" - 1/67 BW

"1057" - 6/68

"1100" - 4/70

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*In California, our free Number is 800-642-9890

Pesky Best Westerns

"1057" - 6/68 BW 30s

dropped shortly thereafter, and it became Best Western again. Some of the earlier matchcovers bore only the slogan, "Member The Best Western Motels," and, at most, some only had a small logo somewhere on the cover.

It wasn't until the early 1960s that the matchcovers became a familiar yellow/white with the logo emblazoned on the back. Around 1964, the Best Western/Best Eastern logo appeared, along with the imprint inside the cover showing the figure "900 motels". Some had the date 9/64 imprinted behind the matches.

A few years later, the inside imprint "1019 motels" and "1/67" appeared. Then "1057 motels" and "6/68". Next was "1100 motels" and "4/70"+later dates...then "1250 motels" and "9/73"...then "1250 motels" and so on. Some examples are shown below, but there are others. *[You're probably not going to be able to see the dates here (they're very small), but each is right on the top flap crease on the inside].*

[Adapted from Frank Gosztyla, RMS Bulletin, March/April 1975]

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"1100" - 9/71

"1100" - 1/72

"1250" - 9/73

2/76

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Best Western

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“T & T” Lists: Part XXVII

T & T LIST #33: TAN HOCKEY SET - TYPE IV: This issue is similar to Type 3 - except the players' team name again appears between the player's name and history record similar to Type 1. As in the other sets changes appear in the historical record to keep same up to date. This set is also a double line designation - Made in U.S.A./THE DIAMOND MATCH CO. N.Y.C. This set will be known as SECOND HOCKEY - or TAN HOCKEY, TYPE 4 - and the known 15 covers are listed below.

Number	Player	Name On History Record	Entire Last Line
1	Blair, Andy	Black Hawk	cup to Toronto
2	Brydson, Glenn	Black Hawk	Association team
3	Burke, Martin A.	Black Hawk	Turned pro following season
4	Cook, Tommy	Black Hawk	Chicago in 1929
5	Gottselig, Johnny	Black Hawk	has no equal
6	Jackson, Harold	Black Hawk	vault and high jump
7	Karakas, Michael	Black Hawk	1935-1936
8	Larcehelle, Wilder	Black Hawk	Stanley Cup twice
9	Livinsky, Alex	Black Hawk	with the Black Hawks
10	Loughlin, Glenn	Black Hawk	of Viking Alberta
11	March, Harold	Black Hawk	the Black Hawks that year
12	Seibert, Earl	Black Hawk	He is 25 years old
13	Thompson, Paul	Black Hawk	three seasons
14	Trudel, Louis	Black Hawk	170 pounds and stands 5'11"
15	Wiebe, Art	Black Hawk	er of league

T & T LIST #34: TAN HOCKEY SET - TYPE V: This set is the hardest to distinguish. It is a DOUBLE LINE designation the same as TYPE 3 and 4 but the teams' names do not appear between the player's name and the historical record. There is generally a change in the description which does not occur in the last line. Also note that instead of the name of the team - the nickname of the town is used. This set will be known as SECOND HOCKEY or TAN HOCKEY - TYPE 5, and the known fourteen covers in this set are as follows:

Number	Player	Name On History Record	Entire Last Line
1	Brydson, Glenn	Black Hawk	Association Team
2	Burke, Martin A.	Defense "BlackHawk"	Turned pro the following seas
3	Cook, Tommy	"Black Hawk"	Chicago in 1929
4	Dahlstrom, Carl	"Black Hawk"	sional
5	Gottselig, Johnny	"Black Hawk"	he has no equal
6	Heyliger, Vic	"Black Hawk"	his way through college
7	Karakas, Michael	Goal "Black Hawks"	in 1935-36
8	Livinsky, Alex	"Black Hawks"	the Black Hawks
9	March, Harold	"Black Hawks"	that year
10	Seibert, Earl	"Black Hawks"	He is 26 years old
11	Stewart, William J	Manager "Black Hawks"	Series
12	Thompson, Paul	"Black Hawks"	the past four seasons
13	Trudel, Louis	"Black Hawks"	pounds and stands 5'11"
14	Wiebe, Art	Defense-Black Hawks	defense player of league

T & T LIST #35: TAN HOCKEY SET - TYPE VI: The next TAN issue is exactly the same as Type 5 insofar as the players, team, positions, history and entire last line is concerned. The only difference you will note is that this RE-ISSUE has BLACK TIPS - while the TYPE 5 before has TAN TIPS. This re-run of these covers came out about a year later than Type 5. This set will be known as SECOND HOCKEY - or TAN HOCKEY TYPE 6 - and the known fourteen (14) covers in the set are listed as follows:

Number	Player	Name On History Record	Entire Last Line
1	Brydson, Glenn	Black Hawks	Association Team
2	Burke, Martin A.	Defense-Black Hawks	Turned pro the following season
3	Cook, Tommy	Black Hawks	Chicago in 1929
4	Dahlstrom, Carl	Black Hawks	sional
5	Gottselig, Johnny	Black Hawks	he has no equal
6	Heyliger, Vic	Black Hawks	his way through College
7	Karakas, Michael	Goal-Black Hawks	in 1935-36
8	Livinsky, Alex	Black Hawks	the Black Hawks
9	March, Harold	Black Hawks	that year
10	Seibert, Earl	Black Hawks	He is 26 years old
11	Stewart, William J	Manager-Black Hawks	Series
12	Thompson, Paul	Black Hawks	the past four seasons
13	Trudel, Louis	Black Hawks	pounds and stands 5'11"
14	Wiebe, Art	Defense-Black Hawks	defense player of league

[Ed. Note: discrepancies between lists are from the originals; the initial typist(s) were not consistent]

NOTE: You will notice that all the players from the last three sets - TYPE 4,5, and 6 are members of the CHICAGO BLACK HAWKS

Ed Note: At least one reader has reminded me that although I'm running the T&T listing, I haven't run any cover pictures, and there are at least some collectors, especially newer collectors, who don't know what they look like, so...

Going from left to right...

- Bridge Set cover

- Movie Set cover

- Tan Hockey Set cover

Remember, the main characteristic of all Group I covers is that they have no commercial advertising.





Editorial

“The Sky is Falling!” (II)

Look at these New Member stats for RMS; the decline they show is typical of what at least most of the clubs in the hobby have been experiencing for the last 20 years.

RMS New Members:

That’s a pretty steady, and certainly significant, decline. That mirrors what’s been happening in the hobby. Fewer people are coming in as new collectors...and that’s not even taking into account what percentage of the new people drop out after the first year or two. And, incidentally, I don’t think it’s a coincidence that this decline parallels almost perfectly the collapse of the domestic match industry and the rise of the anti-smoking campaign.

Fewer collectors means...*even* fewer people to trade with, fewer workers, fewer donations to club activities, fewer buyers and sellers in auctions, fewer people at conventions, fewer people at club meetings, fewer people to turn to for help and information, fewer displays, fewer people to contribute to bulletins, and less operating capital for clubs, swapfests, and conventions.

As an example, sure enough, just look at how convention attendance has also been steadily declining for both RMS and AMCAL [see Part I, last month, for the actual stats]. That’s one of the biggest shames of all, because it takes a lot of planning and effort to put these get-togethers on,

and the appropriate workers really knock themselves out, and then to see fewer and fewer people show up each year...well, it’s a shame. ...And the “fewer workers” is particularly scary, because its the workers who keep the clubs, conventions, swapfests, etc. going. It doesn’t matter how many members a club might have, when it runs out of volunteers to do the work—the club folds. History is rife with examples. And, it’s also those hobby activists that start new clubs.

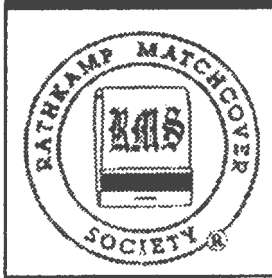
Pretty depressing, all in all, if, as I mentioned in the first segment, one is only considering growth. There are other perspectives, however.

As a case in point, I keep harping on the fact that the hobby is shrinking in numbers so rapidly, but you could make a good argument that, in these ‘trying’ times, the hobby is shrinking down to the *real* collectors, with most of the others (fringe collectors, social collectors, etc.) falling by the wayside). How many really ‘active,’ ‘aggressive’ collectors did we actually have in the hobby even at our high point in the early 1980s?...Nowhere near the number of known collectors. I currently show 1,936 people in the *entire* hobby [that’s as close a count as anyone can get]. How many of those do you know at least by name? ...Right!...That’s because most are ‘quiet’ collectors rather than activists. When you think about it, this has always been a small hobby (despite our own hype). So, one *could* look at all this as simply a return to a more realistic situation after a period of ‘bloating’ by the ‘window shoppers’ of the 1980s’. [Does that make you feel better about everything? It doesn’t for me!]

By the way, this decline in collectors also explains why the same people keep winning all the awards in the hobby—just look at the convention display winners, for example, for, say, the last five years—it’s the same names over and over again. It’s not their *fault*, of course. They’re participating. The problem is...no one else is!

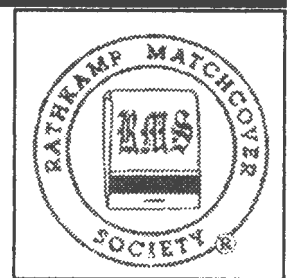
[Ed. note: The fact that I came into the hobby in 1983 and everything started going downhill from then on is purely coincidental!...I think!]

1983 -	375
1984 -	321
1985 -	326
1986 -	247
1987 -	200
1988 -	219
1989 -	150
1990 -	244
1991 -	126
1992 -	188
1993 -	167
1994 -	147
1995 -	74
1996 -	65
1997 -	127
1998 -	93
1999 -	74
2000 -	69
2001 -	61
2002 -	59



Rathkamp Matchcover Society:

*The Oldest Phillumenic Organization
In The World!*



I've been in the hobby for 20 years, and I can't recall ever having seen or heard RMS referred to as the oldest phillumenic organization in the world. 'Oldest phillumenic organization in the U.S.'...yes. 'Oldest phillumenic organization in North America'...yes. But, 'oldest phillumenic organization in *the world*'? No, but I believe it is!

That's not to say that RMS was the first, not by a long shot. There were earlier clubs right here in the U.S., such as the United Matchonians in the 1930s, and there were even earlier clubs elsewhere in the world, such as the Japanese club in 1903 [*RMS Bulletin, Jul/Aug 2002*]. But of clubs in existence...

You're already familiar with the fact that RMS predates all existing phillumenic clubs in the U.S. and Canada, but take a look at the existing clubs in the rest of the world. Several are quite new...1990s, and none that I am aware of, and I've researched it the best I can, pre-date 1945...except RMS (1941).

- Ass. Vitophilique Et Phillumenque Francaise (AVPF) - Germany (1954-present)
- Assoc. Port. Filumeniso - Portugal (?- present)
- Australian Match Cover Collectors' Society (AMCCS) - Australia (1957-present)
- British Matchbox Label & Booklet Society - (BMLBS) - England (1945-present)
- Chinese Phillumenic Society - Hong Kong (1948-present)
- Gruparea Filumenistilor din Romania - Romania - (1999?- present)
- Hobbies Matchbook Society - Malta (?- present)
- India Tip Top Match Cover Club (1994-present)
- The Match Collector Club of Thailand - Thailand (?- present)
- Phillumenistische Geselleschaft e. V. - Germany (1959 - present)
- Protea Match Collectors Club of South Africa - South Africa (- present)
- Queensland Matchcover Collectors Club (1976-present)
- S.G.D. Gray Lucifersetit Effen - Netherlands (1955-present)
- Rad Club of Phillumeny Leningrad - Russia (late 1990s?- present)
- Slovensky Filumenisti - Slovak Republic (?- present)
- Slovensky Filumenisticy Zvaz - Slovak Republic (?- present)

The Chinese Phillumenic Society, found in 1948, is the largest in the world, I would assume, simply because of the vast domestic population it has available to draw on. Some years ago, I interviewed one of the officers of that club for an RMS article [*Sep/Oct 1993*], and I remember that he pointed out that at its peak, The Chinese Phillumenic Society boasted a membership of over 20,000 by the early 1960s! [*then it dwindled rapidly with the onset of Mao's Cultural Revolution*].

But, RMS is older. That's quite a feather in RMS's hat. It should be touted more, and although RMS has historically focused its interests on domestic issues, we should make a greater effort to extend ourselves globally...which, as chance would have it, will be the subject of our next issue's editorial.

Remembering Rockefeller Center's Rainbow Room

For 64 years, it was one of this country's premier night spots...New York City's Rainbow Room...a place so classy that even Keith Richards put on a tie to get in.

Opening in 1934, the Rainbow Room, in the old RCA Building, high above the NBC studios in Rockefeller Center, became a nightly meeting place for both New York City's in-crowd and tourists alike—a place so full of stars that one evening Bob Dylan and Frank Sinatra came in separately for drinks, and the maitre d' sat down next to Bob Hope at Rosemary Clooney's wedding.

The Rainbow room featured stunning decor, fancy cocktails, world-class food and entertainment, but, more than anything else, it was the spectacular view that kept the customers coming in. From its 65th floor windows, the view included The Empire State Building, Central Park, the Statue of Liberty, and the Brooklyn Bridge...not bad! "It's magical up here," said Bismark Irving, the club's head maitre d'. It's very theatrical. Every night is a gathering of New York's finest people."

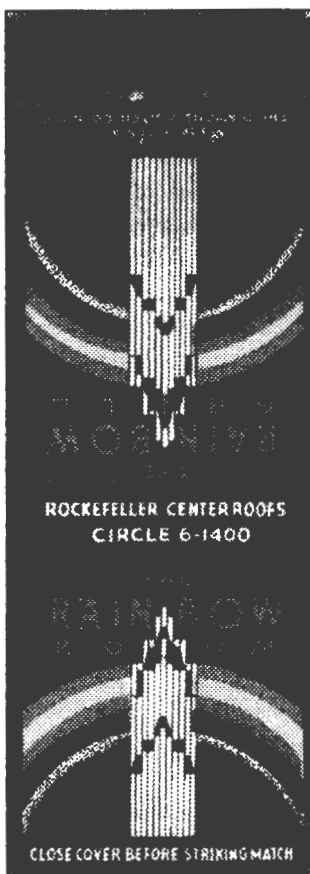
And the stories—How about the night President Clinton danced with actress Rita Moreno and said it fulfilled a lifelong dream. Moreno remarked to the nearby First Lady, "Sorry, Hilary." Or, there was the night Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards put on a tie to see Marianne Faithful perform. The tie lasted until the middle of her show, and then he tossed it on stage and broke into a frenzied dance. And then there was Sinatra passing through with his entourage one evening. He demanded that a bar be set up next to his table so his own man could mix his drinks. And on and on...

The Rainbow Room was given a \$20 million dollar upgrade in the late 1980s to update its look and

emphasize its 1930s glamour, resulting in the restaurant becoming the second-highest-grossing eatery in the nation, but when the landlord corporation wanted to raise the lease on the Rainbow Room from \$3 to \$4 million a year, the two sides couldn't come to an agreement. The landmark closed in December, 1998, but not before Jimmy and Roslyn Carter dropped in for one last dance. "It's very sad, very nostalgic," said Dale DeGroff, the club's long-time head bartender. The new leaseholder, at the time, was planning to open something similar to Harry's Bar in Venice and turn the rest of the multi-room complex into private banquet rooms.

Over the years, the Rainbow Room has put out an assortment of covers. In addition to the two shown here, there is another variation of the cover on the right, and it seems to me that I've seen some older covers from the Rainbow Room, but darn if I could find them for this article. If they exist, I'm sure someone will be alert enough to let us know.

[Special thanks to Dorothy Fry, OH, for the covers shown here]



"Hobby Room...continued from p. 3 was a fairly large area, I had quite a bit of empty upper wall space left. H-m-m-m, What to do? What to do? Well, I covered the walls with 8x10 framed photos—71 of them!—mostly of my earlier travels to Europe, N. Africa, and the Middle East. It's rare that I don't look at at least one of them when I'm working in the room, and it always evokes a number of fond memories...a very pleasant experience. In the empty wall space on either side of the large windows above my desk, I put up my hobby awards—with room left for later acquisitions! And, on the one remaining portion of wall (right behind the opened door) I hung an attractive Rembrandt poster from the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, which I had picked up years ago. I topped it all off with a couple of hanging plants, and...Voilà! Instant hobby room! [*Well, it actually took about six months*]. The only disappointing part was that by this time there wasn't room for the wet bar and sauna!

Now, I've gone through all of this in the hope that it will evoke responses from readers as to what their hobby rooms are like, or what their dreamed-of hobby rooms would be like. I've given you an idea of what I have, but undoubtedly many of you have thought of ideas that have never occurred to me—good ideas—interesting ideas—ideas that the rest of us could steal...I mean, *borrow*! Obviously, any hobby room should have working space, storage space, and good lighting, but how do you achieve those things, and what have you done, or what might you do, to 'personalize' your hobby room to reflect your personality and interests? For me, for example, filling my hobby room with memories seemed to be a very comfortable thing to do, but what about you?

If you'd care to do a similar write-up on your ideas, as I have done here, I'd be more than happy to run your article in an upcoming issue....accompanying photos/scans would be welcome.

FCMC/PENN-OHIO SWAPFEST

May 8-10,2003

Howard Johnson Express Inn

Austintown, Ohio

Youngstown area

Sponsored by the Forest City Matchcover Club of Ohio
and the Penn-Ohio Matchcover Club

In honor of Ohio's 200th birthday the theme for this Swapfest is Ohio Bi-centennial. Activities will include display room and awards, two auctions, Freebie tables, Dealer tables, room hopping, Bingo, Banquet and a day trip to be announced.

The Swapfest will be held at the Howard Johnson Express Inn located at 5425 Clarkins Drive, Austintown, Ohio 44515 (just west of Youngstown). This is a brand new hotel and we have negotiated an extraordinary rate of only \$40/night. Rates are good both before and after the Swapfest dates. For reservations call the hotel at 330-792-9740. Mention FCMC Swapfest to get the special rates. The hotel is easily accessible from the Ohio Turnpike and from I-76. Need more Info? Contact Larry Kozak 440-777-5667 or E-mail: lartzak@ameritech.net

Great Old World

I've talked before about the fairly recent phenomenon within the hobby having to do with collector interest in 'peripheral' items—match crates, match company stock certificates, match tax stamps, match grips, match holders, etc. At least, I perceive that interest to be recent since I find basically no reference to this material (no ads for, no articles about) in early bulletins. I can well imagine that earlier collectors latched onto such material when they came across it, more as curiosities, but now it's an organized and enthusiastic search. Currently, there's even a match safe club.

This attention to peripherals is certainly understandable. If you're interested in matchcovers, it follows that other items related to matchcovers might interest you as well. And, they're interesting, and often times the history behind such objects is even more fascinating. In any event, I thought readers might be interested in seeing some rather extraordinary examples of such that I ran across last year.

Porcelain



1805/1810 - bronze

Bronze?



For the more risque!

In our last issue, I mentioned German collector Wolf Rudiger Reinhardt. Wolf also collects, trades, and sells match holders, and he has quite a fascinating collection.

Wall-mounted



Match Holders!

Match holders, as you could gather from the name, were household/office containers designed to...hold wooden box matches!...in a convenient...and *attractive* way. And it's the latter function that has led to both the profusion of such and the resulting interest of the collectible-minded.

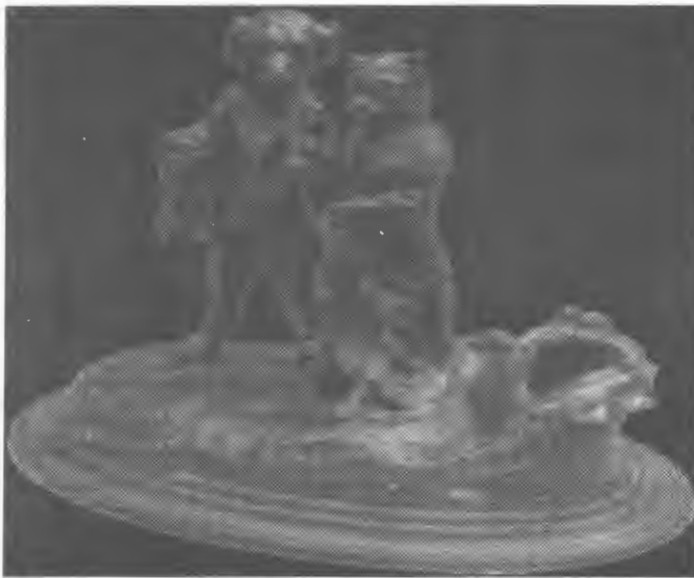
In just the small selection pictured here, one can easily get a feel for the variety that such match holders offer: different mediums—porcelain or metal; different art perceptions—traditional art or modernistic; different subjects—people, animals, etc; different styles—desk/table stands or wall-mounted; and different sizes—small to large, horizontal to vertical.

Hmmmm...I can feel the ol' collecting fever beginning to rise! They're certainly interesting...and history?—150 years old, 200 years old. Fascinating!

If you'd like to learn more about such match holders, you can contact Wolf through his web site: <http://www.matchholder.de>

The site's in German, but Wolf will respond in English.

Gießerei Zimmermann, 1859, Hanau



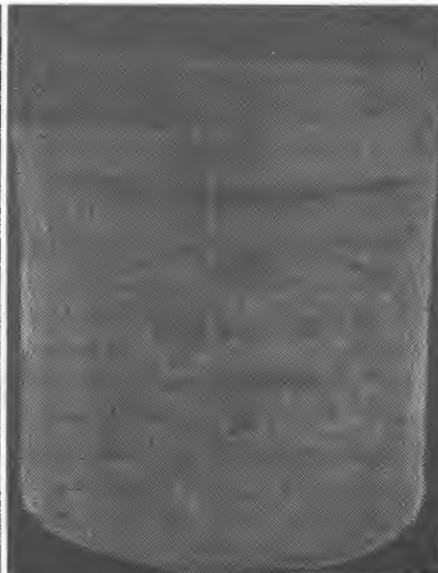
More modern (!)

Porcelain



A more standard holder

Tunkfeuerzeug, 1830, Seebaß





[See Mail Box column for response to last issue's query on the UP Agents Series]

Tracie Cutright, PA: Anyone know more about this foreign set of boxes (4)? They have crude drawings of Disney characters on them. Possibly Iranian origin (judging from the text). I've had them

since I started collecting. I think I picked them up at a flea market in a box of full-books I bought.

Have part of a set or series that you would like to know about? No one knows more than the collective membership of RMS! Just send it in with photocopy.

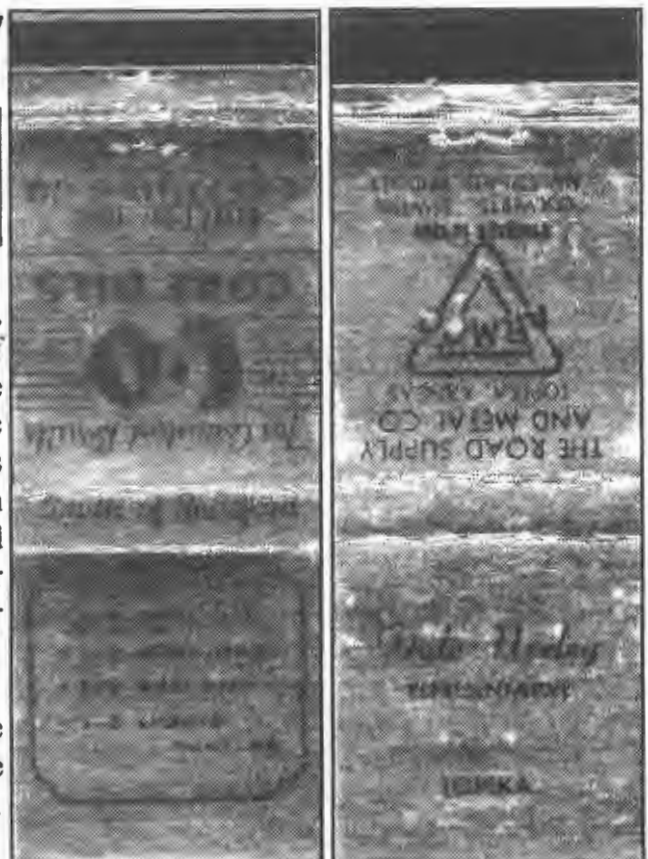


KNOW YOUR COVERS!

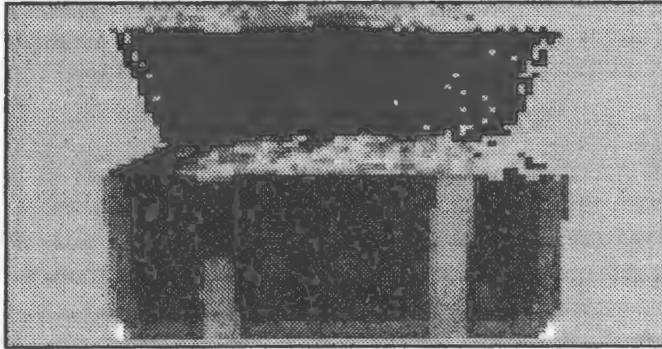
Metallic

"Metallic" originally was a Universal trademark, although I've never actually seen it printed on any of its covers. It's now a generic term used within the hobby to refer to all of the covers that have a metallic finish (all over, as opposed to say, Foilite-like covers which have only some text or design highlighted in metal-like tones). They can be found in all sizes and types, and most of the major manufacturers put their own versions out. Personally, I prefer the older Universal ones to other look-alikes.

"Metallics" is a collecting category, but they're rarely sought after, and many, if not most, of this type of cover tend to be metal, chemical, processing, etc. companies...and thus are of less interest than others.



Great Finds!



Clem Pater, OH: It is interesting that you should print a copy of the Lion DQ that Dan Bitter sent you [*Mail Box, last issue*], because at almost the same time that I read the article, I came across a tall Universal Safety First. This is the first one of these that I have seen.

I am also sending a bob-tailed DQ that I came across the other day that advertises a restaurant owned by Red Grange with his picture on the back.

I have never seen anything quite like this, and I thought I would share it.



**CLUB
CRUISIN'**



Berks County Matchcover Club

On October 13, 1963, some fifteen people gathered in the home of Melvin Miller in Reading, PA, to form the Berks County Matchcover Club. The first officers were Melvin Miller, President; Ella Miller, Vice-President; and Josephine Heffner, Secretary-Treasurer.

Organized to reach collectors in the Berks County area of Pennsylvania, the club now encompasses members from far and near and now has a membership of 40 plus. The club meets on even numbered months, with special Christmas and anniversary parties, in the Borough Hall, Boyertown, PA, on the 2nd Sunday of the month, 1PM - 3:30 PM. Meetings include a business portion, a matchcover-related theme, and a program part where members discuss five categories that were selected from 20 categories from your Category List you printed some time ago. Awards are given for related displays and albums. There is a freebie table, auction, and display judging follows. The club also publishes a bimonthly news bulletin.

Current officers of the club are: Pres-Thomas Stephen, 1st VP-LaVerne Schlegel, 2nd VP & Historian-Floyd Shade, Secretary-Betty Jabs, Treasurer-Lauri Stephen, Chaplain-Jo Evans, and Editor-Martin Stephen. The club supports the U.E.S. Swapfest and R.M.S Convention. Dues are \$5.00, renewable each January.

For more information, including membership application, directions to meetings, and more, please contact Lauri Stephen, 4858 Hartford Cremery Road, Whitehall, MD 21161.

Match Art Of

New Member Profile: Tom Grella - Master of Matchbook Art - Interview by Darlene Buckingham, B.F.A. [*Darlene Buckingham is a Toronto artist and writer. She wrote this article on a free-lance basis*]

Most matchcover collections are organized according to category. By this definition artist Tom Grella represents an unusual collector. His collection of over 33,500 unstripped matchbooks and matchboxes is not placed in albums according to category, but rather is organized primarily according to colour and then by category. This unorthodox method of organizing his collection is appropriate for Grella because he utilizes his entire collection to create works of fine art - not the usual use for a matchbook collection. However, this wasn't always the case.

Grella started collecting matches in the late 70's while in high school when, like many collectors, he would pick up free matches wherever he visited. He traded his duplicates with the few people he knew who also collected. In those days it hadn't occurred to anyone that there were matchcover-collecting clubs out there. As his collection grew so did his appreciation of the artistic design and historical value of the covers themselves.

In 1995 Grella set out to devise a method of displaying his collection so that it would be seen and appreciated by others. The end result of this endeavour is his first match collage entitled 'Have A Smoke'. This artwork explores the issue of smoking in society. When viewed at a distance this work of art measuring 5' 6" x 6' 6" appears to be a colourful relief painting. Upon closer inspection the viewer realizes it is constructed almost entirely of matchbooks and matchboxes. In all 890 unstripped covers, 36 cigarette packs, 1 cigar box and 1 children's Popeye cigarette box were utilized. "Have a Smoke took me two years to complete and was truly a labour of love", says Grella. In fact it was the passion he experienced while creating this artwork that convinced him to leave a successful industrial building and property management career and become an artist full-time; definitely the road less travelled. "From the onset I wanted to create truly original works of art, art with a brand new visual style. And that's the reason I became so excited at the opportunity to create artworks using my matchbook collection", says Grella.

Matchbooks and matchboxes are not often thought of as artist's material, but that's what makes Grella's art so unique. When you talk with Grella about his matchbook art you can sense his enthusiasm. "I see many opportunities to create very different matchbook and matchbox artworks and I feel as if my exploration has just begun", says Grella. To date his exploration has inspired him to create numerous series of artworks using a variety of materials and styles. One series features painted matchbooks arranged to create intriguing portraits with the person's features enhanced with intricate ink line work. Another series uses computer-generated words and images on individual matchbooks and boxes to create original, satirical and witty statements. Grella has also created modern geometric works using a few strategically arranged painted matchboxes placed on coloured illustration boards and single beautifully hand-painted matchbooks or boxes placed on small multi-coloured matboards. Grella sees his role of the artist as being multi-dimensional. "When I create I have the freedom to assume different roles. Sometimes my objective is to create pleasing images while other times I seek to make a statement and get people to think", say Grella.

Grella's belief in the usefulness of matchbooks as a advertising medium was confirmed in 1999 when

A Different Kind

he placed an order of matchboxes with Atlas Match to promote his business Burnt Toast Art Gallery & Studio. This series of four different matchboxes each depicting one of his acrylic paintings was featured in the Trans Canada Matchcover Club's newsletter Saddle & Striker. This series was limited to 1,250 of each image.

Grella recently became a member of The Rathkamp Matchcover Society and displayed his artworks at the 62nd RMS Convention in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Besides displaying his matchbook artworks, Grella showcased six series of 20 strike matchbooks created through Atlas Match.

The first series celebrates the long history of the "Girlie" in match advertising. This provocative series was staged and photographed by Grella in his studio and features 3 full-length photos of model Maria in various poses (limited edition of 700). The second series is Grella's tribute to Marilyn Monroe. The same photograph of Marilyn was used and then expressed in four different artistic interpretations producing a vista of vibrant portraits capturing her timeless appeal (edition of 700). The third series is a panorama over 4 matchbooks depicting an original close-up photograph taken by Grella of an ashtray filled with cigarette butts. In spite of its subject matter it is a visually pleasing yet satirical comment on smoking (edition of 350). The fourth series is a panorama over 4 matchbooks showing one of Grella's ink drawings entitled "Clown Smoking a Cigar". This lively and dynamic drawing demonstrates Grella's diversity as a visual artist (edition of 350). Plus, there are two other series.

For further information please contact Tom Grella at 1-877-660-2063, e-mail: tom@burnttoastart.com or visit his web site at www.burnttoastart.com




Calendar

by Herbert

With this installment of our articles on Calendar Art Sets, I exhaust the information I have from the Keystone Matchcover Club's newsletter and the Golden Orange Matchmaker newsletter. If any of you notice an error or omission, share it with me as soon as possible.

Also, we are going to need all the information we can get on the many sets not as yet listed. My collection of covers contains many items not listed but often I do not have a complete set and sometimes I am not even sure which covers belong together in the same set. A way to help this project would be to photocopy any unlisted sets you may have and forward the information and photo copy to me at 1117 South Sixth Street, Burlington, IA 52601.

<p>Scenic America Match Corp of America</p> <p>Set 1 - 1949 Nature's Paradise Indian Summer Cup Race Nature's Majesty Road to Home</p> <p>Set 2 - 1951 Falls of The Yellowstone Niagara Falls Lake Louise Yosemite Valley Old Faithful Lake Tahoe New England Coast Dells of Wisconsin A Minnesota Lake In Northern Michigan Grand Canyon Blue Ridge Mountains</p> <p>Our Kids Match Corp of America</p> <p>Set 1 - 1949 All For One Me and My Pal</p>	<p>Unlucky Star Loose Ends Finishing Touch</p> <p>Dogs Match Corp of America</p> <p>Set 1 - 1950 Collie Pekingese Daschshund Boston Terrier Cocker Spaniel</p> <p>Flowers Match Corp of America</p> <p>Set 1 - 1950 Mixed Flowers Asters Roses Orchid Poinsetta</p> <p>Blue Ribbon Dogs Superior Match</p> <p>Set 1 - 1945 Cocker Spaniel Great Dane Boxer</p>	<p>Wire-Haired Terrier Shepherd</p> <p>Set 2 - 1946 Wire-Haired Terrier Setter Retriever Cocker Spaniel Collie</p> <p>Set 3 - 1947 Great Dane Shepherd Bulldog Terrier Boxer</p> <p>Set 4 - 1948 Saint Bernard Chow Chihuahua Pointer Setter</p> <p>Set 5 - 1949 Schnauzer Spaniel Grayhound English Setters Collie</p> <p>Sports Chicago Match Co</p>	<p>Set 1 - 1949 Dangerous Situation Thoroughbreds The Muskallonge Carefree Days Watch It, Gramp</p> <p>Set 2 - 1950 On the Wing Quick Action Old Faithful The Break</p> 
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Art Sets: III

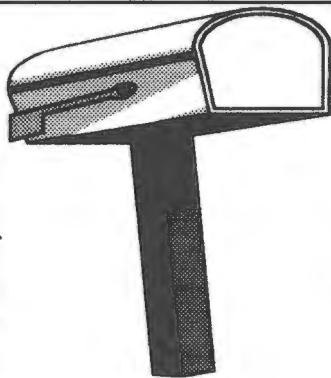
G. Price

This page is devoted to sets with humorous pictures. As far as I know only three of these sets have been included in published checklists prior to this time. The information on the other sets comes from studying the covers in my collection. I would be very surprised if this listing is complete. Again, you can help by sending me any information on sets you have in your collection, including perhaps photocopies. Usually when the word circa appears before a date it means I have seen an R.M.S. convention set with that date.

I have not seen the Chicago Characters covers. Are they Hillbilly covers? Are there only two covers in the set? Just recently did I learn the name of the character featured on some Brown & Bigelow covers. I purchased a framed picture of the same character and on the back it says "The Gay Philosopher" by Henry Major. Since these covers appear to be of the same era as the Brown & Bigelow "Hilda Fat Girl" singles, I wonder if "The Gay Philosopher" covers are also singles.

<p>Chicago Characters Chicago Match Co</p> <p>Set 1 -1950 Wal I'll tell 'ya And then she said</p> <p>Cowpokes by Ace Reid Republic Match Co</p> <p>Set 1 - circa 1979 Nope, it wuzn't smart to git... Say, reckon when the boss..... If they ever have a ranchwoman's..... Now from here on, this part.....</p> <p>Lawson Wood's Monkeys Superior Match</p> <p>Set 1 - 1949 He's here, pop Hold everything Step on the gas The old skate Where's Elmer</p>	<p>Live Photo Monkeys Superior Match</p> <p>Set 1 - circa 1973 One goes on my hand... Just wait till they find... For once I'm not behind... Remember a good trainer.. (Is there a fifth cover?)</p> <p>Set 2 (F-S) -circa 1976 Josephine, you've got..... My poker face is better.. I'm sure having fun since.. What do you mean "no..??"</p> <p>Set 3 (R-S) Josephine, you've got.... My poker face is better.. I'm sure having fun since.. What do you mean "no..?"</p> <p>Monkeys Brown & Bigelow</p> <p>Set 1 Sales Pitch [pictured on p. 22] Double Duty An easier target Tough Course</p>	<p>Laural and Hardy Photos Brown & Bigelow</p> <p>Set 1 - circa 1972 Remember, Stan smiling wins elections You and your campaign trail (Is there a third cover?)</p> <p>The Gay Philosopher Brown & Bigelow</p> <p>Set 1 Set for life The people's choice Nice one pop The Gay Philosopher (Is there a fifth cover?)</p> <p>Sportsmiles Diamond Match</p> <p>Set 1 - circa 1965 Skier Fisherman Duck Hunter Golfer Bowler</p>	<p>Swimmer</p> <p>Cartoon Astronauts Chicago Match</p> <p>Set 1 - circa 1963 Just pills ? Are you really weightless? Nothing but trees here sir! Crabgrass!</p> <p>The Great Hunters Brown & Bigelow</p> <p>Set 1 Yes dear Well, what's your excuse? Your right-they are tricky devils His name is Pal</p> <p>Space Travelers Brown & Bigelow</p> <p>Set 1 Thank God somebody from earth (How many in this set?)</p>
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The Mail Box



Jim Spector, FL: Re the article about Union Pacific agents [*last issue*] - my collection of covers from that railroad is small, about two dozen covers, or so, so I only have one agent cover.

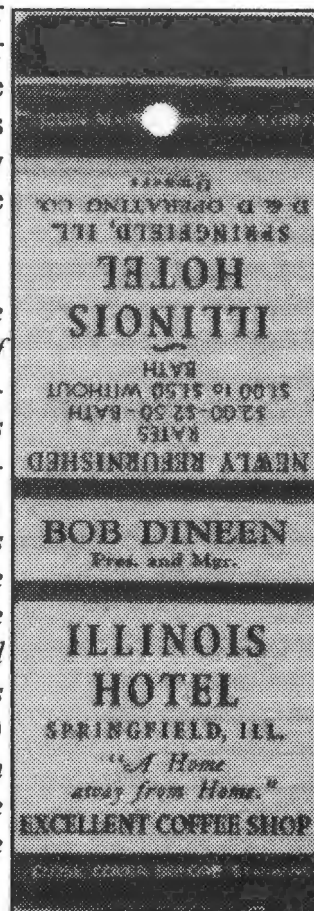
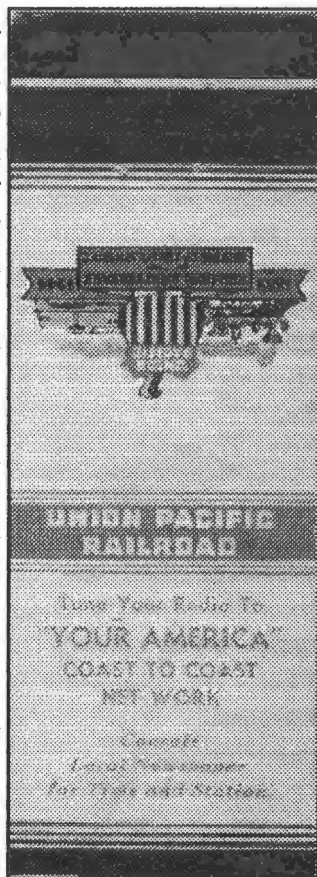
That is J. V. Connett, General Agent, San Pedro. I assume that's San Pedro, CA, but there is no state reference on the cover.

What I do have, is three covers advertising the radio program "Your America". Since old-time radio programs is another of my interests, I went to my radio program bible, *On The Air The Encyclopedia of Old-Time Radio*, after checking out my Union Pacific covers. I am attaching two of the covers. The one on the right bears the Universal manumark. I have one identical to it which was produced by The Ohio Match Co. The other cover, as you can see, also advertises Union Pacific's 75th anniversary (1869 -1944). The "Your America" radio show ran from January 8 to September 30, 1944 on NBC, and from October 15, 1944 until September 30, 1945 on the old Mutual Radio Network. Both networks originated the show from Omaha, NE, which was the railroad's home city. On the air, they said the program was sponsored by "the 65,000 employees of Union Pacific". *On The Air* says the program was in observance of the railroad's 75th anniversary. "The series was created to give Americans a better

understanding, through story and song, of the romantic history and factual possibilities of the Middle and Far West."

Herb Abelson, NJ: I have been working on my collection of mostly old country club covers, and am annoyed to find some that have a hole punched below the striker, almost certainly so that some collector could identify his own. Then when I started to enter my covers in a database, I assigned each one a unique number. The unique number is entered in a field in the data base along with the other part of the description, and I have been writing the number over or under each cover on the album page where it is stored. When I move these covers to plastic sleeves I have been thinking of putting a small round label (color coding labels) on the inside of the cover. They are removable although I would rather leave them there for the same reason I suppose that unnamed collector defaced them with a punch. So, is what I am describing something that other collectors do and if so, is there a way to do it that doesn't change the value of the cover. BTW do you know who the person is who puts (or put) holes in his/her covers? And are these punched covers acceptable or do they reduce the value of the cover?

[Ed. Not to worry. Those holes are actually part of the manufacturing process and are thus seen as 'normal' and not de-valuing the covers... although some collectors may actively prefer the same cover without the hole (usually you can find with and without samples of the same cover) because, for example in my own case, the hole interferes with the manumark.



Ref last issue's query on the Union Pacific Agents Series: John Clark, FL; John Mathot, MA; Ron Nelson, NE; and James Willard, MD, have all been kind enough to send in information on the Union Pacific Agents series. Here's a quick summary of the major points...

There are four different series of these match-covers:

- two line Diamond Match Co. manumark, blank inside
- two line Diamond Match Co. manumark, Tune Your Radio to/"Your America"inside
- one line Universal Match Corp. St. Louis manumark in caps and lower case letters
- one line UNIVERSAL MATCH CORP. ST. LOUIS manumark all in caps

John Clark, FL, has a total of 368 different imprints of these covers in his railroad collection; 210 of these are in the Universal Match series with manumark all in caps. If there were an equal number of covers issued in the other three series there would be a potential total of well in excess of 800 different imprints.

How about you other big RR collectors? Can you add anything to our knowledge of these covers? If so, just drop a line to, or e-mail the Ed.

Janet Penny, PA: on page 26 in your Bits & Pieces on the US Airways Caribbean issue, I typed a letter and mailed a Xerox copy of that full page ad to request their matches, 21 Oct. I explained in detail how to strip to mail them flattened. That full-page ad of their also appeared in the Philadelphia newspapers. I haven't heard from them yet, though, but one of these years I might.

Andy Denes, CA: I enjoyed your article on "Our 500th Issue". [Jan/Feb] Since I recently became the second editor of the newsletter of the International Match Safe Association, I found your comments to be timely, informative, and reassuring. For what it is worth: the first editor was a woman (who did an excellent job the first four years of the organization but got tired of

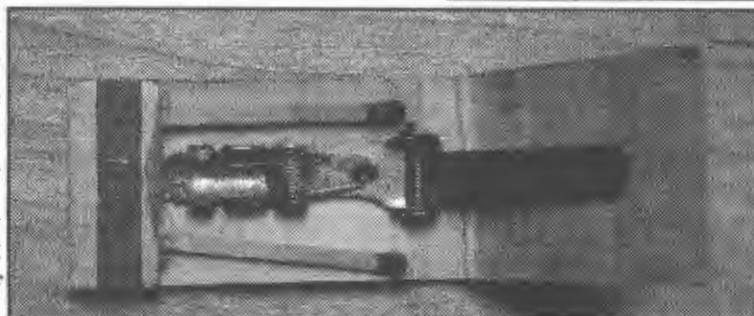
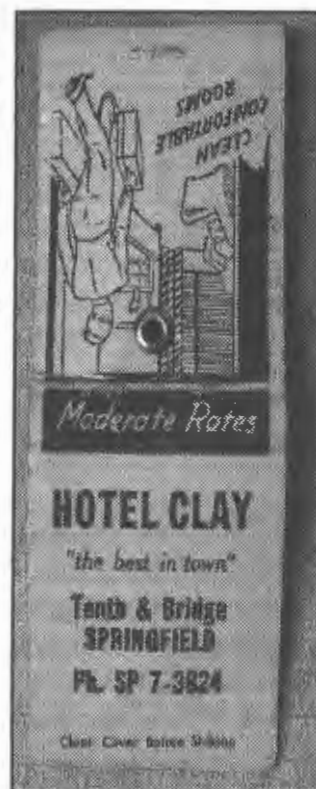
it), and it may be coincidence, but in my first issue (Jan. 2003) I announced that I would be reducing the amount of coverage devoted to the events at our convention and focusing more on some of the reports that were delivered at the convention.

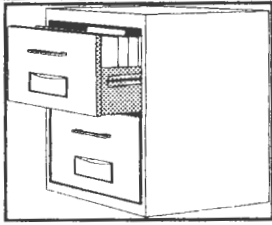
Howard Kessler, NY: *Howard sent in a copy of the current Ephemera Society of America newsletter in which its president laments the same problems our own hobby is experiencing. Seems that almost all hobbies are. Sign of our ever-more complicated and fast-paced culture?*

Roy Buckley, WA: Many years ago, the Powers Regulator Co. issued at least 18 sets of 30-Stick covers with four covers to a set with antique cars on them. Does anyone have more than 18 sets in his or her collection? I think mine may be the only complete assemblage.

Roy Eckersley, CAN: This cover was amongst a collection of 18,000 covers a friend and I recently purchased. Can you tell me what the heck it is because we're stumped. I refer to the cover as a "contraption".

[Ed. It looks like something you would find in a novelty store...apparently it was rigged to flip open for some reason. I assume it was a regular matchbook modified by someone. Anyone have any more specific thoughts or info for Roy?





Bits & Pieces

THE GIRLIE CLUB HAS RAISED ITS INITIAL MEMBERSHIP FEE from \$35 to \$40...to cover the growing cost of that spectacular 12 lb. catalog, I'm sure. As a Girlie Club member, myself, I can tell you first hand..."It's worth it!"

THE CONTOUR LISTING has just been upgraded and clarified. 1,259 currently listed. It's available from Emily Hiller, 2501 W. Sunflower Ave., #H5, Santa Ana, CA 92704-7532 (714-540-8220)

WELL, SOMEBODY'S MINDING THE STORE! KUDOS TO Bob Hofacker, who brought in two new members, and to Donna Longenecker and Bill Evans, who brought in one each. Good goin', guys!

By the way, as far as I can see, this brings the total of known collectors in Las Vegas to 15. Not even some of the BIG cities have a concentration like that...and still no club in Las Vegas...*of course, other cities can draw upon their suburbs; once you get outside of Las Vegas, there isn't too much around!*

DO YOU HAVE AN E-MAIL ADDRESS? If you do, and you know I don't have it, please e-mail me so I can add it to the records. *The Ed.* Also, that qualifies you to be listed on our web site's Collectors On-Line page. Just e-mail me: name, state, top 5 category wants, and whether you wish to be listed as willing to trade.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO ADVERTISE YOUR CATEGORIES, send them to me and I'll put them on the Category-Collector Database on the web site.

NEW LONG BEACH MC ROSTER just arrived...nice, professionally done booklet. Great!

Answer to Last Issue's Matchcover Mystery

"What OTHER patent did Diamond give away to the American public?"

...the moisture-resistant match during WW II. It was definitely seen as a wartime contribution, just as its earlier donation of its rights to the non-poisonous match was a safety contribution.

Matchcover Mysteries: #46

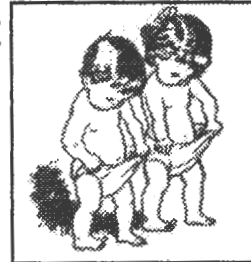
Hmmmmmm! Here's a toughie, perhaps, and the answer may surprise you...

How many matches were in the original matchbooks...and why?

We'll have the answer in our next issue.

Yes! We Are

**Second
Sierra-
Diablo**



Different!

**Annual
Spring
Swapfest**

April 12&13

Bring your covers! The emphasis is on good ol' fashioned one-on-one, eyeball-to-eyeball trading with your peers!

- Heritage Inn, 201 Harding Blvd., Roseville, CA
- Hotel contact: Dawn Ralf @ 800-228-4747 or 916-782-4466
- Room rate: \$49 single king/\$55 double queen
- Send trading material head of time if necessary to Loren Moore, 1529 Meadowlark Way., Roseville, CA 95661 (loren@bgsplanco.com)
- Transportation to and from airport if necessary
- Activities: One-on-one trading, auction...
- Send auction lots to Loren ASAP!



Publicizing The Hobby!

M a r t y
Stephen, PA,
 and his collect-

ion was featured in the Feature section of *The Hearthstone Town and Country* on January 2nd. Marty's been collecting for over 40 years and has almost 100,000 covers and 150 different albums. Wife Bernie was also featured for all of her artistic display and resulting awards over the years.

Marty is a very active collector; he belongs to several different clubs, including RMS, and he is currently Editor for the Berks County Matchcover Club, which happens to be the featured club in this issue.



Festival Attendee



Burkburnett resident Glenn Reedholm displayed his extensive matchbook collection at the annual Texas Country Reporter Festival held recently in Massachusetts. Reedholm and his collection were featured on the Bob Phillip's-produced Texas Country Reporter syndicated television show four years ago. For the past seven years, persons that have appeared on the program have been invited to participate in the festival. This marks the third straight year that the event has been held in Massachusetts. Attending the festival with Reedholm was his wife, Jeanne. (Courtesy photo)

Glenn Reedholm, TX, has been at it again...his attendance and matchcover display at the annual Texas Country Reporter Festival cited in our last issue also later got him featured on the front page of his hometown paper, the *Informer Star* of Burkburnett, TX [Jan. 2....same day as Marty's up in Pennsylvania!].

Glenn and his collection were also spotlighted on the Texas Country Reporter TV show four years ago.

We need all the good publicity we can get, especially during this hobby 'recession,' so if you've publicized the hobby—public displays, newspaper/magazine articles, radio/TV appearances, etc—please send *The Ed.* all the details and dates, and a good photo/scan would be helpful, as well.

BUSINESS BOX

RMS BULLETIN AUCTION is full up to August 2003. Bud can't take anything else until we begin closing in on that date. Questions/details: patshapp@aol.com

MORE CONVENTION DISPLAY AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Berks County MC: Best Giant Display (Features and non-Features)
- Rocky Mountain MC: Best 'Remember When' Display (nostalgic)
- Trans Canada MC: Best Canadian Display
- Mermaid Club: Best Mermaid Display

We've still yet to hear from a number of other clubs. I know many clubs don't decide on what their awards will be presented for until sometime after the first of the year, but please remember members need time to plan and make their entries...It'd be nice if we could have all the announcements ready to go by at least the Mar/April *Bulletin* each year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Pat Shappell received Berks County MC's 2002 RMS Area Award.
- Ron & Dorothy Fry received Forest City MC's 2002 RMS Area Award.
- Mike Shapiro was the recipient of Angelus MC's 2002 RMS Area Award.
- Robert Farrington received Windy City MC's 2002 RMS Area Award.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY OR TRADE: Billiards/Pool Room covers, especially Front-Strikers and sets. D.W. Ready, 115 Sheldon Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15220.....M/A03

WANTED TO BUY: One Funeral Home cover from these states: Alaska-Idaho-Utah-Vermont. State price. Bob Woelfle, 1463 Blackhurst Dr., St. Louis, MO 63137-1532.....M/J03

LOOKING FOR: Motels-Hotels-Banks-Funeral Homes-Restaurants from: Alaska-Delaware-Idaho-Mississippi, Montana-N&S Dakota-Utah-Vermont-W. Virginia. Bob Woelfle, 1463 Blackhurst Dr., St. Louis, MO 63137-1532.....M/J03

WANTED: Matchcovers displaying any related drugstore/pharmacy products/medicines, etc., 1939 NY World's Fair, and any Jewish-related covers. Plus, looking for green & white Chas. M. Banta tooth brush cover (full-length by Diamond). Alan Cahn, 6653 N. Minnehaha Ave., Lincolnwood, IL 60712 (rphnate1@prodigy.net).....J/A03

WANTED: Covers and Boxes from Omaha, Nebraska. Barry Kaiman, 10115 Donna Ave., Northridge, CA 91324-1208.....J/A03

WANTED: Coco-Cola matchcovers. Highest prices paid. \$250 minimum for pre-1920 covers. Will respond to all offers. Thom Thompson, 1389 Alexandria Dr., #7, Lexington, KY 40504-1777.....S/O93

Classified ad policy: Ads are published on a space available basis. Please keep 'em short and send them in as soon as possible! 10¢ a word. Ads offering free items, etc. are free. Check should be made out to "RMS." Send to Ed. ASAP (I always need as much warning as possible). Fee schedule for larger-sized ads may be seen on the last page.

Don't Forget!

Two Museum Awards To Be Presented At RMS 2003

-The American Diner Museum (<http://www.americandinermuseum.org>) (401-270-5158) will again sponsor an award for best "Display of Diner Matchcovers". The 2003 award will be similar to what was presented in 2002: a year's membership in the museum, an American Diner Museum coffee mug, and a T-shirt with diner matches printed on it.

-The American Sign Museum (tod@signmuseum.org) (800-925-1110), located in Cincinnati, is sponsoring an award for best display of "Matchcovers With Signs On Them." Personalized tour of the museum collection can be part of the convention activities.

Come to the Convention...and come with displays!

HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS

Is it now time to start thinking of those people who deserve a place in the RMS Hall of Fame. This is a means of honoring those individuals, either living or deceased, who have made significant contributions to the hobby. The plaque containing the names of inductees is a permanent tribute to those who have helped to make our hobby what it is today.

Individuals nominated for the 2003 RMS Hall of Fame may be living or deceased. If living, they should be RMS members in good standing with twenty or more years of membership. Deceased individuals considered must have joined RMS at least 10 years prior to nomination.

The nomination should include a resume of the individual's contributions to the hobby along with a statement by the nominator as to why the person should be considered as a member of the RMS Hall of Fame. Be sure both the name and RMS# of

the nominator and the nominee are included.

Send names, with the qualifications of the candidate(s) to the chairperson of the RMS Hall of Fame Committee by August 1, 2003, or hand them to the chairperson at the RMS Convention no later than noon on Wednesday.

Chairperson - RMS Hall of Fame Committee
Shirley Sayers
1290 Corporation Street
Beaver, PA 15009
or e-mail rlsms@stargate.net

Spring's Comin'!

Time to dust off the snow and come out of collecting hibernation. Spring means great weather and lots of hobby get-togethers...the Sierra-Diablo and Trans Canada swapfests are in April, so just pick which edge of the continent you wish to go to! The Forest City/Penn-Ohio Swapfest and the AMCAL Convention are both in May.

Get active and *Participate!*

J'M BUYING MATCHCOVERS!

Hello, my name is Greg Lund, RMS member #8993. I am a front strike collector hoping to expand my collection. Do you have any matchcovers or matchbooks for sale? I am interested in many categories. Perhaps you have some dupes, a category that you are no longer interested in, or even an entire collection! Why not turn some of those covers into cash?

I wish I lived in the days of being able to go up and down Main Street picking up covers at every business. Unfortunately, those days are long over. Buying covers is about the only way a younger collector can build a collection. Please contact me if you have covers for sale. Thank you.

***Greg Lund
7000 Rainswood Ct.
Bethesda, MD 20817-2231
(301) 469-7125 greglund@aol.com***

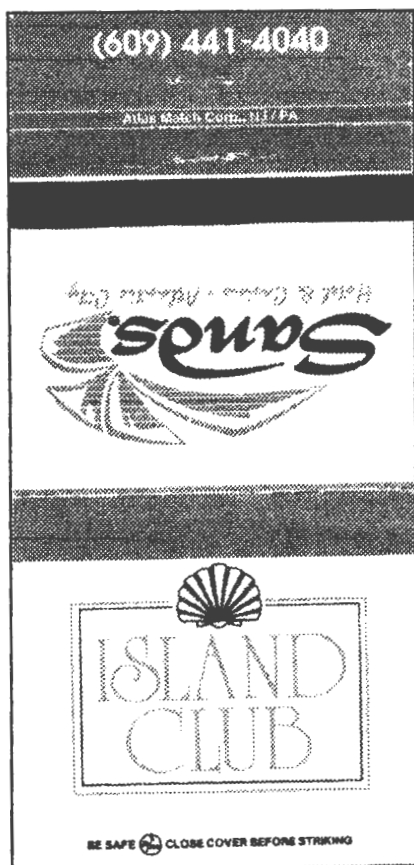
MATCHBOOKS IN THE LAW BOOKS: PART XXIV

by Kenneth H. Ryesky, Esq.

Ken Ryesky (RMS # 9003), member of the New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania Bars, practices law in East Northport, NY and teaches Business Law at Queens College of the City University of New York. He can be reached at P.O. Box 926, East Northport, NY 11731 or by e-mail at khresq@sprintmail.com.

By 1978, Resorts International, Inc. had owned and operated the Paradise Island Resort & Casino in the Bahamas for a decade. Resorts also used the "Paradise Island" name in other enterprises.

Atlantic City's very first casino, opened by Resorts in 1978, extensively marketed its sister establishment in the Bahamas to the Atlantic City guests. Once Resorts International passed "Go,"



other gaming industry enterprises landed on the Atlantic City Boardwalk, including The Sands Hotel & Casino.

In 1985, the Sands marketing mavens decreed a "tropical" theme for Sands's decor, ambience and advertising, and initiated a five-year \$20 million remodeling job. Included in the remodeling effort was a new area called "Paradise

Isle," which opened 17 March 1990 with its 69 high limit slot machines in \$1 to \$100 denominations. Also opening that day was the adjoining "Island Club," where qualified slot machine patrons could sip free drinks amidst a tropical atmosphere (albeit an air conditioned one).

In June 1990, Resorts International's attorneys wrote to The Sands, objecting to the use of the name "Paradise Isle" as prone to confusion with Resorts's "Paradise Island." In the ensuing litigation, U.S. District Judge John F. Gerry ordered, among other things, that Sands "destroy all signage, promotional literature, prints, artwork, advertisements, and all other articles in its possession bearing the name 'Paradise Isle.'" Sands complied with the court order [108].

Though Judge Gerry's order did not specifically mention matchbooks, any "Paradise Isle" matchbooks in Sands's possession were no doubt included in the court-ordered cremation. In fact, Clark Alpert, Esq., attorney for Resorts International, specifically told a New Jersey Law Journal reporter that any "Paradise Isle" matchbook covers were to be incinerated. [109].

We accordingly have been unable to obtain any illustrations of Sands's "Paradise Isle" matchbook covers. But Sands's use of the name "Island Club" was not at issue in the litigation, and so, the "Island Club" covers from The Sands escaped destruction. Janet Penny hit the jackpot on this one from her collection of Atlantic City casino covers.

[To be continued]

Reference Notes:

[108] Resorts International, Inc. v. Greate Bay Hotel & Casino, Inc., 1991 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 21789 (D. N.J., 1991), modified 830 F. Supp. 826 (D. N.J., 1992).

[109] Walter Lucas, "Burn the Matchbook Covers, Too," N.J.L.J., 24 January

RMS MEMBERSHIP REPORT - MARCH/APRIL 2003

SPONSOR

NEW MEMBERS (*=will trade)

- 9528*-**Wilton Mason**, 1636 Walnut Rd., Springhill, LA 71075-9707Donna Longenecker
COLLECTS: Supermarket Sets, Hunt's, Perkins Americana, Ohio Blue Tip & vintage Front Strikers
- 9529*-**R. E. Robles**, 1700 Sibley NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504Bill Evans
COLLECTS: Territory of Hawaii, Old Hotels, Beer, Blacks & Chinese Restaurants
- 9530*-**Rex Haggett**, 27 Meadow Close, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Warwickshire, England
CV37 9PJ RMS Web Page
COLLECTS: Shuttlecock Games" (Badminton, Battledora & Shuttlecock, Hanetsuki (Japan), Peteca (Brazil), etc).
- 9531--**Harry J. Spoerl, Sr.**, 5908 Westlake Dr., New Port Richey, FL 34653 RMS Web Page
COLLECTS: Trains, Sports, Beer, Las Vegas, Foreign & Delaware.
- 9532*-**Sherry G. Powell**, 7251 Girard Dr., Las Vegas, NV Robert Hofacker
COLLECTS: Dogs, Fish, Las Vegas, Lions, Rhinoceros & Flames
- 9533--**Paul D. Gold**, 7251 Girard Dr., Las Vegas, NV Robert Hofacker
COLLECTS: Dogs, Fish, Las Vegas, Lions, Rhinoceros & Flames

ADDRESS CORRECTION

- 4113-**Charles F. Hartjen**, 123 Deerfield Est., Linn Creek, MO 65052-9626
- 4899-**Theresa Greene**, 94 Clays Cove, Hendersonville, NC 28739
- 5024-**Denis Bouchard**, 212 Cathcart St., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3R 0S2, Canada
- 8031-**Jacqueline Anello**, 1239 8th Pl, Las Vegas, NV 89104-1501
- 9131-**Harold E. Cruson**, 3061 Brookcliff Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81504
- 9151-**Joseph A. Ferguson**, 18733 N. Avila Dr., Surprise, AZ 85387
- 9418-**Anna Rose De Bellis**, 8800 Walther Blvd, #2001, Baltimore, MD 21234
- 9429-**Chad Reichert**, 810 6th St., Hudson, WI 54016
- 9504-**E. Keith Jones**, 9900 Meek Rd., Kansas City, KS 66109-3227

REINSTATED

- 7398*-**Alvin D. Binder**, 115 Wickline St., Oak Hill, WV 25901
COLLECTS: Railroads, Banks, Political, Sports, Breweries & Tobacco (Full Books & Boxes)

RESIGNED

3061-**Royal Corwin**

DECEASED

0221-**Harry Stump** (1/13/03); 4986-**George Espy**
(1/03)

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Rowe

Terry L. Rowe

HARRY STUMP

RMS Life Member #221, Harry Stump, has passed away. He was an active collector and trader for most of his 90+ years.. a sad loss for the hobby and all those who were lucky enough to know Harry. Our condolences to Harry's family.

***If your dues are due, the following applies: \$15 a member, \$4 for a family member and \$20 for a foreign member outside of North America. Look at the label on this bulletin to see your expiration date (not for foreign members outside of North America). Send your check to Terry Rowe, 1509 S. Dugan Rd., Urbana, OH 43078-9209 and make my job a lot easier!

If you have a due date that is not January, then you need to prorate your dues to make it so your expiration date is January. If you need to know how to prorate your dues, refer to the inside page of the RMS roster. If you need additional information, you can send the treasurer a note or e-mail him at: trowerms@springnet.cc

BIRTHDAY CLUB: The following club members will be celebrating birthdays on the dates indicated. Please check your latest roster to get current addresses and categories: Bob Brown (4/8); Wally mains (4/11)

If you're interested in receiving 200-300 covers or boxes during your birthday month, send an SASE #10 envelope to: Wally and Pat Mains, 105 Roger Ln., Florence, KY 41042-2334. NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

CLUB CORNER

TRANS-CANADA 41ST ANNUAL SWAPFEST: Apr 10-12, 2003. Ramada Suites and Coral Inn, 7389 Lundy's Lane, Niagara Falls, Ont. CAN L2H 2 W9 (905-356-6119). Room: \$60-\$95 Canadian). Don't miss it. FMI: Bob Bush (905-627-3664) (robert.bush@sympatico.ca)

SIERRA-DIABLO 2ND ANNUAL SIERRA SPRING SWAPFEST: April 12-13, 2003, Heritage Inn, 201 Harding Blvd., Roseville, CA (800-228-4747) (that's 15 miles north of Sacramento on I-80 to Reno). Room rate: \$49/single, \$55/double. Contact Loren Moore ASAP. 1529 Meadowlark Way, Roseville, CA 95661. Lots of fun in the offering. Full details at: <http://www.matchcover.org/sierra>

FOREST CITY/PENN-OHIO SWAPFEST: May 8-10, 2003. Howard Johnson Express Inn, Austintown, OH 44515. Room rate only \$40 night. Hotel phone 330-792-9740. FMI: Larry Kozak (440-777-5667) E-mail: larzak@ameritech.net

AMCAL 2003: May 18-24, Piccadilly Inn, Fresno, CA. Room: \$71. Theme: Sports. More details to follow. Contact: Jackie Goodyear, 14262 Suffolk St., Westminster, CA 92683-4805 (goodymatch@aol.com)

RMS CONVENTION: Aug 11-18, Holiday Inn Eastgate, 4501 Eastgate Blvd., Cincinnati, OH 45245 (513-752-4400). \$82+tax per night. Details available at our site.

CLUB CORNER

RMS

Terry L. Rowe
RMS Membership Secretary/Treasurer
1509 S. Dugan Rd.
Urbana, OH 43078-9209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Voice of the Hobby
RMS BULLETIN
The Official Publication of the Rathkamp Matchcover Society
Published Bi-Monthly

Complete Convention Info!

RMS Convention: "Convention Central" at
<http://www.matchcover.org>

AMCAL Convention: "AMCAL Central" at
<http://www.matchcover.org/sierra>

COMING UP!

May/June 2003: Collecting Coca-Colas

Jul/Aug 2003: Disposing of Your Collection

Sep/Oct 2003: Dated Politicals

Nov/Dec 2003: Christmas Sets

ADVERTISING RATES

Display Ads

Full-Page = \$55.00

Half-Page = \$30.00

Quarter-Page = \$17.50

Eighth-Page = \$10.00 (N/A for businesses)

Classified Ads

First 20 words or less, \$2.00; .10 per word thereafter. Same ad, three consecutive issues, 10% discount. Check made out to RMS must accompany first ad.

Submission Deadlines

All material is due to Editor NLT 30 days before appropriate publication month: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov.

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