

Match Manufacturers:

Bell Machine Co.

(1907 - c. 1950's)

This company was a little different from most manufacturers because it didn't start out to be a manufacturer. The Bell machine Co. was founded by E.J. Bell. The company's name changed to Dauber Bell Machine Company in May, 1911, when C.G. Dauber purchased part of the company. He sold his shares in 1912, but the company continued under that name for almost the next decade, until September, 1921, and then it changed back to the Bell Machine Company.

As we find with many of the match manufacturing companies, E.J. Bell had already had 20 years of experience in the match industry before founding the company, so he soon acquired equipment for the manufacture of wooden and book matches. Bell sold such machinery to both domestic and foreign companies, and in 1930, after the company had already been around for 23 years, the Bell Machine Co. began making its own matches. The company changed hands in 1935 and halted match production, but it was resumed in 1945. I have been able to determine exactly when the company stopped production, but it was certainly no later than the 1950's.

The company was located in Oshkosh, WI, and, as the first cover shows here, had "Match Buds" as a trademark, which first appeared in 1934. Bell Machine Company covers are not remarkable for their quality or look, but simply for their history. As usual with the small manufacturers of the past, not many covers are known to exist...only 56 are listed.

