

FLASHBACK!

EDITORIAL

[December 1955 RMS Bulletin - by Walt Mensch]

When we undertook the job of editing this Bulletin, we had several things in mind with which to experiment. One; the offset printing and publication on pictures in the paper. Two; articles of interest about matchcovers for beginner and old-timer alike. Three; though the cost of the Bulletin would naturally be greater with the new type printing process, to compress 12 pages of news into an 8-page paper. We contacted a printer in Santa Ana who gave us a good price and who, to date, as done a swell job. However, out of 177 letters received wherein the Bulletin was mentioned, about 50 of them complained of the smallness of the type. We now realize how good are eyes are, and that not everyone is so fortunately endowed. Thru the good graces of Ralph Arnold, we have now contacted the Rutland Training Center for those handicapped by Tuberculosis, Rutland, Mass., to do the job at a cheaper rate. They have given us a good deal, as far as we can see it, and, with the edition now in your hands, the printing will be normal size. It will make this edition somewhat late in appearance, because we have to turn over a new and up-to-date membership list to the RTC, and they, in turn, have to make all new mailing stencils. . We sincerely hope this alleviates the necessity for procuring quadfocals or quinfocals, as Burt Ladensohn puts it.

NOW, the next problem is to get enough articles of interest to fill a twelve page Bulletin monthly. Although we are flattered year after year by being named 'Cover Expert' Committee, we are not, indeed, expert in all types of covers. We profess to having an affinity to Military covers, naturally, after having served almost 21 years in the Marine Corps, but beyond that, we are going to need help! We endeavored to write an article about the Frisco Line covers and it was well received, in fact, Marty Deer of Miami and Ralph Phillips of El Centro both stated it set them back a whole day to recheck! Also, Stan Moore of South Portland, Me., claims he has been fired up again to work again on his catalog of Railroad covers and wants to know if we would accept a monthly column on the subject. Emphatically, YES. We would appreciate articles on any matchcover subject. There experts in practically every category and we will be glad to by-line any article you want to send.

On the subject of Military covers, your editor has published for a long time, of the new Naval Ship covers as they come out and as we hear about them. We have many letters on file pertaining to these listings, and, while the lists probably are unintelligible to new collectors, the gist of the letters is to continue them. In the future editions we will make an effort to explain the system in use so all can understand it. We have heard that the Editor uses this list for indirect advertising. This is not true, as many times he doesn't have the covers mentioned in his own collection! It is no more advertising than listing of new hotels and other types would be for experts in those categories. We have on file no less than five letters, probably more, from members who would resign if the lists were not continued. We do not intend saturating the Bulletin with Military lists and articles, but we write what we know about and can only hope, in the future, lists and essays on other subjects will be forthcoming. ANY constructive criticism will be appreciated.

With this edition, we have opened the QUESTION BOX. If anyone has a question that needs answering, we will be glad to print it and find an answer somewhere. We also want to start a 'Thumbnail Sketch' section with short articles about various members, what they do for a living, what they collect, anything of interest about them. So, send us a little squib and we will be glad to run it.

[Ed. note: Am I the only one that finds the use of the royal 'we' grating?]