

FLASHBACK!

Bits & Pieces

“CLUB CORNER: ‘The World Almanac Book of Buffs, Masters, Mavens and Uncommon Experts’ is the title of a book ye Editor received last December from a Selma Shapiro, 501 Fifth Ave., Suite 500, New York City, NY 10017. The index lists 450 hobbies and unusual leisure-time activities! Of course, matchcovers are mentioned. In fact, RMS member Neal Hospers, of Fort Worth, Texas is mentioned as the collector who has the world’s largest hotel/motel cover collection—over 37,000 of them—mounted in over 250 albums. All are catalogued and cross-referenced. There are other related comments concerning the hobby of phillumeny in this write-up about Mr. Hospers.” *[March/April 1981 RMS Bulletin]*

“REPORT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

New Members:

5024 Bouchard, Denis

5048 Good, Mr. Leslie” *[March/April 1981 RMS Bulletin]*

[Ed. Note: 30 years and still going strong! Congratulations, guys!]

“THE EDITOR’S MAIL BOX: I had made a request concerning the Time/Life Collector’s Books wherein a mention was to be made about matchcover collecting. Sure enough I received two letters from two wonderful people, at two ends of U.S.A., namely, from Laverne Marx of New Canaan, Connecticut, and Mr. Buckley, of Redmond, Washington. Mr. Buckley stated that he had the book ending in “Marbles” and presumed that the next book would have the matchcover story. You were close, Mr. Buckley, as Mrs. Marx has the chapter and matchcovers are under “Matchsafes”, on p. 13. One page is devoted to our wonderful hobby of phillumeny. (They say “Philliberumenists”) Tch! The page shows four covers: a Wilkie political; a WW-II war bond; a 1955 Pontiac; and an Apollo 11 cameo. And an 18-line, two column story, that in part, sez: the Rathkamp Matchcover Society located in Carson, California. Oh, well.” *[May/June 1981 RMS Bulletin]*

“RAMBLINGS: Another set was issued by Lion Safety First in 1928. This was for the “Town House” in Los Angeles, Calif. On the back of each cover is a different picture of the hotel and grounds. Each cover is numbered 1 to 10. There is only one full set known to be in existence, and a few years back changed hands for \$75.00.” *[November/December 1981 RMS Bulletin]*

RICK’S CAFE? From time to time I get inquiries about the ‘Rick’s Cafe’ 30-strike—“deep blue and desert brown, executed on a buff duowhite background. The front of the cover is emblazoned with the words: “RICK’S CAFE AMERICAINE”, and below: “Casablanca. French Morocco.” The back depicts a Moroccan doorway with the motto: “Everybody Comes to Rick’s.” Is it real? Unfortunately, not. Not only is the cover a reverse striker (which wouldn’t tally with fictional World War II cafe), but the cover was put out by the ‘Mythical Matchbooks’ of Long Beach, CA. The company took out a full-page ad in the Mar/Apr 1982 *RMS Bulletin*.

SIGH! A double room at the Fairmont Hotel in New Orleans for the 1982 RMS Convention ran \$54! *[1982 RMS Convention reservation form]*

SOUND FAMILIAR? “It must be the state of the economy as far as convention covers go...For one thing (and the most important) the high cost of a case of matchcovers has soured many a member...