

Pioneers Of The Hobby: III

[from Esther Rancier, *Match Covers A Guidebook for Collectors*, 1976]

Russell Fink: Russell Fink, of Canton, Ohio, (member of RMS) has received numerous awards from the Society for his work in the field. He has also been a help hand in the formation of several other clubs, two of which are Trans-Canada and Great Lakes.

Ernestine Abbott: RMS member Ernestine Abbott served as RMS Editor and also as Editor of *The Western Matchcover News* for many years. Of French Canadian background, through her bilingual abilities, was also able to make foreign contacts, particularly in Belgium. She brought foreign covers into the spotlight and later urged an interest in Diamond Pocketboxes.

Ralph Arnold: Ralph Arnold is present [1976] RMS Historian, keeping an official scrapbook of newspaper clippings about the hobby and its members. A resident of South Lancaster, Massachusetts, he became interested in covers at the age of 14. He has been a general collector for 43 years, and his collection now numbers are more than 300,000.

Frank Gosztyla: From Oak Park, Michigan, Frank Gosztyla became RMS Editor in 1968. He is active in the Great Lakes Matchcover Club of which he is President.

Isabell Lord: Isabell Lord became RMS Secretary in 1968 and conducts the Society's business and handles all inquiries from Long Beach, California. She began collecting off-handedly in the 1930s, seriously in 1960, and her collection is now estimated to be about 400,000 covers. She has served as President of the Long Beach Club, of AMCAL, and of Angelus. She has been editor of *Matchcover Beachcomber* since 1965 and, as a long-time Executive Board member, helped to introduce many innovations.

Jim Moffett: In 1928, at the age of 7, Jim Moffett became fascinated by hundreds of matchbooks hung on strings in a friend's home and has collected ever since, with a collection now numbering around 100,000 covers. He helped to establish the Golden Gate Matchcover Club and actively participates in the Angelus Matchcover Club. About 1950, Jim published the first western bulletin, *California Matchcover News* (now defunct) and also contributed to the *RMS Bulletin* on ten-strikes, as he has an outstanding collection of such.

Herb Spell: Herb Spell formed not one, but two matchcover clubs: Golden Gate and Redwood Empire. Because of these efforts, he was elected President of RMS in 1954, and during his term of office the mail vote was begun. He is now retire, living in Florida without having an active membership.

Sam Schroeder: When Brooklyn's San Schroeder (who had never collected anything) came out of the army at the end of World War II, he received a gift of a matchcover album, which he had never seen before. But, he became very serious about it and now owns in excess of a quarter of a million covers. He and his wife (now both retired) have displayed their covers at the National Hobbies and Crafts Exposition at the N.Y. Coliseum.

Warren Delk: A long-time member of RMS, Warren Delk's greatest contribution to the hobby, possibly, has been his devotion to the National Matchcover Week. He worked as Chairman of this event from its inception in 1961 thru 1973. Originally scheduled in April, it is now celebrated in May.