

## Pioneers Of The Hobby: IV

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

**Walter Earl Scott:** Walter Earl Scott served as Northern Regional Vice-President of RMS in 1959. Prior to that, he was active in the Keystone Club band the now defunct Delchester Club.

**Harry Gerson:** Now deceased, Harry Gerson was particularly active in the Empire Matchcover Club and helped to organize the Garden State Club. As a member, he spoke before many groups on behalf of the hobby. He was Chairman of President Kennedy's People to People Committee, formed to create international goodwill through hobbies by people in foreign lands. Starting in 1965, he began the H. Gerson Jewel Club, listing all the jewels found. The first list noted 60 covers with No. 1 as a set of 8 called "What The Artist Saw." Actually the oldest Jewels were numbers 41-45, but the Jewels were randomly listed and not in order of age.

**Vance Marks:** Vance Marks, now retired and living in Kingman, Arizona, founded the Angelus Matchcover Club and was instrumental in making California the state with the most match collectors in 1957.

**Ward Chase:** Ward Chase was one of the three founders of the Long Beach Matchcover Club. He began to collect covers in 1949, and, prior to his death in 1967, estimated his collection at half a million covers. He was a top-ranked Navy Ship collector and an expert on rarer covers.

**Edgar "Pop" Marshall:** Edgar Marshall was another founder of the Long Beach Matchcover Club. An elderly collector, at the time of his death in 1963, he could not have envisioned the potential strength of the club he helped start. After his death, he willed his collection to the Club, which they carefully sold to build up a treasury, allowing them to offer services such as no other club has ever done previously. The club owes much to this gentleman, a dedicated, yet casual, collector. In his honor, in 1972, the club issued a memorial cover.

**Ilene Ferguson:** Ilene Ferguson, who now lives in Mayfield, New York, was the third founder of the Long Beach Matchcover Club in 1957. Ilene, who began collecting in 1945, received much publicity in newspapers over the years and now has about 75,000 covers.

**Patrick Griffiths:** "Mr. Canadian Matchcover Collector". A native of England, Patrick founded the Trans-Canada Club. It was Pat who made Grant-Mann and Vista-Lite covers a rage and promoted the Canadian match industry with zeal. His acknowledged expertise is in the area of foreign covers.

**George Allright:** George Allright is England's greatest matchcover collector. He founded the London Bookmatch Collectors Society (called the British Phillumatic Society since 1968). His particular interests are Hilton Hotels and Holiday Inns. His catalog on Hiltons has received acclaim in both the U.S. and Canada. He has published several publications: *Bookmatch News* (1965), *Phillumatic* (1968), and *B.P.S. Magazine* (1971). He also wrote *The Holiday Inn Lantern* and *County Seat Collector's Group Target*, plus a number of fine how-to-do brochures for English collectors. George has been inactive since 1973.

**John Andrews:** Although blind, John Andrews wrote and published the NACAMO club bulletin for many years. He always had the best in covers, as he had contacts in many parts of official Washington. In spite of his handicap, this man was an inspiration to other collectors.