

HOBBY HISTORY

The Movers & Shakers: V

Bill Furlong, CA, started collecting after his divorce in 1963. Starting off with a small bag of some 100 matchbooks, Bill eventually ran that up to app. 250,000 at the peak of his collection.

Bill had always been a guy that would pick up any souvenir from wherever he traveled. Upon getting his first Beach Matchcover album, he noticed an insert ad about RMS. The RMS secretary, Isabel Lord, then informed him that there was also a local club in his area, Long Beach Matchcover Club. From his first Long Beach meeting, he also ended up joining Angelus, as well.

After joining his first two clubs, Bill went to most AMCALs and some of the RMS conventions. In 1973, Bill started thinking about forming a club which would focus on Holiday Inns and Hiltons. Bill got together with Art Young, PA, and then found Win Lang, CA, who agreed to do the bulletin, and the hobby's International Matchcover Club was born.

In 1978, he was convention chairman for the RMS-Fullerton, CA, Convention....and was also voted Collector of the Year. Just look at his almost twenty years of service to the hobby:

- 1966-68: Long Beach MC Vice-President
- 1968: Angelus MC 2nd Vice-President
- 1969: AMCAL Vice-President
- 1969-70: Angelus MC President
- 1969-70: AMCAL Vice-President
- 1970-71: Angelus MC President
- 1970-71: AMCAL President
- 1972-73: Long Beach MC Secretary
- 1973-74: Long Beach MC President
- 1974-76: IMC President
- 1976-78: IMC President
- 1976-78: RMS 2nd Vice-President
- 1978-79: Angelus MC Secretary

- 1979-80: Angelus MC Treasurer
- 1980-81: Angelus MC Treasurer

Along the way, Bill has also done more than his share of publicizing the hobby. He's been written up in numerous newspaper articles, been interviewed several times on TV, and has even done a radio interview. Still, Bill is probably most fond of his getting a write-up in the in-room Holiday Inn magazine. This magazine is the one Holiday Inn places in all of their hotel rooms world wide, and from that one article...Bill received lots of responses.

Bill moved to Las Vegas in 1990, and, although he has sold off most of his collections, he still currently collects Gambling and Casinos. And, since his move, Bill has managed to attend four AMCALs and a couple of RMS conventions, so even though we're focusing on his past achievements and contributions here...Bill's certainly still active in the hobby. In fact, since he's been in Las Vegas, he's looked into the possibility of establishing a 'Las Vegas' matchcover club, but so far there hasn't been enough interest from other collectors in the area.

Sam Rosen, NY, was a buyer of ladies' ready-to-wear clothes. He started collecting in 1942 when he stopped in Cincinnati on business and was bored. Recalling that someone had told him about having a matchcover collection, Sam decided to try starting one himself. By 1950, he was corresponding with more than 200 other collectors all over the country, had founded, and was president of, the Empire Match Cover Society, and was active in RMS, United Matchonians, and the New England MC, as well.

In 1946, he married a woman who was tolerant of his collecting and having thousands upon thousands of covers all over their small home.

By 1950, Sam had over 100,000 covers in his collection and was voted RMS's Collector of the Year for 1950.