

How Did The California Clubs Get Started?

by
Jim Moffett

[Combing through a bunch of old bulletins that I found stashed away under my house, I recently came across this great old article by the late great Jim Moffett on how the California clubs actually got started. This nicely fills in the period immediately before what was covered in May's article on AMCAL. The following is reprinted from the Angelus bulletin, July-August 1982...]

Late in 1949 I sent out a questionnaire to 34 California collectors who were members of "RMS" or "United." The original idea was to see if there were enough interested to publish a California bulletin devoted exclusively to the collecting of matchcovers. 22 responded and Issue #1, Vol. 1 of the "California Matchcover News" was published in January of 1950.

Of the 22 who responded, including Budd Hageman,, Vance Marks, R. A. McDaniel, Walt Mensch, Irv Pohlmeier and Bill Sanders, I am the only active collector at this time.

Originally, the California Matchcover News was for California collectors but in March, 1950 the name was changed to Western Match Cover News and membership was open to all. Also, the March issue asked the members what they thought of having a meeting in the San Francisco area and another in the Los Angeles area.

In the April, 1950 bulletin (which reverted back to the "California Matchcover News") it was announced that we'd have a meeting of Northern California collectors at my house in Richmond Annex on June 4th and Vance Marks agreed to have a meeting at his place in Los Angeles for Southern California collectors on June 11, 1950.

We had 6 attend the Northern Calif. meeting and S. Calif. had 9. With the June issue we sent out a detailed questionnaire and one of the questions was "Would they attend a State convention?" In the July, 1950 issue it was announced that R. A. "Mac" McDaniel was elected president of the California Matchcover Club. I was the secretary-editor. As of July we had 61 paid members.

As of July, 1950 there were 18 "Perfect 36" size matchcovers collectors listed. Also there were 50 of the Chiclet Airline covers. In September, 1950, there were 15 collectors who collected all types, USS ships, 14 and Service with 9. Others were hotels, 4; radio station, 2; baseball, 2; transportation, 2; California small towns, 1; foreign, 1; football and movie stars, 1; and girlies, Hillbillies and animals, 1; (How times have changed!).

In March, 1951 it was decided to form 2 separate clubs, Golden Gate in the North and Angelus in the South. Cliff McMillan was the first president in the North and Vance Marks in the South.

The first state convention "AMCOC" (Associated Matchcover Clubs of California) was held at the San Carlos Hotel in Monterey, June 15, 16 and 17, 1956. There were three clubs, Golden Gate, Remco and Angelus. At that meeting the name was changed to AMCAL.