

## Matchcovers On The Cutting Edge!

Unless you're an old hand at sifting through old covers, you probably wouldn't even give RAZOR BLADE covers a second thought, much less a second look. When and if you were to run across a modern version of such covers, it would invariably turn out to be a cheap, poorly printed National. But, that wasn't how it used to be...not by a long shot!

The *old* RAZOR BLADE covers remind us of days gone by, when the pace of life was slower, when things were simpler, and when the measure of a man was taken by how sharp his razor was [*OK, that's stretching it a little...but it sounds good!*]. I can still remember, when I was a *very* little boy, watching my father whip up some lather in a mug, dip in his shaving brush, and spread the creamy white soap all over his face. Then...the moment of truth...when he would take that razor and run it over his face, carefully going around his nose and, then, *very, very* carefully, running it down his throat. Ah, those were the times! Afterwards, of course, the entire ritual was topped off with a generous splashing of Old Spice...which, I was later to learn, burned like Hell!

I go through the same thing, myself, each morning, now, but it's just not the same. The razor and its blades have been replaced by my spiffy French electric shaver. Gone is the foamy lather; gone is the shaving mug and shaving brush. Perhaps reluctant to lose the memory, however, I still use Old Spice...and it still stings!

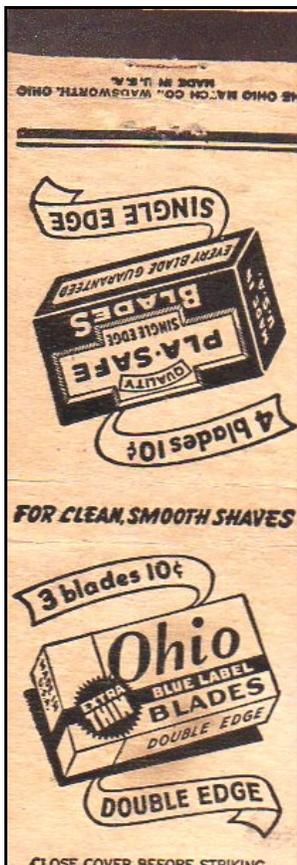
Each time I see these covers—especially the great old DQs, the Safety Firsts, etc.—and there are quite a few of them—I think of those times when I watched my father shaving, even though the really old covers predate me and even my father's adulthood [*just in case you were beginning to get the idea that I must be the second Methuselah*]. They

actually make a very nice collection and an even better looking display.

There are a number of sets in this category, the most famous probably being the four Gem Razor Blade Sets issued by Lion and D.D. Bean during World War II.

Some years ago, when I had the opportunity to view Harry Branchaud's now legendary collection of DQs and other great old covers, I saw lots of RAZOR BLADE covers.

How many could you expect to collect over the years? Who knows, but the late Andy Anderson, MO, reported having 191 in July 1996.



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