

# HOBBY HISTORY

## The Movers & Shakers: IV

**Sam Schroeder's** life, from Brooklyn, New York, changed with a gift he received when he came out of the army at the end of World War II. The gift was an album for collecting matchbook covers, a hobby he had never even heard of.. "I wasn't the collecting type," recalled Schroeder, a knitting-machine operator. "But I became curious, wondering whether anyone seriously used these albums."

Sam soon found out. By 1966, he had filled 43 large albums of his own which contained a collection of a quarter of a million different matchbook covers! Through the hobby, Sam said he learned the history of America, Canada, and Europe. He corresponded with collectors throughout the world. The Brooklyn resident sometimes traveled as many as 400 miles to acquire one matchcover. He was always accompanied by his wife, Nancy, and she also became an avid collector.

Sam belonged to some ten different matchcover clubs and spent his weekends and vacations attending meetings and conventions [*Ah, what a life!*]. In between meetings, Sam regularly loaned his collections out to banks and schools for exhibitions, and he often spoke before other hobby groups, Boy Scout, and student organizations. In 1966, he displayed his collection at the National Hobbies and Crafts Exposition at the New York Coliseum. He was a veritable dynamo when it came to publicizing the hobby. [*from New York News, November 6, 1966*]

He served as President of the Empire Matchcover Club in 1961, and the RMS recognized his contributions to the hobby in 1988 when Sam was elected to the Hall of Fame. Sam Schroeder...another one of the collectors who helped make the hobby what it is today.