

# HOBBY HISTORY

## Historical Tidbits: III

> Brothers William and Nicholas Martindale made matches in Liverpool, England, from about 1842-1872. Their specialty were Congreve matches. William died about 1855. Then his widow joined the firm, which became known as N. Martindale. A Jasper Capper was hired in 1852 for the day-to-day management. Under his direction, the business prospered. Steam machinery was installed. By 1862, more than 300 people were employed, the majority of which were children between the ages of 7 and 16, mainly immigrants from Ireland. They needed work desperately. Even with such conditions, the business was carefully run for its day. Only one case of phossy jaw ever developed, and that was before 1850.

Two of the known brands of matches were Chemical Lights and Premier. After 1872, the firm was reorganized, operating as Collard and Co., run by Joseph Gilchrist Collard, Wilman Hodgson Kendall, and John Thomas Maguire. In 1895, the company was absorbed by the Diamond Match Co. Even later, after Diamond had merged with Bryant & Co., some of the Collard brands continued to be used on boxes. *June 1979 Long Beach bulletin*

> At one time, Akron OH, was known as Match Town. Its reputation was due to the location in Akron of the Barber Match Company. But before Barber, Samuel A. Lane and James R. Miltimore were the pioneer match makers of Akron. They made loco-foco matches, which were pieces of pine dipped alternatively into melted brimstone and a phosphorous compound. This operation began in 1838. After about a year, they discontinued their work since they found so little profit in the venture.

In 1845, George Barber began to make matches in a small barn in Middlebury. Finally, he

occupied an entire wooden factory which stood on the site later used by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Works. In 1865, the Barber Match Company was formed with George Barber as president and O.C. Barber as secretary and treasurer. In 1871, the company moved to South Akron, where Diamond Rubber was later located.

Ohio Columbus Barber was born in Middlebury, OH, on April 20, 1841, son of George and Eliza Smith Barber. At first, his father was in copper and later entered the match trade. At 15, O.C. joined his father in the manufacture of matches. He traveled throughout Ohio as a salesman, developing a large market for matches. In 1860, he became a full partner. In 1872, upon his father's retirement, he became president.

In 1881, O.C. brought about the consolidation of many match companies into one organization, the Diamond Match Co. He was vice-president and then president until 1909. Late, he managed the Diamond Rubber Company until it was taken over by B.F. Goodrich. The list of other enterprises which he managed is too long to list, but it attests to a vigorous mind. He married twice and had one daughter. He died in Barberton, OH, February 4, 1920. *July 1981 Long Beach bulletin*

> In 1932, Rudolf Koenig and Zoltan Foldi, Austrian chemists, patented a "Repeatedly ignitable rod" resembling a styptic pencil wrapped in cellophane. The pencil was actually an elongated match head good for 40 lights. Packets of 3 were sold in Europe for about 5¢. Put on the market in Holland, the rods were not successful commercially. *May 1980 Long Beach bulletin*

> In 1879, there were 79 different match manufacturers in the United States. Today there are three: Diamond, D.D. Bean & Sons, and Atlas.

> In 1825, Jacob Weller, Mechanicstown, MD, made the first Lucifer matches in America.

*[We'll finish up this series in part IV, next issue]*