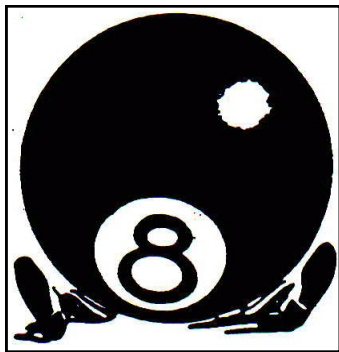




Editorial

The Incredible Shrinking Hobby

No, this isn't meant to be a doom n' gloom report, but I couldn't help but notice how everything in the hobby seems to be shrinking. Yes, the membership has shrunk, and so has the availability of new material, but look what that has lead to...

The average length of club bulletins has shrunk; the average number of annual bulletin issues has shrunk; the number of clubs has shrunk; the number of hobby activities has shrunk; the number of club meetings has shrunk; attendance at conventions and swapfests has shrunk; and trading has shrunk.

Now, being an ardent collector, you might well think that I might be somewhat depressed. But, no, I am *not*! Because, at the same time all this is happening, my hairline is shrinking; my finances are shrinking; my memory is shrinking; and the doctor tells me I am now a half inch shorter than I used to be!

But it's all simply a matter of perspective. Look on the other side. *Everything* isn't shrinking. Prices are getting larger; bills are getting larger; taxes are getting larger; bureaucracy continues to get ever larger; the number of cars on the road is getting larger; and the roll around my waist is getting larger!

All of which is why, I suppose, that I appreciate the people of the hobby more—the ones who tirelessly work to put on events; the people I trade with; the people who help me in a variety of ways to fill bulletin pages every month and gradually fill in those album slots in my collection...*Thank you!...Thank you!...Thank you!*