

# TRI STATE PIPE & TOBACCO CLUB

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## FROM THE BASEMENT

of Larry Rathburn

Here we go again, volume number two and just to let you know, we are going to be making a few changes to our newsletter. We are going to be offering a column for the membership to spout off along with a "For Sale" area. Ask for more details at the next meeting or give one of the officers a call. This issue I would like to share some information with you on a:

## HOMETOWN SMOKE



The Hometown smoke I am speaking of is the Fort Wayne Falcon Featherweight smoking pipe, designed and manufactured in Fort Wayne by Kenly C. Bugg. The pipe hit the drawing table in about 1945 with the company actually being formed in the name of Falcon Pipe Company on April 8th in 1946. Mr. Bugg held many patents through the years including patents on coin controlled and selecting mechanisms, padlocks, clutch mechanisms, stich and seam opening devices, fasteners and many

others including several versions of today's Falcon pipe. Mr. Bugg also designed a radiator using extruded aluminum tubes for British airplanes during the war and thus came up with the idea for a clean, cool smoking and light smoking pipe. The pipe was advertised as such. "Light as a Feather, Cool as a Breeze and Clean as a Whistle."

My first experiences with the Falcon started many years ago watching my father smoke his. Later, I was fortunate to have dad give me his Falcon collection. To this day, the Falcon is my favorite "workshop" pipe. Unlike an all briar pipe, the Falcon will take a lot of abuse. A quick cleaning with a pipe cleaner and the change of a bowl and you have a fresh pipe to smoke. These pipes can be purchased today, new, from Riegel's or the Tinder Box.

Happy Puffing

## BEHIND THE COUNTER

by Danny Hudson

### Grandpa's Pipes

Some of the fondest memories of my grandfather were those of him smoking a pipe. In fact, I struggle to reflect on a single instance where he was not clutching a favorite briar. He wasn't a man of stature or great wealth, but always wore a smile. Perhaps it was his Dr. Grabow filled with Half and Half.

Watching with curiosity as a child, my grandfather and his pipe always held my attention. I always enjoyed being around him as he would fill a bowl heavy with cake, and puff

away. The aroma of wooden match and his burley / Virginia mixture lingers in my mind. I can see a man in his late nineties, an ashtray by his chair and burn holes in his shirt and trousers. Chuckling to myself as I reminisce, the morning he pocketed his pipe in his bathrobe and it nearly caught him ablaze was a sight to be seen. He patted the smoldering fibers, and coolly moved on as if nothing eventful had occurred. Whether fishing, working around the house, or simply sitting back enjoying the day, he always had a pipe. One blustery October afternoon, he and I were sitting together sharing and reminiscing, when it happened. After lighting his pipe and tamping with his thumb, he looked at me and then to the pipes positioned next to his chair. Selecting two, he handed them to me and said, "Bout time you tried a pipe". The rest, as they say is history.

Although those pipes are no longer a part of my regular rotation, they are prominently displayed and a cherished addition to my collection. No memory of my grandfather is more prevalent than those old, well-smoked briars.

Undoubtedly, our passion for the hobby transcends stereotypes and preconceived notions. The pipe you are holding at this moment is an extension of you, and if forced to part with your daily companion, a sense of loss would surely ensue. No other hobby encompasses the pleasure, relaxation, and mystery of a pipe.

A common experience for all pipe enthusiasts is a phenomenon fondly referred to as romancing the pipe. The notion of a pipe catching your eye in a tobacconists display is an experience like no other. The variety of shapes sizes and finishes run the gamut, but when a pipe commands your attention... well, that's just magic. We begin the courting process, and allow the pipe to speak. Feeling a pipe in your hand and getting weak in the knees, hearing a pipe sing is when a new owner and briar are united. Sometimes the reaction is immediate and the pipe goes

home that same day. Other times we wait and weigh our decision. It is painfully apparent that the pipe is for you after waking up the next morning thinking about that beautifully carved piece of wood! Undoubtedly, this is when a match has been made. Possibly a better term for this scenario is letting the pipe romance you.

What joy is derived from the root, a sweet experience understood by few and lost on many. In today's climate of a brow turned down to a waif of smoke, what a special breed are we, the brethren of the briar. Calm in nature, contemplative by design, a serene escape to the rigors of life can be found in a pipe smoker. A person of integrity, honesty, and purpose embodies the persona. Your briar need not be a masterpiece of design. Simply allow yourself the pleasure a good friend can give, and choose them wisely.

When I have left this world and my pipes behind, I would hope that I would be remembered. Not only as a father, husband, and friend, but a pipe smoker as well. These beautiful creations smoked often, but with care hold history. Just like my grandfathers Grabows; there is a man behind them and a story to be told. Leave a legacy, and enjoy your pipe!

## MARRIAGE OF BRIAR AND TOBACCO

By Andy Spencer

In the April issue of this newsletter, I touched on the topic of tobaccos while dealing with the larger subject of pipe smoking in these modern times. Inspired by Dan Hudson's article in the same issue regarding quality tinned tobaccos, I felt the matter of tobaccos, in several of their varied final forms, deserved a closer examination.

One item which must be dispensed with right off the top of the deck is that tobacco reviews and preferences are about as subjective as anything can possibly be, and it is certain that there will be as many different opinions on whether a given pipe tobacco is good, bad or indifferent as there are people

providing input. I had to get that out of the way before any of our gentle readers took me to task for not fairly evaluating their favorite blend!

Let's start with a couple of Virginias. First off, a recent sampling of "The Malthouse Founder's Reserve" proved no more satisfactory than my initial trial taste over a year ago. A different tin of it, to be sure, and presumably a different "batch" in production given the time between the last acquisition and this one, but the result was certainly no friendlier to my palate.

Malthouse is a tinned rubbed-out Virginia flake which has some casing from, as the name implies, malt whiskies in which it has been immersed. Although I do not feel that I am an aggressive puffer, it seemed quite sharp to my tongue.

The tin aroma was, to me at least, greatly disappointing, as well. I erroneously assumed that any tobacco which had been aged in malt whiskey for 12 weeks would have a very pleasant if somewhat heady aroma. Malthouse is an exception to this rule, again in my view, as it, well, smelled badly to say the least (might be unfair to say it "stunk," although it is unlikely I was simply having a bad day both times I tried it!).

Additionally, Malthouse is a very strong, robust pipe tobacco. While I normally favor a full-bodied smoke, the examples I tried were simply too much. There may be some who favor Malthouse, but I am not among their number. Which is not, of course, to say that you mightn't enjoy it, as I do not care for most tobaccos with strong casings and therefore might have had my opinion of Malthouse unduly influenced by that general aversion to flavorings.

Despite my own opinions, I would nonetheless encourage those of you who enjoy "aromatic," or flavored, tobaccos who are looking for something different, to give Malthouse a try. C.A.O.

International / Dan Tobaccos produce many of my favorite tobaccos, and uniformly use top-grade ingredients. One man's proverbial "cup o' tea" may simply not be for another, or vice versa.

The other Virginia-based tin I tried, with entirely opposite results, is "Grey Havens," which is produced by McClelland's. This was an entirely satisfactory smoking experience, a tinned Virginia which has had any edge inherent to that leaf softened by burley. Further adding to the complexity of it's fragrance

and flavor is a light touch of Perique, which is much more readily apparent in it's tin aroma than in any discernible influence on flavor or "taste." I would add that this tobacco was greatly improved by drying and aging slightly, too, after purchase.

One peculiar effect of smoking a bowlful of Grey Havens, other than to be transported into an "other-worldly" state of contentment, is that there is very little room aroma. Since I often smoke Grey Havens but am rarely around others who do, I had not noticed this comparative lack of room aroma until Dennis Hills commented on it while I was in his shop the other day. Since that time, I have deliberately allowed my pipe to out after maybe a fourth or even a third of a bowlful, have left the room for a few minutes only to come back in order to see what type of aroma lingers. Very, very little, to be sure, and even that is neutral and mild, being more of a very light pure tobacco scent unfettered by other qualities.

One last cautionary word regarding trying new tobaccos, or even with regard to evaluating any, even familiar, tobaccos, is that the mating of a given pipe to a certain type of tobacco can really make all the difference in the world. Do not reject a tobacco out-of-hand merely because it performs less-than-satisfactorily in a certain pipe. Try it in other pipes, and play around with how you load and pack it. These sound like small variations, but I have had some pipes which seemed to perform badly with one or two tobaccos do quite well with others, and conversely have had some which give an opposite experience with the same tobaccos!

Briar seems to have a distinct "personality," one which along with how it is cured and other factors can "color" your perception of the flavor it provides. For this reason, many persons use meerschaum pipes or even double-walled clays for evaluation purposes. In next issue's column, I will review several additional tobaccos, including two or three additional Virginias as well as a couple of Latakia blends. Happy puffing!

## E difying Thoughts of a Tobacco Smoker

*From the Second Little Clavier Book for Anna Magdalena Bach, 1725*

Whene'er I take my pipe and stuff it  
And smoke to pass the time away,  
My thoughts, as I sit there and puff it,  
Dwell on a picture sad and gray:  
It teaches me that very like  
Am I myself unto my pipe.

Like me, this pipe so fragrant burning  
Is made of naught but earth and clay;  
To earth I too shall be returning.  
It falls and, ere I'd think to say,  
It breaks in two before my eyes;  
In store for me a life fate lies.

No stain the pipe's hue yet doth darken;  
It remains white. Thus do I know  
That when to death's call I must harken  
My body, too, all pale will grow.  
To black beneath the sod 'twill turn,  
Likewise the pipe, if oft it burn.

Or when the pipe is fairly glowing,  
Behold then, instantaneously,  
The smoke off into thin air going,  
Till naught but ash is left to see.  
Man's fame likewise away will burn  
And unto dust his body turn.

How oft it happens when one's smoking:  
The stopper's missing from its shelf,  
And one goes with one's finger poking  
Into the bowl and burns oneself.  
If in the pipe such pain doth dwell,  
How hot must be the pains of Hell.



This is a picture of our last meeting....

## Pipe resources

by  
Martin C. Dodrill

Pipe smokers know that they belong to a very small, but growing community within the global village. Even though we may be small in numbers, we live in a period of unprecedented information, resources and products available to the pipe smoker no matter how remote our abode.

We can thank the world wide web for much of our access to resources. Your entry port as a pipe smoker is [www.pipes.org](http://www.pipes.org) which has links to numerous pipe retailers worldwide as well as factual information on pipe smoking, contacts for pipe clubs, and sites for bulletin boards or chat groups. Pipes.org is also an excellent resource site for cigar smokers.

The Internet enables us to order pipes and tobacco from England, e-mail fellow pipe smokers in Poland or read tobacco reviews from the members of the Pipe Club of London. [WWW.pipes.org](http://WWW.pipes.org) can lead you to a truly global village of pipe smoking.

Don't have or don't want access to the Internet world? There are many outstanding resources outside the cyber world. I would suggest that you begin developing a relationship with fine local tobacconists such as our friends at Tinder Box and Riegels. They have a wealth of knowledge and no cyber vision can match the in-person viewing of and outstanding display of pipes.

A national treasure is Tom Dunn's The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris, a limited edition, irregular quarterly for pipe smokers which has been published for 25(?) Years as a passion by Mr. Dunn. The most recent issues is 115 pages of information on pipes, tobacco, tobacconists, pipe shows, tobaccoania collectables, and Sherlock Holmes. Mr. Dunn will add you to the Universal Coterie of Pipe Smokers and send you (approx. twice per year) The Pipe Smokers Ephemeris by contacting him at 20-37 120th Street, College Point, NY 11356-2128. Mr. Dunn has no official charge for his Ephemeris but please have the courtesy of sending him \$10 or more to help cover the cost of this labor of love.

Richard Hacker is probably the most famous living exponent of pipe smoking. Although he is sometimes criticized by purists, we have a lot to thank him for in raising the awareness of our unique community. The Ultimate Pipe Book will shortly be released in its third edition and presents a very good overview of pipes, tobacco and pipe smoking in general. Hacker's Rare Smoke also does a good job of describing collectable pipes ranging from Kaywoodie to Dunhill. I have enjoyed reading both of these books and refer to them on a regular basis.

Pipes and Tobacco magazine is another excellent quarterly journal on pipe smoking. I would encourage everyone to subscribe to this well done publication. It regularly features the great pipe manufactures such as Savinelli,

Dunhill, and Castello as well as the great American and Danish craftsmen. Articles also detail the many nuances of tobacco's available to the pipe smoker, will known retailers such as McCraines in North Carolina and interesting articles on famous smokers such as Mark Twain and Sherlock Holmes.

Make a pledge to yourself to attend a large pipe show. If you have not afforded yourself this luxury, you will be overwhelmed by such a conclave of fellow pipe smokers/collectors (note to cigar smokers: attend the Big Smoke - it is something else). We are fortunate to be within driving distance of the great Chicago show and the Columbus show in August is also first class. My advice is go.

Finally, take advantage of our little group: the Tri State Pipe and Tobacco Club. Active members such as Andre and Larry have a wealth of



## PIPE EVENTS

Saturday August 26th 2000-  
NASPC Pipe Show in Columbus,  
Ohio at the Holiday Inn 328 West  
Lane Ave. 9-6

Sunday October 29th  
Georgetown Riegels Pipe Smoking  
Contest / Store will be open from  
1-5 and the contest starts at 2  
"Bring your own chair" Call  
Dennis @ 493-2806 for more  
details.

Saturday & Sunday April 28th &  
29th 2001  
Chicagoland Int'l Pipe and  
Tobacciana Show at Indian Lake  
Resort  
250 West Schick Road  
Bloomington, IL



## FOR SALE

This column will begin running in the next addition  
and can include pipes and tobacciana for sale or trade.

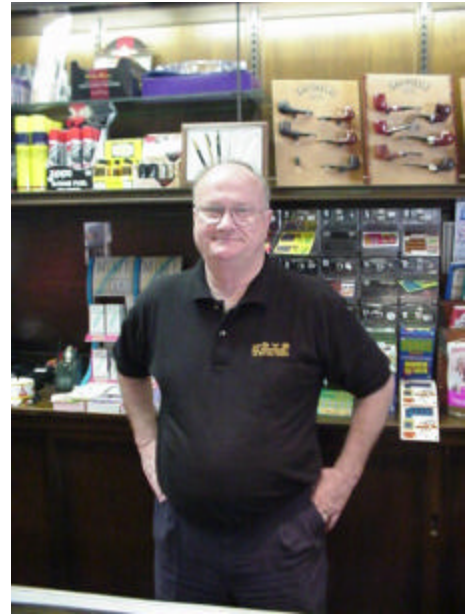
The charge will be for one issue: text only= \$5  
text and image=\$10

Images must be on disc or emailed. Adds must be in  
by November 14th to be in the next issue.

## FOR SALE

Club co-founder and Vice-President Andy Spencer has a large  
assortment of high-grade estate pipes which, along with an  
occasional unsmoked piece, he has available for sale to fellow club  
members. These pipes include pieces from Dunhill, Savinelli, Jörn,  
Kapp & Peterson's, Reiner Barbi, S. Bang, W.O. Larsen, Ashton  
and many more top makers, most all in pristine or excellent  
condition. Interested parties are encouraged to call (219) 747-  
5726 -- please leave a message, or e-mail [aspencer@gateway.net](mailto:aspencer@gateway.net).





Show your membership card at these stores for discounts.



*Fort Wayne's 1st "Micro Coffee Roaster"*

10% off of purchase  
 3410 North Anthony Blvd.  
 Fort Wayne, IN 46805  
 219-422-JAVA  
 Toll Free @ 1-888-ROASTER



10% off of pipe purchase  
 Downtown / 624 S. Calhoun  
 Fort Wayne, IN 46802 424-1429

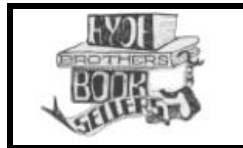
or

Georgetown Square  
 Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
 493-2806



10% off of any pipe purchase or option of  
 Pipe Club Card

Covington Plaza, 6410 W. Jefferson Blvd.  
 Suite G12A, Fort Wayne, IN 46804  
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