

TRI STATE PIPE & TOBACCO CLUB

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FROM THE BASEMENT

of Larry Rathburn

It's been a bit since the last newsletter. It takes quite a bit of effort to put these pieces together. If any of you would like to contribute, all we need is proofread copy on disk in a Microsoft Word format.

A lot has happened in the past few months. The TSPTC club is continually adding people to it's membership and sadly we lose a few here and there. Our good friend Jack Femeyer has moved to Wisconsin to be with his children and grandchildren. We wish Jack much luck in the North and hope he finds a friendly pipe shop to do business with. Rob Catherwood has moved to continue his education but should be back in about a year. We will miss Rob at the upcoming pipe smoke-off as I think he could have won it this year. He did quite well last year for a new pipe smoker.

I am sure most of you know that the Tinder Box is no more and another Riegel's has taken it's place. Same location as Tinder Box. Phone - 432-0002 You will find Bill and Frank Bougher along with John Minnick working the counter. Even our own Dennis Nichols has joined the staff at Riegel's Covington Plaza store. Check out our Savinelli Club pipe at all Riegel's locations.

Don't forget, the TSPTC Pipe Show is coming up in February 2002 at the Guesthouse. We have flyers made up for this show. We need help in selling tables and advertising this show. If you have any

suggestions, please bring them up at one of the meetings. Did I say we need help with this show?

Since our last newsletter, some of us in the club have been to the Chicago Pipe Show and the Columbus Pipe Show. At both of these shows we have had our club banner on the table and have been handing out information about our club. We would like to see members set up at more of these shows and represent TSPTC. If you have never been to a show, you will discover that it is a lot of fun and you meet some very nice people not to mention taste a lot of tobacco and find some great pipe deals.

The last thing I have this issue is to mention our club meetings. It is common for us to have our meetings at Bob Evans or the Covington Bar and Grill. We usually have 12 to 18 people show up at these. Feel free to bring your wife or a friend that might be interested in pipe smoking. Good food, good friends and pipe smoking. How can you beat that?

Thoughts from Marty

Various pipe newsletters and magazines have articulated the smoking qualities of expensive hand made pipes versus their more affordable machine made (some hand made) brethren. The debate makes for good copy and all of us have a varying range of opinion on this issue. This type of discussion makes our hobby more enjoyable; therefore, I will weight in with my

thoughts.

For this dissertation, we will call anything over \$200 to be expensive wood. The very expensive creations exemplified by the Danish masters, old Dunhill magnums, high end Castelos, etc. are in their own class. Very few of us can afford to burn tobacco in these museum quality pieces. They rate their astronomical economic value to their excellent craftsmanship (usually), high-end briar (sometimes), rare collectibility or brand perception. I will not try to argue that a \$50 everyday pipe is the equal of a \$3,000 Danish masterwork. I will leave it to ours who state that the \$50 pipe may be the smoking equal to the \$3,000 rarefied versions.

My selections will be Ashtons and Savinelli autographs to show the nature or character of the more than \$200 expensive pipe. I picked these as exemplary descriptions of good smoking qualities and unique craftsmanship. They are personal favorites.

Bill Taylor creates a flawed pipe but one with true character. A relaxing evening for me is to follow a steak and Cote de Rhone with one of Mr. Taylor's Ashton XL's burning latakia laced Penzance crumble cake. I

<p>could say the same for one of my Paul Bonaquisti or Mark Tinsky's. Certainly a Savinelli autograph burning some flavorful Escudo will also fit the bill. These expensive, yet relatively affordable pipes are an important part of my pipe experience.</p>	<p>By the way, I also enjoy collecting pipe shapes. Petersons personify unique shapes which attract my collecting instincts. Ask James about his collection of huge wood. Interesting shapes can come in a</p>	<p>see while out and about. One pipe rep I know is getting out of the business altogether, claiming that the number of pipe smokers is declining. My own observation would seem to contradict his view, and I suspect his decline in business may have been caused more by a combination of a stagnant product line and the recession in which we now find ourselves mired. I saw another pipe smoker just the other day in a Fort Wayne restaurant as I sat there waiting on a lunch appointment to arrive. Again, he was absorbed in conversation but I still felt a sense of kinship with this stranger as I sat there, peacefully drawing on my own pipe as I read the newspaper. Maybe you never really notice pipe smokers unless you are one. Could it be that it is sort of like the phenomena of noticing cars of a certain type wherein you never really notice a particular model unless you just bought one, at which point they suddenly seem to be everywhere? This sense of brotherhood which brings us all together is the driving force behind pipe clubs all around the nation. Judging from our own merry little troupe of pipe smokers within TSPTC, just being around other pipe smokers and enjoying one another's company over dinner is a form of communion--an opportunity to share our interest in pipes and pipe-smoking and enjoy one another's company.</p>
<p>Can an inexpensive pipe match this experience? In smoking quality I will maintain that the cheap pipe can do the job. It will not have the personal feel of my Ashton pebble grain, but may very well burn the Penzance to an equal taste.</p> <p>I will concede that it is much more difficult to pick a cheap pipe to match the smoking qualities of the Ashton or Savinelli autograph. You will need to ask the very wise (Andy or Larry) or develop your own expertise through trial and error. For more money, Savinelli produces an outstanding line of pipes with their machine made pipes under \$100 producing excellent smoking qualities. You can also find new American carvers who produce very good inexpensive pipes. You can attend a pipe show (ours will be February 9, 2002) and get a great deal on a new or estate pipe.</p> <p>Do not let the pipe mystique get in the way of an enjoyable smoking experience. Neither side is wrong in the cheap versus expensive debate. There are great smoking \$50 - \$100 pipes for burning your favorite blend. However, there are many reasons for collecting the wood created by carvers such as found at Ashton or our friend Paul Bonaquisti.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Brotherhood by Andy Spencer</p> <p>I recently found myself in Indianapolis for a weekend, helping a friend of mine with his exhibitors' tables at a trade show there. After a few hours, the urge to take a pipe break hit me and so I wandered in search of an oasis the midst of the din and bustle. Suprisingly, I found a "smoke spot" inside the building in a loading dock area in an adjacent exhibition hall. The place was of course filled with cigarette smokers, most of whom seemed bemused by my briar as I loaded it and lit up. There was, however, one other pipe smoker there who was enjoying his pipe. He was preoccupied with a young lady who was with him and so I did not disturb his conversation, but he did glance over when he saw my pipe and gave a nod of recognition. Another fellow walked in a few minutes later to tap the ash out of his corncob, again nodding toward me in the same sort of acknowledgement of our mutual appreciation for pipes. So it is with us. There is a sense of fraternity among pipe smokers, even if they do not have the time or the opportunity to actually commiserate. Often I pass other drivers who are puffing away on a favorite pipe, and almost invariably they wave when they see a pipe dangling from my mug. Indeed, it is odd how many pipe smokers I do</p>	<p>Another recent day found me in a restaurant with a couple of friends. All of us were contentedly puffing away, and as the conversation occasionally ebbed we were all quite satisfied to enjoy the quiet moment. The</p>

blue haze which formed from the comingling of our pipe smoke seemed to sum up our enjoyment at simply "being there" in such shared company. If some of the articles in P & T have been a fair indicator, this phenomenon regarding a larger sense of brotherhood among pipe smokers is not confined to the U.S. Club listings indicate a fair amount of activity in England, where pipe smoking has become almost a "closet activity." Clubs also exist in Italy and other countries. A fairly recent article on a pipe smoking contest in Denmark again reinforces this sense that we are part of something bigger than our own immediate dealings would seem to indicate. None of the foregoing is intended to provide any false sense of importance or convey a feeling of "grandioso" about what we do.

However, it is gratifying on any levels to realize that such a solitary, individualized activity as pipe smoking is also part of a much broader group of like-minded people worldwide. Never was this observation more keenly reinforced than it was for me in April of this year. The diversity of personalities and even nations represented there was incredible! Attendees came from Japan, Arizona, Denmark, Italy, England, New York, Missouri, Germany, Virginia, Florida, Canada, Iowa, and even the People's Republic of California! Certainly other states and nations were also represented there, as well. Even those of us who have been enjoying pipes for decades are hard-pressed to define what it is about pipe-smoking that

has such a broad appeal. Sure, we all enjoy the hobby as an activity, but there is clearly something more at play here. Over the decades I have long given up any attempt at

analyzing why pipe-smoking has such a broad appeal across different cultures and nationalities. It is enough to know that none of us are



Just a reminder that there are more club pipes available at Riegel's Pipe and Tobacco. All three locations have one of these fine Savinelli #4 Autographs for sale. Many of the members have already purchased one and have said how much they like the looks, feel and smokability of this pipe. We need to be thinking about what brand and shape of pipe we will be wanting for next year. Attend a meeting and let your thoughts be known.

alone, even when we are by ourselves. That and a bowl full of London Blend 1000 are enough for me!

TSPTC.ORG

Has everyone been to our new website? We have two talented members that have spent a lot of their time putting this site together. I am speaking of Larry and Paul Hubartt. This is a top notch site and is updated to show upcoming events and club news. Larry and Paul have included a member list with pictures along with book reviews and pipe related website links. In the future they are looking at publishing old issues of our newsletter. Larry and Paul have many good ideas for our website and I believe we will be seeing many interesting changes, in the future. We all owe these two a lot of thanks for what they have done and I hope the club will convey this message when you



With Pipe and Book

With Pipe and Book at close of day,
Oh, what is sweeter, mortal, say?
It matters not what book on knee,
Old Izaak or the Odyssey,
It matters not meerschaum or clay.

And though ones's eyes will dream astray,
And lips forget to sue or sway,
It is "enough to merely be,"
With Pipe and Book.

What though our modern skies be gray,
As bards aver, I will not pray,
For "soothing Death" to succor me,
But ask this much, O Fate, of thee,
A little longer yet to stay,
With Pipe and Book.

by Richard Le Gallienne

