

## About Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club

The Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club was founded in the year 2000 by three friends (Larry Rathburn, Andy Spencer, and Dan Hudson) as a way for pipesmokers and enthusiasts to get together on a regular basis and share their fondness of pipes and tobacco.

Our members are from all over the greater Fort Wayne, Indiana area. Our informal meetings take place about 5:30 pm around the middle of each month in an area restaurant--one that is pipesmoker friendly of course.

Among our members are pipemakers, shop owners, estate pipe dealers, serious collectors and pipe smokers. Meeting nights are social events with pipes sold, bought, traded and more importantly smoked. Many tobaccos can be sampled and purchased. The informal discussions include pipemaking methods & materials, tobacco blends, pipemakers, new acquisitions and more. Members show their newly acquired pipes and the old favorites, including some one of kind pipes.

Our membership is somewhere around 20-25. We get anywhere from 8-15 on meeting nights. Our meetings are open to anyone who is interested and newcomers are always made to feel welcome. So if you are interested in stopping by, check our website or call one of our club leaders listed on the front of this newsletter for meeting information.

Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club recommends:



Fresh Handmade Cigars  
Custom Blend Tobaccos  
Maps-Magazines

## Pipes & Tobaccos

### 3 Fort Wayne Locations

Downtown: 624 S Calhoun (260) 424-1429  
6410 W Jefferson Blvd (260) 432-0002  
George Square (260) 493-2806

<http://www.riegelspipeandtobaccos.com>

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## Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club Newsletter

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"An informal society of  
pipe smoking friends"

*Merry of the You smoke gives Pippin a tobacco pouch, at their parting, of the last Longbottom leaf? Merry says, "I know you've run out. too much, Pip."*

from the Lord of the Rings

### Pipe Smoking in the Movies

by Dennis Nichols



Ah, the movies! They probably had more influence than I care to admit as to why I started smoking a pipe. Sherlock Holmes. Whichever movie. You name it. It had to have Holmes and Watson smoking their pipes. Some were better than others of course. Rathbone and Bruce were undoubtedly real pipe smokers. Some others later betrayed their ignorance by smoking pipes that were too new; obviously supplied by the prop dept.

Other memorable pipe smokers in the movies:

**The Stranger.** Edward G. Robinson's broken pipe fixed w/ adhesive tape was an integral part of his character.

**The Far Country.** Walter Brennan's corncob absolutely REEKED of character.  
**Kidnapped.** Scene: Peter Finch buys a blackened clay pipe from an old woman to make a very effective disguise against some English sentries.

**The Scarlet Pimpernel.** Leslie Howard disguised as an old woman smoking a clay pipe. (Is this a theme?) Leslie Howard was another real life pipe smoker. He smoked a pipe also in The Petrified Forest and in Pygmalion.

**MacArthur.** Gregory Peck w/the photogenic corncob. Also as in real life the film showed Mac only smoked the cobs when the news cameras were rolling. Behind the scenes he smoked cigars or briars.

**Citizen Kane.** Orson Welles smoked a large billiard throughout the movie. From photos at the time Welles smoked a pipe in real life too. Apparently gave it up later in favor of cigars.

**For a Few Dollars More.** Lee Van Cleef's meerschaum smoking bounty hunter inspired me to buy my first meerschaum pipe.

**The Good, the Bad and the Ugly.** Lee Van Cleef again. This time smoking a Peterson system pipe. Makes me think that Lee was a pipe smoker in real life as both pipes were very much used.

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## “Pipe and Pen” by clubmember and Secretary, Andy Spencer

### Reflections of Columbus Pipe Show 2004



What a wild time of it! Having arrived on Friday evening, the Ramada's airconditioning was wholly inadequate, for when we started to "run the halls" to see what vendor rooms were open to the public it was a veritable sauna. Had to be in the nineties, and the elevators were little better. The only oasis from that furnace was in my own room, where Chuck, Al Geyer and I kicked back to talk pipes and pipe-related accoutrements for part of the afternoon.

Finally made it up to Chuck's room in time to see the gorgeous forty-pipe cabinet with sliding glass doors which he had so expertly crafted! My own acquisition was more modest but very special (to me), as I ended up with a two-pipe display rack Chuck had made--just perfect for my endtable next to \*my\* end of the sofa. I'll always treasure it, and look for Chuck to make a big splash as a pipe-rack and cabinet maker in the coming months and years. He's a very talented fellow, and both he and his lovely wife are wonderful company, as well.

The evening only got better from there, as Chuck and his wife joined TSPTC members Al Geyer, Jeff Madaus, and yours truly for dinner down in the Ramada's restaurant. They put on a wonderful buffet, which most of the group went for, but I had a hankerin' for a big ol' honkin' burger--a real, honest-to-goodness non-fastfood burger--with a side of fries and a Coke. The company and conversation was even better than the excellent food, and I believe a good time was truly had by all.

The rest of the night consisted of periods of perusing all the pipes laid out for display and sale through a number of vendor rooms, interspersed with periods of sitdown breaks in my room to recharge my batteries and get some cool(-er) air. Didn't see anything I couldn't live without (although it was fun to visit with old compadre Lee von Erck--who roomed right across the hall from me--and a few others), so after finishing up in the hospitality room with an ice-cold Coca-Cola to drink and with Chuck, John R, Al Geyer, Jeff Madaus, and other comrades-of-circumstance for company, I headed back to my room and, just like when I was a kid on the night before Christmas, tossed and turned fitfully until the last possible moment. Hurriedly got up, showered, and got my gear together to load in the vehicle so I could check out and thus not have my enjoyment of the show interrupted in order to check out later.

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#### CLUB OFFICERS

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# Cloud 9

Pipe Blend Reviews, by Sherman Carver

## Ironside by Cao Dan Tobacco

This blend is named after the US Navy Battleship “Old Ironsides” a tin of which I received from a very good friend. And I thank him very much.



When I opened the tin, this blend was in flake form so it had to be rubbed out before smoking. I like doing that to all my blends anyway, just before smoking, because I think they smoke a lot cooler and more evenly, with less tonuge bite.

Ironside has a lot of Cyprian Latakia in it as well as some Kentucky and Bright Virginia leaf. There is also supposed to be some Oriental in it, but I couldn't really tell because of the dominating aroma of the latakia.

In my opinion this is very strong blend probably not for the person that likes a meduim blend; this is a very FULL-BODIED SMOKE. Club member Andy Spencer warned me that this blend might knock my socks off so I tried it in a meduim sized pipe. As I rubbed out a few flakes and started packing my pipe I noticed it packed very easily.

After the initial charring of the tobacco I noticed it stayed lit very well and I didn't have to keep relighting it. This is definitely a latakia lovers blend; you can tell there something else is in it but the latakia is dominates whatever it is. Still, I found it to be a really cool smoking. The last part of the bowl stayed cool and tasty right down to the heel and I enjoyed it very much. If you like stout blends you probably will too. Afterwards I could still taste it in my mouth for about an hour or so. Also, as is so often the case with latakias, the stong penetrating room aroma may not be appreciated by others, especially the ladies.

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### My Pipe

When love grows cool, your fire still warms me;  
When friends are fled, your presence charms me.  
If you are full, though purse be bare,  
I smoke, and cast away all care.

(a German smoking song)

**(Pipe Smoking in the Movies)** There are lots more examples. It seems like smoking a pipe was a lot more popular (in Hollywood anyway) back in the 50's and earlier. How about some more recent movies? Like say... within the last 20 years.

The major ones that come to mind for me are the **Lord of the Rings trilogy**. J.R.R. Tolkien was a pipe puffer and incorporated it into a lot of his characters in the books. Thankfully Peter Jackson (director) decided to keep them in the screenplays. There are quite a few pipe smoking scenes and references throughout the films. Gandalf even carries his churchwarden around in the top of his wizard's staff!

Lord of the Rings is a good example for a newer film w/ pipe smoking featured. Hollywood seems to be projecting a more negative image of pipe smokers of late. Example: the father in **Jumanji**; not exactly a sympathetic character. They pulled a Peter Pan on that one; and had the actor playing the father also play the hunter villain. Chris Walken in your example above is also a retro figure from the '50s. There are actors who smoke pipes in real life but only seem to want to be associated w/ cigars. Cigars are cool ever since the cigar boom of the late '80s. I hear Tom Selleck and Arnold Schwarzenegger both smoke pipes. Ted Shackelford & Gerald McRaney are more public with their pipe smoking.

**The Lost Command**. Anthony Quinn plays a French colonel of a paratrooper regiment fighting Arab guerillas in Algeria. He's smoking a big straight pot. In one scene he loses his pipe from the open hatch of the plane; it was a bad omen.

**The Guns of Navarone**. Again Anthony Quinn as a Greek freedom fighter this time. He's smoking a large bent billiard.

**To End All Wars**. The colonel of the Scottish regiment smokes a large black sandblasted billiard. I just saw this one, by the way. It was a real sleeper that couldn't find a distributor but it's now in the rental stores. A very good film about POWs in a Japanese camp in Burma during WWII. Based on a true story. Another good one in the same theme, is Paradise Road. Another sleeper. In this one the POWs are civilian women. Both are highly recommended.

I don't know how I could have forgotten this one: **Sommersby**. One of the few fairly recent films that shows tobacco in a positive light. Planting the new leaf Burley just after the Civil War saved the Kentucky community from financial ruin.

Here's a thought, maybe part of the anti-tobacco movement is based on the fact that tobacco farmers have about the only small family farm that can make a go of it anymore. I believe that Big Government HATES the idea of independent small family farms. Witness the fact that it was farmers that stood against the military might of Great Britain at Lexington and Concord and fired the shot heard 'round the world. DN

**(Reflections on Columbus Show 2004)** Breakfast found Jeff Madaus, JohnR, Al Geyer and myself back in the Ramada's restaurant, with service and the meals not being quite up to the standards of the previous night. However, we persevered while gabbing over coffee and, MUCH later, breakfast. Then it was on downstairs to the show. Al and I each tried a bowlful of G.L. Pease's marvelous new "Bohemian Scandal"blend, a very tasty latakia blend. We liked it so much that we each purchased a tin, and I later picked up a tin of Solani Long Golden Flake from Steve Monjure of Monjure International, as well.

Al was shopping for a highend pipe to add to his collection, but didn't find the right pipe at the right price. I went with the intent of getting a Viggo Nielsen to add to the pipes I had by his sons, Kai and Jorgen, but just didn't see a Viggo that tripped my trigger. I did, however, find a treasure trove of sandblasts that Kai and Jorgen had gone in together on, based on a store of well-cured briar they happened upon, and quickly grabbed a silver-banded straight billiard / stack for a meager \$150 (these guys normally would get around four bills for something like this pipe!). Nice darker brown finish on this one to complement the craggy 'blast. Might be one of my "best buys," EVER.

After selling some pipes I brought along to move, I concluded my shopping by adding a pair of Ming-Kahuna tampers to my collection of Mings. Special thanks are due to Chuck, who was very kind and generous as well as being a first-rate fellow with whom to share a bowl and a story or three. Ditto for John R, whom I've known through pipe trades and e-mails for quite some time now.

Thanks to Al Geyer for driving and for helping out, to Steve Monjure for allowing us to park in his area, to Art Ruppelt of Ming-Kahuna tampers, (continued on page 5)



Our thanks to Kevin Hooley for another "cool" cartoon

## What Are The Constituent Tobaccos and How Do They Work?

**Virginias** usually represent the highest percentage in a blend. Although there's a wide range of Virginias to choose from, including bright VA's, matured VA's, and stoved VA's, in general the lighter the color the tangier the taste, with the darker VA's lending a deep, rich note to the blend. Unprocessed VA's tend to produce tongue bite, and stoved VA's tend to bite much less.

**Burley**, like VA, is a good base tobacco. It has no sugar of its own, but is relatively bite-free. It should never come to the forefront, but be used sparingly. The "Burley Curse" refers to the habit this tobacco has of overpowering a blend. Burley has a distinct nutty taste, but because of its somewhat bland character, is often flavored.

**Cavendish** generally refers to a blend of various tobaccos that have been sweetened, stoved, and pressed. Unflavored black cavendish, for instance, is made from Kentucky Green River burley, which is sugared, steamed and toasted, yielding a distinct caramel flavor. In a blend, cavendish can be used sparingly, to add body or flavor, or become the base, yielding a sweet tobacco. It goes particularly well with Latakia.

**Perique** is a "spice tobacco", with a distinct peppery flavor. Produced mostly in Louisiana from various base tobaccos, and cured in its own juices, this not only adds spice to a VA blend, but also mitigates a lot of the bite that comes with it. When not part of a straight VA/Perique blend, it should only be added to the point that it becomes noticeable. In a regular VA/Perique blend, it can represent a higher percentage, though 10% is often enough.

**Latakia** is Turkish tobacco flavored with smoke. Syrian Latakia is strong and bright, while Cyprian Latakia has a deeper, mellower flavor. This is another spice tobacco, and needs a base tobacco to keep it in check. Fifty percent Latakia would be considered a "heavy Latakia blend". It's generally wise to use less Syrian than Cyprian.

**Oriental** is spice tobacco from the Eastern Mediterranean (countries such as Turkey or Greece). Somewhat akin to Latakia, this is spicy and sweet. Most oriental tobacco is a blend. Even a label that refers to it as one distinct type (such as basma), is usually referring to its main component. Turkish is often used to fill out the general impression of a Latakia. Again, on its own, 50% would be considered a "heavy Oriental".

**Maryland and Carolina** can be thought of as "filler" tobaccos, used mainly to flesh out the taste of a VA or Burley base. Not terribly distinctive, these can be used to mitigate tongue bite.

**(Reflections on Columbus Show 2004)** to TSPTC President Larry Hubartt and V.P. Larry Rathburn, both whom took turns manning the club table. Great to see Lee von Erck, George Burns, the folks at Smokers' Haven, and many others who together reserved what may be a Columbus Show record of 125 tables. I just hope that the smoking regs which are going into effect for all of Columbus do not ruin what has for many years been a very fine NASPC Show.

Sadly, pipe cabinet-maker Ken Lamb was unable to be there due to his wife going into surgery to combat her cancer. Please keep the two of them, along with our own Josh Q (from whom I have not seen a post in a couple or more weeks and who has also been facing that terrible foe), in your prayers, folks. Makes the rest of our difficulties and interests seem very small, indeed.

Was good to see Kevin Hooley, who arrived the day of the show! Sorely missed Marty Dodrill, James Horine, and a number of other past and present TSPTC members whom we have not seen, let alone at a show, in quite awhile. Oh, almost forgot to mention that in addition to Lee von Erck and Jorgen Nielsen, other pipemakers at the NASPC production this year included J.T. Cooke, Tonni Nielsen, Tim West, Jody Davis, Tony Rodriguez, Ed Andrews, Samuel Learned, Michael Parks, and many more who have slipped my mind at the moment but who are worthy of mention should others not suffering from "oldtimers' disease" care to chime in.

Did notice that there were a lot of relatively new makers in C-bus, as well as some who have been at it a few years but are still looking to make a breakthrough in terms of name recognition. Some of those folks were deserving of a close look for someone wanting a very nice handmade pipe without doling out the big bucks. Lots of talent out there, people, and it never ceases to amaze me how a hobby with such a relatively small base (as opposed to, say, collectors of highend furniture or Lonenberger baskets as just two examples) seems to spawn and support so many full- and part-time pipemakers. We are very fortunate for such to be the case !

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### My Cigar Poem by B-Dub, Cigar Ambassador (from the TSPTC bulletin board)

Off with the cellophane, peel off the band. A long silky cigar, rests in the hand.	Relax in a soft chair, with a drink on the porch, Whip out the lighter, fire up the torch.	Take a puff from the stogie held back with the lips, Contemplate the whiskey all your future sips.
Out with the cutter, snip off the cap. A sniff down the barrel, this'll be a fine chap.	Embers all aglow, as you toast up the foot, Developing some ashes, creating some soot.	Open your mouth and exhale with ease... Fragrant thick perfume, come with the breeze.