

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:



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Custom Blend Tobaccos
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3 Fort Wayne Locations

Downtown: 624 S Calhoun (260) 424-1429
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<http://www.riegelpipeandtobaccos.com>

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Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club Newsletter

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"An informal society of
pipe smoking friends"

"The
haze
differ

*nicest thing about (pipe) smoking is watching the bluish
as it drifts away. Try it in the dark, and you'll notice the
ence."*

-Jussuf, noted friend of Casanova



Merry Christmas from your Leadership Team



President
Larry Hubartt



Vice President
Larry Rathburn



Treasurer
Dennis Nichols



Secretary
Andy Spencer

Our American Santa Claus is a symbol of
Christmas joy and goodwill and is a
model for pipe smokers everywhere.

Welcome to the December 2004 Christmas issue of our TSPTC Newsletter! Our leadership team wishes you a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Our Goals: TSPTC is a group of Northern Indiana, Ohio and Michigan pipe enthusiasts interested in furthering the gentle art of pipe smoking and/or collecting, through club meetings, pipe shows the World Wide Web, and the exchange of pipe related information. We have three basic goals: 1. To become a rallying point for serious pipe smokers and/or collectors (whether beginners or veterans) as an informal society of pipe smoking friends. 2. To provide and publish knowledgeable information about pipe smoking, pipe making, pipe collecting, pipe tobaccos and pipe lore, to amateurs and professionals alike. 3. To publicize and promote events for pipe smokers and/or collectors such as exhibitions shows, smoking contests and social affairs of any and all descriptions, for the general enjoyment of our members.

TSPTC Club Pipe 2004 Nording, Canadian, deep rusticated



for so little coin.

TSPTC President Larry Hubartt tasked me with writing a piece about this year's club pipe, of which only two examples remain at Riegel's. Seemed natural to grab my 2004 TSPTC pipe to smoke while writing about it, and each time I picked up that wonderful piece of briar I am astounded all over again by how featherlight it is, and how lucky we were to get this nice of a handmade pipe

The TSPTC 2004 club pipe came about strictly by fortuitous happenstance. Riegel's pointman Frank Bougher was attending the RTDA Show earlier in the year when he ran across some very nice Nording handmade Canadian shapes, deeply rusticated and graced with rectangular silver plaques on the top of each stem so as to provide for any sort of engraving one might want to put on. After negotiating a deal on these finds, Frank brought back 10 or 12 them for sale to any interested club members

Retail on these neat pipes is still under \$90, but Riegel's is offering an additional 10% off that already reasonable amount. Each pipe is somewhat unique, with some having smooth rims and others having rough or rusticated rims. Frankly, I like both styles. I also very much like the contrast between any smooth surfaces where, for example, the shank meets the stem, and the deep rustication which lends such a wonderfully tactile quality to these pipes. The elegant silver plaque on the stem, where Frank has engraved "TSPT&C04" to denote that these are club pipes, also contrasts nicely with the somewhat rustic nature of the pipe and, in my humble opinion, really sets it off. It is the proverbial icing on the cake!

As mentioned, there are only two pipes left in this series although Frank has indicated he can get more for those who may be interested, such as new members or those who had other expenses at the time these pipes were first made available. Everyone with whom I've spoken who has bought these pipes just raves about how well they smoke, and the example which I purchased when they originally came in is no exception in that regard. Easily one of the coolest, most pleasant smokes I've enjoyed—regardless of the pipe's cost. For a discounted amount of only \$81 plus tax, you really cannot go wrong with this one! Perhaps the present you buy for yourself this holiday season or, better yet, get your wife or girlfriend to buy for you?

Andy Spencer

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Pipe News in Focus, by Club Secretary Andy Spencer



In what has proven to be an eventful year, there continues to be change and upheaval in the world of pipes and pipe tobaccos. Perhaps the most dramatic occurrence, other than the recently noted passing of such prolific friends of pipesters anywhere as Mauro Armellini and Karl Erik Ottendahl, is that most of the U.S. supply of Syrian latakia went up in smoke a few weeks back. Most of it was owned by the sole U.S. importer of Syrian latakia, and was, unfortunately, uninsured. Millions of dollars of it, gone forever in a warehouse fire.

How does this loss affect us? It means that, for the next few months and quite probably for the next several years, there will be no more Syrian latakia imported into the U.S. Sources are already difficult to obtain, and for the immediate future we can expect no more blends from Cornell & Diehl featuring this type of Oriental leaf. G.L. Pease apparently has only enough for a few more tins of Greg's blends that use this ingredient.

The only saving grace is that McClelland's has enough Syrian latakia stashed away in warehouses in North Carolina and in Kansas City, if I understood their remarks clearly, to continue producing blends that feature Syrian latakia for at least three years at current production levels. Of course, with no one else producing Syrian blends for the foreseeable future I seriously doubt if McClelland's can stretch out their supply for that long. It might be remarkable if it lasts for much more than a year, if that.

Another event of note is that W.O. Larsen sold the rights to its name, along with its machine-made pipe production capabilities, to Stanwell earlier this year. Stanwell is apparently killing production of machine-made Larsens because they see that line as too competitive with their own offerings. However, word is that high-end handmade pipes will continue to be produced under the Larsen name, and in all probability by the same top masters such as Eltang and Knudsen as examples, from this point forth. Very expensive, but these have always been exclusive, masterfully crafted pipes which sold to the Bentley and Mercedes crowd, anyway. —Andy Spencer

Corncocks (continued) Embattled pipe smokers, enamored with the romanticism of this earliest form of smoking, point to the long list of famous people who maintained a close relationship with their beloved pipe - Albert Einstein, Bing Crosby, Carl Sandburg. Nine presidents and two first ladies smoked pipes. So did inventors, professors and poets. They were thinkers. They were cool.

You can't help but notice, though, that most of these notables are dead, and some of the living - like Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner - gave the pipe up years ago.

Corncob pipes --and the Missouri Meerschum factory making them--endure
BY TIM JONES, Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON, Mo. - (KRT) - The 19th century brewery is gone, and so is the zither factory that began production at the close of the Civil War.

But in the old brick building near the gently sloping southern bank of the Missouri River, a few dozen men and women cut, bore, shape, glaze and finally piece together thousands of corn cob pipes every day, just as their predecessors started doing here 135 years ago.

In an age of declining smoking, trendy cigar aficionados and wood-paneled smoking lounges, the corn cob pipe stubbornly endures, and the Missouri Meerschum Co. - the first of the dozens of American companies to make the inexpensive pipes more than a century ago - is the sole survivor. Mark Twain bought his pipes here.

The factory in Washington, a river town about an hour's drive west of St. Louis, makes about 4,000 pipes a day and ships them to all 50 states as well as 15 foreign countries. Most of the pipes find their way to the metal shelves of franchise drugstores such as Walgreens.

Business isn't great. Kathy Maune, who runs the day-to-day pipe production operations, calls it "pretty steady," given the world of hard knocks that dominates the once-large kingdom of pipes.

Pipe smoking probably hit its peak when Gen. Douglas MacArthur, with his trademark corn cob pipe sticking out of his mouth, landed with U.S. forces at the Leyte Gulf in the Philippines in 1944.

The handsome Borkum Riff men wearing bulky sweaters and striking pensive poses are gone, at least from television, and formerly cool pipe smokers find their fraternity dwindling. Pipe smoker Web sites, which use terms such as "Smoke in peace" and "Keep smoking," feature quotes, songs and poetry that sing the praises of pipe smoking.

"My oldest pipe, my dearest girl,
Alas! Which shall it be?" asks one.
The girl is winning. Big time.

What happened to pipes? Cigarettes, pricey cigars, chewing tobacco, health warnings and the pipe's gradual fall from grace are all to blame in a more egalitarian American society. Comedian Bill Cosby, a pipe smoker, sensed the shifting winds when he noted, "Any man today who returns from work, sinks into a chair and calls for his pipe is a man with an appetite for danger." (Continued next page)



The Darndest Experience I Ever Had

Robert Rhodes Jr., Winner
of Nov 14, 2004 Reigels Pipe Smoking Contest

I walked into Reigel's' at Georgetown early, around 12:30 PM and much to my surprise there were already some people there. Not many but a few. So I brought in my chair and got comfortable. About 1:40 PM the place really started to fill up. By 2 PM there were 23 contestants. I knew 2 or 3

of them who I thought there were real good pipe smokers. I wondered if I could I hold my own this year? Would I be able to hold onto my hour and 24 minute record. Would I be able to capture one of those great prizes this year?

Then came the moment to fill our pipes. I carefully loaded the first portion, not making it too tight, just lightly tapping it down. Second portion packed just a little tighter, but still a nice air hole. Then the final portion and still a nice air hole. Then came the word to light up which went very well, and I sat down and started to smoke.

Much to my surprise some people were already going out. I figured that I must be doing something right. It started to get to get close to 1 hour and several more people had gone out and I was still going strong. My first big sign was when Sherman went out at about 1hr. 15 min. and I knew that my record time of 1hr. 24 min. was fast approaching. I started to get real excited because a lot more people had dropped out. Danny read off the time and it was at 1hr. 30 min. and I was still going strong.

Danny said that it was time to bring out the big prizes. There were 4 of them. I was still doing okay. It came down to the final four and I was still in the running. One more pipe went out and suddenly there were only 3 of us left; then it was down to just two—me and another guy. I smiled over at him and and said good luck

About 10 min. later his pipe went out and I was all by myself—10 minutes to go before the two hour mark. Danny said that in the 15 years of the contest only four others have gone past the 2 hour mark. Then Danny started to count down the seconds and finally he called two hours on the dot and I immediately put down my pipe and I was out. There were only a few specks left in the pipe but I was thrilled that I was among the top winners with 2 hours or better.

Welcome to new members

...who have joined TSTPC recently: **Todd Zeiss** of Indianapolis; **Bill Rowland** of Ft. Wayne. **Honorary Members:** For their support of TSPTC: **Jay & Louise Jones** (Hermit Tobacco) **Steve Monjoure;** **Tim West ; Lee Von Erck.** Welcome all to TSPTC!



Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club
our 2005 5th Annual, Fort Wayne

PIPE & CIGAR SHOW



Thousands of pipes and tobacciana. Buy--Swap--Sell--New--Used--Collectibles--etc! Pipe smokers, collectors, dealers, pipe-makers... anyone interested in any aspect of the gentle art of pipe smoking, don't miss this show. Browsing encouraged. Bargains galore!

Saturday, April 9, 2005

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Quality Hotel Ballroom

3330 W Coleseum Blvd, Fort Wayne, IN 46808

(260) 484-7711 Fax: (260) 482-1856

TSPTC fund-raising raffle throughout the day. Dozens of great prizes. Tickets \$1.00; need not be present to win.

Sell-Swap-Display Table fees: 8 ft \$40; 6 ft \$30. First come, first served. Specil show room rate \$69 (up to 5 people per room). Special reception for incoming dealers on Friday evening. Complimentary lunch provided for dealers on Saturday.

"Nowhere in the world will such a broarly feeling of confidence be experienced as amongst those who sit together smoking their pipes"



"The results and merits of tobacco" 1844 Dr. Barnstein

Von Erck's Classics

Custom Smoking Pipes

The unique pipes of Lee von Erck, carved individually by hand in his shop in Negaunee Township, Michigan, are sought after by collectors around the globe in increasing numbers. Certainly the climate of the upper peninsula of Michigan, where Lee creates his pipes has given him inspiration in his artistry. The deep silence of a cold winter in this northern region of the United States, or the stunning beauty of spring, summer and autumn, and nature with her lustrous landscapes can give great impetus for design of truly and uniquely American styled pipes. This and Lee's unique artistry, go into the crafting of these fine pipes, which can be enjoyed anywhere and anytime.

Lee has been creating his vision in briar for some 20 years. It has been said of von Erck's pipes, that they almost have a worry stone effect. It is plain to understand this just by holding one in your hand. His complex and secret curing technique yields a pipe that is unbelievably light, even if held in the mouth, also with the ability to draw out all the flavours that a favourite tobacco can offer. However, these pipes fairly demand to be held, being so tactile and sensate in their crafting. These are smoking instruments of the highest quality that will bring the great satisfaction, relaxation, and solace.

Boring, shaping, and polishing of the pipes is done in his small shop in the Northwoods of Michigan. His carving and etching technique is almost signature in nature as many von Erck pipe owners will attest. The pipes are then put through a lengthy oil-curing and drying process to ensure their pre-eminent smoking qualities before they are returned for crafting of a bit for each pipe. The bit for each pipe is as unique and individual as that of the pipe it is created for. The bits Lee crafts are some of the most comfortable to be found anywhere. The final step in the lengthy process is to assign and stamp each pipe with its own individual Serial number and nomenclature.

Each pipe created is a one-of-a-kind piece, being developed, based on the character of the briar itself. The personality of each particular piece of briar is what dictates to the craftsman, how each piece will develop, and become that one-of-a-kind pipe. Lee's pipes are to be found at dealers in the United States and also in other countries around the world. They are also available directly from Lee himself on this website.

The von Erck pipes are being found in collections of many prominent collectors and are prized for their exceptional craftsmanship and smokeability.

Lee E. Erck, von Erck Classics, 432 US 41 Hwy. East, Negaunee,
MI. 49866 906-228-2699, PipeMaker@von-Erck.com

Smoky Past (Continued) Mr. Carl Weber stated on page 30 of his book, an excellent book for the beginning pipe smoker, "*WEBER'S GUIDE TO PIPES AND PIPE SMOKING*;"

"Since pipe smoking was known in Europe and the East long before the dawn of written history, it is not surprising that the pipe has been used to burn a bewildering variety of substances, including hemp, narcotics, dried dirt, charcoal, herbs and spices, pepper, and ashes. There is evidence that the Celts smoked spicy herbs in iron pipes, and Indian [*India*] pipes have been dated as far back as 6,000 years ago." [*My clarification*]

Mr. Weber's 6000 years ago would be c4000 BC and where he obtained this information, I have no idea! It would, however, be nice if one could find the information just to see if smoking materials are mentioned.

There are many more instances in history of people smoking pipes before St. Columbus, from the above mentioned of Africans smoking earth pipes to one author's statement, "smoking is the primary reason fire was invented!" Though I would not go that far, I would say that right after fire was domesticated, people started smoking. You can imagine that Mr. Troglodyte using fire for the first time smelled the enticing smoke of an herb or wood and wanted to see if it tasted as good as it smelled. He then picked up a hollow stem and placed it in the smoke and sucked in the aroma. Before long he would place some of the material in his hollow stick for easy carrying and simply light the material, breathing in his favorite scented smoke, the first pipe smoker and his favorite aromatic?

In closing, rampant speculations of ancient pipes and pipe smoking are abundant, especially the speculations of gentlemen of old. These speculations make the researching of more believable pipe facts an extremely difficult task, such as, one gentleman of yesteryear declared that the ancient menorah was not a lamp but an ancient Jewish pipe rack! Can you believe it? Though he tried using Biblical verses as proof, they are very nebulous to say the least.

HERMIT TOBACCO WORKS

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Cloud 9

Pipe Blend Reviews,
by Sherman Carver

McClelland's "Christmas Cheer 2004"



For all of you who enjoy Virginia blends, you owe it to yourself to give this one a try. This is one fine tobacco, and seems to be a blend that could only get better with age.



Every year the folks at McClelland tobacco pick one single strain of Virginia tobacco from one region. It is selected for its superior qualities and is presented in holiday tins in a flake form. Though McClelland rates the tobacco as perfect to smoke now, it should age exceptionally well because of its high natural sugar content and balance.

2004 Christmas Cheer, is handblended, premium pressed Virginia flake tobacco. A fine vintage, it's naturally sweet, made with a special selection of the rich, smooth Mahogany North Carolina flue-cured crop of 1994, ripened to perfection in the Oxford area.

Tranders, on our Tsptc bulletin board said: "I bought a tin today and I'm enjoying a bowl as I type. What surprised me was the lack of ketchup smell with this blend as most other McClelland Virginias. It came as a broken flake and rubbed out easily and is just a pure joy to smoke. Might have to buy another for the cellar."

Regor reported: It sure is a good smoke!!! I like all the Christmas Cheer and try to cellar a couple of each year, It really is worth it if you like Virginias at all. Very Happy"

That's what Christmas Cheer is all about. Happy Smoking.

Pipes of the Smoky Past

by bulletin board member Robert M. (Mike) Leverette

I first began smoking pipes in 1958 during my sojourn with the Marines and it has been a love affair ever since. The need to know the history of pipes did not impose itself upon me until the mid-1960s so I began the arduous, but thoroughly enjoyable, task of researching the antiquity of pipes. First, I must apologize, this research was begun for my enlightenment and I did not keep references, and now that I need those references, I cannot find many of them. Should any of you see an error in this little article or know of more dates or know any of the references, please email me at either mikelev@smokersforums.org or leveretter@bellsouth.net]

Working our way from the present to the remote past, one historian said that during the prohibition of tobacco in England under James, the people reverted to smoking the herbs they had growing around their cottages. It is anyone's guess as to whether "reverted" meant they were smoking herbs before the introduction of tobacco, but with the information below, it is an easy assumption that they did.

It should be noted that the early Portuguese explorers in mapping a route around Africa found many natives carried a hollow reed around with them during their hunts to use in smoking an Earth Pipe. An earth pipe is constructed by scooping a shallow hole in the soil, placing the hollow reeds in it, and then pack the excavated soil into a berm around the hole in an effort to hold more of the smoking material and the reeds. Next the native would place crushed herbs in the pipe, light the herb and by lying on his side smoked through the reed.

E. V. Heward in his book "St. Nicotine" (1909) tells us that many small clay pipes were found in and around Hadrian's Wall. Since the wall's construction began in 120 AD and it was continuous manned until the withdrawal of Roman troops beginning in the late 200s AD, there have been many of these clay pipes found. Also, this type pipe has been found at other Roman sites on the continent. The pipes at Hadrian's Wall, Heward explains, was used for smoking Coltsfoot, an herb, by the Roman troops to ease breathing in the cold damp air in the north of England.

We now hear from Pliny, c70 AD, that all peoples around the Mediterranean Sea had a peculiar habit of placing dried cow or sheep dung into a reed (a tube pipe), setting fire to it and breathing in the resulting smoke. Can you imagine going to your favorite tobacconist and ordering two ounces of dried sheep dung, well ventilated please! As an aside, the smoking of dried buffalo chips was practiced by the settlers going west when they ran out of tobacco, and according to my uncle, soldiers in the Pacific arena of WWII used dried cow dung in roll-your-owns and in pipes when tobacco was slow in arriving from the States! Back to the topic on hand, Pliny also prescribed various herbs, smoked through a reed, for the different ailments of the people.

(Continued next page)

I found the following while searching for Roman architectural details on the web and in this case did not keep references for I was in a hurry since my client standing nearby. In c70 BC, the Romans had many severe laws on their books which called for capital punishment, one of which states that any soldier or sailor caught chopping the ships ropes into small pieces for the purpose of setting fire to the pieces and inhaling the smoke would be summarily executed. The worst fears of any sailor aboard a wooden vessel is an open fire so without any opposition, one can say they used the hemp in a confined instrument, probably the reed or tube pipe again. Also one must consider that generally military leaders will mete out corporal punishment until the offense becomes too wide spread so the offenders would definitely try to hide their habit by placing the hemp in smaller and personal receptacles. A harsh law I agree but then too, think how the Roman ship's captain would feel if most of his men were on a high and was suddenly confronted by an enemy ship! Please note they readily admitted the marijuana smoke was inhaled unlike some people we all know!

Working our way backward, we now jump to the Emerald Isle. Twenty or thirty years ago, archaeologists uncovered a previously unknown Irish chieftains grave with many funerary offerings. Please remember that a funerary offering was an item he enjoyed while living and his survivors thought he would also enjoy in the after life and one of the funerary offerings, dated to 100 BC, was a clay pipe! The pipe was shown in a magazine article photo. Unfortunately, the author did not give any indications of where the pipe was made or what could have been smoked in it. The pipe had an ancient American look about it and could have been made in America. We know from several writers, Columbus for one, that dead Native Americans in their canoes had washed up on the beaches of Ireland at least a couple of times. The one Columbus wrote about happened while he was visiting one of Ireland's offshore islands and before his first voyage to the New World!!

1250 BC is our next stop. Archaeologist found in an ancient temple on Cyprus a carved ivory pipe. According to their report, it was used for smoking opium during temple worship, and one can assume, by the priests. An excellent photo of this pipe appears in the February 1985 issue of National Geographic. Generally sacred items used in temple worships were common household items used by the indigenous people the temple served and made sacred by using sacred materials or by designs either applied or carved on the item. So it would be easy to assume that the Cyprians smoked pipes. Hmmm, could it have been Cyprian Latakia the common people smoked?

In many ancient frescoes, people are depicted as holding an object with smoke issuing from it but without exception, the experts claim these people are holding burning incense containers. Their thinking is predicated on the fact that people did not know of smoking until St. Columbus did his thing. Until we can get our archaeologists out of their famous mind set, we will never really know if these containers are holding burning incense or if they are much loved pipes

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