

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
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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>

10% off pipe purchase with this ad

Tri State Pipe & Tobacco Club Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1
June 2004



"An informal society of
pipe smoking friends"

*"The pipe
shuts up
tion, con-*

*draws wisdom from the lips of the philosopher, and
mouth of the foolish; it generates a style of conversa-
templative, thoughtful, benevolent, and unaffected..."*

William Makepeace Thackeray, from *The Social Pipe*

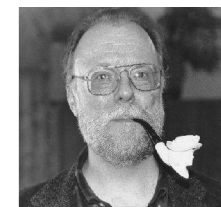
Your club leadership team for 2004-05



President
Larry Hubart



Vice President
Larry Rathburn



Treasurer
Dennis Nichols

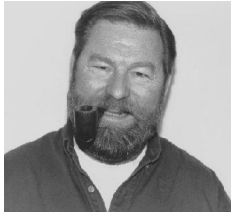


Secretary
Andy Spencer

Welcome to the June 2004 issue of the TSPTC Newsletter! It is my great pleasure to announce the outcome of our annual election of officers held at our May meeting. I'm especially glad to welcome back to the leadership team, two of our club's founders, former president Larry Rathburn and VP Andy Spencer. Also, Dennis Nichols, former president and very able treasurer. I look forward to serving together with them for another year. On behalf of the whole leadership team, we thank you for your confidence in choosing us and we will do our best in promoting our club's goals. LH, President

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 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

From the Basement by clubmember and Vice Pres, Larry Rathburn



Some points to ponder...

I would like to share a few thoughts with everyone on where we spend our pipe and tobacco money. To begin with, I would like to make clear that I would never try to tell anyone where to buy their smoking items; I simply want to share some thoughts to ponder.

As I see it, we have several ways to go about purchasing our smoking items. We have the pipes shows, personal trading, the internet, discount shops, grocery and drug stores, and many pipe and tobacco shops in the country.

Lets talk about our local pipe and tobacco shop. Of course we all know that's Riegel's Pipe and Tobacco. Since we all know of Riegel's, why do I mention them in particular? No, I'm not on their payroll but I do appreciate what they do for the greater Fort Wayne area in having available most of the items needed for our pipe and cigar smoking pleasure.

Riegel's has always been a good source for advice and information on smoking related items. Riegel's has three locations around town for us to purchase our smoking needs. Riegel's sponsors a pipe smoking contest on a yearly basis for anyone who cares to participate, with great prizes. Riegel's also has a wonderful area for us bums to hang out on Saturdays to smoke and solve the problems of the world. Riegel's also is one of the oldest family businesses in the city and employ many people who count on them to make a living.

All of that to say, what would we do without a local pipe shop in our area? I have heard many stories from people that find they need to drive for miles to find a walk in shop. We don't have that problem. It's difficult to sample tobacco through the mail or over the internet and impossible to sit on their couch and light up a bowl. As a club, we'd lack an important resource and be a lot poorer without them

So please, consider what we would do without a "brick and mortar" pipe and tobacco shop in our town. Even though I don't buy all of my smoking items locally, I do support my local shop throughout the Year. I'd like to suggest that we all remember this as a point to ponder.

CLUB OFFICERS

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Vice Pres: Larry Rathburn (260) 748-4231 rathpipe@aol.com
Treasurer: Dennis Nichols (260) 744-4797 dennisnichols@hotmail.com
Secretary: Andy Spencer (574) 566-2796 tsptc@tsptc.org

www.tsptc.org

or even alone on an early morning walk. Without a word, they'll often wave to each other with their pipe hand. If they have a chance to talk, they'll often discuss the blend of tobacco they're smoking and share a bowl if asked. While I'm on the subject of tobacco, I'd like to add that the taste of an exotic and complex blend seems to be the most important consideration to me and confirms my choice to be a pipe smoker. I'll even go so far to say I have a passion for fine tobacco that equals or exceeds some other passions I have, including writing. With cigars, I'm sure taste plays an important role in the smoker's choice, while in cigarettes, its almost nonexistent. I'm not knocking other forms of smoking. If you choose to smoke, or what you choose to smoke is up to you, but in my view, you are missing much of the pleasure and purpose of the experience if you don't smoke a pipe.

In my case, why I smoke a pipe is all of these things together: comfort, contentment, relaxation, the feel and shape of a pipe, the blends of tobacco, camaraderie, sharing blends and stories with another pipe smoker, and the taste of a fine and complex mixture of tobacco that comes together in the pleasure of a pipe.

Today, almost 40 years after that first Medico I purchased, I maintain a collection of less than 36 pipes and enjoy them all. That isn't to say that I don't occasionally buy or sell a pipe. I do, but the purpose of the pipes I have is smoking, not collecting. Now, I'm not going to go so far as to say, once a pipe smoker, always a pipe smoker, that's a bit ridiculous. But if you ever smoked a pipe and enjoyed it, you'll always have a fond feeling for the pipe and a pleasant thought when you catch the aroma of a rich pipe tobacco on a soft breeze. I do. RM

"Pipe and Pen" by clubmember and Secretary, Andy Spencer

The Passing of a Great Man and More...Ronald Reagan.



The last of that "first tier" of great U.S. presidents of the 20th century is now gone from us. Ronald Wilson Reagan was, along with Teddy Roosevelt and FDR, one of the true giants--not just on the U.S. political scene but indeed on a global scale--ever to be a world leader. Been smoking several bowls in his honor, and the flag at the Spencer domicile has been at half-staff since Saturday afternoon. Even forgot to watch the Belmont.

How appropriate that the man who helped us win the Cold War by moving away from the policy of containment and instead striving to defeat them is now honored and revered at a time when we commemorate others who, 60 years ago, also stepped forth to secure personal liberty and restore human dignity for so many.

Been smoking my British WWII-issue "Three Star" straight billiard "troop pipe." A lot. God bless all the men and women, past and present, American or allied, who laid down their all for the rest of us. Amen. AS

(Why I smoke a pipe, continued) I left the Army in 1961, returned to civilian life, and interestingly enough, got my first job as the result of pipe smoking. The economy was slow, jobs of any kind were scarce, and I had a family to support. A friend arranged an interview with the manager of a finance company. His name was Ray Allen, and to this day I think of him as one of the finest gentlemen I've ever met. When I entered his office, I was astonished to see several dozen pipes in racks and ashtrays on his desk. He was, in fact, smoking one as he rose to greet me and the aroma was as delightful as any I'd ever encountered. I was so intrigued by the pipes and tobacco that I didn't remember the first part of the interview and finally blurted out, "That's a great smelling tobacco. What kind is it?" He told me it was an English blend and asked if I was a pipe smoker. When I said yes, the remainder of the interview was devoted to pipes and tobacco. I got the job.

I have a friend who says, "If you own one pipe, you're a pipe smoker. If you own two, you're a pipe collector." By that measure I became a collector while still in the Army when I bought my second pipe, though it wasn't till the early 1980's that I began to take pipe collecting seriously. The number varied, but I rarely owned more than a dozen pipes, and though good ones, I never saw the need for having more. Lightning struck, however, when I attended my first pipe show in 1988. I'd never seen so many pipes in all shapes, sizes and finishes, and though I'm not sure, I suspect there were over ten thousand pipes displayed at that show.

By the time I attended my first National show in Washington D.C. in 1991, my collection had grown to 307 pipes. Now, admittedly, that's a lot of pipes, but I personally knew several collectors who had over 500 and knew of others whose collection was over a thousand. The logical question is, of course, what would anyone do with hundreds of pipes? The rare collector might smoke them all over a period of time, but my experience has been that most pipe smokers/collectors tend to favor a number somewhere under 36 pipes to smoke on a regular basis.

Collecting anything has its own merits and detractors. What does anyone do with over 5000 baseball caps as I read recently in the newspaper? Or matchbooks, Hummel statues, Lladro porcelain, rocks, and the list goes on. It occurred to me eventually, that I had come to a fork in my Tobacco Road that required a decision. It was obvious to me that I wasn't going to be smoking all the pipes I had. It was equally obvious that I would never acquire all the pipes I wanted. I had finally arrived at the point where I asked myself the question, Just why do I smoke a pipe? The answer is in this article.

I can't speak for all pipe smokers, but personally, I find a great deal of comfort and contentment in pipe smoking. It's relaxing and contemplative. Perhaps it's the feeling of warm wood or meerschaum in the hand, or the aroma of a complex blend of tobacco that fills the room. There's also the camaraderie among pipe smokers rarely found in any other group. Two pipe smokers, strangers in any other circumstance, immediately feel some kinship when they spot each other in a crowd

Why I Smoke a Pipe

by Regis McCafferty

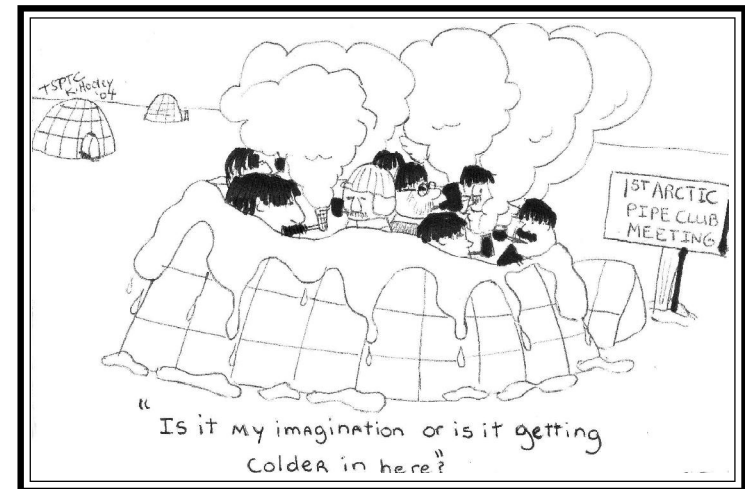
Board member of The North American Society of Pipe Collectors

In late August 1959, I was in the U.S. Army at Ft. Dix New Jersey, awaiting overseas transport to Germany. And I was broke. Worse, I was a cigarette smoker and broke. All told, I had less than \$10.00 and even at the going rate of about \$5.00 a carton, I could hardly afford one. I was scheduled to sail to Germany on what would be an eleven-day trip and the thought of being half way across the Atlantic and out of Camels was one I didn't want to contemplate.

Thinking I might find a cheaper substitute for my favorite brand, I walked to the PX (Post Exchange or Commissary for the uninitiated) in search of a two cartons for six bucks deal. What I found instead, was a deal on a pipe and tobacco. It was a large Medico pipe and two pouches of Half & Half tobacco for two dollars. I hesitated ... I thought and thought. I'd never smoked a pipe before, though my grandfather had, and he seemed to really enjoy it. I remembered the scent of his tobacco and how I liked it. Frugality soon overcame the desire for Camels so I bought the pipe package and two extra pouches of tobacco for .35 cents a pouch.

Whether it was the sea air, the thought of my grandfather smoking a pipe, or pure necessity, by the time we were at sea three days I was a confirmed pipe smoker. That doesn't mean I never smoked another cigarette - I did - but they were now a matter of convenience, not choice. After I arrived in Germany, I was assigned to an Army unit that spent a lot of time in the field and sometimes a quick smoke meant a cigarette instead of a pipe. But it was always my pipe that I enjoyed most, and within a month, I had several.

(continued on page 6)



Our thanks to Kevin Hooley for the "cool" cartoon

Pipe Smoker's Hall of Fame, Galveston Indiana

In 1957 Ed Lawrence was fascinated by roadside museums and decided that someday he would have one of his own. He has spent the rest of his life collecting Pipes and eventually founded the Pipe Smoker's Hall of Fame.

The Pipe Smoker's Hall of Fame honors those who have achieved "outstanding accomplishments and a devotion to pipes". The Pipe Smoker's Hall of Fame displays the actual pipes owned and smoked by each elected Hall of Fame member.

Derek R. Smith, of the Kokomo (Indiana) Tribune who interviewed Ed Lawrence for a feature article, wrote:

In 1969, Lawrence founded the Pipe Smoker's Hall of Fame.

His Galveston home now holds this collection of nearly 150 pipes previously owned by about 90 famous pipe smokers. Lawrence has other pipes and memorabilia that he rotates into the museum.

"Getting a collection together takes a long time, especially if you collect the kind I do," he said. "I've had some I've chased for 25 or 30 years before I was finally able to track them down."

Lawrence said his collection includes pipes smoked by Mark Twain, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Abraham Lincoln, Herbert Hoover, Gerald Ford, Anwar Sadat, Bing Crosby, Gregory Peck, Charlton Heston, Orson Welles, Albert Einstein, General George Patton and Babe Ruth.

Lawrence said he never pays for pipes. Instead, Lawrence said he gets families to donate them. Or he gets the pipes from museums by trading Native American artifacts or war memorabilia.

"It's like an archaeology dig. The first thing I'll get a hold of is the estate records," he said. "If the person is still alive, I go straight to the person." As he acquires a pipe, Lawrence always asks for a story to go along with it. "All these pipes have stories behind them," he said. "Some of them are quite fascinating."

Lawrence tells of the pipes smoked by Admiral Richard Byrd at the South Pole, by Ernest Hemingway on African Safari and by J.R.R. Tolkien while writing his famous books.

Another story involves the black sheep of Lawrence's collection. Joseph Stalin is not a hall member. Stalin's pipe was given to him by Winston Churchill along with 1 1/2 pounds of Dunhill tobacco, Lawrence said.

Lawrence's friend, a retired KGB officer who sells Soviet war memorabilia, acquired the pipe through her family. "Her father was one of Stalin's generals," Lawrence said. He would never allow the pipe to be touched."

After Stalin left the pipe at the general's home, the general left the pipe in its exact spot and eventually covered it as a shrine. After the general died, his daughter gave Lawrence the pipe. "I think one reason Stalin was such a nasty person is he would never clean his pipe," Lawrence said.

Secret Society. A group of 12 people scattered across the globe select the hall of fame's members, Lawrence said. However, he declines to tell anyone who the people are. Lawrence did say "It's sort of the ultimate secret society" modelled on Yale University's Skull and Bone fraternity.

Members are now given a certificate and a card that says the person "has been elected a member and is entitled to feel his pipe whenever, wherever he pleases."

Lawrence said he has been smoking a pipe since 1969, after a friend suggested Lawrence grow a beard and keep a pipe in his mouth so he would look older. Although he didn't initially intend to smoke, Lawrence fell in love with the tobacco and has smoked ever since.

Some of the great men whose pipes are now on display in the Hall of Fame include Presidents Benjamin Harrison, Abraham Lincoln, Herbert Hoover, and Gerald Ford. Also, British Prime Ministers Sir Harold Wilson and Harold MacMillan, President Anwar Sadat of Egypt, the Duke of Windsor, the Crown Prince of Holland, UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, and US Senators Hugh Scott, Carl Mundt, and Mike Mansfield. Also on display are the pipes of General Douglas MacArthur, General George Patton, Admiral Arleigh Burke, J. Edgar Hoover, Blair, Hugh Hefner, Norman Rockwell, Babe Ruth, Pablo Casals, Jack Parr, Walter Cronkite, Chet Huntley, James Whitcome Riley, Arron Spelling, Buffalo Bill Cody, Chief Sitting Bull, a pipe smoked at the South Pole by Admiral Richard Byrd and many other great men of pipes... plus, the only woman ever elected to the Hall of Fame: actress Rita Gam, a devoted lady of pipes!

The museum also contains collections of antique pipe and tobacco relics, antique pipes, a great many antique pipe and tobacco advertising images, collections on pipe clubs around the world, a large collection of antique and modern books and other research materials on pipes and tobaccos and more!

The Pipe Smoker's Hall of Fame is open daily by appointment, free of charge. To arrange a visit contact: Col. L. Edward Lawrence, President, Pipe Smoker's Hall of Fame, PO Box 219, Galveston, Indiana 46932-0219 When you come, bring your pipe...the museum also includes a chance to sample some of the world's finest pipe tobaccos, provided by leading tobacco companies!