

"small talk"

official newsletter of
Club Olszewski, Inc.

ISSUE 1

APRIL, 1990

Welcome! The first of something is always special, and this is the first newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc., and it is special! We have been in the "making" for four years and we are glad to finally be in print! Our club was formed mainly to keep you informed on Bob, our honorary, his work and appearances, plus to share ideas and exchange information.

If you have any questions, comments, or little stories regarding Bob, let us know! Also, if you have any ideas for a miniature piece for Bob to include in his repertoire, let us know, and we will relate this to him. We can't guarantee that your sentiment will be used, but as a Club, we might just have enough of a voice to sway Bob to put a particular idea into production!

This is "Only The Beginning" of what we consider special, exciting, and mutually rewarding! Thanks for joining and we hope to hear from you!

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Robert Olszewski has climbed the ladder of success. The true American dream - to struggle, having an idea, experimenting, never giving up, the recognition of peers, and yes, achieving his goal - Master Artist! Bob really has had an interesting life. We want you to know, or should we let you guess, as to what was Bob's worst job? Did you guess working in a gas station, cleaning toilets?! You would have been right! Laverne of Grafton, O. suggested Bob do a figurine commemorating this job - a miniature "Tydbol" man! What about that idea, Bob?

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Have you really taken a look at your Blumenkinder Courting piece? The poor dog has no eyes! Bob explained the reason the pooch has no eyes is that the Blumenkinder Courting piece he used as a model, didn't have any eyes! Thus, his miniature pieces don't have any eyes. No wonder the dog is in the wheelbarrow!

Commercial time:

We feel that you should know and have this great book regarding Bob and his work. Mr. Dick Hunt is a person who cared enough to write this book with the collectors in mind.

Any technical, in depth,, questions you may have will best be answered in Dick Hunt's book entitled, "The Goebel Miniatures Of Robert Olszewski". The price is very reasonable, only \$14.95. We heard tell that Dick is so knowledgeable of Olszewski pieces that he is compared to the Robert Miller of Hummels. For more information on his book, write to Hunt's Collectibles, 595 Jackson Ave. Satellite Beach, Fla. 32937. We know he would be delighted to hear from you asking about his book, plus Dick has some of those hard to find pieces, too!

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Bob does research each piece before he actually creates a miniature figurine. So, we were surprised and delighted to tell Bob a story of a piece he did, namely Clowning Around. The clown has taken off his nose, and has placed it on the boy's nose. Classic Clowns, when they are putting on their makeup, leave the nose off until the very last. The reason being, once the nose is on, the clown can no longer speak. Bob did not know about the classic clown so our question will just have to remain unanswered, "Did the clown have something important to tell the boy, or was it just a chance for the clown to have a little peace from an inquisitive boy???"

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Here's a challenge for you collectors. Have you ever tried to carve wax? Try it. Take an old candle you have around the house and try to carve anything. We never realized how difficult it was until we tried it ourselves. If the weather was cool, it wasn't too bad, but if it was warm, the wax seemed to melt into the fingers and the tools. You can then realize how frustrating it was for Bob to carve on this type of wax. Thank goodness he went to a party and met the dentist that suggested the use of dental wax!

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The book that Bob has been recommending lately is: "The Inlander (Life and work of Charles Burchfield 1893-1967)" by John I. H. Baur. Check it out!

Let me introduce myself. "Hi, I'm Jacci, your President, and I'm also known as The Hairdresser." I met Bob on April 6, 1981, in Sandusky, Ohio. I had seen an ad in our Cleveland newspaper and thought I had never met a miniaturist before, so I'll see for myself what they meant by a miniaturist. With my Mom as my copilot, we traveled over an hour to Sandusky to a little store in a shopping center. Seeing the first pieces of the Olszewski collection, I was quite impressed with the quality and intricate detail of each piece. Bob gave my Mother and I a personal talk explaining how he achieved the final product. He said that a person should only purchase the piece that he enjoyed. I purchased just one figurine, the Capodimonte. Being a hairdresser, this miniature really did appeal to me! My first impression was, "This man really has talent, but he does need a shave and a good haircut!" You notice things like that when you are in the trade, and at that time Bob **did** have the look of a typical artist! On that cool April day, I became a fan, and a collector. On the way home from our encounter with Bob, I knew deep down I should have purchased the whole set. You know these little miniatures are like potato chips, you can't have just one!

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Just a quick word about me. I'm your Vice-President, Wallie alias Popcorn, and I'm a real fan of Bob's! Early in 1983 I was introduced to his work by Jacci, my friend and "Hairdresser". On October 17th of that year, I had the opportunity of meeting Bob at a store here in the Cleveland area. I went with my Mom to his promotion and we listened to his interesting beginning in the art of miniatures. Being a collector of Hummels, I was fascinated by the Goebel Collectors' Club offering "Valentine Gift Pendant" on display. I was **impressed**, it was an EXACT replica of the figurine. It became my first Olszewski piece. The pendant came in after Bob's appearance. I wanted it signed, so this gave me a good excuse to go to his next promotion and, of course, buy another figurine or two or three. Many years and promotions later, my husband George and I have become avid collectors of his work!

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Not only are we collectors and fans, but we have a deep admiration for this man and his work. We have "infected" not only our families, but people we meet within our jobs and even at promotions! It's fun to see other people enjoying these miniatures! So, "infect" others with "Olszewski fever!" Go ahead, try it!

WE DECLARE THAT MAY 2, NO MATTER WHAT YEAR,
SHALL HENCEFORTH BE DECLARED AS ROBERT W. OLSZEWSKI DAY.
In commeration of that day, every Club member should purchase
an Olszewski figurine in honor of Bob's birthday! If funds
are low, just send him a card, OK?, OK!!!!!!

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What would you answer if someone asked you to finish
this line, "The one thing everybody has tried but me is:
_____? Bob answered us with, "A microwave - I'll get one in
my new house, and Sushi - and I don't intend to!" It was fun
to put Bob on when we were visiting in California and we were
passing a restaurant that had a big sign with "Sushi" and we
said, "Oh, Look! Sushi!" His head did a turn to us and his
face said, "Oh no they want to eat Sushi!" We had a good
laugh as Bob remembered that he had answered our question-
naire. We can never forget our lovely luncheon at a super
restaurant in Malibu overlooking the Pacific, without Sushi!

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Appearing, right here on this very stage, **BOB!**
Please check the store for exact times and dates!

4/20:

Sandy's Dolls & Collectibles
11224 Southwest Highway
Palos Hills, IL 60465

4/21:

Bronner's
(Schmidt Promotion)
Frankenmuth, MI

4/22:

European Imports
7900 N. Milwaukee-Oak Mill Mall
Niles, IL 60648

4/26:

Methodist Hospital Gift Shop
1640 Jefferson St.
Jacksonville, FL 32209

4/27:

Calico Butterfly
6030 Hickory Ridge Mall
Memphis, TN 38119

4/28:

The Gingerbread House
1860 Penbroke Rd.
Greensboro, NC 27408

5/11:

Merry Christmas Shoppe, Inc
785 Bedford St.
Whitman, MA 02382

4/29:

Bronze Lady
(Schmidt Promotion)
Madeira Beach, FL

5/12: (Time 1:00 PM)

Lamplighter
Hamilton Mall
Mays Landing, NJ 08330

5/12: (Time 7:00 PM)

HK Gift World Ltd.
47 Livingston Mall
Livingston, NJ 07039

5/13:

RC Lauchnor Collectibles
5930 Hamilton Blvd.
Wescosville, PA 18106

6/2:

Carol's Gift Shop
17601 S. Pioneer Blvd.
Artesia, CA 90701

6/15 & 6/16: Miller's (Check With Store)
1312 N. Barron Street
Eaton, OH 45220

"small talk"

Official Newsletter of
Club Olszewski, Inc.

ISSUE 2

July, 1990

We are really glad you joined Club Olszewski. Your notes and letters were inspirational to us. Wish we had room to thank each one of you but we have so much to tell you.

First, we challenge you to find the new pieces. The following will be added this year to the regular series:

Gentleman's Fox Hunt - Historical Series	-	\$145
Hunt With Hounds (Resculpted) - Women's	-	145
Chinese Temple Lion - Oriental Series	-	85
Hummingbird - Wildlife Series	-	85
Hummingbird Pendant	-	125

For those Hummel enthusiasts:

Baker (\$100), Waiter (\$100) and Cinderella (\$115) plus the Marketsquare (\$100), the Flower Stand (\$35), and you can own your own Hotel for \$110.

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs are now for sale in the retail stores for prices ranging from \$595, the old price, to \$700, the new price. In September the Wishing Well (\$40) will be available. Newsflash....."Prince Charming" will woo Snow away from those mini dudes.

The Three Little Pigs: The Little Sticks Pig (\$75) is out now and The Little Straw Pig (\$75) should be in the stores very soon.

Pinocchio Series: Gepetto & Figaro (\$90), Gideon (\$75) and the Gepetto Toy Shop (\$95) should be out in July or August. Sometime in September: J. W. Foulfellow (\$95), Jiminy Cricket (\$95) and Pinocchio (\$75) will be added. New releases for next year will include Stromboli the Puppeteer, the Blue Fairy, Monstro the Whale, Pinocchio's Raft and the Street Wagon. How exciting, we can hardly wait. Can you?

Night Before Christmas: Yule Tide Tree (\$90), Sugar Plum Girl (\$70) and Sugar Plum Boy (\$70) are coming into the stores now. St. Nicholas (\$95), Eight Tiny Reindeer (\$110), Mama & Papa (\$110) and the Up to the Husetop display (\$95) will also be available this summer.

Speaking for ourselves, we'll have to find another job to appease our appetite for Bob's miniatures.

We asked Bob to describe himself. He stated: "I put my family first!" Along with being a hard worker, he takes pride in a job well done and is grateful for his talents - we are too! He likes to solve problems, is curious, conservative and a risk taker; BUT he isn't afraid to leave a bad situation. Bob is very dedicated to his job - as if we didn't know - and has only missed work once (due to illness) since July of 1979.

Bob also has a great sense of humor. To prove that we had him finish this sentence: I'd give anything to meet --- "Van Gogh, when he had two ears!" He also wanted to meet Robinson Crusoe, Rene Lalique and John F. Kennedy. As you can see, art isn't Bob's only interest.

The best part of traveling for Bob is doing promotions and speaking with his many collectors and "fans". He loves traveling throughout these beautiful United States. The worst part is airports, taking the bus home and jet lag.

Enjoyment in any job makes work FUN and that's why we started this Club!

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Speaking of beginnings, ours started four years ago with an idea given to us by Bob's brother Ray. We met Ray and his wife Betty at one of the promotions in Ohio. Ray told us that there was a great need for a club for Bob, but we had to convince Bob. After consulting with Bob at another promotion, we were armed with facts from the National Association of Fan Clubs. Bob was a bit apprehensive knowing this would mean a lot of work for us. He emphasized that he wanted us to have FUN. We will, we will was our response. His signature on our agreement paved the way for Club Olszewski.

After lots of frustrated years and great anticipation, we are finally incorporated and have our non-profit status. **WE ARE NOW HAVING FUN!!!**

The Medallion was considered as a logo, but the children would not be recognizable when scaled down. Jacci, your Pres., came up with two sketches. Wallie, your Vice-Pres., cast the deciding vote for our logo. Bob loves it! Hope you do too. Bob's famous "smirk" is now registered and copyrighted. Don't change facial expressions on us now, Bob!

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This spring we were at a promotion and were quite surprised that they only had M. I. Hummel miniatures for sale. Bob promised that this would not happen again, as his "fans" and collectors are enthusiasts of all his work. At this promotion a question from the audience was asked, "Of all the M. I Hummel figurines you sculpted, which is your favorite?" Think about this - Bob's answer was "Visiting An Invalid, because she has such determination, not only in her 'step' but in her features as well!"

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Hummel Expo 90 tidbits from Wallie: I really enjoyed meeting so many of you old and new fans. * Bob is presently working on "picky" Goldilocks & the 3 Bears. Have you ever noticed that you just can't please some people? * Snow White will have 2 more sections - a Queen's Tower and a Garden for the Well. New figurines planned for that series are the Witch with the apple and the Queen. * I was very excited to hear that Bob is also working on a nativity scene. * Wish I could tell you about the FUTURE plans for the Hummel Village. All I can say is: "Das ist WUNDERBAR!" * Bob foresees a lot more jewelry added to the Olszewski line. * Temporarily discontinued: Western Bluebird, Cherry Pickers, Autumn Blue Jay, I Do, Summer Days, Carrousel Days and Kuan Yin. Resculpted: The OLD Hunt With the Hounds. * Bob's gold What Now? tie tack went for \$6,300 at the auction. WOW! * The winner of the raffle of Dick Hunt's book was Don Fick.

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There is a Robert Olszewski Study Group in Toledo, Ohio you should know about. They promote interest in, educate and share information about the miniatures. They are also planning the First National Robert Olszewski Convention. It will be held in Toledo, Ohio on May 17, 18 and 19, 1991. Contact their co-ordinator, Marlene Shoalts, 23614 St. Rt. #579, Curtice, Ohio 43412 for further information.

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Guess who wanted to join our club? BOB! No we didn't accept his money, after all he is The Master Artist whom we are honoring. We didn't mail him his membership packette because we knew we were going to be at a spring promotion and wanted to see his reaction to our Club logo. Bob put on his famous smirk and said Jacci did capture his personality. He loved everything and is very enthusiastic about his "Fan

Club". His children, Meredith and David, and his mom are our Honorary Members. When his children got our mailing, Bob was curious since the return address was from the Club. He had to wait until they read their mail. Their comment was, "YOU HAVE A FAN CLUB?!?" After all, Bob is just "Dad" at home.

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We have learned from a reliable source that Bob is quite a cook and does use the microwave in his new house. We understand that he now "freezes and nukes" everything. Do you have a good meatloaf recipe, Bob?

You'll love this story, it once again shows Bob's uniqueness and sense of humor. When Bob was in college, he had such a taste for meatloaf and didn't know what to do. Since Mom was a long distance call, ingenious Bob randomly dialed a number. He spoke with a woman and told her that he was Bob Olszewski, a student at the University. He went on to explain that he had a craving for meatloaf and wondered if she had a good recipe. Feeling sorry for the poor, starving college student, she told him yes and proceeded to give him the recipe. That night Bob had a great meatloaf dinner and even surprised a friend with his gourmet cooking!

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We extend a speedy recovery to Bob's mother and hope the card and floral arrangement we sent on behalf of the Club brought a smile to her face and brightened her day.

GET WELL SOON, ANN!

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Bob has asked us to get a picture of each member of the club. We need your response and your picture - no 8x10 or 5x7's - just a regular photo of yourself. Please send us TWO snapshots, one for Bob and one for club records. On the back of each, please print your name and membership number. If you don't do this, one day we'll be at a promotion and capture you in your worst pose!

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Goebel will be coming out with a newsletter, hopefully later this year. They would love to mail a copy to our members. If you **DO NOT** wish to be on their mailing list, please notify us by August 1st and we will not submit your name and address.

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We are now offering "spouse" memberships. Your better half will receive a **badge, membership certificate and card** for only **\$5.00 a year**. There will only be ONE copy per couple on the newsletters, biography and photo. Spouse members will have the same number as the primary member and their memberships run concurrently with the primary member's. To obtain ALL the benefits of membership, we will, of course, accept FULL memberships from spouses for \$12.50/year.

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In keeping with our non-profit status, we are planning a display of Olszewski miniatures at the local library. The exhibit will run from September 7 until the 28th. In coordination with this, we have reserved the conference room for Sunday, September 16th. We will be showing two short videos and have FUN surprises for you. Hope you can join us!

Date : Sunday, September 16, 1990
Time : 2:00 pm.
Where: Cuyhoga County Library
MIDDLEBURGH HTS. Branch
15600 East Bagley Rd.
Middleburgh Hts., Ohio 44130

Middleburgh Hts. is a western suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. The library is located one half mile east of the Interstate 71 - Bagley Rd. exit. Nothing fancy, just getting together. Do hope you can attend!

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Unfortunately the only appearance date that we have right now for Bob is:

South Bend Plate and Collectible Show
July 13, 14, & 15. South Bend, Indiana
(Not sure Bob will be there the 15th)

As soon as we receive Bob's promotion schedule from the studio, we'll do a special mailing.

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miniaturely yours,

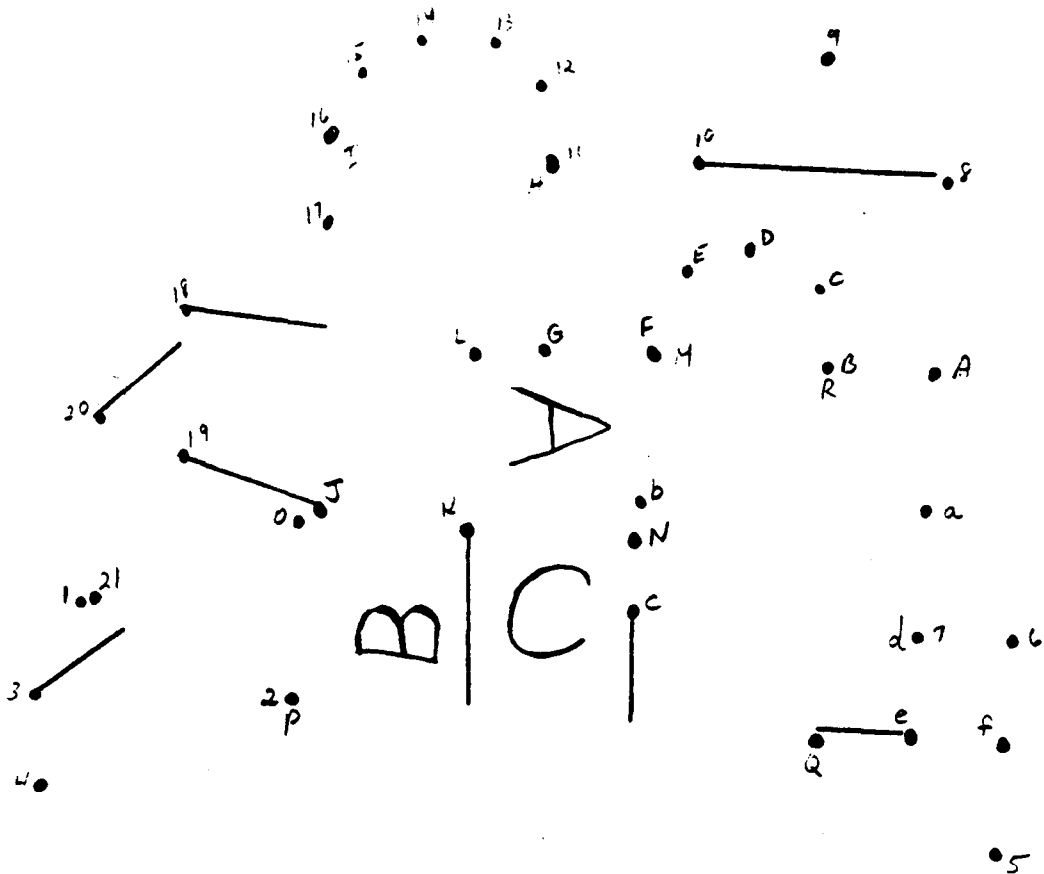
Jacqui *Wallie*

JUST FOR FUN!

Club Olszewski, Inc.

WHAT'S NEW?

DOT Instructions: Connect #1-21 with yellow colored pencil
 Connect A-R with pink colored pencil
 Connect a-f with blue colored pencil



WHAT'S MY NAME?

2 8 4 3 3 4 6 4 2 5 6 2 5 2 2 7 8 5 3 3 4 7 7 5 2 3

Instructions: Exchange the numbers for letters by using your telephone dial as your code.
 Example: #2 = A, B or C?

ENJOY! - The answer will appear in the next newsletter.

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ISSUE 3

OCTOBER, 1990

Dear FANS, we wanted you to know that we are well over 100 members strong! We are ecstatic to inform you that OHIO has the most members - 33 of you! The next is Bob's home state of Pennsylvania and then, Michigan. The Valentine Gift pendant is THE figurine that 17 of you purchased as your first piece. Capodimonte, Chipping Sparrow and the 1980 Set of Olszewski's were the minis that are tied for second place in the "first purchase" category. All of the preceding information was based on the first 100 Charter members. Eighteen of you gave no answer, so you have to go to your room and read the rest of this newsletter there!

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It was nice to see new and cherished friends at the Plate & Collectible Show in South Bend, IN. It sure was an impressive show! We enjoyed Bob's seminars and Wallie was especially pleased to learn that Bob took her suggestion of building a Church in the Hummel Bavarian Village. It would be nice if he named it St. Waltraud in her honor! Speaking of the Bavarian Village, all you FANS better have the Little Fiddler in the balcony as Bob made it especially for him. The Little Fiddler has a certain aura and, after all, it's just romantic Bob fiddling away. Our highlight of the show was having breakfast with Bob and sharing ideas for upcoming events.

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We'd like to share with you that the Olszewski name is coming off the copyrighted pieces. Be assured that they are still Bob's work.

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In our last newsletter we gave you a tentative schedule of the dates of the new releases. BE PATIENT! Bob is a stickler for detail and won't release anything until he is satisfied with the quality of the work. Aren't we lucky that he is a perfectionist? Have you inspected the Night Before Xmas series? Bob stated, "THE BEST IS YET TO COME". We can't believe that you can top this, Bob. Did you know that he started working on this particular creation back in 1972? He originated it as a paper mache' project for his jr. high students.

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The storybook lane figurines all have the epoxy coating on them. They are meant to be held. Bob wants you to read those classic story books to your children or grandchildren and have them hold that particular mini in their minute hands. The unbeatable combination of story and figurine will have a greater impact on the child. Only Bob the storyteller would have that foresight.

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This is a sad time for us since we had to take down our month long library display. It was a treat to watch the people's response while setting it up. Some would do a real slow walk past and try not to be conspicuous, while others would just stop and stare! The cutest reaction came from a group of teenagers walking by. The one girl dragged her friends back to the display and stated, "See, I told you Mickey Mouse was there." Even the librarians were mesmerized by the minuteness, detail and variety of Bob's labor of love. Jacci told enough of her clientele about it that she is sure a lot of them are converted to the "World of Olszewski".

Our intimate "Get-Together" was held at the Middleburgh Hts. Library during one of Cleveland's MONSOON seasons! Living up to the postman's motto, Wallie's mailman couldn't be kept away. Our feeling is that the Postman will probably be his first figurine...another person stung by Olszewski fever! We had such a positive response from the attendees, that we just might do it again next year! Bob's personal photos, ranging from age 5 to the present, were the highlight of the day. Between the two of us with lots of help from our families, the collage, blue ribbons, club favors, Olszewski "wallets", bumper stickers, unique name badges and videos were only a few of the items that were created for Bob's attending fans.

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Many of you inquired as to the availability of back issues of "small talk". All previous newsletters are obtainable for the nominal fee of \$2.00 each. For our Fans in Canada, you must send a US Bank Money Order for the above.

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We asked Bob, "If you learned one thing in life, it's..." He responded, "Don't take anyone or anything for granted. I've learned my limitations, no matter how hard you try there's only so much you can do on your own, there's only so

many places you can be and it's OK. Everyone has self-esteem -respect it. I dislike people who are poor listeners or interrupt you when you are talking. It's OK if they don't agree, but at least they should give you the courtesy of listening to what you have to say."

We don't foresee any collectors not listening to Bob for he is a comical storyteller. This is one of our favorites. Bob states, "Regular things drive me crazy." As a teacher, Bob had dull weekly staff meetings. On one of those scheduled days, Bob met the principal in the hall and asked, "Is this going to be boring?" The principal replied, "You know me!" Bob then proceeded to the art department & painted some great looking eyeballs on his eyelids. Little did he realize what would ensue. The true-to-form meeting started. Bob put on his glasses and closed his eyes. The result of his *lopsided eyeballs* was total hysteria!

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We are still awaiting two pictures from many of you. If you have not mailed yours, won't you take a few minutes to do so? We would like a complete member album by the conference. Also, Bob has an "enquiring" mind and would appreciate knowing your occupation. If you have any adventurous travel stories while going to see him at a promotion, please send them as well. Bob is extremely interested in his Fans, and the Club is his channel to accumulate this information.

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On July 19, 1990, Club Olszewski received a beautiful thank you note which reads:

To the Fan Club,

I want to send to you all a great Thank You for your support and thoughtfulness during these difficult times. Mom and I are making plans to leave tomorrow for California where she will stay with us while she gets better.

My Very Warmest Regards,

Bob Olszewski

We have talked to Bob, and his Mom is now living with them until she fully recuperates. Additional good wishes may be sent to: Mrs. Ann Simonoff, c/o Robert Olszewski, Goebel Miniatures Studio, 4820 Adhor Lane, Camarillo, CA 93010. "Mom" is feeling well enough to cook up some great family recipes and Meredith, David and Bob are elated.

The displays have enhanced our collections. Bob's first, the Snow White "Cozy Cottage", added a new dimension to story telling. Merely 1,200 of you are privileged enough to own this piece of real estate!

The Empress Garden was Bob's hardest display to carve. Have you had a chance to examine this Oriental environment? It has great impressive detail. Speaking of displays, the solution to Wallie's fun page in Issue 2 is "Building Block Castle Display". Have you seen one yet? Your dot to dot was a super idea, Wallie, so what do you have planned for us next? --- "I'm not telling!"

It's Jacci's turn this month. Lucky me! This time I hope to stimulate your minds, but make sure they are on a *mini* wavelength. The task is a bit easier when you have a computer. Enjoy the 'tiny teaser'. The answer will be in Issue 4.

We have numerous ideas for you FANS. Making the Club FUN, knowledgeable and promoting Bob is our main objective. We'll steal Bob's line, "The best is yet to come."

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Here is another of Bob's escapades that we had to edit. Just kidding! Bob partied the night before a scheduled talk. The next morning he and the rep had to travel three hours. Since Bob didn't get much sleep the night before, he asked the rep if he could catch 40 winks in the back seat of the car. The rep agreed and even supplied a pillow for Bob. Upon arriving at their destination, a radio station, Bob looked a mess. His hair was out of place and his face had "road maps" on it due to his crouched sleeping position. The receptionist greeted them with the offer of a much needed cup of coffee. She promptly went across the highway for the eye opener. Having accomplished that goal, she inquired, "So, are you ready to talk about VD?" Bob's jaw dropped and for once he was speechless! The rep, however, slapped Bob on the back and boldly stated, "Yes, this is the Southeast rep." Apparently she had pulled the wrong file and couldn't apologize enough for the embarrassment. With only 10 minutes to air time, they filled her in on Bob, his actual profession and that he was not a VD specialist. Everyone had a hard time composing themselves during the radio broadcast.

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Before we give you Bob's appearance schedule, we'd like to reveal that currently only 50 M. I. Hummel Cinderellas have been signed. Presently 3% of his work bears his signature. Bob speculates that by next year it will drop to only 1/4%. Don't believe Bob's statement, "It's not worth as much with a Polish name on it!" If there is a promotion in your area, take advantage of it and become one of the select collectors to own a signed Olszewski miniature figurine.

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BOB'S APPEARANCES:

10/4: (2-4 & 7-9 pm)
C.E. Chappel & Sons
Shoppingtown Mall
DeWitt, NY 13214

10/5: (1:30, 3:30, 7:30 pm)
Stardust, Inc.
Roosevelt Shopping Center
Garden City, NY 11530.

10/6: (11:00 am)
Little Elegance
1214 Willowbrook Mall
Wayne, NJ
(2:30 pm)
Little Elegance
297 Woodbridge Center
Woodbridge, NJ

10/19: (3:00 & 6:00 pm)
Rosemary's Collectibles
19158 Fort St.
Riverview, MI 48192

10/20: (12:00 & 3:30 pm)
Pinocchio's
465 S. Main St.
Frankenmuth, MI 48734

10/21: (12:30 & 3:30 pm)
Seven Dwarfs Card & Gift
11539 S. Hickman-Mills
Kansas City, MO 64134

11/3: (11:00 & 2:00 pm)
Tickled Pink
4905 S.W. Scholls Rd.
Portland, OR

11/16: (1:00 & 6:00 pm)
Carol's Crafts
125 S. Van Buren
Nashville, IN 47447

11/17: (11:00 am & 2:00 pm)
Serendipity Show
1203 Old Town Village
Dallas, TX 75206

11/18: (1:00 & 3:00 pm)
Amy's Hallmark
8001 S. Orange Blossom Tr
Florida Mall. Space 312
Orlando, FL 32809

11/19: (6:00 & 9:00 pm)
Heirlooms of Tomorrow
2178 1/2 N.E. 123rd St.
N. Miami, FL 33181

Check with the store for exact day and time!

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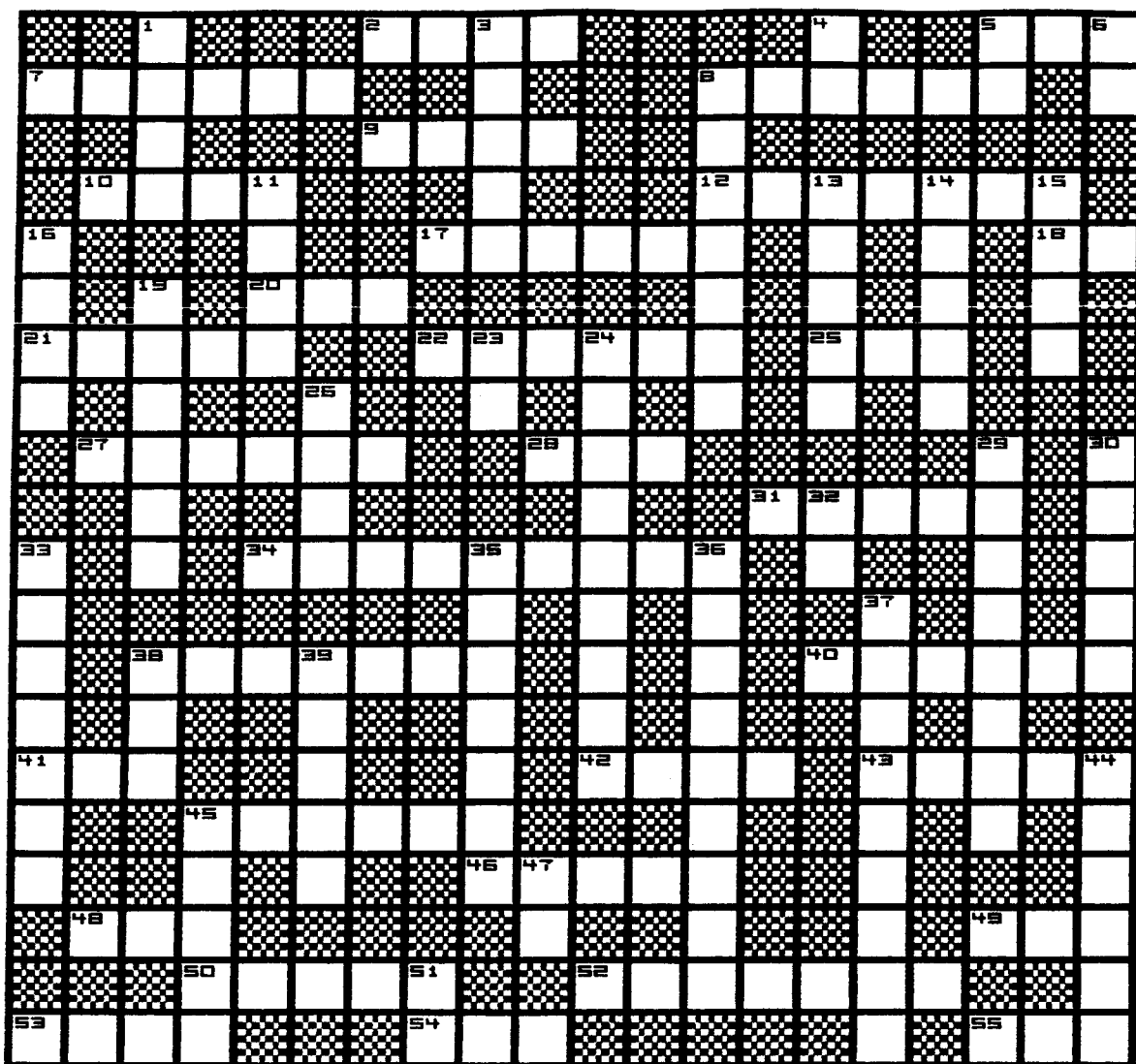


*We know it's a bit early, but since we won't correspond with you until January, we want to wish you and your whole family
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
We'll "small talk" to you in '91.*



miniaturely yours,

Wallie *Grace*



ACROSS CLUES

- 2. Uncommon
- 5. Blind ___ & the Elephant
- 7. Studio # 641-P Figurine
- 8. ___ Mouse
- 9. Out & About has a ___ Buggy
- 10. ___ Holiday
- 12. Restricted
- 17. Yearly
- 18. ___ The Avenue
- 20. Indian Scout ___ Buffalo
- 21. To Cover With Color
- 22. ___ Days
- 25. ___ Plainsman
- 27. Goebel Miniatures _____
- 28. Short for Advertisements
- 31. Chinese ___ Dragon
- 34. City where the Studio is located
- 38. What Now & Camper Bialosky are these
- 40. To Make Brown or Tan
- 41. Country Courting has this animal
- 42. Require; Urgent Want
- 43. Business Transactions
- 45. To Invent
- 46. Farmer With _____
- 48. ___ Bronco Buster
- 49. Munc_____ns
- 50. Eight _____
- 52. Mythical Horselike Creature
- 53. ___-yard Frolic
- 54. ___ - Daylight Encounter
- 55. Do You Like Olszewski's?

DOWN CLUES

- 1. Cowardly _____
- 3. Spring _____
- 4. _O_, The Dwarf Who is a Physician
- 5. ___ First Horse
- 6. ___ Swimming
- 8. _____ Duck
- 11. _____ Now?
- 13. Danbury & Franklin _____-P
- 14. First Word of Studio #645-P
- 15. The Doctor & The _____
- 16. _____ dimonte
- 19. Fiddler, Madonna, & Ballerina All Have This First Name
- 23. Check _____
- 24. Olszewski _____
- 26. DeGrazia's Indian
- 29. Tang Horse & Kuan Yin Are From This Series
- 30. _____ Dove
- 32. ___ Olszewski Original
- 33. A Pre-Goebel Dancer
- 35. Permanently Withdrawn From Production
- 36. Robert _____
- 37. TM Is Short For This
- 38. Straw _____
- 39. A Lethargic Dwarf
- 44. Wildlife, Historical, Am. Frontier, Women's, etc.
- 45. _____ Up
- 47. Bottom ___ the Sixth
- 51. ___ The Bandstand

"small talk"

official newsletter of
Club Olszewski, Inc.

ISSUE 4

JANUARY, 1991

Happy New Year! Hope Santa filled your stockings with Olszewski's! We can't believe that we're nearing the end of our first full year of operation. For some of you that means renewal time. Your form is enclosed and we hope you won't let your membership lapse. You'd be missing out on some great personal information coming direct from Bob. FYI: the first one or two digits of your membership number indicates your renewal month, i.e. April, July, October or January.

* * * * *

We know that many of you have been confused about Goebel coming out with a publication called, "Small Talk". Be assured we have been in touch with them and were informed that their quarterly periodical is called "Studio Times". Since Wallie came up with the title in 1986, "small talk" has been ever dear to us. We thank them for making the change.

* * * * *

Does your Snow White sneak out at night to visit the Handsome Prince by the well? We know of another lady who isn't as happy - that's Goldilocks. Bob hasn't found the "just right" atmosphere for her. Goldi is challenging Bob's creative ability and will remain "on the back burner" for now.

The Fantasia display called Living Brooms (\$85) and the Sorcerer's Apprentice (\$80) are available now. You jewelry lovers can look forward to the introduction of two new pendants, the Rose and the Daffodil. Also to be released in the first half of '91 will be the Cinderella series: Cinderella (\$85), the Castle display (\$95), Anastasia (\$85), Drizella, (\$85), Jaq (\$75), Gus (\$85) and Lucifer (\$75). The Little Bricks Pig (\$75) and the Hungry Wolf will also be out by June. We hear that a Chapel display (\$95) and My Beautiful Rocking Horse (\$110) will be added to the DeGrazia line. The "Pinocchio" series is awaiting some new friends - the Blue Fairy, Stromboli & Wagon and the Whale.

There will be a price increase in the existing Hummels. New inhabitants of the Bavarian Village will be: Serenade (\$105), Accordion Boy (\$105), We Congratulate (\$130), and the Busy Student (\$105). In addition the Merry Wanderer Display Plaque (\$130), Bavarian Country School (\$100) and the Wayside Shrine (\$60) can enhance your little town.

Shopping hint for the FANS: check the color base under the 8 tiny reindeers. Only 91 were made with the Goebel Miniatures mark placed on the exposed bronze. There were 415 painted GOLD. Later pieces have an entire white base. Trivia: can you find the mini mouse on the house?

We had a chance to see Bob this past fall. He told us that he is signing only 6 of the Night Before Christmas sets a day during the Preferred Collector Service promotions. It will take a loooooong time before they are all signed. He is dating the house and reindeers simultaneously. How lucky we are to be in this minority.

* * * * *

The two of us really enjoy our collections. It's been awhile since we read the childhood classics or have seen the Disney movies. Our curiosity has gotten the better of us and we have invested in books and videos. We highly recommend renting the movie Pinocchio. We wonder how many times Bob sat through this picture to obtain not only the look but also the personalities of the characters. It's amazing!!! To quote Bob, "I'm trying to breathe life into something that stands only an inch tall. It's hard to do." We know he has accomplished this.

* * * * *

Winter boredom? We have a good project for you. Bob will bring some of his paper mache' art to the convention in May. Try a creation of your own and you will further understand and respect this man's skills.

Several years ago, Bob gave us his secret recipe. Here are the materials you will need:

White Kleenex or toilet paper	White Glue
Cardboard	White Paint

Mix in a can or paper cup a solution of 1/2 water and 1/2 white glue. Tear Kleenex or TP in small pieces, soak in the glue mixture and place on your cardboard model. Let your artistic talent flow. You may need to brush on some additional glue. Let it dry or use the blow dryer to speed up the drying process, then paint it white. Dry this completely. Now let your paintbrush bring it to life. If you're convention bound, bring along your masterpiece and show it off.

* * * * *

Here's a little story about Bob, the parent. One night, he was awakened by the sound of his barking dogs. Bob wasn't prepared for the sight awaiting him, his house being TP'd. His ranting and raving scared them away. While checking out a strange car down the road he heard a meek voice say, "It's only me, Mr. Olszewski, Meredith's friend." Oh the joys of parenthood.

A new feature to "small talk" has been added. We think you will like this section as it comes directly from our Honorary. To quote Bob, "I want to use this as kind of a way to talk to the collectors and inform them about what's going on in my life." So, sit back and enjoy!

THE FIRST PHONE CALL FROM BOB

This finds me sitting in the studio and it's about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Dec. 5th. Being the last quarter of the year, it's by far the busiest, especially since we are planning on a five day holiday.

I am right now in the midst of creating Mary for the nativity set. There will be three sections to the creche and I am currently working on the center section. It's a great time of the year to be working on this. I started the concept of this 7 yrs. ago while visiting a museum in Germany and am doing my own interpretation.

I just can't believe the response of all the shows, they have almost doubled in size. Close to 2,000 people actually physically sat through my shows this year and it was very rewarding. After all these years I almost missed my first show. I came from Frankfurt to L.A. and had to continue on to Chicago. I entered the store only 5 min. late.

Major things happening at the Studio: I'm very excited. I just hired an Art Director and he will take some of the load off me so that I can spend more time sculpting and creating the work that is smaller scale and I'm best known for. I want to focus more on the art and let him worry about the sketching. I'll have less responsibilities and hopefully more time away. I told him when I interviewed him, "All I want to see on my desk in the morning when I walk in is my phone and the new piece I'm supposed to be working on. I don't want to see anything else."

I noticed that what people mostly purchased at the promotions were the Olszewski's - overwhelmingly 2 to 1. Now is the time to fill out your collections, especially if you have a favorite on the Historical, Wildlife, or whichever. There are no plans at all to do any of those old Olszewski's. We're overbooked for production for '91.

In Nov. when I was in Florida, I thought it was awesome that the Oz set sold for \$2200. The display alone went for \$800. I'm having tremendous mold problems with "Leaving Oz". So I don't know what's going to happen with it.

On the personal side: David, a freshman in high school, is on the wrestling team. I bought him a bow and arrow and a Bb gun for Xmas. He already has a Bb rifle with which he shoots tin cans, etc. Meredith, a senior in high school, is 17 and looking beautiful. She is planning on going to Questa Junior College in San Louis Obispo. I'd rather she does that than go to a local JC. This way she gets a taste of being

out on her own and not feel like she has to prove anything. I think the house is going to be dead without her. Next year at this time only Dave and I will be together. See, Mom will be going back east.

Mom's doing well and she's gotten good response on her blood tests. Right now we're all very hopeful and very positive and she sees herself going back home, hopefully in February. She misses her bingo friends. I decided what I'm going to buy her for Xmas, 100 scratch off lottery tickets. I'll wrap them and keep them all in a row so when she asks me what I bought her, I'm going to say, "Well, Mom, it's the longest gift I ever bought you." She'll love it!

Question: What does Bob want for Xmas? "I wrote down something for Meredith, a three hole punch. I also want an air brush for my home studio."

I will enjoy the 5 day holiday. If it rains, I'll go up to the snow with David. I'll also do some last minute Xmas shopping. I travel so much that I like to be around the house. My home studio is now 3/4 completed. I'm having some shelving built in the garage, since I have no patience for large hand tools.

Want to know the latest movie I've seen? It's Dances with Wolves, with Kevin Costner, an excellent movie. This you've got to see. It's a terrific piece of work, just terrific. In fact, I'd like to wipe it out of my mind and see it again. I'd also like to see the Vincent Van Gogh movie.

I'm really looking forward to the convention next year. That's exciting to me. I can't imagine what the turn out will be because so many have expressed interest in attending. [Did you make your plans to attend the First Robert Olszewski Convention? It'll be held in Toledo, OH, May 17, 18, 19, 1991. For further information contact: Marlene Shoalts, 23614 St. Rt. 579, Curtice, OH 43412]

I like to get up at 5:30 in the morning and go for a walk. I can tell how I'm feeling by what I think about when I walk. I also bought a bicycle with 27 gears on it which will be another form of fun and exercise. The last few years I thought about construction of my house, hiring people, personal problems and contract negotiations. I now think about art - ALWAYS. That's the way it should be. I even dreamed last night that I was painting. That's NEAT! When I'm dreaming like that, then my mind is in the right place. So now you even know my dreams! [This one we can print]

Finally, I have a personal request of ALL my FANS. I REALLY ENJOY GOING THROUGH THE MEMBERSHIP FILES AND SEEING THE PICTURES OF THE COLLECTORS I HAVE MET. IT MAKES IT MORE PERSONAL. IT'S JUST VERY, VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. Won't you please send two photos of yourself to the fan club.

-Robert Olszewski-



WALLIE'S mini TRIVIA TEST

FUN PAGE of
Club Olszewski's "small talk"

QUESTION/ANSWER?

1. What is Bob's full name? _____
2. What was Bob's first carving? _____
3. Bob received a piece of wax from his dentist friend. What was the name of this particular wax? _____
4. What does "bronze, circe perdue polychomes" mean? _____
5. What are the major differences between #PG-13 and #610-P? _____

Unscramble the words: NIRYA EEHAWRT -----
 NPCIDAEOMTO -----
 LNTEAVIEN FGTI NNEDAPT -----
 TSAIEIRMNU -----

TRUE/FALSE?

1. Bob made 12 different figurines before coming under contract with Goebel. _____
2. None of the Norman Rockwell pieces are limited edition. _____
3. There are two DeGrazia miniature pendants. _____
4. "Eyes on the Horizon" is part of the American Frontier Series. _____
5. The eyes on the Hummel miniatures are decals. _____
6. Seven necklaces were released through the Danbury Mint. _____
7. Trademark 4B was used on the DeGrazia figurines in 1985. _____
8. Dorothy's shoes are silver on the "Scarecrow" piece. _____
9. "Snow Holiday" is a childhood memory of Bob and his Dachshund, Gay. _____
10. _____ No tie tacks have ever been made using Bob's miniatures. _____

Many questions come up about Bob's miniatures. I hope you all have Dick Hunt's book: THE GOEBEL MINIATURES OF ROBERT OLSZEWSKI - An Authoritative Reference & Price Guide. (We donated a copy of this to our local library after our September Get-Together) According to Bob, 10,000 books were printed and 9,000 have already been sold. So.....hurry and get yours before they're all gone.

"small talk"

official newsletter of
Club Olszewski, Inc.

ISSUE 5

APRIL, 1991

OLSZEWSKI FANS ... you are a distinct group of people! Having you renew your memberships is rewarding for us. We're happy that you FANS are eager to put other enthusiasts wise to our club. Thanks to Barbara, Dusty, Carol, Linda, Marlene, George, Ray and so many others for their efforts, time and words of encouragement. Hearing from the renewing Fans has been enlightening. We wish we could print all your comments, but our postal budget wouldn't last. Here's a mini summary: Fans have driven or flown from as little as 10 miles to as far as 3,000 miles to see Bob. We love your comments on why you collect. "I like them", "I love them", "I have a fascination of miniatures" and "I have an admiration for Bob & his talent" are the basic answers. Here are some responses most of us can relate to, "I am OBSESSED", "I have collectoritis", and "They can make a cloudy day turn to sunshine". Bob says your responses are great.

This year's 5 x 7 picture is of Bob standing in front of his infamous closet. Wallie thought the FANS would like this picture and decided to share it with you. She took it during our first visit to Bob's original California home. He currently resides in the third home of this special Olszewski family. Our renewal gift to you is an official Club Olszewski key ring. If any of your miniatures are locked in your secret closet, place the key on this ring - just don't misplace it!

Don't forget our Issue 1 proclamation:

**WE DECLARE THAT MAY 2, NO MATTER WHAT YEAR,
SHALL HENCEFORTH BE DECLARED AS ROBERT W. OLSZEWSKI DAY.**

In commemoration of that day, every Club member should purchase an Olszewski figurine in honor of Bob's birthday. If funds are low, just send him a card.

In case you don't know what to buy, here are the newest upcoming releases not announced in our last issue: **GOOD BYE TO OZ** - Good Bye to Oz display (\$45), Dorothy & Glenda the Good Witch (\$85). **PENDANTS** - In addition to the Rose and Daffodil, the Chrysanthemum and Poinsettia (\$135 each) will "bloom" at their appointed season. **NATIVITY SERIES** - to be released in the fall - 1st Nativity display (\$35), Mary and Jesus (\$90), Joseph (\$90), Cherubs (\$90), Donkey (\$90). **PINOCCHIO** - Stromboli's Wagon display (\$105), Blue Fairy (\$85), Stromboli (\$95). **CINDERELLA** - to be released later - Cinderella's Prince (\$85), Stepmother (\$85), Footman (\$85), Fairy Godmother (\$85), Coach and Horse display (\$95).

Comparison: Can you find the differences between the NEW Rose Pendant just released and the one from the Danbury Mint? (Hint - check out the jewel and the Mint stamp)

Dear Fans, Bob highly recommends purchasing the older figurines and filling out your collections as the regular *Olszewski* line is becoming hard to find. Bob says, "I'm hearing that the secondary market pricing on these is very strong. That makes me feel good." Sooooo, we hope you find room for these homeless minis.

* * * * *

Since our last newsletter we have had a war. We're thankful it's over. Bob did not realize when he began carving "Rockwell's Homecoming" that this would be such an apropos figurine. Appearance in this year's repertoire is quite coincidental. Bob doesn't do pieces just to commemorate certain events, he creates works that come out of his own experiences.

* * * * *

From our conversation with Bob, we understand that 50 of you lucky collectors had their reindeers signed "Merry Christmas" by him. We congratulate you on your good fortune and are sad that we are not among you.

* * * * *

We hope to see many of you at the First National Robert Olszewski Convention on May 17, 18, and 19 in Toledo, OH. We know it will be an exciting and rewarding event to attend. Registration has already exceeded 150. It's not too late to contact Marlene Shoalts (419-836-9227), but don't delay!

* * * * *

Bob "Rocky" Olszewski's favorite sport is boxing. We never would have guessed that! He enjoys the heavy weights, but doesn't watch it avidly. Bob was a typical boy who loved playing **all** sports.

You wouldn't think that a simple question like, "What's your favorite flower, Bob?" could take so much thought. He really pondered that question. Finally he responded, "That's a tough question, favorite flower? I really like tiger lilies, gladiolas and I sure do miss lilacs in the spring. My garden will have lots of flowers. That's a real important dream."

What is his favorite color? Bob has a tendency to favor the cream tones, yellows and oranges. What do his taste buds prefer? "My favorite general food is Italian. I also enjoy Mexican, Chinese and home cooking."



"Someone shrunk me and put me in here!"

These were Bob's first words on our new speaker phone during our second exclusive phone conversation on March 6th.

"I have a lot of ground to cover with collectors to have them understand where I'm coming from because there's a lot of confusion out there about what's mine and what's not mine. We're coming out with so many licensed products, I think the collectors are missing the clear voice of what the core is - the normal *Olszewski* line. That's where I do my focusing and thinking. I took a projector home and lined up the 1980 and 1981 series. You can clearly see I have kept my same intent I started with 10 years ago, the little work. I will put an extra effort into MY pieces because they will have the *Olszewski* name on them.

Working on the nativity is foremost in my mind. When I last talked to you in December I had Mary done, Joseph 75% done and one of the kings 25% done. I HAD A MAJOR, MAJOR ACCIDENT. It was awful, I can't even describe it, I was SICK. I accidentally left my heater on and lost those three pieces - THEY MELTED. I have to say it is the worst carving loss I have ever had. I was in a state of shock. I didn't cry, I was so shocked! Do you know what I mean? Mary was totally done, totally done in wax. Joseph was sized. I couldn't believe it! I'm still shocked by it. They were totally gone, I had to start this all over again from memory. I had to work through those carvings twice. Here it is March and I finally got those 3 pieces up to where they were in December. I have lost so much time on them and this series. That was the down side but they're back up. It's coming along quite beautifully, it really is. This is a tidbit you can share with the Fans.

The Art Director I talked about didn't work out. I fired the first one and the second one left cause he couldn't handle the pressure. We don't have a solution. At this time we're putting more emphasis on a non-artistic soul, a product's manager. We changed our direction in fulfilling the need to off load me.

My studio at home is a tremely exciting and complete. There are some things you work on for years to get and this is one of those long time dreams for me. All of my life I have been making my living off my artwork. I have painted outside, I painted in the cellar of my old house, I painted in the living room of my school teacher's house and painted in David's room before he was born. At that time I got kicked out and moved to the living room. I painted in there for awhile and then moved to the bedroom. From there I went into the closet. I worked in the garage for awhile, and when I had my apartment I worked in the living room. I worked in the study of my new house until Mom moved in. **Now Bob's finally gonna have his own room.** I'm giving you that list of places because it has been so difficult. You spread everything out and it's messy. To have my own studio in my home is so special to me, I'm gonna be able to look out the window and watch the weather.

Mom's operation was successful - 40 biopsies and no cancer. They want to continue with preventative chemotherapy and maybe by June she'll be home. Mom's been a real dear, a real trouser and we're proud of her. The lottery tickets I gave her for Xmas didn't bring millions, just \$35 - \$40. She thought it was a great present.

Meredith and David are still focused. They're really doing quite well which is a big help during this time. They were in a car wreck on the way to school about a month ago, but they're both fine. I was lucky that they were going real slow. There was about \$3,000 in damage to Meredith's car. It happened on private property, but the policeman there was great. He said, "Get pictures of this. You know, like hey, this was not this kid's fault."

We're having heavy rains out here but there still isn't enough water. There's a 30% cut back. As soon as the drought is over, I hope to plant my whole backyard with flowers. I purchased 3 big cans of wild flower seeds. I'll also plant sunflowers because they attract lots of birds. I can't wait. These will be my inspiration when I carve more floral and wildlife pieces.

I would give anything to have more free time, I'm so busy. Since I work against such tough schedules here, I'd really like to have a whole day to myself to do whatever I want. Do you know what I'd do? I'd get up and sweep the walks, putter around outside, maybe take the car down and get it washed, sweep the garage out and go shopping for some flowers or plants. Just a real knock around kind of day.

The best thing I have asked fans to do for me is to send pictures of themselves to the club. It's been a kick for me to get them, I just love having them. You can't imagine how much I appreciate it. I LOVE THEM, I'm serious, it's so neat to open up that file and see a face to go with the name. There's nothing like it. I hope those who haven't yet sent their pictures in, will bring them along to the convention.

I feel so confident with this group of collectors out there. What they do is, the Fan Club and the Convention, they really keep me focused on the right things. It keeps you thinking about the quality of the work and the direction you're taking and staying true to yourself. These people believe in you and that's really good for you.

Well, tell all the fans a big HELLO! Give them my very best and I hope that everyone is healthy and that they are having a great new year. Thank them so much for sending all the cards to my Mom and also for their photos. Tell them that I'm really looking forward to seeing them at my promotions."

-Robert Olszewski-



"Word Finder" by Jacci

Words may be in any direction. Forward, backward, up, down & diagonal. Words can overlap and letters might be used more than once. Answers will be found in the next issue. ENJOY!

See if you can find "Robert" 21 times.

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R O B E R T B R R T E O
O O R T O B O R O R T B
B E B R B B R O B E R T
E R O E E R O B E B O T
T O O R R O B E R O B R
R B T B T T E R T R E E
E E B E E B R T T R R B
B R O B E R T E R O T O
O T R E B O T R E B O R
R O B E R T R O B E R T
T O R O T R E B O R B E
R B E R R O B E R T E B

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Search for the name "Olszewski" 10 times.

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O O S W E Z S L O I O I
L L O L S Z E W S K L K
I S S O L S Z E I S S S
K Z O Z E W S K I W Z I
S E L O E E S K E E K
W W S L K W S Z W Z W S
E S Z S E W S E K S S W
Z K E Z E L E K O L K E
S I S Z O E W S I O I Z
L L S K S W E Z S L O S
O L S Z E W S K I W L L
O L Z I K S W E Z S L O

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Circle the words in the letter square as you find them and cross them off the list. Find the hidden words. I know you are one! Clue: Club Olszewski member. -----

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D M I N I A T U R E S E
V A O X A W R E N E M T
B L U E E T A D F L A T
U L R E E D L I S M I L E
G A M E I B L V G E L C
G R A S S A F B I G A R E
Y D T T D C A R E T F E E
H I R E S K C O L B Y A
C H I L D R E N P A R T
L O P L A Y O Z O P R E
U W S S D A B E E T A R
B N A T O A T A P E R A
B O B N G S L A M I N A

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- | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|------------|-----------|-------|
| ANIMALS | BRONZE | FACE | MALLARD | PLAY | TAN |
| ART | BUGGY | FLAT | MEN | PRE | TAPER |
| BACK | CAT | GAME | MINIATURES | RAT | TELLS |
| BAG | CHILDREN | GRASS | NATIVITY | REALISTIC | TRAIL |
| BIG | CLUB | HIRES | OWN | RED | TRIPS |
| BLOCKS | CREATE | LAD | OZ | SMALL | WAX |
| BLUE | DAB | LEG | PART | SMILE | |
| BOB | DOG | LIFE | PEOPLE | TAD | |

"small talk"

Official Newsletter of
Club Olszewski, Inc.

ISSUE 6

JULY, 1991

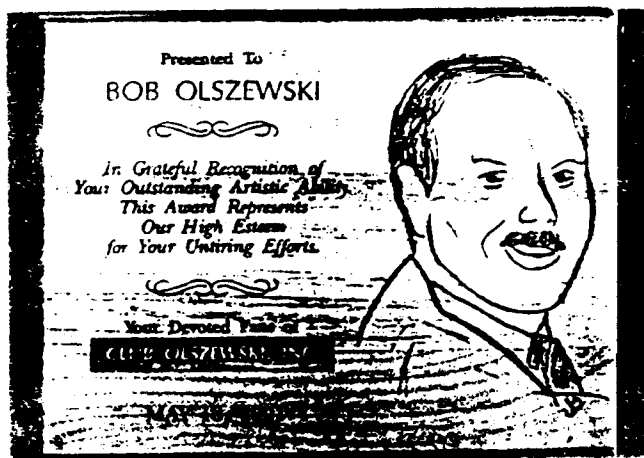
- THE FIRST NATIONAL ROBERT OLSZEWSKI CONVENTION -
What a mouthful! We still have a delightful "hang over" from this special event. Bob's friends came from near and far. The Robert Olszewski Study Group made sure our days were filled with special surprises, information, speakers (like us), fantastic food and entertainment. On a scale of 1 - 10 everyone we spoke to gave ratings that soared through the roof! To the Olszewski Study Group, especially Marlene, a great big thank you for all you did.

The fun started Friday night in the lounge. It was great recognizing so many members from the pictures we had received. We won't mention Tom's name, but he decided not to wear his name tag because he wanted to scope out the crowd first. Apparently we all met with his approval for he was "badged" for the rest of the convention!

Everyone enjoyed the trolley ride to Cooper's where a very nice reception was held along with a demonstration on how to decorate with Hummels.

Saturday morning we anxiously entered the auditorium to view Bob's complete collection. There were paintings, papier-maches, the doll house, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas houses and the original pre-Goebel minis. A definite favorite was Bob's Nativity. All were impressed by versatile Bob. You didn't know what to look at first! A favorite? It's hard to pick when you're hooked! Oh what the heck - how about ALL OF THEM!

Bob began to tell of his background, his life goals and philosophies. After hearing from some of the speakers we had a delicious lunch with "The Bag Lady". Instead of being addicted to Olszewskis, this lady of talent is constantly on the look out for a new bag. Marlene obliged her with a Study Group tote. Bob's "dessert" was made by us on behalf of all you devoted fans of Club Olszewski. We presented him with the following laser engraved 9 x 12 walnut plaque:



MY LIFE GOALS

1. Becomes An Artist
2. Go To College - Become An Art Teacher To Support Myself
3. Pay For College
4. Learn To See
5. Marriage - Move To California
6. Buy A House - Start A Family
7. Leave Teaching - Make A Living Off My Art Work
8. Get Kids And House Back
9. Home With A View
10. Build A Studio At My Home
11. Work Exclusively On My Work
12. Push The Art Form As Far And To The Highest Quality Possible
13. Work More At Home - Slow Down To Enjoy My Family

MY LIFE PHILOSOPHIES

1. This Is Not A Dress Rehearsal
2. Lust For Life - Live Fully
3. Knowledge Is Power - The Truth Shall Set You Free
4. Life First - Art Second
5. The Value Of A Work Of Art Is Not Determined By It's Size
6. My Art Skills Should Benefit My Family
7. And Whatever You Do, Do It With All Your Might
8. Garbage In, Garbage Out - Good In, Good Out
9. I Know You By What You Do, Not By What You Say
10. I Am A Systems User Not A People User

MY LIFE GOALS

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3. Pay For College
4. Learn To See
5. Marriage - Move To California
6. Buy A House - Start A Family
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7. And Whatever You Do, Do It With All Your Might
8. Garbage In, Garbage Out - Good In, Good Out
9. I Know You By What You Do, Not By What You Say
10. I Am A Systems User Not A People User

Czerwony Kogut - Red Rooster. Do those two words have any meaning to you? This was the nickname Bob had until his friend shortened it to just "Red".

After the elegant dinner, the Study Group unveiled their gift to Bob, a long lost painting he thought he would never see again. A hush fell over the room when Bob announced his surprise, a self portrait figurine. Bob made himself as small as the characters he works on. There is no official title for it, but Bob thinks of it as "welcome to my world!" It is Bob in his painter's smock sitting down holding the bird from The Farmer With the Doves showing it to the boy from Clowning Around. Also, the Oz characters of the Lion, Munchkin and Toto are watching the rabbit from Alice Down the Rabbit Hole. Bob also carved in some flowers from the Wildlife Series in the foreground. All of this sits on a 1" x 3/4" brass oval base and is a MUST for everyone's collection. It retails for \$185 but will only be sold at Bob's appearances. This is by far *the best* Bob has done. What an amazing mini! In appreciation of all their hard work, Bob presented numbers 1-4 to the Study Group committee.

Sunday was "Fan Day". We couldn't wait to surprise all attendees with some favors. There were yellow diamond-shaped car signs stating "I'm an Olszewski Fan" along with Club Olszewski wooden nickles. It was a very emotional Kleenex day for all. The crowd was moved to tears of laughter when the real Bob was shown in our Club's slide presentation. Just picture Bob as a large VIKING asking for a kiss or as a Bronco Buster. How about Bob dressed as a NUN, complete with the habit, glasses, a HUGE cross around his neck and his hairy lip giving him away! Atta way Roberta?!!

The Study Group gave us a beautiful engraved digital clock desk set in appreciation for making Fan Day complete. We were overwhelmed when Bob presented us with #5 and #6 of his self portrait figurine. - AWESOME! -

Bob talked of his family and his life in Camarillo. All were touched by the picture of Meredith, David and Bob's Mom. You looked great, Ann and we wish you continued Good Health!

"Say Olszewskiiiiii!" Each person or couple brought home a nice memento from the convention, a picture taken with Bob. If you were not fortunate enough to be one of the 244 people in attendance, you missed a truly memorable event. Since time did not allow us to personally visit with each one of you, we would like to take a moment to say: "Watch out, we're gonna getcha next time!"

Our favorite part of the newsletter is next, "A phone call from Bob."



*'This is the world I live in,
welcome to it.'*



"You know what the convention did for me? It really gave me a lift. I knew going in when I put that show together that it was going to be a tough one to present. When I was a dinner guest in Eaton, OH they asked me to do a little on the personal side. I had a real tough time getting into it, so I knew this would be difficult. It was a lot of fun to show the in depth side of myself that people don't get to see.

Aren't my collectors neat? These were *pure Olszewski collectors*. You folks were great! Now you people know how I feel about you. What was fun for me was to look out at all of you and just look at everybody's faces and these are the people who had come to my shows for 8, 9 and 10 years. It was an incredible experience. You people are smart and sincere and down to earth, just the best of the best. I will never forget it as long as I live. I think it just brought me back here to do better work and press for the things that I should be pressing for and that's the quality of the work and doing things for the right reason. IT WAS FANTASTIC!!! I came back from the convention feeling so good and so loved.

My self portrait is a fun little piece. It took me a long time to think it through. I really wanted to do a special piece for my collectors. I started it last year in September. First I did a portrait of myself standing and that didn't look right. Then I started fooling around with some of the pieces and put them in. Once I put Clowning Around next to me and added the Lion, I KNEW I had it. There was a major disaster with it. We had made a mold around it and I worked on that piece over a week and a half to make it perfect for casting. While taking it to the sterling we blew it in the casting. I had to rework the face and everything. It was just awful. I've had a lot of major problems with stuff this year. What probably made me feel the calmest through the whole thing is knowing that people are interested in MY work.

What I'm working on today is Joseph and he should have been done already. This is the beginning of June and I've been working on him exclusively since I've been back from the convention. I've just done all of his robing and I'm burned out. Next I'll work on the cherubs. The donkey, Mary and Christ are done right now. The next group I'll work on is the three kings. It's been fun for me. The Nativity Set will be done when it's done. I can tell you right now that it's going to be late, I don't care what they say.

The Nativity is the first piece with the light underneath it. At my seminar you probably noticed that I'm very conscious of lighting. I had it in the doll house and the two Christmas houses. When I went to Toledo in November to check out the convention facilities, we went over to the Toledo Museum. In the gift shop I noticed some paperweights

with lights in them. I looked at them and thought I should put some lights in the Nativity Set. I bought one, carried it back, bored a hole into the base and put the light in there. You have to keep your eyes open, inspirations can come from anywhere.

Let's go through where I'm at home. My mother is doing real well back home in PA enjoying her friends and bingo. I made the room she was staying in downstairs into my carving studio. I'm spending about 60% of the time carving here rather than the studio. I'm waiting to get the plaque that you gave me so I can put it up. It's being shipped along with the rest of the convention art works. I'm fixing up my carving studio and have all my figurines on display. I just finished putting in a home security system.

Remember I told you last time that I planted lots of wildflower seeds? The flowers are blooming like crazy. There must be 700 flowers blooming in the backyard right now. It's just flowers and dirt, but it's pretty. I'm sure there's going to be some work coming out of all this. I want people to really know this stuff is my personal life. I think it's real important because too many companies are making too many products for the wrong reasons and that really bothers me.

I'm really enjoying my dachshunds, Toby and Terri. They're two characters who are always happy to see me. I play ball with them every day and it's a good break from my carving.

Meredith is going up to school this Saturday for testing. She'll be leaving towards the end of summer. I'm starting to get the feeling that it's over. You know what I mean? She's looking for work right now and jobs are hard to get. David is going to move into her larger room in the fall, that was the agreement.

Last week we sat down for breakfast at the kitchen table and David told me he is definitely going to end up in the Arts. It was great, I was just so pleased. I told my kids the story about the beach and that you can express yourself in any way, whether it be music or whatever. David is aware of his sensitivity, that's neat! He told me, 'When I hang around with my friends, they don't see the same things I do. When we're up in the valley, it'll look real beautiful, but my friends don't see that.' You know what I've done? I've looked outside and said, 'Gee David, look how beautiful that is out there, look at all these birds.' He watched me plant all these flowers. He has grown up with it. Whichever road he takes, I'll be glad to help. I pulled out some of my favorite art books and told David he's welcome to go through them. Right now he's using my airbrush booth and he's got his own carving area set up. This house is going to be a house of art!"

Will Bob be in your neck of the woods? Here is his promotion schedule:

7/12 - 7/14:

South Bend Plate Show
South Bend, IN
708-295-4444

9/12: (2 & 7 pm)

Seville's Ltd. Ed.
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
412-366-5458

9/13: (2 & 7 pm)

H. K. Gift World Ltd.
Livingston, NJ 07039
201-992-8605

9/14: (11 am & 2 pm)

Westons
Eatontown, NJ 07724
201-542-3550

9/15: (1 & 3 pm)

Wit's End
Clifton Park, NY 12065
518-371-9273

9/28 - 9/29:

'91 Hummel Club Local
Chapter Convention
Nassau Inn
Princeton, NJ
609-921-7500

Date Unknown

Collector's World
Montrose, CA 91020
818-248-9451

10/26: (10 am & 1 pm)

Henri's
Belmont, CA 94002
415-591-2758

10/27: (1 & 3 pm)

Swiss Miss Gift Shop
Cascade, CO 80809
719-684-9679

10/28: (2 & 7 pm)

Lori's Collectable
Tucson, AZ 85711
602-790-6668

11/8: (2 & 7 pm)

Sweetsters Home Spec.
Maryester, FL 32548
904-243-6405

11/9: (11 am & 2 pm)

Gift Attic
Raleigh, NC 27612
919-781-1822

11/10: (2 pm)

Precious Cargo
Jacksonville, FL 32216
904-641-2251

11/23: (11 am & 2 pm)

Collector's Haven
Los Angeles, CA 90036
213-931-8894

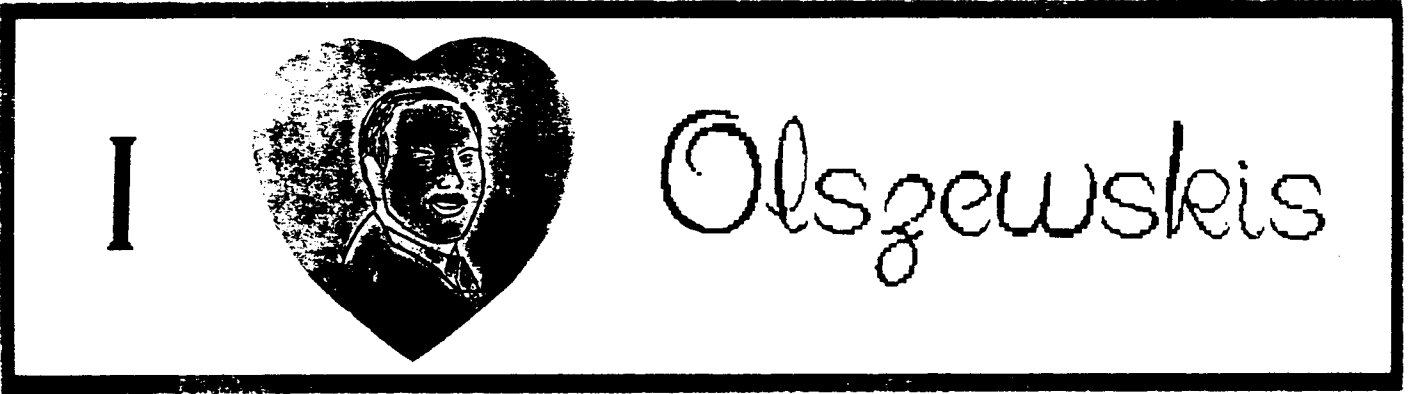
CHECK WITH THE STORE FOR EXACT DATE AND TIME

"What time is it? It's Club Olszewski time!"
For the very first time we have available Club Olszewski watches. We have a very, very limited quantity. Order yours now while supply lasts. The price is \$35.00 for either men's or ladies'. If you ordered a watch at the convention, it will be mailed out as soon as they come in. Other items you might be interested in are a 2 1/2" x 10" Bumper Sticker (\$1.75) or cute Club Olszewski Tokens. These wooden nickles are 2 for \$3.00. After all, Bob is worth more than a plug *nickel or gold or silver or bronze!* Each of these items includes shipping and handling.

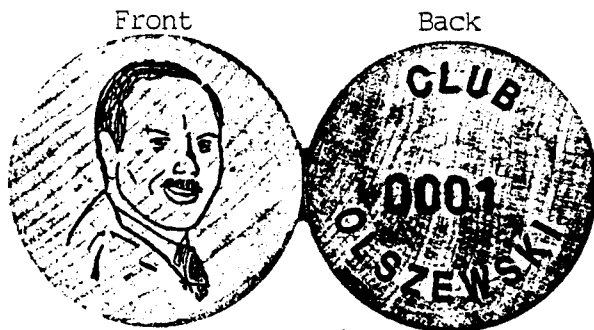
* * * * *



Ladies' Watch - Actual Size



Actual Size 2 1/2" x 10"



Actual Size

Some of you may have renewal forms enclosed. We bill you ahead of your expiration date so will you not miss a single issue of "small talk". We don't send out any additional reminders because of cost and time involved.

* * * * *

We really had FUN working on this newsletter. From our first issue of four pages to eight in this one, we seem to be running out of room. This confirms our notion, Fans like yourself crave input - just like computers! We can never get enough information on our mini addiction!

For our new members, back issues are \$2.00 each.

miniaturely yours,

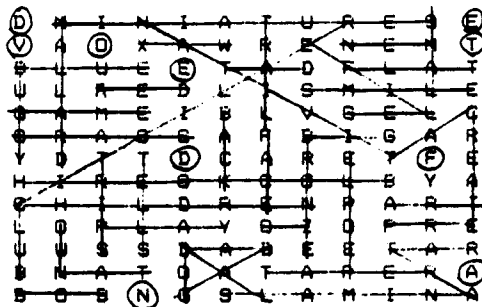
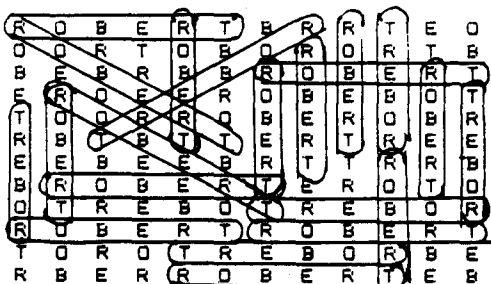
Jacqui + Wallie

* * * * *

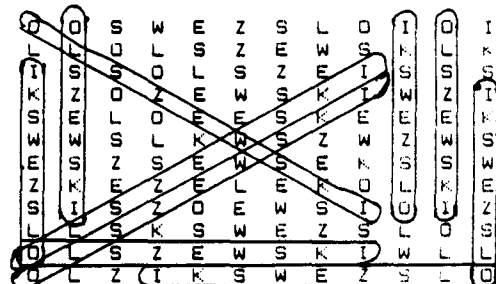
Here is the solution to Jacqui's "Word Finder". If you don't know how to spell Olszewski by now, you never ever will. Space permitting we'll have our regular "Fun Page" in our next issue!

Circle the words in the letter square as you find them and cross them off the list. Find the hidden words. I know you are one! Clue: Club Olszewski member. DEVIATED EAN

See if you can find "Robert" 21 times.



Search for the name "Olszewski" 10 times.



"small talk"

official newsletter of
Club Olszewski, Inc.

ISSUE 7

OCTOBER, 1991

"San Francisco open your Golden Gate..." Jacci and Wallie are on their way. This was our year for visiting Bob. On numerous occasions he asked, "When are you coming to see my new house?" Two years of saving enabled that dream to come true last month. We had already done the "LA Thing" twice before and were ready for a new adventure. It took 6 1/2 hours to drive down, but it was worth every mile. We can't wait to tell our version of "BOBTIME".

After checking into our motel room, we called Bob and announced our arrival. A rendezvous at the Alamo restaurant was arranged for 8:00 pm (keep in mind this was actually 11:00 pm for us. However, there was no time or desire to be tired.) After a happy reunion, we commenced with margaritas and anxiously listened to "As the Studio Changes". Business versus art was the dilemma which brought about a major management upheaval. Bob and his artform were the victors. This has improved the overall feelings at the Studio. Most of our fans know what Bob has been going through and his work never showed the pressure he was under. Dinner was delicious and we celebrated with a couple of "coffees". With a slip of the tongue, Bob was calling himself "Blob" and we were happy he had a chance to unwind and relax. The place was to close at 10:00 pm. At 10:30 pm we finally got the hint, made plans for the next day and said good night to "Blob". Of course we were too wound up to go to sleep even then.

The next day we had the opportunity to snoop throughout the Studio. You would have loved it. Bob was running ahead of us and we didn't have enough time to check out the new prototypes that were all around us. We finally asked him to slow down. "Oh Jacci, I have to have this one! Did you see this? Just look at this!" "Not now, I think I have a new favorite. Listen Wallie, I got a plan. Let's collect the garbage!" AWESOME, no TUBULAR! (We had to pick up on some of the CA lingo.) We must inform you fans there is NO waste except for true garbage. Sorry we can't say what's new, but we can tell you Bob is ALL WAYS thinking of what he can do. We met Paul, a new sculptor, who is finding out that following in Bob's footsteps isn't easy.

In the conference room we saw a display case that would hold the complete Pinocchio, Cinderella or Snow White series. The case would fit on a standard sized bookcase shelf and you probably will be able to order it direct from the manufacturer. We were fortunate enough to see this glass enclosed case housing the complete Hummel village with a cute BACKGROUND. Wallie spotted the church in the center of the town. She had suggested this addition several years ago and had to hold it in her hands. We almost had to use a crowbar to separate Wallie from it. Finalize those plans fast Bob because our villages are yearning for construction.

We're happy to be the first to view the Olszewski castle besides family and business associates. Bob couldn't wait to show it off and we can't blame him. Besides it being very impressive, you get the feeling of it being a home filled with art and love. His paintings are proudly displayed throughout.

Entering the den, our jaws dropped as we were speechless and just didn't know where to look first. Bob has this incredible curio which houses ALL of his miniature figurines. They were displayed on little 1"x1" and 1"x2" marble pedestals. We inquired as to where we might purchase these enhancements for our collections but were told his source had sold him ALL of them. If any of you fans come across them in your travels, we would love to have that information. With 230 fans out there searching, we're bound to find some. On the wall was a photo of him and Meredith as well as a collage Wallie had given him. Jacci presented Bob with a framed photo of the three of us taken at South Bend. This too will find a proud place in this elegant room. He showed us the club card file and pictures of all you good looking FANS. Bob has literature, pictures and items that he found unique and is saving them for possible future releases.

Our tour continued up the stairs to a HUGE loft where THE dollhouse and the papier-mache's were displayed. There he had a smaller curio in which he grouped figurines by price. Bob wants people to get their moneys worth. By grouping them together he can make sure there is enough detail for the price. There's a lot to this artist. He loves what he does, he loves his collectors and he's ALL WAYS thinking. Thanks Bob, that's why we care for you so much.

From there we stepped outside to see his wildflower backyard and got a fabulous view of Camarillo from this hill top home. We were greeted by the guard dachshunds Toby and Terry who just love to play ball. Bob couldn't wait to show us "The Olszewski Studio". Eva was there painting the self portraits which had to get done for the upcoming shows. By the way, she's the new Quality Control Manager at Goebel Miniatures and was elated things have turned out so well.

Major Dude - that's David! He is a handsome young man. The last time we saw him was four years ago. He's 15 now and a sophomore in high school. Dave does a little air brushing in his spare time. We didn't see Meredith because she's in her first year of college. The three of them had a fun weekend getting her settled in San Luis Obispo. Good luck, have fun and study hard Meredith.

Our favorite part of the newsletter is next.

9/20/91 Phone Call From Bob

"I see you made it home okay. It sure was nice to visit with you. When you girls were here at the Studio, major changes were going on which my fans will be happy about. Goebel has seen the value of the art here and I'm going to continue to make a very high quality product. They are supporting me 100%. By being in charge of production, I will be able to maintain the quality. This is good and very, very positive. I'm going to be focusing on the work, quality and all the good people who support me.

I was concerned we were coming out with too many pieces. Goebel agrees and they are allowing me to pursue the artform. The number of designs will drop and we're going to cut back on our production and are planning on having near zero inventory. Goebel has understood my artistic need to spend more time prototyping the pieces. I couldn't be happier.

The releases for next year in the Olszewski line will be: the three kings from the Nativity series, two pieces for Jack and the Beanstalk in the Storybook Lane series, Glenda from the Wizard of Oz, one Oriental, one Wildlife and one Historical release.

I'm glad you asked about first editions. I have a surprise for you. Starting this fall with the Nativity, all new figurines will be marked first edition on the decal. From here on out, ALL first edition pieces will ALSO have a gold star in them. You'll have the date, but you'll be able to look for a tiny gold star incorporated into the pieces as well. I had some people request a different mark and decided at 4:30 in the morning last week on a gold star. [Twinkle, twinkle little star, we can't wait to see where you are!]

Currently all licensed products are being produced here. I know we're producing the Snow White Queen here, as well as all the pieces in the Disney series.

Right now the production of the Hummel miniature program will stay in the United States. I don't exactly know how many mini Hummels will be added. Ride Into Christmas? That's right, you girls previewed that Hummel at the Studio. He'll be out this year in time for the holidays. [Santa, this one is so small, please fit it in your sack]

I'm working on the slide presentation for the M. I. Hummel convention in late Sept. Doing this will be fun as it is the first time I will specifically talk on the miniature Hummels - pre Goebels, jewelry and of course the village. I'm really looking forward to it.

The self portrait has been very popular and the sales are extremely good across the country. The official name? I don't know! Is that right? On the bottom of the decal it states 'Portrait of the Artist'? Well, I'll be darned, how about that!!! Collectors should not assume this is going to be out there forever and ever. It will be cut off at some time. It's important for the fans to get to the shows while

it's in the market. I wouldn't mind this being out there for awhile, think about it for a couple of years and then design something new. The difference between this one and the one offered at the convention is minimal. There's more fill in behind the pointing finger of the Munchkin. The flowers and the deep recesses are also filled in more and the decal does not include 'Portrait of the Artist'. I don't expect people to purchase a second one because of these distinctions. To me only a difference like the plain based Carrousel Days is significant. As for the self portrait, I wouldn't suggest buying a second one. I don't want to do that to people. If they have the first one, they should be happy with it.

Speaking of firsts, the first signed Blue Fairy and Stromboli came up at Collector's World in California. I'm glad a collector got it. I don't say anything until after it's signed.

Here is something really important for my fans to know. We're going to retire the little Wildlife display. I want my people to know that before they are all gone from the market. The little Snow White cottage was my first display, the Wildlife was #2 and Oz was #3. I'm real intent on working under the little domes again.

I recently visited my Mom. This is the first time I saw her since I took her home May 17 & SHE LOOKED GREAT. You talk to people on the phone but when you actually see them - well, she looked like she was never ill. While there, I picked up my stepfather John's flag to fly at my new house. I could have gone and bought one, but it wouldn't mean the same.

Meredith left for junior college about 5 weeks ago and I talked to her today. She complimented me on what a nice home she has and how good she has it. She's saying, 'Gee you took good care of us, Dad.' I couldn't get over how mature she is. I wasn't expecting to hear that for awhile. It really made me smile.

David is a sophomore and doing really well in high school. It's interesting, he's really beginning to understand. He told me the other day, 'You think you are going to grow up rich, but you're not. You think you're going to be successful, but you're not. You really have to work hard at it to be successful.' I'm glad to see he's thinking that way. David's birthday is this month. He was taking drum lessons this summer and would like a set. He'll be 16 and the big event for him is getting his driving permit. The insurance in California is sky high for teen age boys. So.....I want everyone to double their figurine buying. HA HA HA!

Well, I still have some people waiting for me so we better wrap it up. Tell everyone I thank them for making the shows so extremely successful all across the country."

-Robert Olszewski-



Want to make out your Christmas list? Here's the newest releases: NATIVITY: the first four figurines and the Holy Family Display are \$525. Sold separately they are (Oct) - Holy Family Display (\$85), Mary & Jesus (\$120), Joseph (\$95), Stable Donkey (\$95), and in November - Cherubs (\$130). The whole set will be released over the next two years. SNOW WHITE: (Nov) Queen (\$90), Tower Display (\$105). ROCKWELL: (Oct) "Homecoming" (\$190) taken from the 5/26/45 issue of the Saturday Evening Post. This limited edition of 2,000 will be presented vignette style consisting of a mother and soldier in a display dome.

* * * * *

BOB'S PROMOTION SCHEDULE

10/26: (10 am & 1 pm)
Henri's
Belmont, CA 94002
415-591-2758

11/8: (2 & 7 pm)
Sweetsters Home Spec.
Maryester, FL 32548
904-243-6405

10/27: (1 & 3 pm)
Swiss Miss Gift Shop
Cascade, CO 80809
719-684-9679

11/9: (11 am & 2 pm)
Gift Attic
Raleigh, NC 27612
919-781-1822

10/28: (2 & 7 pm)
Lori's Collectable
Tucson, AZ 85711
602-790-6668

11/10: (2 pm)
Precious Cargo
Jacksonville, FL 32216
904-641-2251

11/23: (11 am & 2 pm)
Collector's Haven
Los Angeles, CA 90036
213-931-8894

CHECK WITH THE STORE FOR EXACT DATE AND TIME

* * * * *

Wallie



miniaturely yours,
&



Jani

HAPPY "mini" HOLIDAYS!

* * * * *

PS: Some of you have renewal forms enclosed. No reminders will be sent. Back issues of "small talk" are \$2.00 each. Men's or ladies Club Olszewski watches are \$35.00 each. Bumper stickers are \$1.75 and wooden nickle tokens are two for \$3.00.

BOB'S USA MUSEUM VISITS

Yale Center for British Art	New Haven, CT
New Bedford Maritime Museum	New Bedford, MA
Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum	Boston, MA
American Craft Museum	New York, NY
Cooper Hewitt Museum	New York, NY
Frick Museum	New York, NY
International Museum of Photography	New York, NY
Metropolitan Museum of Art	New York, NY
Museum of American Folk Art	New York, NY
Museum of Modern Art	New York, NY
New York Historical Society	New York, NY
Westmore/and County Museum of Art	Greensburg, PA
Independence National Historic Park	Philadelphia, PA
Pennsylvania Academy of The Fine Arts	Philadelphia, PA
Rodin Museum	Philadelphia, PA
Philadelphia Museum of Art	Philadelphia, PA
Museum of Art Carnegie Institute	Pittsburgh, PA
Corcoran Gallery of Art	Washington, D.C.
National Gallery of Art	Washington, D.C.
Art Institute of Chicago	Chicago, IL
St. Louis Art Museum	St. Louis, MO
St. Lewis and Clark Museum	St. Louis, MO
Toledo Museum of Art	Toledo, OH
The Lithofane Museum	Toledo, OH
Los Angeles County Museum of Art	Los Angeles, CA
Newport Harbor Art Museum	Newport Beach, CA
Norton Simon Museum	Pasadena, CA
Huntington Library Art Gallery & Gardens	San Marino, CA
Santa Barbara Museum of Art	Santa Barbara, CA
Carnegie Museum	Oxnard, CA
Ventura Historical Museum	Ventura, CA
Laguna Beach Art Museum	Laguna Beach, CA
Denver Art Museum	Denver, CO
Denver Western Art Museum	Denver, CO
National Cowboy Art Museum	Oklahoma City, OK
Atkins Museum of Fine Art	Kansas City, KS
Norman Rockwell Archives	Indianapolis, IN

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM VISITS

German National Museum	Nuremberg, Germany
Louvre	Paris, France
Victory and Albert Museum	London, England
Van Gogh Museum	Amsterdam, Holland
Gardner Museum	Toronto, Canada
Toronto Art Museum	Toronto, Canada
Baccarat Crystal Museum	Paris, France

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

*Thomas Hart Benton	*Peter Brugel
*Charles Burchfield	*Thomas Eakins
Carl Faberge	Paul Gaugin
*Edward Hopper	Berta Hummel
*Rene LaLique	*Claude Monet
Pablo Picasso	Jackson Pollack
Rembrandt	Norman Rockwell
*Vincent Van Gogh	*N. C. Wyeth
*Favorite Artists	

"small talk"

official newsletter of
Club Olszewski, Inc.

ISSUE 8

JANUARY, 1992

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

We wish to thank you fans for your delightful comments regarding us and our newsletter. We appreciate hearing from you and it really tickles us that you enjoy "small talk". We are going to keep track of time spent preparing this issue.

* * * * *

As an extra bonus and surprise this year, we decided to treat Bob's fans to something for which we have felt a great need, an appointment calendar to keep track of Bob's appearances. After all, who wants to carry around a newsletter 365 days a year? We are including one for each master member (hope you will share it with your spouse) while our supply lasts. We were hoping to have more dates for you to fill in, but at the time of printing only one appearance date was available. Don't forget to write in **May 2, Bob's birthday.**

* * * * *

When Bob was young, the Olszewski family vacation was coming to Cleveland to visit relatives. Bob usually tinkered with some modeling clay on the drive up. Uncle Frank had a neat job being a barber because he looked clean and always had a wad of bills with him! This was success! A great job meant not having to get dirty like in the steel mills. Other "successful" uncles had jobs as bus drivers. Cleveland not only influenced Bob at an early age but also later on when "beyond Cleveland the adventure begins". This happened right after he married and decided to leave Pennsylvania and move to California.

The adventure is still continuing. After all, our Club originates in Parma, a suburb of Cleveland - it's a mini world!

Bob's favorite childhood memory was getting together with relatives. "In my father's family there were 5 brothers and 5 sisters. On my mother's side there were 7 children. On any given Sunday as many as 60 people would show up at our home for picnics. It was a loving environment of aunts, uncles and cousins - all having a super time!" What great memories of yesterday!

One of the questions we asked Bob while visiting California was, "What is your most prized possession?" Without a moments hesitation Bob stated, "My Family!" We had a feeling this would be his answer.

* * * * *

A BOB STORY - While still in school there was a very "proper" girl in his art class. She didn't joke around and always stood there just like a lady. Bob just couldn't stand that and was always pulling practical jokes. Years passed. When it came time for the class reunion, Bob couldn't wait to see what had become of this "very proper lady." He wasn't at all surprised that this very proper young lady married a very proper Professor. Bob struck up a conversation with the proper Professor and asked what he had been doing lately. The Professor replied that he had been trying to get a book published on the history of something that was ultra boring, but he hadn't had too much luck. Bob couldn't resist giving this advice: "You need to add sex and drugs and you'll surely have a best seller!" That's our Bob!

* * * * *

E. F. Hutton couldn't have a better listening group than our Club. We haven't updated our listing of "firsts" for awhile. The FIRST miniature figurine most of you selected to purchase was the Valentine Gift pendant. Dorothy would be proud, the Oz Series came in second. "Why do I collect?" You do so because of the fine detail, love of small stuff and naturally - BOB. We have added two new words to Webster's dictionary, miniaturely and collectoritis. Have you added any?

* * * * *

It's really hard to condense a nearly two hour conversation with Bob into two pages, so we decided to edit less and give you an extra page. There is so much more we would like to print, but we can't use giggles or "don't tell that yet" and yep, even an occasional profanity!

The first step in preparing this newsletter is to transcribe the call onto our computers, and that's work!!! Taping the conversations have been extremely helpful, but we sure could use a Dictaphone to make that tedious job easier. It takes us a little over five hours of working separately to complete the transcription. We would never be able to give you Bob's exact words from just notes. This way, however, we're able to have Bob talk directly to each and every attentive mini FAN.

* * * * *

Well, are you ready? Without further ado,

"HEEEEEEEEEERRE'S BOBBY!"

the Studio, only the A's and B's are left so quality is extraordinary. Eva is Quality Control and of course, nothing is going to get by her. I mean the quality, it's like we brought the old Studio back, it's terrific! We're already starting to see the effects of cutting down the run sizes in the market. Since I have been off loaded I am really back to where I was artistically. The collectors should see it in the work, there's no doubt in my mind about it. The word out for collectors is they should see me focusing on my work, that's #1. Number 2 is that we are doing fewer pieces in lower quantities. The numbers are low, particularly on the Nativity and the Poultry Seller and I think they have even underestimated Dorothy and Glenda. Even 'Homecoming' with being limited to only 2,000 will be hard to find. My fans are the core people and I want you to tell them this for me. They should really take note and find one dealer and really let them know about particular pieces they want.

Did I feel differently in recarving the Poultry Seller? Oh sure, I'm looking for more lyricism in the piece. The first one was a little bit stiff. I think I'd like you to talk about this. I love to take my figurines home, just like the collector, open them up, open the brochure, get a pair of scissors and cut the piece out of the bag, read the literature, and then put them in my showcase. It's a wonderful experience for me personally to do that because it gets me out of the business and has me look at it just like the collector does. When I set up the Nativity last night and took the Wolf out, I really saw the step in the art and the maturity. I am hoping to see this same thing in the Poultry Seller.

I'd like to discuss the secondary market price guide. I talked to Dick Hunt and he was in agreement that the codes should be a reflection of the market. With the new code of availability people should take it as being true. We also made adjustments in the value of some of the figurines. I want you to know the next printing will probably be the most accurate price guide that has been published.

The Studio changed me. I felt a responsibility for it, but I'm kinda out of that now. When this thing happened I realized I could give the Studio up. I came to the conclusion that my relationship with the kids and Eva, and my artwork is what's important. Those are the basics in life which give me the most pleasure. Of course my collectors are as important as they have always been. They have inspired me not only to give quality work but to add the AH HA factor. If I can do that, it's a neat thing! When I go for my walks or when I talk to Eva, I find I talk more about art than business and survival. We went down to see a wonderful Mexican exhibit at the LA museum. It was so good I took David, just the two of us went down on Sunday. I'm really getting into this non-stress level of living. Once you get back into that you'll never allow anyone to do anything to you like I had done to me before.

I want my fans to know I hurt my right hand on the last big trip I took. I came home with a ganglion cyst on my wrist. When I travel I take along a briefcase, a sample case and a garment bag. I go into the trip with 25-40 hours of carving for the week plus I sign for 7-8 hours a day. My hand is being traumatized out there and I'm starting to feel it. My hand finally felt normal after 4 days. I knew this would come. I really hate to do this but I must limit the signing and I hope my fans will understand this and respect it. I can't have signing ruin my ability to make a living. I still plan to do 20 shows this coming year, but the days of limitless signing are over. I'm not tired of signing, it's just I can't do it anymore.

The promotions were real strong this year, the people are really interested. I had no complaints at all about the shows, considering the economy. I can see that the economy is tough out there. I realize the dealers are under pressure. It's the worst I've ever seen it personally. I'm sorry I don't have more appearance dates to give you at this time.

Let me see, what else is going on? Oh, we got a cat and his name is Willie. I have scratches all over my hand and forehead. Meredith was down for Thanksgiving and she's doing real well. She called again today and guess what she needs? MORE MONEY! David got a 1968 VW van to go to the beach with and he paid for it with his paper route money. He's a good son, they're both good kids. Mom's doing just great. I talked to her over Thanksgiving and Ray was visiting with her. I asked her what she's doing? Just like Mom - she was home making raviolis. I think it's really behind her and when I look back at what it was like a year ago... but that's in the past and she's doing wonderful.

What does Bob want for Christmas? That's a good question, Eva keeps asking me that. I'd like to have some new casual flannel shirts for the cool evenings. I also want a lightweight dress jacket, a new sport coat and a casual jacket that's a little warmer than what I've got. In the house I'd like to have a nicer lamp for my carving studio.

Since David opted for his car on his birthday, he still wants a drum set as well as a drawing board for his room. Meredith wants a stereo and tape deck for her car and some clothes. Eva wants a weight bench.

This is a real nice time for us. My family is settled down and it's a very peaceful time of the year. It's just as sweet as it could be, I'm not kidding - I'm in the spirit.

You two have been great and I appreciate all you do for me. It's really fun to read your newsletters. It's neat to have the fans come up and give me their pictures you ask for on your applications. I carry them back and put them into my file. It's just so special to me."

- Robert Olszewski -

Did you notice in Bob's conversation there was no mention of Jack and the Beanstalk for the 1992 year? Jack couldn't make it up the beanstalk, but he might make the climb in '93. Also, the addition to the Wildlife series will be left in Bob's backyard and the Oriental addition has a commitment so, "Sayonara till next year".

* * * * *

"We all have our little quirks and one of mine must have influenced Bob. I always told him if he was in town to call me if he was ever stranded or needed a friend in Cleveland. In May of 1989 I got THE phone call. After a nice dinner, I drove him to my home. Bob got the biggest kick out of seeing a Christmas card from Ferrandiz, a Spanish artist who's artwork is interpreted into ANRI wood carvings. I told him it had special meaning to me because this distinctive artist took the time and effort to send a personalized card to his collectors. Bob with his wit and humor said, "Well, did he ever come to your house?"

- Jacci -

This year we were especially pleased to see an *Olszewski* Christmas card! OOOOOOH! The Nativity Christmas card Bob mailed his fans this year is just overwhelming and the verse inside is genuine Bob Olszewski. Do you think Jacci and Wallie will display this card proudly all year long? You bet and it'll most assuredly be framed!

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BOB'S PROMOTION SCHEDULE

April 4 & 5th - International Collectors Exposition
Secaucus, NJ

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This newsletter closes out our second year. Hopefully you CHARTER members will send back your renewals and join in on another year of FUN!

miniaturely yours,

Jacci & Wallie

PS: "WE WANT A RAISE!" Our log indicates we need 6 days to recuperate because "small talk" is not such a mini undertaking after all. It has taken us 36 hours and 10 minutes, to bring Issue 8 to you. Now, time for a margarita break!"

"small talk"

official newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc.
P. O. Box 29067 * Parma, OH 44129-0067



ISSUE 9

APRIL, 1992

H A P P Y 2nd B I R T H D A Y !

Starting our third year of "uniting Olszewski FANS", we'll let you in on a little secret - you FANS are wonderful! When it comes time for renewals you rejuvenate our spirit by writing to us. Every time we open an envelope we're anxious to read all the comments, even if it's from Tom C. with just, "HEY! I appreciate your hard work." Elaine L. had us laughing when she sent us her joke, "How so you know a true Olszewski fan? They spell Olszewski without hesitating." We worry when we haven't heard from you in awhile. Linda J. where are you??? Our new fans have been great in responding to Bob's inquiry and sending us their picture. (DO WE HAVE YOURS?) We will no longer be a secret society, we have added the address on our newsletters and changed the format of our renewal forms as suggested by you.

* * * * *

The Club photo for this coming year is creatively different from other years. It's our Honorary, Bob, in his backyard in Camarillo. Bob commissioned Eva to take some black and white photos of himself. Acquainting herself with the new camera, Eva captured "Mr. Green Jeans" and sent them along to us. Thanks Eva! Selection of just one photo was very hard and Jacci came up with collage idea. Clockwise left to right you have our artist: 1) As typical "Gardener Bob." 2) Sweeping around the backyard. 3) Appearing as "Hollywood Bob." 4) Holding a box of seed packets Bob purchased. They are a grouping of the same flowers from Monet's Gardens in Giverney. These flowers were Monet's inspiration and Bob feels these seeds will grow to inspire him. Watch for this in his work.

This year's renewal gift is one which we feel is most apropos for our members. This magnilens is great to carry in your wallet. It comes in handy when checking out trademarks or to just take a closer look at the minis. We have found many stores don't carry a magnifying glass. Not only is this a fun gift, but a useful one as well! Sorry to tempt you other members, but fans joining in the month of April are always the first to receive the club's goodies. The rest of you have to wait for your 1992/3 renewal time! [The first one or two digits of your membership number indicate renewal month]

Thanks to all for your continuing support!

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3/4/92 Phone Call From Bob

"I just gave David the book 'Lust For Life' by Irving Stone, the biographical novel about Vincent Van Gogh. The book's main source was Van Gogh's three volumes of letters to his brother, Theo. I read it when I was 17. David is 16 now and I thought it's time for him to read this. The wonderful thing about this novel is the letters to Theo about his work - it gives you a sense of who the man really was.

I recently reread the last three Fan Club newsletters and said to myself, 'My gosh, what we're doing is just like the letters to Theo.' There's an awful lot of information in the phone calls. I think the collector can really see the art of it and the intent as to where I'm going. You're not only getting an update, but you get a sense of my growth and the direction I'm going in on a quarterly basis.

I wanted to go back and see just how telling this was and it's very telling. In the July 1991 issue of *small talk* I had just come back from the convention and it states, 'it gave me a lift' - between the lines you knew there was something wrong. This just lifts right off the pages. I was returning to the Studio with a real press for quality and I even say in the newsletter, 'to do the things for the right reasons'. I was beginning to reassess the whole direction we were going in. The heck with the manufacturing, I'm going to do this for the artistic reasons which is where I started out. The self portrait was my way of giving something back and I really appreciate the support. My comment about the Nativity was, 'I don't care what they say, it'll be done when it's done.'

In the September 1991 issue, I'm coming back and saying, 'I really appreciate the support and I'm going to return the gratitude with the quality of the work.' MAJOR LANDMARKS in the Studio's direction are: Too many figurines, cutting back production, zero inventory and M. I. Hummel production staying in the US.

You'll note in the December phone call I'm finally shifting back to my own work. I'm working at home, getting back to my old self artistically and you're going to see it in the work. I no longer felt responsible for the business Studio. Let me just add, the reorganization is going well and I believe we have returned to the early Studio attitudes.

After giving David 'Lust For Life', I got to thinking about the similarities between the book and *small talk*. They're both simple, very direct, not flashy - just honest. I'm so pleased with the way this is going. I think these newsletters are real special, more special than we may even realize.

We're really going to have to separate MY work from the licensed products. I'm going to be the creative force at the Studio and I have some great ideas for the licensed minis. Other people will be carving these and I want my collectors to be informed of this. It's not good, it's not bad, it's just the way it is. This is what we've worked for and it'll have a major impact not only on me personally, but on the work as well.

Let's talk about where I am right now. I've been carving at home since approximately last March. I have just completed the Poultry Seller and you'd be interested to learn an apprentice has worked on it approximately 40 hours. I put in another 115 hours carving time on top of that. How long did the pre-Goebel take me? If I were to guess, I would say probably about 40 hours. What I wanted to do is show the difference between the original and this one, 13 years later. It was a tremendous experience. I think collectors really don't want to miss owning this figurine. I'm not trying to scare you, but get your orders in on this piece. Remember, we have zero inventory. The Poultry Seller's going to be released in the June shows.

With going back to an artistic based Studio, you're going to see the difference in the work and pricing. I think the pricing under the old management was very confusing. We mean to bring it into line. One of the three pigs should not cost the same as the Poultry Seller. We are going to stratify the pricing of the Olszewskis carved by me and painted here in the Studio. The retail on these will be between \$120 and \$190, depending on the carving time in them, the coloration and the molding problems on them. We're not trying to overprice them, we're just trying to put the fair price they should be.

I can't wait for the Cherubs. After 6 months, they finally came out of the mold. We are just doing the analysis of the painting on them and they're going to start into production. Availability should be summertime.

Someone called to ask why the features on Mary and Joseph are so slight. I gave him a real good answer. When I did the Nativity, I wanted to elevate it to a very high level. I wanted them to look like porcelain. I could approach this two ways, either paint them very realistically like the Wildlife series or I could paint them and romanticize them more like porcelain in the Historical series. This is a very spiritual event. I didn't want hard looking features on Mary and Joseph, just soft. I simplified the robing because I wanted them to look simple and spiritual. I'm working on the kings right now. They have much more robing and detail. I wanted them to look rich next to Mary and Joseph. Their features will be more severe. Even the eyes need a lot of thought. We used pencil on the eyes for Mary and Joseph because if you do them harsh, they will stand out too much and look strange. I could have done decal eyes like on the Disney pieces, but I played them down intentionally. The kings will have darker skin as I want them to look as though they've been traveling in the sun for months. Their eyes will be deeper set and you'll see more features in their faces. I'm working very hard to have the kings done before the June release. The king I finished first has about 80 hours of carving time. Right now I'm on the second king, he's standing. At this time I call them the kneeling king, the bending king and the standing king. The closer they get to Christ, they start to kneel.

In the next four years, there's going to be roughly 5 displays a year and approximately 18 figurines for everything. For the Olszewskis, the average will be 2 displays and 7 figurines a year which is my capacity for this kind of detailed work.

How are things with Goebel? Goebel has been FANTASTIC! They went all over the world, looked at other studios for producing miniatures, they looked at other sculptors and said, 'We've got the best.' One of the consultants came to look inside the Studio and thought production was very sound and said, 'This is not a manufacturing operation, this is an ART Studio.' I think it is very healthy for us and for people to understand who we are and what our limitations are. In long terms, I see the Studio going on and producing the finest miniature figurines in the world.

Guess what? This is very significant! I had a museum director come visit my home. He would like to put together a retrospective of my work to go on a traveling tour across the United States lasting upwards of two years. To have a museum director come out and reconfirm what I have been saying for 12 years really makes me feel quite good. The full details will be given, should this come into being.

Last night I couldn't sleep and was thinking about the Olszewski plaque. What's happening now is I'm more focused on art and less on the business. Special things are going to happen that we necessarily wouldn't do before. I'd like the plaque to say 'Art of Miniature Olszewski' then the Goebel mark at the bottom. Summer Days will be featured on it. I think what I'm going to do on the first edition is

underneath the name Olszewski, I'm going to hand sign and date each piece and it will be a sealed signature under the finish coat. I want to do this because I feel with the major upheaval we have gone through in the direction of the business, this comes back and says this is an art studio.

I want to put a stop to the rumor that the self portrait has been made open stock to the dealers. THIS IS NOT TRUE. We had a lot of dealers call and say, 'Gee, I've been your dealer for 10 to 12 years and I can't even get it. We collect the pieces.' During the time it'll be out, I may only see 50 to 60 dealers. What we did was offer our PCS accounts a one time offer of two pieces which I think is fair - so it's NOT open stock. You can't offend people who have put eight to ten thousand dollars worth of your work in their shops.

I did something I've been wanting to do for years - I took pictures of the Poultry Seller being carved every day. No one has ever watched a figurine being carved. When I got to a major stopping point I would photograph it and we're transposing them into slides. This will be my main focus at my appearances this year.

I had a wonderful Christmas, but put off the lamp thing because I'm not certain what I'm going to do in that office. Right now I'm using it as a research studio. I'm carving out in the painting studio since it has more light. I got some great shirts and a new display case for my figurines. I really enjoyed Meredith coming home over the holidays, it was the nicest month I had with her in years. Her first semester's grades are definitely better than mine were.

I just talked with Mom the other day and she continues to show up negative on the cancer. I think she's really put it behind her and is doing well.

As a footnote, I'd like to include the museums I've been to recently. David and I went to see the exhibit on Mexico, a George Bellows show and an exhibit on gold snuff boxes for the last 200 years at the LA County Museum. On the way home from the exhibits I asked to hear what he likes and hear his descriptions. He is really moving toward the feeling in the work and will be his own person. Last Saturday about 8 in the morning here comes David. Can you imagine a sophomore in high school up at that time? He went up into the canyon behind us with a sketch pad under his arm. I was so thrilled! When David came back, we went over his drawings and talked about them. It was a real rewarding experience.

Two weekends ago I went to the Metropolitan Museum in New York and saw the Stuart Davis show. Eva and I went up to the Santa Barbara Museum last weekend to see an exhibit on 100 years of photography in CA. There was also a display of a fellow artist of mine when I was painting, William Dole, who died in 1983. It brought memories of days when we had exhibits at the same shows. It was really a fun feeling to see his work at this museum, with a catalog on it and everything.

Do these visits to museums influence my artwork? Oh tremendously! What happens is you're always comparing yourself to the best of the best. You're trying to not only improve the technical quality of the work, but also the spiritual side of it. Collectors are just beginning to see the impact of the museums on my work.

I'd like to close with my best personal regards to all my fans. I'm so grateful for the trust people have in my integrity. They weathered through this bad time with me. We are through the woods on the direction of the Studio. They don't know how much I appreciate their support."

- Robert Olszewski -

ATTENTION CLUB MEMBERS ---- BOB NEEDS YOU!

This is the first time Bob has asked our club for any "media" blitz. While speaking with Bob, our mouths dropped when he related Goebel does NOT want to release the mountains to complete the KinderWay series. Bob has always wanted the ALPS as they are a softening element and feels they put the whole village into perspective. The model work is already done and Bob thinks artistically it would be an incomplete statement without the ALPS. Get out your pens NOW and write to Goebel, Inc., c/o Goebel Plaza, Route 31, P.O. Box 11, Pennington, NJ 08534-0011.

-Thanks-

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There were about 700 letters to Theo in "Lust For Life." That means we have 691 newsletters to go. Line up those margaritas! There are many similarities between Van Gogh and Bob. A few of them are: Both lived through hard times; they like to paint from life experiences and capture the feeling in painting or in Bob's case - also sculpting; Vincent used pencil, charcoal and oil whereas Bob used these plus miniaturized his work; and both compare themselves to other great artists.

Bob, just don't cut any ears off. OK?

* * * * *

"It's better than Home Shopping." It's the Club Olszewski bargain store: Men's or Ladies logo watch (\$35), bumper sticker (\$1.75), tokens (2 for \$3.00) and back issues of "small talk" (\$2.00 @) All of these items include shipping and handling.

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Abracadabra Bob will appear!

4/4 - 4/5:
International Collectible Expo
Meadowlands Convention Center
Secaucus, NJ

4/10 - 4/12:
"The Sound of Hummels"
Rosemont/O'Hare Expo Center
Rosemont, IL

4/24: (2 & 7 pm)
Present Peddler
10220 SW Nimbus Av. rm K-10
Portland, OR 97223

4/25: (11 am & 2 pm)
Kathi's Import Chalet
3971 S. Broadway
Englewood, CO 80110

4/26: (2 pm)
Howell Gift Gallery
949 Lomas Sante Fe Dr.
Solana Beach, CA 92075

5/8: (2 & 7 pm)
Happy Pasttime
1800 Farmenter St., #102
Middleton, WI 53562

5/9: (11 am & 2 pm)
European Imports
Oak Mill Mall
Niles, IL 60648

5/10: (2 pm)
Carol's Gifts & Collectibles
125 South Van Buren
Nashville, IN 47448

5/22: (2 & 7 pm)
Canal Town Country Store
Greece Town Mall
Rochester, NY 14626

5/23: (11 am & 2 pm)
Lauchnors Gifts & Collectibles
7150 Hamilton Blvd RT 22
Trexlerstown, PA 18087

5/24: (2 pm)
Little Elegance
1214 Willowbrook Mall
Wayne, NJ 07470

6/13 - 6/14:
Hummel Expo '92 - Dayton, OH
Miller's Gift Gallery
(513) 456-4151

6/20: (11 am & 2 pm)
Carol's
17601 S. Pioneer Blvd.
Artesia, CA 90701

7/17 - 7/18:
International Collectible Expo
Century Center
South Bend, IN

miniaturely yours,

Wally
*
Jacqui

CLUB OLSZEWSKI, INC. BYLAWS

Article I - Name

The name of this club shall be Club Olszewski, Inc.

Article II - Purpose

The purpose of this club is to inform members on the life and miniature figurines of Robert W. Olszewski.

Article III - Membership

Section 1. Club Olszewski membership shall be limited to those having subscribed to the stated purposes of the club.

Section 2. All club members must be individual members in good standing according to bylaw dues. However, their spouses may join for an additional fee.

Article IV - Officers

The officers of this club shall be: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Article V - Dues

Section 1. Annual dues of members shall be \$12.50, which members pay upon admission.

Section 2. For an additional \$5.00 a year, a member can enroll his/her spouse.

Article VI - Meetings

Meetings shall be determined as to government regulations regarding non-profit organizations.

Article VII - Parliamentary Authority

All meetings of this club shall be governed by parliamentary law.

Article VIII - Amendment

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of this club by the affirmative vote of a majority.

"small talk"

official newsletter of Club Olszewski, Inc.
P. O. Box 29067 Parma, OH 44129-0067

ISSUE 10

JULY, 1992

"Going once, going twice, SOLD FOR \$11,000!"

The highlight of Miller's Hummel Expo '92 was the auction sale of "Down the Rabbit Hole", the 10 piece Studio process stick. This rare #1/1 set is from Bob's personal collection. Each figurine is put into production with a process stick, a term referring to the samples painted to be used as guides by the painters in the Studio. Each major step is sampled in order to allow the painters to reproduce the exact look as first painted by Bob. He personally painted piece #10 to determine the color selection and the look.

It was very difficult for Bob to part with this rarity. I asked him prior to the auction how much he felt this item would sell for. Bob had absolutely NO idea. The process stick was the 150th item at the auction. When they got to #140, a crowd started gathering awaiting the sale of this very unique item. The minimum bid was \$6,500 and the bids rose in \$500 increments. The phone bid of \$11,000 came from a TRUE FAN from PA (and it wasn't his Mom). Bob said, 'What do I feel like? I feel like a turtle that's winning a race.' He was just overwhelmed! I also want to share with you that a pre-Goebel sterling Rainy Weather charm went for \$7,200 in a silent auction.

George and I saw Bob in Secaucus, NJ and Rosemont, IL in April. We chose to drive to the Hummel Expo in June to see him again. Altogether we have heard Bob's Poultry Seller slide presentation 8 times. I have to tell you it's fantastic! I never realized how much thought Bob gives to such minute details like an angle of the head. I hope you all have a chance to see this most enlightening presentation."

- Wallie -

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As if Wallie didn't get enough of traveling, your Prez & Vice-Prez jetted to California again before it falls in the ocean. Our visit with Bob is always a treat. Travis took us on a tour of the Goebel Miniatures Studio. He is one versed fellow on all aspects of these figurines. We had lots of questions, but we couldn't stump him! Later Bob took us to the top secret R & D (research & development) area. (OOOOOH, what we saw!!! But we promised not to tell and couldn't even take ONE picture!) Afterwards we left to view the Olszewski home and went out for a yummy Mexican dinner with Bob and Eva. Upon return to the house, we were happy he remembered to show us the rare process sticks. In an agreement with Goebel, Bob is to receive one process stick for each retired Olszewski figurine to help build his retirement fund. Since

1980, 145 figurine models have been released, 79 of which are Olszewski and of these only 31 have been retired. Now you can understand why Down the Rabbit Hole went for such a premium price. We never know what particular memory we'll have with Bob regarding his humor. This time we will always remember "Virgin Bronze". Wallie tried to tell Bob she had gotten replacement virgin vinyl (UPVC) windows for her home. Bob heard "virgin" and that was the end of the window story. His comment was, "I wonder if I could make 'virgin bronze' figurines?" After our visit, the rest of our time was spent shopping to keep the economy going in San Francisco. Another special memory for us was meeting Mario P. and having lunch with our pen pal fan, Linda J. It was the type of trip you wish to relive!

* * * * *

FYI: Bob has miniaturized some famous animated movies. The very first Disney film, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, came out in 1937, followed by Pinocchio and Fantasia - '40, Cinderella - '50, Alice in Wonderland - '51 and Peter Pan was released in 1953. Altogether Disney has made 30 of these animated movies. The most recent is Beauty and the Beast.

Bob's new additions to the Marquee Classics are Peter Pan (\$90), Wendy (\$90), Nana (\$95) and the London display (\$125), hopefully due out later this year.

Rectangular glass display cases for Olszewski environments are finally available. There are four different sizes. The Large Case will enclose the KinderWay Village, Snow White or Pinocchio Series and sells for \$130. The Medium Case will hold the Cinderella or Peter Pan Series - no price available. The Large Single display sells for \$65 and will house the large individual KinderWay or Disney displays. The Small Single display sells for \$45 and will enclose either the Empress Garden, English Country Garden, Country Landscape or the Building Blocks Castle displays. If interested, check with your PCS dealer.

Other new releases currently available are the Hummels - School Boy (\$120), Wayside Harmony (\$140) and Goose Girl (\$130) as well as the Olszewski Summer Days Dealer Plaque for \$130. You jewelry fanciers out there will be happy to add two new pendants to your collection, the Chrysanthemum and Poinsettia priced at \$135 each.

We want you members to take a bow. Thanks to the many who wrote to Goebel, we will be able to add the ALPS to our KinderWay village. Exact date and price are not known at this time.

What a great group of FANS you are!!!

While sitting around and telling our most embarrassing moments, Bob revealed his. When he was 8 years old back in PA, Bob was invited to a dress-up Halloween party. In those days you didn't go out and buy or rent a costume, you used things around the house and made up your own. Our mini master artist, Bob, became Roberta. "She" was all dressed up in a skirt with a hoop. Arriving at the party "she" decided to sit. Well.....everyone pointed and laughed hysterically. It seems Roberta forgot to wear underpants and when she sat DOWN, the hoop went UP and everyone knew at a glance Roberta was actually Bob! That's our Bob!!!

* * * * *

Let us share another one of his escapades. While in college, Bob had to have his wisdom teeth pulled. The poor guy was in pain but was finally able to sleep. During the night the packing wasn't enough to stop the bleeding and he awoke to a RED pillow. This was something out of the ordinary and Bob couldn't let it go to waste. Together with his roommate he concocted this story for the "dorm mother". His buddy was to tell her that Bob had an uncle, a mortician, who let him take an arm to school. The partner in crime conveyed, "The arm is beginning to decay and smell. It's grossing me out. Won't you please come and do something about it." In the meantime, Bob took his bloody gauze and pillowcase, wrapped it around his arm and got a shoe box. He then slid under the bed and waited for his accomplice and the victim to enter the room. Bob heard her say, "The arm really doesn't look that bad." Bob then s-l-o-w-l-y moved his hand. The lady screamed and jumped a few inches off the ground. Needless to say, Bob was banned from all college dorms.

Wouldn't it be a nice pay back for Dad if David and Meredith inherited Bob's gene of mischief! After all, what goes around comes around.

* * * * *

Laughter is the best medicine and boy did we OD on it! Did you notice our last newsletter had a few typographical errors? We want to set the record straight. We do not have margaritas until we are DONE. Sorting out the transcription of the last Phone Call put our brains on overload and they did not compute! What can we say, except we are mini humans! We have had three months to recoup. Now it's your turn. We have condensed our 23 page transcription into a FOUR page "Phone Call" section this time. Sit back with a large cup of coffee, tea or fuzzy navel (from the 'Virgin Bronze') and be mesmerized by Bob

6/3/92 Phone Call From Bob



"DANDELION SEEDS? THEY BETTER NOT BE!

First of all I want to thank all the fans who sent me birthday cards. I really appreciate it. I got more comments on this year's Club photo showing me gardening. A number of collectors sent me seeds which I will be planting. They are happy to see me relaxing.

We are returning to the old cycle at the Studio. The Olszewskis for the coming year will be released in January and the Storybook characters will be released one every six months.

In the old days when I felt we were not as well organized, I would let out a lot of concepts early in order to compensate for the lack of information going out to the collectors and dealers. I don't feel I have to do that anymore. Between the Fan Club, Study Group, Studio Times and the Dealer Update, I think we have a good core of information coming out. I think through those areas, we have really improved our ability to talk with the collectors.

I'm very pleased with everything at the Studio. Hopefully in the next two days the Kings will be ready for production. They are in sterling right now. I'm waiting for samples to paint in order to see if there are any flaws in the master. The most exciting thing for me right now is the final coloration on the Kings. It's probably the most sophisticated coloration we have ever done. (We were fortunate enough to see the finished prototypes of the Kings during our recent Studio visit and were in awe - the detail, the coloration, the faces - we're just speechless)

I'd like to talk about intent. We've been telling everyone we've reorganized. Under the old Studio I had two people reporting to me. Now I have a staff of nine which really helps me meet these deadlines. I feel, except for some exception like problems with the Cherubs, we're generally on schedule with our pieces in carving and in projected delivery. The mid-July Dealer Update will state any changes in delivery so collectors should check with their dealers about this. Things are pacing along as we had projected. I would like to share with the collectors I am very proud to be able to say, **OUR WORK IS MADE IN THE UNITED STATES!** The American Good Bye to Oz will be produced here along with the Olszewski displays. What collectors will see with our work is there will be some price increases on the work, but the value will be there. In the long run they will be spending less money for higher quality work since we've dropped the number of pieces we're releasing.

There are three characters currently very hard to find, the Snow White Prince, the Bricks Pig and the Wolf. What we are trying to do is help collectors with these uneven sets. We are out of stock on all of them. Sometime at the end of the year, or at the beginning of next year, we will make a run on those pieces. Collectors who have a part of this collection should be sure to let their dealers know they want those pieces because it may be a long time before we make those figurines again.

I'd like to mention about shipping. We no longer warehouse the miniatures at the Studio. They are shipped out of Pennington, NJ. We are now strictly a working art studio. Dealers are going on allocation for the figurines. This way we can distribute the work across the country a little more fairly and evenly and the collectors should anticipate this. What I'm saying is you should find a good, competent dealer and there are many of them out there. What you want to do is shop and stay with people you normally buy from. What we're trying to do is secure that if a dealer bought eight of something last year, he's gonna get eight next year and that's it. He's not going to get less, but he may not get more. This is why it's important collectors find a home with dealers they are comfortable with.

The promotions have been just great and the sales are up over last year's. Some have been lightly attended, some have been crowded. At the promotions the key thing is, which the collectors are very happy about, the down-sizing of the issues from 43 to 17. The fans who have attended the shows have started to see the improvement in quality of the work coming out of the Studio, like I said it would happen. Just take a look at the Nativity, the new miniature Hummels, the Poultry Seller and Dorothy & Glinda.

(Collectors are finally beginning to know Bob, the artist. In fact, the First Figurine purchase of two fans was "Portrait of the Artist". Dorothy H. asked: 'I have a question that perhaps you can address in the next newsletter - unless I am the only one that doesn't already know. The advertising on new figurines and new pictures are always out BEFORE Bob even carves the figurine, i.e. the complete Nativity. How is that done?')

That's a good question! What I did on the Nativity was a rough-out of all the figurines and they are very rough. This gives me an idea of what it's going to look like. We colorize them, photograph them from a distance and then zero in on the finished pieces. The Holy Family was done but not the rest of the characters. That's how we do it. It's not something I'm fond of doing because I know the pieces are going to change and evolve. I don't want people to think this is our finished product.

I would like people to write to you and ask questions. I like this because it's a good format for discussion.

(Barbara D. inquired: 'Out of the many Hummels produced, why and how did Bob narrow his selections for his KinderWay to these? Which came first, the environments or the figurines?')

Another good question! What I did when I overviewed KinderWay in the planning stages - and I think collectors would like to hear this - I sat down and decided how I would approach the KinderWay. Once I had come up with the first cottage under the dome with the balcony, I then went through all the M. I. Hummel designs and basically broke them into a number of real broad categories like musicals and seasons. Then I regrouped them according to where they would live. The Bavarian

Cottage was just kids around the house and close to home. That's why I used Little Sweeper, Doll Bath and Little Fiddler. The next grouping I did was people downtown. We lived out in the country and our local 'big' town, Tarentum, had two story buildings, banks and movie theaters, so I selected the Baker, Waiter and Postman, anything with a downtown theme. Then I wanted to have some continuity in the themes, that's why I selected pieces like Merry Wanderer and Visiting An Invalid. The other group I thought was transitional and important was the school and kids. I didn't want them to be downtown. I wanted it to be a kind of transition into the country. Another group I was going to do then was the winter things, which is why I created the Bavarian Alps. I had Wayside, Little Hiker and Ride Into Christmas at the bottom of the mountain scene resulting in more outside themes. I had also envisioned a country scene for all the farm kids which will probably never come out - it's a shame! Actually Goose Girl is out of sync. She was never meant. When it was anticipated the Hummel production would be moved to Germany, they requested this figurine and I had to honor their wishes. Speaking of the mini Hummels, try setting your Little Sweeper in front of the door in Winterfest. I figured she could just come outside and sweep off the snow without putting all the heavy clothes on.

I want to thank everyone who wrote to Goebel about the KinderWay Alps. **THEY WILL BE RELEASED!** A formal announcement will be made regarding the mountains, trees and church. There will be a cut off date but you'll be given enough warning on it so just wait to hear. Pricing has not yet been determined.

(Linda J. wanted to know: 'Does Bob title all his original pieces or does the Studio do this? There is some confusion on my part as to whether he gave title to Portrait of the Artist.')

These are real good questions! The history of the titles can be very confusing. I'm the one who originates concepts. There is a lot of confusion in the Studio between the time the concept starts and when it comes to market. Take the KinderWay Marketsquare. All the internal descriptions, everything that was written, even the accounting and all the sampling had the name Downtown Bavaria. When the concept really starts to take shape, we sit down in a group and talk about why I chose to do this and we try to give it a name. My first names are working titles, later we try to give the piece a name that captures more the essence of the miniature. For instance, Summer Days was originally called Boy and Girl with Trike and the Cardinal went from just Cardinal to Winter Cardinal. Country Landscape was once called Large Wildlife.

(Wallie & Jacci asked: 'How many non-convention Portrait of the Artist figurines have been purchased?')

Since it was first introduced in Montrose, CA, September 7, 1991, there have been...let me count them...the number is 512. (What was your guess?) I'm pleased because it is limited to appearance which is why it's going to remain low. I'm very pleased with that number. Collectors should remember the 10,000 run first edition Hummels sold out and so did the 5,000 run of Oz.

(Our suggestion is, make sure you get to Bob's promotion NOW while there's still time to order this very limited figurine.)

On my museum trips this year I picked up books on gardening, toys, porcelain and jewelry. I'm very selective in my buying and these are a real treat for me. Here is an update of my museum visits:

Armand Hammer Museum, Los Angeles	"Catherine the Great"
J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu	"Easter Manuscripts"
San Diego Art Museum, San Diego	"History of Sail"
Museum of Natural History, San Diego	
Elvehjem Museum of Art, Madison, WI	
Chicago Art Institute, Chicago, IL	
Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY	
Strong Museum, Rochester, NY	
International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House, Rochester, NY	

Meredith signed up for extra classes this summer and will only be home for a week between semesters. David has got some real solid talent artistically and is sketching some landscapes with his friends. He and I are going to go out and draw together. He makes sure he signs his work David Olszewski so there is no confusion between his work and mine in the future. I'm planning on visiting Mom after the Hummel '92 Expo. She's doing real well.

Guess what? Bob is going on vacation. I can't wait, it's been a long time since I've had one."

- Robert Olszewski -

* * * * *

The next page has Bob's "Artist Recommendation To Buy At Issue Price" and his "Zero Inventory Figurine List". Here are his comments relating to these: "It used to be in '82 and '83 I would travel and people would say, 'Gee Bob, what should I buy?' I don't like to tell people what to buy cause you never know what people's tastes are. I would tell them, if you like every piece exactly the same and you could only afford to buy one, buy Alice in the Garden. I don't want to come off as being commercial or anything like that, but I have been concerned about the availability of the work. Since the inventories are dropping, I put together this 'Artist Recommendation' list. My choices of 2, 3 and 4 pieces in each category were based on low inventory and pieces that would be candidates for retirement because of difficulty in painting or getting out of the molds resulting in major price increases should they be reissued. If you were going to shop in any one of these series, I listed the items you should still be able to find at issue price. If you have limited funds, you should buy the three new Hummels this year before you buy last year's because there's inventory on last year's releases. The 'Zero Inventory' list is self explanatory. Should you see one of these at issue price, it's a good buy."

SPRING 1992 ARTIST RECOMMENDATION TO BUY AT ISSUE PRICE

<u>Historical</u> Capodimonte Gentleman's Fox Hunt Meissen Parrot Floral Bouquet Pompadour	<u>Wild Life</u> Chipping Sparrow Mallard Duck	<u>Oriental</u> Small Oriental Disp. Blind Men & The Elephant
<u>Americana</u> She Sounds The Deep To The Bandstand	<u>Children</u> Blumenkinder "Courting" Backyard Frolic	<u>Women's Series</u> Hunt with Hounds On the Avenue
<u>Frontier</u> The End of Trail Indian Scout & Buffalo Frontier Museum Display	<u>Night Before Christmas</u> Yule Tree Christmas Display	<u>Three Pigs</u> Hungry Wolf Three Little Pigs House Disp.
<u>Snow White</u> Snow White Prince Wishing Well Disp. House in the Woods Disp.	<u>Cinderella</u> Cinderella Jaq Coach Disp.	<u>Pinocchio</u> Blue Fairy Pinocchio Geppetto's Toy shop Display
<u>Pendants</u> Hummingbird Pendant Daffodil Pendant	<u>Kinderway</u> First Edition: Serenade Accordion Boy We Congratulate Busy Student Winterfest Wayside Goose Girl School Boy	<u>Rockwell</u> Triple Self Check Up
<u>New Releases</u> Poultry Seller Dorothy & Glinda Goodbye to Oz Display Olszewski Plaque		<u>Fantasia</u> Mickey Dancing Brooms Display
<u>Wizard of Oz</u> Wicked Witch Munchkins	<u>Nativity</u> Mother Child Cherubs	
<u>Special Releases</u> Portrait of the Artist	<u>BOOK</u> The Goebel Miniatures of Robert Olszewski by Dick Hunt	

SPRING 1992 ZERO INVENTORY FIGURINE LIST

<u>Historical</u> Masquerade St. P. Cherry Pickers	<u>Wild Life</u> Owl-Daylight Western Bluebird Red Winged Blackbird Winter Cardinal Autumn Blue Jay Spring Robin Hummingbird	<u>Oriental</u> Kuan Yin The Geisha Chinese Water Dragon
<u>Frontier</u> The Bronco Buster		<u>Women's Series</u> Dresden Dancer Precious Years I Do
<u>The Three Pigs</u> Little Brick Pig	<u>Americana</u> The Plainsman Blacksmith American Bald Eagle	<u>Children's Series</u> Summer Days Out And About Carrousel Days
<u>Snow White</u> Prince	<u>Kinderway</u> First Edition: Little Fiddler Little Sweeper Merry Wanderer Doll Bath Stormy Weather Postman Visiting An Invalid Appletree Boy Cinderella Baker Waiter	<u>DeGrazia</u> Flower Girl Flower Boy My First Horse White Dove Wondering Sunflower Boy Little Madonna Pima Drummer Boy Festival of Lights Merry Little Indian Beautiful Burden My Beautiful Rocking Horse Flower Girl Pendant Adobe Display Adobe Hacienda Disp DeGrazia Chapel Display
<u>Alice</u> Alice in the Garden Down the Rabbit Hole Cheshire Cat		
<u>Wizard of Oz</u> Scarecrow Tin Man Cowardly Lion Oz Display		
<u>Special Releases</u> Olszewski (Medallion)		

Time out....you can go to the bathroom now!

Feel better? We do! You can see why we couldn't omit any part of those 4 pages. We welcome your questions for Bob but please remember to get them to us by the first of March, June, September and December. We can't guarantee yours will be in print. If not, we'll forward his answer on to you.

* * * * *

During our "Phone Call From Bob", he told us the limitation on the signing has helped. The company even bought Bob a new carry-all on wheels to hold his samples. This was another attempt to minimize the strain to his hands. Bob felt these were the solutions to the problems of pain in his hands after promotions UNTIL his return from Miller's Hummel Expo the middle of June. We just spoke to Bob again and he said, "It's 5 days later and it still hurts. This tells me it's the long hours of signing which is causing the pain. I signed two full days, seven hours on Saturday and five hours on Sunday. I just want to thank everyone for understanding and helping me work through this."

* * * * *

We hate to do this, but we must bring up the issue of dues. Current postage on 4 pages is 29 cents. We have already absorbed a 4 cent increase since our first issue. The postage for 5-8 pages is 52 cents at this time. With the extra expense for additional paper, printing and postage, we speculate membership dues will increase from \$12.50/year to \$15.00 starting April, 1993. The choice is yours - this expanded "Phone call from Bob" or higher membership dues. We welcome your comments.

* * * * *

Here are the answers to the quiz in Issue 10:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. False - 5,000 | 13. Cozy Cottage |
| 2. True | 14. House in the Woods |
| 3. False - '82 & '85 only | 15. The Wishing Well |
| 4. False - American Frontier Series | 16. Castle Courtyard |
| 5. False - It's a pre-Goebel | 17. Snow White Woods |
| 6. True | 18. The Homecoming |
| 7. True | 19. In 1979 |
| 8. Camarillo | 20. Poultry Seller |
| 9. Lost Wax Process | 21. April, 1990 |
| 10. Winterfest | 22. TMK 5A |
| 11. Floral Bouquet Pompadour | 23. \$55 |
| 12. Bottom Drawer | 24. 1987 |
| | 25. David & Meredith |

ABRACADABRA, BOB WILL APPEAR:

7/17 - 7/18:
International Collectible Expo
Century Center
South Bend, IN

9/18:
Stacy's
E. Walpole, MA
(508-668-4212)

9/19:
Stardust Gifts
Garden City, NY
(516-741-5140)

9/20:
Someone Special
Berlin, NJ
(609-768-7171)

10/2:
Tiara Gifts
Wheaton, MD
(301-959-0210)

10/3:
Amy's Hallmark
Orlando, FL
(407-857-4055)

10/4:
Bronze Lady
Madeira Beach, FL
(813-398-5994)

10/9:
Colonial Heights
Kingsport, TN
(800-541-6862)

10/10:
Eloise's
Houston, TX
(800-231-9805)

10/11:
Gifts & Accents
Overland Park, KS
(800-822-8856)

10/16:
Christmas Goose Collectibles
Waynesboro, WA

10/17:
Nancy's Gifts
No. Huntingdon, PA
(412-864-0226)

10/18:
Curio Cabinet
Worthington, OH
(800-331-8543)

Check with these dealers for the exact date and time.

PLEASE NOTE: Our next newsletter will be two weeks late. Wallie NEEDS ANOTHER VACATION. Some people get to travel. Jacci is broke and upset because she can't go and she certainly isn't going to do all the work!!! Issue 11 should be on your doorstep no later than October 15, 1992.

* * * * *

Our minds have been working overtime to bring to you the

"CLUB OLSZEWSKI THEME PARK"

In this mini park, we are taking you FANS on an adventure of the senses. Wouldn't it be neat to be able to stroll through this delightful "Land of Olszewski"? Who knows what lies over the next mountain, for "The Best is Yet to Come"!

miniaturely yours,

Jacci

Wallie

LAST MINUTE BULLETIN

"The rumor that the Portrait of the Artist will be available to the DEALERS at South Bend is NOT true. A bulletin was published that was a mistake."

- Robert Olszewski -

GROLIER

DANBURY MINT

FRANKLIN MINT

"THE BEST IS YET TO COME"

Wildlife

HUMMEL

ORIENTAL

AMERICAN

AMERICAN FRONTIER

ROCKWELL

SNOW WHITE FALLS

PETER PAN

Locchio's

DOROTHY

MEREDITH

CHILDREN

DAVID

LITTLE BALEIRIA

OUT AND ABOUT DR.

SPIGS

CLOWNING AROUND

HISTORICAL

PRE-GOEBEL POINT

Portrait of the Artist



ALICE

STORY BOOK LANE



NATIVITY

NITE BY XMAS

LINDY'S GLASS SHOPPER

PAINTING ROOM

"VIRGIN" BRONZE

SHIPPING RM.

IDEA ROOM

R+D

SCULPTING ROOM

OLSZEWSKI CIRCLE



SUMMER DAYS PICNIC AREA

WELCOME COLLECTORS

INITIATION STARTS HERE

MINIATURIZATION CHAMBER

