

"small talk"

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

ISSUE 21

APRIL, 1995

HAPPY 6th ANNIVERSARY, CLUB OLSZEWSKI, INC.

We can't believe it, 20 issues of "small talk". Our friendship has been tested by some interesting issues and time wise it's been a challenge for us and our families. We admit it's been work every three months, but your compliments have made it all worthwhile.

A year ago we approached Bob and Travis about a new biography for Club Olszewski members. We are delighted to finally include it with this newsletter. Bob said he worked on it for four months.

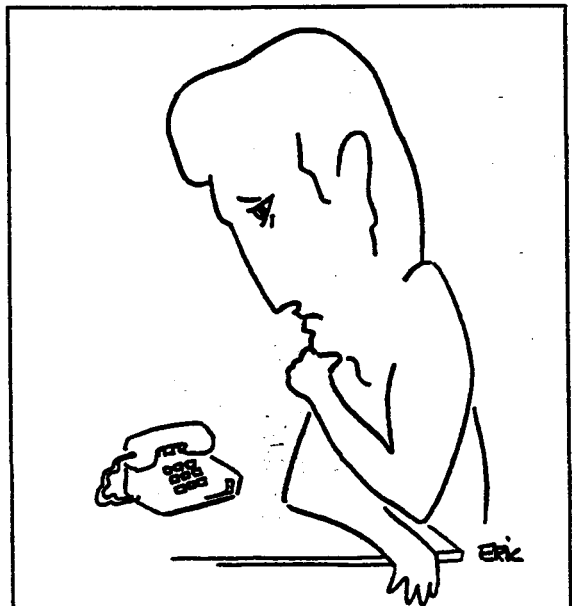
Our April members are always the first to receive the NEW renewal packs. This year RENEWING fans will receive a wonderful COLOR picture of Bob in his new studio. The renewal gift is a diamond shaped, eye-catching "To Bee..." patch. Don't worry, we have enough for you fans whose renewal comes up in July, October and January.

* * * * *

Here a Bob,
There a Bob,
Everywhere a Bob, Bob!

Recently this cartoon in our local paper, The Plain Dealer, caught our attention.

Since Bob's busy schedule does not allow him time to talk individually to all his fans, read on and "listen" to what's been happenin'.



Out of 220 million Americans, one of them should be calling Bob at any moment.

* * * * *

"I know the fans were expecting a wedding picture, but Eva wasn't happy with the one I picked and the one she liked I wasn't happy with. We haven't even ordered our wedding pictures from the photographer. When we do and if there's a good one, it will be used for the Fan Club. I hope the negative I sent for your 1995/96 photo meets with the fans' approval. As you can see, I really enjoy my new studio.

- 1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY -

On February 18, 1995 Olszewski Studios celebrated it's first anniversary. It has been one year since we established the new studio. Without a doubt, I'm living more like an artist than I ever have. I have enjoyed getting ahead on the carving schedule and also am enjoying the calm that it brings. Not only am I carving, but I have also increased the amount of hours I'm painting. February and March were spent solely on the coloration of the 1995 releases. Remember, I was a painter before I sculpted and this has been very good for me to return to my roots. I get a tremendous amount of enjoyment in coloration and hopefully, collectors will see the effects of this in the new work. In the early years of the Goebel Studio, I had a lot of personal impact in painting the pieces. As the Goebel Studio expanded, we had three full time painters in R & D, and I acted as a consultant. Having a smaller studio allows me to become more intimate with the work.

Sometimes I'll tell Eva, 'I'm going to take off this Saturday,' So what am I doing? I'm down in my painting studio. She says, 'I thought you were going to take off.' I say, 'Well, I was looking forward to working on this piece. You know, it's like being off because I was looking forward to painting.' Ha Ha!

- THE LITTLE TINKER -

I think the coloration and the features on 'The Little Tinker' are some of my best work, i.e. no decals, hand done eyes only. To ensure quality, I checked each piece with a lens before I signed them. 'The Tinker' sold out in 10 days from the time the dealers received the Artist Proof. A dealer survey tells us very few are left unclaimed in the market place. Collectors will have to become detectives to find this one. Of 50 we tried to hold for 1995 promotions, we are now down to 10, and haven't even scheduled any promotions yet!

- THE GRAND ENTRANCE -

We also tried to set aside 50 pieces for the promotions in 1995, but we're down to less than 18 for sale. A spot survey also tells us very few are to be found at the dealer level. We saw an ad for 'The Grand Entrance' from a

collector and I said to Travis, 'Call them and buy that one back.' When the studio is willing to buy back pieces, it means they're not out there.

Something extra that came up this year was 'The Grand Entrance Process Case'. We did not take it into the general market. Twenty-four were done, each sold for \$1,250.00 and they are sold out. Collectors that would like to be notified of special gallery releases should let us know. Don't worry, not all Gallery releases will be in this price range.

- SPECIAL TREAT -

'Special Treat' is just starting up in the studio and I'm closely involved with the production. In fact, last week I painted on artist proofs, altering and tweaking them. If the painting is no good on them, you can blame me. Just kidding!

- TINKER'S TOWER -

One of the pieces that the 1995 slide show will focus on is the Tinker's Tower, it's carving and coloration. There are three towers in the display. The center tower will hold the Treasure Chest, but due to molding difficulties, the 'Not To Be...' earring release will be omitted, leaving the 'Viceroy' as the final release in the series. Collectors will enjoy the relief work in the tower display. By far, it is the finest display I have completed. I feel I have pushed the art of display to a new level with this piece and look forward to it's introduction. It took us a year of carving to do it. Collectors will see very few displays being done in the future, as I am moving more into single figurine works. So, don't miss this special work.

- THE GALLERY -

By returning to a smaller studio, I have more freedom artistically. The four to five releases a year will be called the 'Core Work'. These four to five releases will be fully painted figurative works. This leaves design room for experimentation and exploration. Not everything I do can be brought into the market place as an edition of 750 or 800. These experimental works will be open editions, made in small amounts and offered at reasonable prices through the Gallery and Dealers.

- POST CARDS FROM THE GALLERY -

Starting with 'Special Treat' collectors will receive a post card announcing that a new work is available for order. Collectors that buy randomly should remember that we hold 50 of each piece we release for open ordering, for those collectors on our mailing list that like to pick and choose.

- EDITION SIZE -

As you can see, we're marking the size of the edition on the bottom of some releases. Collectors will see a variance of 50 in the edition size, 750 to 800. The reason we're doing that is because we're selling everything out and there's nothing left for me to take to the promotions. Those extra 50 pieces will be set aside for promotions in the future. A typical year of promotions can see collectors buying 2,000 to 3,000 pieces at 20 shows, so 50 of each design isn't going to go very far, but it will get me out there. Promotion pieces will not be any different than the regular issues and will not carry a different mark, so if you already own the release, please do not purchase it again for reasons of variations. Pieces reserved for promotions are for collectors who we are not in touch with or for a collector that may have missed the release. Increasing the edition size by 50 was a big decision for us because of our limited capacity. The drop in run sizes from 1,500 to 750 was a very, very good move and I'm real happy with the result. We were right on!

- LOOKING BACK -- THE EARLY GOEBEL YEARS -

Why was it so difficult? I think it was due to the organization of the studio. In the first years, Goebel Miniatures was organized by grinders, glazers, detail and features departments. For example, the Blumenkinder and Capodimonte would go to the glazers, detail and features people at the same time, so we would have five pieces going on at once. It was impossible to get equal numbers of the pieces done the same time for shipping. Remember, we sold in sets, and because of this we never had a year where it wasn't crazy. Today, it would be like me taking our studio this year and trying to do 'The Grand Entrance', 'The Tinker's Treasure Chest & To Be...', 'The Little Tinker', 'Special Treat' and 'The Mocking Bird' at one time, creating an absolute madhouse here. This thought didn't hit me until two months ago. Even doing one design at a time is complex. What happens when 'The Tinker' is leaving the studio, 'Special Treat' is going in at the other end. For example, colors have to be mixed and training starts on 'Special Treat' all at the same time while quality controls are happening on 'The Tinker'. It shows experience counts!

- TRAVEL -

I'm finally catching some weekends off and we're spending more time visiting museums and antique shows. I've picked up some beautiful pieces to reproduce for the future. After assessing where we are in production, Eva and I decided to forego the drive home from Chicago on Route 66. We've had many offers from people across the country to stay at their homes and visit with them, and I'm grateful for the offers,

maybe next time...

- TREASURE HUNT DRAWING -

February 18, 1994 was my last day with Goebel Miniatures. Since that day fell on a Saturday, we had a one year anniversary pizza party on Friday, February 17, 1995 at the studio and then drew the NUMBERS of the winners. We had no idea WHO the lucky winners were. The Tinker's Treasure was difficult to produce and we couldn't ship them all in time for the drawing. What we did was send the numbers out to the dealers who forwarded them on to the collectors. The dealers knew to call in because we had advised them of the date of the drawing and told them we'd leave the winning numbers on the customer service answering machine. FYI, here are the winners:

1ST PRIZE: 2 YEARS ARTIST PROOFS
#2147 - Mr. & Mrs. Skrinikoff, Connecticut

2ND PRIZE: 1 YEAR ARTIST PROOFS
#1170 - Ms. Schovajsa, Texas

3RD PRIZE: 14KT GOLD CHEST & TO BE...
#3122 - Ms. Gallitz, Wisconsin

- PROMOTIONS -

I chose not to do any promotions this spring because we don't have enough pieces for them. I'll hold off doing promotions till fall since I'll have 'Special Treat' and the 'Mocking Bird' at that time. I'm really looking forward to the promotions as it has been strange not to be traveling so much. Look for me in Chicago, March 31 & April 1 and Long Beach and South Bend. Fall promotions will be scheduled later.

- CLOSING THOUGHTS -

My hopes are collectors are happy with what we're doing. I'd love to receive some comments from the fans about what we've done and accomplished during our first year, i.e. 'The Grand Entrance', 'The Tinker's Treasure' and 'The Little Tinker'.

I know I've kept you on the phone a record two and a half hours and you have a lot of transcribing to do but it was great talking with you two!"

- Robert Olszewski -

You're probably thinking we're tough cookies to edit two and a half hours of conversation into four pages. Sorry, we can't take the credit. Before going to print, Bob likes us to fax him a rough draft. Many changes and a week later brings you this last and final edition, we hope.

* * * * *

Barbara D., your suggestion of Bob telling the story behind The Dresden Timepiece in his phone call section will have to be put on hold - too much to tell about the new studio. All suggestions submitted by fans are welcomed and seriously considered.

* * * * *

Have you been thinking about the Olszewski Studio with all the California rains? Thankfully, Bob and the studio are still enjoying the view. Our hearts go out to our California members who have sustained damage.

* * * * *

For our newer members, every year on May 2, we have a proclamation declaring that as Robert W. Olszewski day. If you are still missing some figurines, that's the day to buy one or two or three?

Part of our duty as fans is to make our honorary, Bob, feel special. We have made out a birthday card with ALL OF YOUR FIRST NAMES, however, it would be great if each and every one of you send Bob birthday wishes on this, his 50th!

miniaturely yours,

Wallie *Jacqui*

Good News Jacqui, WE'RE DONE!



Mary Ellen
Persephone

Dorothy
Maureen
Burrell

Carol
Adell
Jenny
Lynne
Harry
Peggy
Debra
Terry
C. T.
Karen

Meredith
Margaret
Jeanette
Franchon
Mary Ann
Florence
Jo Ellen
Mary Lou
Marjorie
Anna Mae

Travis
Wallie
George
Walter
Connie
Millie
Alfred
Elaine
Sandra
Elaine

Elizabeth
Thomasine
Elizabeth
Constance

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY

David
Jacci
Carol
Glenn
Diane
Cathy
Helen
Clara
Cathy
Linda

Sharon & David
Dorothy & Burton
Warren & Betty
Joyce & Ed
Dee & Coleman
James & Teri
Clarence & Dorothy
Laverne & Charles
Rosemary & Paul
Jan & Mark

Hilma & Don
Carl & Julie
Chuck & Betty
Don & June
Janis & Max
Yolanda & John
Alyson & Bob
Rena Belle & Jerry
Rosalyn & Alan
Edgar & Herta

Barbara
Gaynell
Nanette
Barbara
Marilyn
Charles
Kathryn
Rachael
Randall
Carolyn

Ann
Eva
Tom
Jo
Tom
Pat
Gay
Dan
Pam
Pat

BOB!

Marlene
Eleanor
Barbara
Dorothy
Valerie
Jessica
Beverly
Dorothy
Barbara

Mary
Lois
Jeri
Jane
Mary
Jean
Mary
Fran
Mary
Josh

Sally
Doris
Patty
Helen
Janet
Bette
Betty
Helen
Kathy
Steve

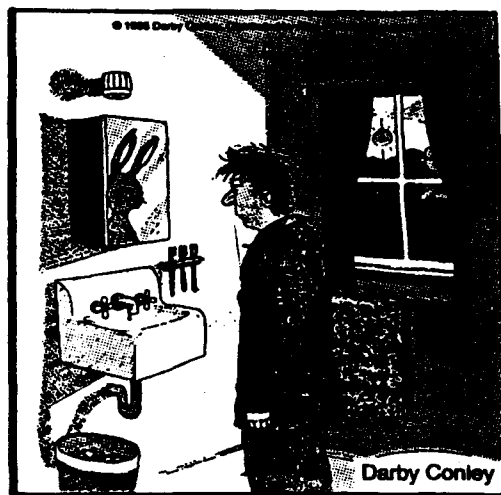
Carey & Don
Ray & Betty
Marie & Fred
Dorothy & Carlton
Barbara & Charles
Phyllis & Fred
Diane & Duane
Betty & Daryl
Alex & Rona
Joe & Doris

Mary
Carm
Tony

Agnes
Paula
Betty

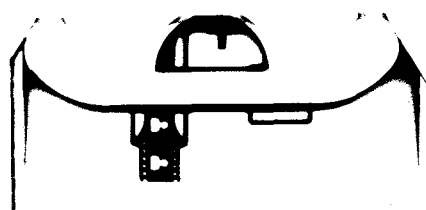
Dick
Lois
Anna
Anne
Mary
Anne
Ruth
Gwen
Vera
Jane

Sigrid
Robert
Aileen
Jackie
Edward
Teresa
Gladys
Louise
Martin
Noreen



And then one morning Bob looked in the mirror and saw a gray hare.

Mary & Michael
Joyce & Virgil
LaMona & Charles
Anthony & Linda
Lois & Jane
Jerry & Patricia
Bill & Sandra
Joyce & Victor
Mary Ann & Dennis
Emma & Rose





Party Time!



SURPRISE - IT'S A SECRET!

This will not be included in the newsletters of Bob, Eva, Meredith, David, Bob's mother or Travis. It is taken from the Olszewski Study Group's 2/12/95 letter.

"The response to the survey for Bob's birthday celebration was discussed. There was a 3 to 1 response in favor of South Bend over Long Beach so the decision was to add a belated birthday celebration to the event already planned for Friday, July 14, 1995 at Hans House Restaurant. There will be a combination German/American buffet with cash bar. The cost will be \$15.00 per person. This cost will include a birthday gift to Bob and birthday cake. The gift will be a small birthday remembrance from all the collectors so individual gifts will not be necessary. Reservation forms and final details will be sent in the April mailing. It was decided not to have a formal study group meeting; just have a program. Bob has offered to bring prototype pieces for the program portion. This will be a great opportunity for collectors to share in studying these prototypes as members who attend study group are fortunate to do."

This invitation is offered to ALL of Bob's fans, but remember... ZIP YOUR LIP POTATO CHIP! For more information contact Marlene Shoalts, 23614 St. Rt. 579, Curtice, Oh, 43412.