

# "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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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## 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. \_\_\_\_\_

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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.