

# "small talk"

official newsletter of  
Club Olszewski, Inc.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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!

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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       |       |