

"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.

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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

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Wallie



miniaturely yours,
&

HAPPY "mini" HOLIDAYS!



Jani

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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	