

"small talk"

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

ISSUE 20

JANUARY, 1995

1994 - A YEAR OF ROMANCE FOR OLSZEWSKI STUDIOS!

On September 17, 1994 Travis and Robin Tokuyama got married. On behalf of the members of Club Olszewski, a gift certificate was sent to them for a night's lodging at the Blue Dolphin Inn in Cambria, California. Their response was:

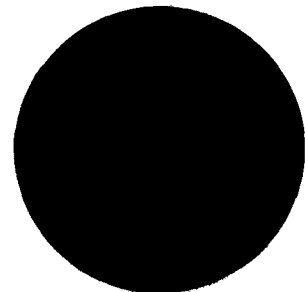
"Dear Club Olszewski,
Robin and I really appreciate your generosity.
We plan to use the certificate in the near future.
If there is anything that we can do for you, just ask.
Love,
Travis & Robin"

On December 9, 1994 Robert William Olszewski married Eva Marie Costello in Harmony, California. Again, on behalf of all of Bob's fans a gift certificate was sent to them for a DELUXE night's lodging at the Blue Dolphin. Bob wrote:

"To the Fan Club,
Thank you for the wonderful gift of a stay in
our favorite get-a-way. You're the best!
Bob & Eva"

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Since you fans are so nice, we're treating you to another sticker. It's our "Seal of Approval" of the new Olszewski Studios. We felt it would be appropriate to have another sticker of "Bob, The Tinker". If you find the 10 enclosed aren't enough, you may order more. The price is 10 for \$10. (Oops, that was a typo - we mean 10/\$1.00)



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Bob and Travis are working on a new biography for you fans. A "TAD" of changes have occurred in the life and world of Olszewski to make a miniscule modification in the biography published by Club Olszewski April, 1990. Look for a new bio, possibly in your April, 1995 issue. (Ooooo Jacci, you have such a way with words!)

We are also working on a new renewal gift for the 1995/6 year. Put your thinking caps on and try to figure out what we're up to. (Yeah, yeah, we know your answer, "You two are up to no good.") You're right!!!!

Ed Annen, one of the charter members of Club Olszewski died in November of cancer. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Jo as well as to the rest of their family.

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Many of you were kind enough to send us Christmas cards. Thanks so much for thinking of us. Unfortunately no one took us up on the challenge we extended to you - MAKE UP A FUN PAGE FOR "small talk". Since it's December 20 and we still have lots to do to get ready for Christmas, here's ours. Bob asked us to fax him the "Phone Call From Bob" section before we went to print. This was our communication to him:

Fun Page

Condensed version for busy people



12/15/94 PHONE CALL FROM BOB

"Hi, we got hitched, we ate, drank and were merry. Jacci and Wallie worked hard all year so I'm giving them a break!

Merry Christmas - Happy New Year"

- The old married man, Bobbie' -

Bob: As requested here is our newsletter. Wallie

p.s. I wanted a shorter newsletter than this!

Jacci

* * * * *

Before we let you read the in-depth version, let us just wish you and your families Happy Holidays and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 'mini' New Year!

miniaturely,

Jacci

Wallie



12/15/94

Phone Call From Bob

"Tomorrow will be our one week anniversary! There's no way I'm going to be able to explain what a wonderful experience our wedding was.

We drove up on Thursday and hit every antique shop between Camarillo and Cambria. I found two gorgeous pieces for future reproduction. You know, I've only bought about 18 pieces of porcelain in 18 years, so to find two on this trip was fortunate.

The weather driving up could not have been more perfect. I really have to talk about that because if you're by the ocean in the wintertime out here, you don't know whether you're going to have a sunny or a cold and blustery day. When we left Camarillo, the Santa Ana winds were blowing and that usually is real miserable weather. When we have that kind of weather, people get sinus infections and headaches. We had skirted all around the winds and there was no wind blowing up there at all, it was as clear as could be.

Before checking into our beach front rooms at the Cambria Landing Inn, we went to the gallery looking at lamps. I have admired this artist's work for a good six years. You know, these lamps are very expensive and there's never been a right time to get one. The Study Group's learned of this and their wedding gift to us was a gift certificate towards one of these very special lamps. Usually the gallery has two lamps but this time they had five, we couldn't believe it. We spent all evening there picking ours out. What's unusual about these lamps is they look different on than they do turned off. The lamp we selected looks green when off but red when you turn it on, it's unbelievable. This beautiful piece stands lit in our gallery landing all day and night and will be cherished by our family forever.

- THE WEDDING -

We were going to be informal and had talked about wearing jeans. In her family Eva has always been out of the ordinary. By that I mean her sister would wear dresses all the time and Eva would not. She likes to work on her car and is very mechanical which makes her such a terrific person in the studio. But for the wedding, Eva picked out a beautiful black evening dress which just hung around her shoulders and she looked gorgeous. She isn't crazy about wearing white, black is definitely her color. I told Eva, 'Well, since you're wearing the black evening dress, I'm going to wear a tux.' This was a first for me and I enjoyed it.

Our wedding ceremony was performed at 4:30 pm on Friday, December 9, in a very small chapel with only four pews in Harmony, CA. We had a very intimate wedding group and it was fitting because we wanted to keep it as small as we could. Eva's sister and new husband were matron of honor and best man. We told the minister to keep it short. The words of the ceremony were so choice and meaningful. I wasn't nervous at all but when we were standing looking at each other and listening to the wedding vows I just broke up. The words 'for rich and for poor' mean a lot after going out for ten years and starting up our new company. We took a lot of risk and that was meaningful. Then 'for sickness and in health'; after what I have gone through, it was very meaningful. I thought I wouldn't get through it. Eva's parents were there and her father cried during the ceremony. It was definitely a highlight in my life and a special event for her family.

Eva picked out the flowers and arranged for a photographer. We had most of the pictures taken in black and white because we feel they're more artistic. We'll send you a negative of one of our favorites for the Fan Club photo for 1995/6.

The ceremony was followed by dinner at one of Cambria's intimate restaurants. The only glitch was - NO WEDDING CAKE! Upon arrival at the restaurant, we asked if the wedding cake had been delivered. Since the bakery in Cambria doesn't bake wedding cakes, we had to order one from a town 30 miles away. Since most people don't get married on Friday, the bakery had baked the cake but held off icing it until Saturday. By the time we finished dinner, this cake was delivered. I mean it couldn't have been more on time and fresh. We had a wonderful dinner and a great cake for dessert. Everyone went back to the hotel where we all had ocean front rooms and drank champagne until late into the night.

The next morning the hotel was supposed to deliver breakfast to everyone's room, nothing special, just juice, coffee, fruit compote and breakfast cakes. Well...they weren't delivered as the girl had slept in. We chose this place because of the quaintness of the hotel and the breakfast. So Eva calls on the "fire and earthquake" line and just really shook this girl freakish because she thought the place was on fire. She got over there and delivered the breakfasts an hour late. Because of this, they gave Eva and I a free stay in their jacuzzi room which was \$250/night so we got to stay on an extra night.

We have to thank the Fan Club for the gift certificate of a night's lodging at the Blue Dolphin Inn in Cambria. We're looking forward to going back up there because it's just such a laid back town. You can go up there for a couple of days and feel like you've been there four. It's one of our favorite places. Thank the fans for all the great cards we received.

It was just perfect. I'm so glad we got married when we did, that's all I can say. I think people have to realize this has been quite a year for us. We have to talk about where we were business wise when we picked this date. We talked about it on the way to Cambria. I really didn't want to get married during the last four or five Goebel years because there was so much upheaval in the company. I had a lot of fear about my future and where we were going, so I didn't want to make the commitment to someone under those conditions. I think people have to realize this has been quite a year for us. Talk about being the underdogs - we didn't have any painters, we're starting up from scratch and didn't know who would show up and work for us. I had to reestablish everything from the ground up. I'm so grateful where we ended up year end, I can't even tell you. I'm so glad we got married when we did, that's all I can say.

- MOM -

I'd like to talk about my Mom for just a minute. I had the most wonderful visit with her during my promotions. When you talk to people on the phone you don't know how they're doing until you see them. She's doing great! I spent five days with her and when I visit, I don't visit other relatives. What I do is give her 100% of my time because I don't get back there that often. We went out to eat, I took her to get new shoes and did grocery shopping with her. One morning while I was getting breakfast, I could hear her chuckling and giggling in her bedroom listening to the Regis Philbin show which was just great. She's like a little bug in a rug. Her home is very cozy, well constructed and she's taken very good care of it. It was a nice visit for me. By the time Mom reads this newsletter, she will have gotten her Christmas present from us, The Dresden Timepiece. Eva's been giving her parents The Nativity pieces as they have come out. We're going down this weekend and set up the rest of The Nativity for them.

I picked up a book on the steel mills in Homestead, PA. I drove down there to see where the Homestead and U.S. Steel Mills were and was surprised to see they were bulldozing the

- APPEARANCES -

We'll do the Long Beach Collectible Show, (April 22-23, 9 am - 5 pm) and of course we'll be in South Bend (July 14-15, 9 am - 5 pm). I'm also appearing at the New England Chapter Hummel Convention in October and please re-remind people I'm going to be at the Tom Bishop 1995 Masters in Miniature Arts Show in Chicago (at the Radisson Hotel, 75 Algonquin Rd., Arlington Hts., IL, 708-364-7600, March 31, 7:00 pm - 9:30 pm and April 1, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm). It will be the first miniature show I have done in 15 years.

- GOEBEL MINIATURES STUDIO -

Please publish the article I sent you on the closing of the Goebel Miniatures Studio. My real quick comment on this is, 'It was a very sad day for us when we heard 40 people were put out of work. Cameo hired only one secretary out of the studio work force.' Some of their work will be done in China and the Hummels will be produced in Germany.

- CLOSING THOUGHTS -

We're going to have a New Year's Eve celebration just like Thanksgiving. We're very grateful for the year and have a lot to be thankful for. Coming from where we've come from, you people have seen me go from the lowest of the lowest when I was ill to through this last year of all these transitions and we thank you for your patience.

I'm in a real grateful attitude. I look back and the Fan Club and Study Group have had a lot to do with our success. Without support from people like yourselves and the Study Group, this would have been a very different year for us, a very, very different year."

- Robert Olszewski -

* * * * * BULLETIN * * * * *

"As of December 19th, the studio is SOLD OUT of The Little Tinker, both the 250 direct and the 500 dealer. We are still accepting automatic orders for the 1995 pieces but not for The Little Tinker. If you are still in need of The Little Tinker, call the studio and we will direct you to dealers that may have these."

- Bob * 12/20/94 -

Camarillo plant closing; 40 laid off

(11.11.74)

GOEBEL MINIATURES:

*Production of M.I.
Hummel figurines
moves to Germany.*

By Jeff Sturgeon
Staff writer

Goebel Miniatures laid off all 40 employees at its Camarillo figurine-making plant and will close the facility by Dec. 31, officials said Thursday.

The company said it must cut production costs to bring prices of the popular collectibles below \$100. It will shift work to other firms here and overseas. Local operations are run from Pennington, N.J.

Goebel Miniatures was founded in Camarillo in 1978 and is a division of Goebel Art of Germany.

With the shutdown of the plant at 4820 Adohr Lane, production of M.I. Hummel miniature figurines shifts to Germany.

But the creative wizards who conceive the figurines will continue to be based in Camarillo. The company's design and other pre-production work was promised to Cameo Guild, a 15-person design studio also in Camarillo, with which Goebel has formed a business "alliance."

The studio will be responsible for contracting with manufacturers, many of them overseas, a task previously handled at the local Goebel facility, a company spokeswoman said.

It's no coincidence that Goebel officials choose Cameo Guild. The studio's president is Charles Harley, founder of Goebel Miniatures.

William Belmont, vice president of Goebel Miniatures, wrote in a letter to local government officials that he was announcing the layoffs "with great regret."

Employees will be paid and receive benefits through the end of the year.

Goebel employees rushed to apply for work at Cameo Guild, co-owner Karen Phipps said. "We will be expanding," she said, but the number of openings had not been determined.

The new lines will be shown at the International Collectibles Convention for retailers in Long Beach in January.