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Questions and Answers

By KEN BROWN

If you have any questions concerning pipes, tobaccos, or related subjects, Mr. Brown will be glad to answer them for you. Write to him in care of this magazine. Be sure to enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for your reply.

Q. I am making a study of the Indian Peace Pipe which was often referred to as the Calumet. Can you refer me to any information or articles on this subject?—J. S., Buffalo, N. Y.

A. Two articles which may be of help to you on this subject appeared in the January (1947) issue under the title "The Calumet" and in the June (1947) issue entitled "A Half Million in Pipes."

Since the calumet is the name given the Indian Peace pipes you may find it referred to often in books about the American Indian.

Q. Can you tell me how many pipe manufacturers there are in the United States?—F. G., Chicago, Ill.

A. Including the large manufacturers and the individuals who make pipes commercially, I should guess about 400. This is a guess as I do not know. In our files we have a list of over 200, and I should think there are probably as many more whose names we do not have.

Q. What is the difference between a hookah and a narghile?—J. P., Enid, Oklahoma.

A. Both are water pipes, and are practically the same in construction except that the narghile uses a cocoanut as its water receptacle. It should be clarified a bit by saying that originally narghiles were all made of cocoanuts, but later on they were made of metal and other substances, following very closely the original pattern, so much so that at first glance the commercially made metal narghiles appeared to have been actually made of cocoanuts.

Today any water pipe which is patterned after the original cocoanut design is called a narghile.

Q. Does a flaw in the wood hurt the smoking quality of a pipe? I have heard this argued many times in many ways and everyone has a different theory. Can you please straighten me out on this?—P. S., Oakland, Calif.

A. And this question probably always will be argued, too. The reason is that a lot depends upon the flaw, where it is in the pipe, and how it travels in relation to the grain of the wood.

A surface flaw on the outside wall of the pipe will not affect its smoking quality, but on the inside the chances are that it will begin a burn-out.

A thorough discussion of this subject is scheduled for next month's issue and I suggest you read it. It will make this controversial subject much clearer in your mind.

Q. Is it true that bent shanks accumulate less moisture than straight shanks?—R. L., Dayton, Ohio.

A. I have never thought that this was true, and I see no reason to believe that it is. In my opinion this theory comes from the fact that moisture has more trouble in going uphill in a bent shank. As a result the smoker seldom gets moisture in his mouth when he smokes a straight shank. Therefore he erroneously assumes that the bent shank collects less moisture.

Q. Most advanced smokers or veteran smokers, especially the enthusiastic ones, seem to insist upon a virgin finish. Why? What is wrong with other finishes?—C. K., Red Oak, Iowa.

A. Nothing. Sometimes a dark finish is employed to cover up a number of flaws, but not always. Dark colored pipes in the higher price brackets which are made by reputable manufacturers are all made of good briar, and this is easily proven by removing this finish. The preference is mostly personal, that's all.
Moist Tobacco
Dear Sir:
I would like to pass along this little tip which I have found is a good one for keeping tobacco moist, and which I have never seen in your magazine.
I have tried numerous substances for keeping tobacco moist in the pouch, such as slices of apple, an orange peel, and so on, but the one I like best is a piece of celery.
This works exceptionally well, is slow to dry out yet gives off its moisture plentifully, doesn’t give an offensive or foreign aroma to the tobacco like some of them, and doesn’t mold, as do the others.
R. J. Marusch
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Real Briar
Dear Sir:
I should like to call your attention to one of the questions which appeared in your June issue. The question, which appeared on page 162, had to do with the wordsings “genuine briar, real briar, native briar” and so on. Your answer was that these meant the pipe was made out of briar grown in the States, and that only pipes stamped “imported briar” were made of briar grown in the Mediterranean sector.
For the benefit of any English readers you may have, I feel you should state that here in Europe no manufacturer of pipes would stamp a pipe “real briar” and “genuine briar” unless it was made from briar root, i.e. Erica aborea, and the stamping of laurel wood, rhododendron, or any other wood with the mark “briar” would be a case of misrepresentation, subject to prosecution in the courts.
Your readers can therefore rest assured that when buying any imported pipe stamped “real briar,” it is made from the roots of the Erica aborea which grows in the Mediterranean.
Alan L. Adler
Oppenheimer Pipes, Ltd.
London, England

Truth Hurts
Dear Sir:
I don’t know whether I am pleased or very unhappy over the article on the first Calabash pipe which I read in last month’s magazine.
Although I am glad to know when the first Calabash pipes were exported, I will now have some explaining to do regarding an old Calabash pipe which was given me some years ago by a man who said it had been in his family for almost 100 years. I thought I had an old pipe. I guess it isn’t as old as I have been told it was. You exploded my story concerning the age of the pipe. It’s the truth that hurts.
John Cronlin
Salem, Oregon

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Cake, Burn Outs, Etc.: Apr., Nov., ’46; May, Nov., ’47.

All of the above are full length articles, not brief references or small items. Order today while they are still available.
25c each postpaid

PIPE LOVERS MAGAZINE
LONG BEACH 12, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST, 1948
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Meet the Staff

(In response to numerous requests from readers asking for information about the men who publish this magazine, PIPE LOVERS is presenting this series of thumbnail sketches each month on the men who constitute the editorial staff. This, the last of the series, concerns Ken Brown, Associate Editor.)

THE MAN with all the answers on PIPE LOVERS' staff is Ken Brown, small in stature, perhaps, but mighty big when it comes to knowledge of pipes.

Ken feels he knows very little about them and is continually bemoaning the fact that there are no sources of information available on the subject. Actually, however, he has devoured every book and article which has anything to do with pipes or tobaccos, and is virtually a storehouse of information.

It is for this reason that PIPE LOVERS chose him to take care of readers' inquiries and questions pertaining to pipes and all things related to them.

Perhaps from this one would gather that Ken knew it all. Far from it. He is often stumped with questions which he receives in the day's mail, and nothing gets him excited more quickly than some inquiry which he cannot solve.

Then he dives into action. He exhausts all the reference material at hand (which is a small library in itself) and sometimes ends up writing a few letters in an effort to obtain the information desired.

WHEN SOMEONE asks Ken what his hobby is he replies "Research on pipes." He has been following that hobby for over ten years, and he never lets up. He has received many letters, he declares, which have sent him off on a long search in an entirely different line of thought—a branch of pipe lore he has not considered before.

Ken first took up pipe smoking 12 years ago and, as he puts it, "I just puffed. I thought a pipe was something to hold tobacco, and that was all the attention I gave it."

Then, a couple of years later his girl friend (now his wife) gave him a very fine Algerian briar pipe for his birthday. This was by far the nicest pipe he had ever owned, and his interest in pipes began.

Ever since then he has been actively collecting all the data and information on the subject that is possible to obtain.

Collecting, he says, never bothered him until, a few months later, he found that he had quite a large number of pipes which had been given to him by friends, plus a few which he himself had purchased.

"Whether I wanted to admit it or not," he says, "I suddenly realized that I was a collector."

HE HAS never paid much attention to a pipe unless it gave him a good smoke, and he has seldom cared for pipes purely for their beauty or history. He wanted pipes that he could smoke and enjoy, and if they weren't capable of giving a good smoke, he either hid them in a bottom drawer or got rid of them by trading or selling them.

But recently, he admits, the collector's bug has bitten him, and he is going to have two collections—one of pipes he can smoke, and the other of the finest old pieces he can find, from old clays to fine meerschaums.

Ken's favorite style is a bull moose, and he smokes this style almost to the exclusion of all others. He long ago lost track of how many pipes he has, but it is safe to say that he could smoke a different pipe every day for almost two years without once repeating.

Tobacco? He doesn't smoke any kind or type all the time. He prefers a light aromatic, although there are several to which he switches for a change. And when he can't find just what he wants, he blends his own.

Beginning next month the SWAP AND EXCHANGE COLUMN will be back again. This feature, discontinued a year ago, listed free of charge all collector's items either wanted or unwanted. Is there some special pipe you want? Do you have a pipe you would like to trade? Send us a description of it and we'll gladly run it for you in the SWAP AND EXCHANGE COLUMN which will appear regularly beginning next month.
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IN THIS column last month we commented on a suggestion we had received from a reader in Michigan who asked why pipe manufacturers never stamped the weight of the pipe on the shank.

We presented a few opinions both pro and con on the subject and requested readers to send in their opinions.

We got far more reaction to this idea than we had imagined we would.

Although we have not made a careful tabulation, we would guess that roughly 80 per cent of the letters were in favor of the idea.

Mr. Sarason, head of the Burton Pipe Company of Detroit, says, "The idea has merit. In my opinion it would be a good thing, but, of course, it would mean a more expensive product since the pipe would have to be handled at least two more times than ordinarily."

"However, it might not be so bad," he continues, "because certain shapes of bowls will all weigh the same. At one time when I sold pipes direct to the customer I used to take a postal scale along with me.

"I used the scale to prove to the buyer that the pipe was indeed as light as he thought it was."

He GOES on to say that if the marking by the manufacturer should become impractical, each dealer could employ a small postal scale for the purpose.

Several dealers do just this thing, he says.

Mr. Carl Knight of St. Louis, Mo., pretty well sums up the general opinion most frequently expressed when he says, "In a pipe shop we are often confused by so many pipes, and after handling so many the weight factor is not too apparent."

"After we are home and have smoked a new pipe for a while it often becomes too heavy (or too light) and is no longer smoked. We don't like the pipe because it is too heavy.

"If the weight were marked on the pipe we could then make our purchase with greater assurance."

Of the few letters which were against the idea was one from Lewis V. Hogoboom of Oakland, California, who says, "It wouldn't mean a thing. The length and type of stem are also determining factors as far as the 'pull of gravity' on a pipe bowl is concerned.

"A light weight bowl with a long stem would be pulled just as much as a heavier pipe with a shorter stem."

HE GOES on to explain that a heavy pipe with a flush type bit will be more difficult to support than the same pipe with a saddle bit. "This is because," he says, "with a saddle bit more of the bit can be carried between the teeth, which is, in effect, shortening the bit."

Another reader stated that the weight would have to be split into at least eighths of an ounce in order to be of value. Then, he explained, as soon as the pipe had a cake, the weight would be thrown off.

But the great majority of letters were in favor of the idea. Most of them stated that although the system would not be perfection in itself, it would be a helpful guide in buying a new pipe.

If a sufficient number of different opinions is received within the next few weeks, we shall comment on them again in a month or so. If you feel inclined to voice an opinion either one way or the other on the subject, please feel free to do so.

Several of the country's pipe manufacturers have expressed an interest in the subject and might do something about the matter if a sufficient opinion is expressed.
The first pipe was tubular in shape, the tobacco being rolled in a cylinder and placed in one end. It was not until many years later that the outer end of the tube was bent upward at a slight angle, thus forming the first resemblance of a bowl.

The Evolution of the Pipe

The Time it Was First Used is Still a Mystery, Although Indications are that The Tube Pipe Was Known 2000 Years Ago

By THOMAS MOORE

TO CHART the evolution of the modern tobacco pipe is to attempt the impossible, and the reason is that there are so many missing links. Whether or not the pipe shape as we know it today was invented to fill a definite need, or whether it developed over a period of several decades or centuries remains a debatable question, but from the evidence at hand it would seem that the latter is the more plausible of the two.

Before we can begin a description of how the pipe evolved, we should take a quick glance at the smoking practices many centuries ago and the methods employed.

Historians are generally agreed that man first inhaled smoke when it had an agreeable taste or odor. The lighting of fires for the purpose of sending smoke to the heavens in an effort to contact the gods is one of the first uses of fire solely for the smoke.

Various leaves and herbs were ignited according to the customs of the different rituals and the primitive tribes which practiced this form of worship. It was soon found that some herbs and leaves gave off a smoke which had a pleasing odor to the nostrils. It is in this way that incense was born.

It was the early custom to light a small fire over which the native would stand and then inhale the smoke. Different leaves gave off different aromas with varying effects to those who inhaled it.

It is known that such practices were carried on as early as 3000 B.C. and are substantiated by inscriptions which have been found in the pyramids in Egypt. From here the practice spread throughout the other countries of the world, and is mentioned in both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

NOW WE approach the first of the "missing links," so to speak, for it has never been conclusively shown that any implements were made for the express purpose of inhaling the smoke, at least in the Old World. The burning of incense and the use of the smoke was primarily for religious or ceremonial purposes.

But during all this time the Red Man on the North American continent was experimenting with a new plant (tobacco) which gave off an entirely different smoke when burned. This smoke, these people found, had a mild relaxing effect when inhaled, and the plant was burned as often for this purpose as for its part in any religious ceremony.

When Columbus set foot on these shores in 1492 he found the Indians so interested in inhaling the smoke that they had improvised and put into use small Y shaped tubes. The two upper openings fitted into the nostrils, while the smoke entered the lower opening and thereby was concentrated somewhat as it was inhaled. This is not generally
considered to be a pipe since it did not actually hold tobacco.

Now comes another missing link—that of transposing the Y shaped tube into one long tube, the end of which contained the burning tobacco leaf. What was used from the time the Y shaped tube was popular until the long hollow tube became the accepted smoking medium? Was this one grand change, or did it evolve through a series of other implements, and if so, what were they?

If the drawings and other hieroglyphics which were found in the ruins of the Mayan cities are to be believed, then the pipe was known some 2000 years ago. The Mayan civilization is thought to have begun a century before Christ, and reached its highest point around 500 A.D. Drawings which have been unearthed show individuals with straight tube pipes in their mouths. One of these drawings is reproduced at the left of the illustration on this page.

In this instance the man is lying on his back and is smoking the pipe in a vertical fashion.

However, no proof has been presented to show that the Mayans inhaled the smoke or even tasted it. It is likely that these crude affairs were nothing more than portable incense burners, and by blowing through the hole at the bottom the smoke could be made to rise skyward. Also, the tube could be pointed in any desired direction and the smoke aimed accordingly.

The Mayan cities suddenly vanished through some catastrophe, and many of their unanswered secrets perished with them, leaving the true use of these tubes unknown. If they were actually used for smoking, it would seem that the art would not have been lost between that time and the year Columbus found the natives employing the less satisfactory Y shaped tubes. Perhaps some day some one will account for the missing link from 700 A.D. to 1492.

Some of these missing links have been found in more recent times through findings in Indian burial grounds and other excavations which have been carried on from time to time by various geographic societies and museums.

By studying these findings we are able, in a rather humble sort of way, to be able to piece together what actually occurred in the evolution of the pipe.

Historians believe that the first pipe was a device improvised to hold together a group of rolled leaves. Large hollow reeds served this purpose very well, and the leaves, after being rolled, were inserted in one end of the tube while the native inhaled on the other end.

Since reed burned, someone thought of trying stone, and the first pipe was born. An example of this "first pipe" is illustrated at the top of page 231. This pipe is some 25 inches long and was unearthed on Catalina Island. It was used many years before Columbus landed. This find would indicate that West Coast Indians had employed the pipe before those inhabiting Eastern shores, since no pipes were reported as having been seen by Columbus' men.

How long the straight tube was used is anybody's guess. It may have been a few years or a couple of centuries, although the shorter length of time is indicated. It's development seems to have been pretty general all over the Western Hemisphere, although it is most likely that some Indian tribes progressed more rapidly in pipe design than others.

The next step was to bend the outer half of the pipe upward so that the leaves would have less tendency to fall out and also permit the user to smoke the pipe without having to tilt his head backward.

This was soon followed by rounding out this outer end to form a sort of bowl, and here, it seems, progress stopped for some time, since the pipe now appeared to be perfect from a practical standpoint. An example of this stage is the stone pipe illustrated at the right on page 231. It was unearthed in Wisconsin and indicates considerable attention was given to its formation.

By the time the angle reached approximately 45 degrees, the smokers of the world were pretty well satisfied. This shape continued for well over a century, and, as far as Churchwarden and similar clays are concerned, may be said to still be in use today.

When pottery pipes were first used is a matter of speculation simply because the substance itself is not such that it will survive many years of rough treatment, and many of those that were buried were soon destroyed. But from the few that have been unearthed and which have found their way into museums, a little more knowledge concerning the fascinating history of early pipes may be found.

In the center illustration shown on this page may be seen three pipes, one of which is made of pottery and which dates back to pre-Columbian times. The pipes are crude in construction but show the "style" of that era. The top two are made of stone and were found in North Carolina, while the one at the bottom is made of pottery and was unearthed in Liberty County, Georgia.

Were it possible to ascertain the probable date of these pipes, the chronological description would be much easier to record, but historians know only that such sites were "pre-Columbian" and we

Left, this drawing found in the ruins of a Malayan temple shows the vertical position in which the early tube pipes were smoked. Center, primitive pipes showing the angle between bowl and shank. They are of American origin. Bottom, monitor pipe.
must be content with no more information than that.

It would appear that tribes in the northern latitudes of the continent were more advanced in their pipe making. Whereas the Indians in the southern sections were using the small Y shaped tubes, pipes with a definite bowl were being employed in what is now the United States, and more advanced designs were in use by Indians in what is now Canadian territory. An example is the “monitor” pipe shown on the opposite page and which was uncovered on Wolf Island, one of the Thousand Islands in Ontario. It is thought to be pre-Columbian since it was found at a “non-contact” site.

The pipe among South American natives was also progressing, and judging from pipes found there the same improvements were being made in bowl construction and design. The top illustration on this page shows three pipes which were unearthed at the “Los Tamarindos” site on the shores of Lake Tacarigua in Venezuela and which date back at least five centuries.

The similarity which remained for many years is shown by comparing these early Indian pipes of South America with some of the first English clays pictured below them. In general pattern they are remarkably alike, even though the white English clays were later by at least 200 years. This indicates little change in pipe pattern during this period.

The third and last major change to appear in pipe design is the placement of the bowl at right angles to the shank. Examples of the bowl at 90 degrees are found in mounds and other excavations, but they were the exception rather than the rule.

Numerous decorative pipes with an upright bowl would indicate the advantages of a bowl in this position were known at an early date, but the fact that this style did not come until later adds to the belief that the style was purely for ornamental purposes, since few “regular” pipes of this early era are found with a 90 degree bowl.

The change to the upright bowl has been the slowest of all, and may be said to be still going on, for the present day Irish clays are at the 45 degree angle.

The conversion began in the latter part of the 17th Century, mostly in Europe, where smokers found the upright bowl was the best solution. There it has remained and probably always will, for where else can it go?

It is interesting to note that the size and shape of the bowl have not changed. They have remained about the same for centuries, although the once long stem has been shortened.

Pipes intended for smoking day in and day out have always been plain, and probably always will be. Pipes in every conceivable shape and style have been made and sold and will no doubt continue for centuries. And although these pipes were smoked considerably up to 50 years ago, the present pipe enthusiast prefers to let the ornate piece rest on a mantle or in a display case while for true enjoyment he selects a small, portable, light weight pipe of wood, usually briar.

It appears doubtful that there will be any subsequent change in pipe style or shape, and the pipe as we know it today which has evolved from its primitive hollow reed to the modern design is satisfactory in practically all respects and leaves little to be desired by the 20th century smoker.

The evolution and development of the various individual pipe shapes which were created and used by the peoples in different parts of the world have not been touched upon in this discussion, and since each is a story in itself, these we shall leave for a later date.

AUGUST, 1948
Two views from opposite sides of an amber mouthpiece scarcely an inch long show the rapidly changing graduations in this ancient substance dating back to antiquity.

A MBER, ITS HISTORY, and the fascinating story it has to tell, is one of the most interesting of all objects connected with pipes and pipe lore. Its use as pipe stem material dates back over 200 years, but amber itself dates back more than twice as many centuries.

All pipe enthusiasts are familiar with this golden yellow substance which has been used for pipe bits, often being considered the best of all substances ever discovered for the purpose.

Its high price prevents it from appearing on only the finest pipes, the price now said to be five dollars an inch and up, depending upon the quality.

The reason amber is preferred for stems is twofold: First, its genuine and unmatched beauty, and second, its durability and resistance to biting by the teeth in spite of its relative brittleness.

But neither of these were the reasons why amber was first used as a pipe stem. The Turks are credited with having first used this substance in this manner.

And the reason? Amber, for centuries, had been considered to have medicinal values and was used in the treatment of numerous diseases. The Turks, in their custom of passing the pipe from mouth to mouth, felt that if the bit were made of amber it would prevent the transmission of infection as the pipe was passed from one smoker to another.

Thus was amber first used as a pipe stem. Obviously, only the finest pipes were used on festive occasions, and consequently only the most valuable were equipped with the beautiful amber. In this way the substance was considered befitting only the finest pipe, and an amber stem has more or less been associated with fine pipes ever since.

A MBER DATES BACK to antiquity, and its formation began probably before man existed on earth. During the Miocene period, which geologists estimate was several hundred thousand years ago, the northern part of Europe had a tropical climate.

The Scandinavian countries, northern Germany and the Baltic coast of Russia had an abundant vegetation. Trees, unhampered by man's axe, grew large and plentiful, and much of the region was covered with a thick forest.

The cone bearing evergreens emitted a sticky, yellow jelly-like liquid called resin and which fell to the ground. Sometimes it was glutinous and formed icicles on the limbs while other times, under the heat of the noonday sun it would fall in drops as any liquid.

These jelly-like masses were quite sticky and soon ensnared various kinds of crawling and flying insects which soon were trapped in the mass and died there, and as the resin engulfed them it served as a preservative. Other objects besides insects would also be held by the golden substance.

Time passed, and as it did so the northern climes became colder and the forests withered and fell. The resins remained to become fossilized, keeping the little insects, snails, twigs, bits of bark and similar objects well preserved.

Much of the forest floor began to sink and in time became submerged and the "Blue Earth" came into existence. Old lands vanished and new lands appeared. The one time tropical forest had disappeared beneath the ocean's surface.

The Glacial period came and passed. The Baltic Sea was formed. It's waves, pounding against submerged beaches and cliffs, losened the fossilized rem-

By FRANK E. SMITH

P Pipe Lovers
Amber is a fossilized pine resin that solidified over time to form a durable and semi-precious material. It is found in many places around the world, but particularly in the Baltic region, where it has been mined for centuries. Amber's rich history dates back to antiquity, with evidence of its use as a gemstone and ornamentation dating back thousands of years.

Amber was highly prized by ancient civilizations for its aesthetic and practical qualities. It was used for making jewelry, beads, and other decorative items. The Greeks and Romans were particularly fond of amber, using it in their jewelry and for medicinal purposes. In fact, the word "amber" comes from the Greek word "amphurion," which means "sea amber." It was also used as a trade commodity, particularly in the Mediterranean region.

Over time, the demand for amber has fluctuated, with periods of high demand followed by periods of decline. During the Middle Ages, amber was considered a precious commodity and was used for making jewelry and other ornamental items. In the 18th and 19th centuries, amber was prized for its use in making beads and other decorative objects.

Today, amber continues to be valued for its beauty and rarity. It is still mined in some parts of the world, particularly in the Baltic region, where it is found in large deposits. Amber is also used in modern jewelry and decorative items, as well as in the production of amber jewelry.

The value of amber depends on its size, shape, and color. Larger, more translucent pieces are more valuable than smaller, darker pieces. Amber is a popular material for making jewelry, particularly in Europe and the United States.

Amber is also known for its healing properties, with some people believing that it has medicinal properties. It is said to have a soothing effect on the body and is often used in traditional medicine.

In conclusion, amber is a material that has a rich history and continues to be valued for its beauty and rarity. Its use as a gemstone and ornamentation dates back to antiquity, and it continues to be prized for its aesthetic qualities today.
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WHAT IS AMBER?

By FRANK E. SMITH

AMBER, ITS HISTORY, and the fascinating story it has to tell, is one of the most interestings of all objects connected with and pipe stem. Its use as pipe stems dates back over 200 years, but itself dates back more than twice that period.

Pipe enthusiasts are familiar with Northern climes became colder and the golden substance.

The reason amber is preferred for stems is twofold: First, its genuine and unmatched beauty, and second, its durability and resistance to biting by the teeth in spite of its relative brittleness. But neither of these were the reasons why amber was first used as a pipe stem.

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PIPE LOVERS

fore Christ the Phoenicians were trading in the precious substance. Great sea and inland routes were established in carrying on this once flourishing trade.

Since man was dependent upon the sea to provide the supply of amber (very little has been mined) the supply depended upon the weather, and the price would vary depending upon the amount accumulated and taken to the great amber markets of the old world.

The most generally accepted theory for the vast differences is that each species of tree would give off a different consistency of resin. Among the trees thought to have existed in the early primeval forest are the beech, hick, alder, hornbeam, poplar, oak, willow, fir, pine, and cypress, the last three being those most generally responsible for the resinous deposits.

Where the flow of the yellowish substance from the tree was wasters, numerous objects were caught by it and this resulted in the cloudy amber, a good illustration of which is shown on the opposite page.

Where the flow was more solidified and less sticky, its masses remained transparent and account for the crystal clear pieces that are found.

Johann C. Aycker, one of the best authorities on the subject, is of the belief that much of the better amber comes from diseased trees whose trunks turned into this yellowish liquid, and as the trees died this substance hardened into what is today's best amber. The few large pieces of amber which have been found and which indicate the formation of tree growth or sections lend credence to this theory.

Amber is found all over the world, but only in the prarimonty of Samland, in East Prussia, has it ever been found in great quantities. Elsewhere it turns up only in very small amounts.

It varies in color from dark earth-brown to black and from a deep yellow to a rich hyacinth red. It has been found in small amounts in other colors ranging from blue to green, although its amber. The opaque varieties are the most valuable.

The few sections where it has been mined, it has found in three distinct layers of earth strata. The lowest, known to scientists as the blue earth, contains by far the most and the finest quality. This stratum stretches from

This Ancient Substance Which Dates Back to Antiquity has Long Been a Favorite Material for Pipe Stems

The price now said to be five dollars an inch and up, depending upon the quality.

The amber was credited with having first used this substance in this manner.

And the reason? Amber, for centuries, had been considered to have medicinal values and was used in the treatment of numerous diseases. The Turks, in their custom of passing the pipe from mouth to mouth, felt that if the bit were made of amber it would prevent the transmission of infection as the pipe was passed from one smoker to another.

Designs such as this in amber stems were once quite popular, but in recent years the trend has been to straight, plain stems with a minimum of ornamentation.

(Written on page 232)
The Truth About War Surplus Pipes

This Article Gives You the Real Low Down on Why Huge Lots of Pipes are Now on Sale at Extremely Low Prices

By JAMES MORRISON
(Staff Writer)

RECENTLY IN the papers numerous ads have appeared announcing huge sales of “fine” pipes at ridiculously low prices. Often the ads announce something like “10,000 briar pipes, $3.50 to $5 values for only 89 cents while they last. Well known brands—in original boxes.”

These are, to put it bluntly, war surplus pipes. Seldom have they appeared in reputable pipe shops, or, if they have, they have been correctly labeled for what they are and sold accordingly.

Generally these sales have appeared in such places as war surplus stores, jewelry stores, and at bargain counters in variety stores.

If they are such good pipes, why are they being offered at such low prices? A good briar pipe will keep, so why “dump” them on the market in such numbers?

Simply because they are war surplus does not mean that they are of poor quality, or defective in any way. In many instances the quality of briar as well as the quality of workmanship is as good as the manufacturer was able to offer during the war years of 1943 and 1944.

Therefore, in order to get the real picture we must go back four to five years and look in upon the pipe factories in this country.

When hostilities began, shipments of imported briar from Southern Europe ceased to arrive in this country. Stocks in local warehouses were soon exhausted, and as the demand for pipes increased the manufacturer had two alternatives—go out of business, or use the best wood at hand.

The hills of North Carolina had been furnishing laurel and other domestic briars for some time, but not in any great numbers. Now, all of a sudden, orders began to pour into these mills from pipe manufacturers for large orders of briar burls.

WHAT LITTLE stock they did have on hand was soon exhausted, and it now became a matter of merely digging up the root and shipping it to the factory, with a minimum of curing being given the briar. In other words, the wood was quite “green.”

The manufacturers well knew that pipes made of this green, wet burl would not give the owner a good smoke, but with a mounting wartime demand for pipes, not only from the public who suddenly found money flowing freely, but also from the government, they had to use this inferior wood or else go out of business.

Now the fact that this wood was inferior is no reflection upon the briar grown in this country. It is of the same botanical family as that grown in the Mediterranean sector, and many experts claim that when it is processed correctly few smokers can tell it from the imported variety.

Thus the wood was not inferior, but the lack of proper curing rendered it inferior. But, good or bad, it went into pipes, and went on sale everywhere.

One or two well known manufacturers (Continued on page 250)
You don’t have to be a carpenter, mechanic, or machinist to keep your pipes in good repair. In fact, you don’t need a machine shop or an elaborate set of tools, either. You can do a lot with not much more than a file.

The fellow who has a little spare time and who is willing to devote a few minutes now and then to keeping his pipes in tip-top shape will find it not only fascinating to watch the old pipe transformed, but will learn a lot about pipe care in the process.

When the lip on the end of a pipe stem becomes broken or bitten off, new notches for teeth grips on the end can be easily made in a minute or two. It may turn out to be more practical than artistic perhaps, but at least it will enable you to continue using the stem until a new one can be obtained.

Hard rubber files easily, and although the lip cannot be as deep as originally, it will suffice. The edges are then rounded and smoothed off and the pipe is ready to be filled and lighted again.

When working on a shank, such as doing a refinishing job, and it is not advisable to remove the stem, its glossy surface can be protected from file or sandpaper scratches by wrapping it tightly with adhesive tape.

When the tenon in a pipe breaks, it is but a simple matter to file the old stem down to make a new one. The task is not a quick one, unless the worker has a lathe handy, in which case a new tenon can be made in a matter of minutes, but I have frequently repaired broken stems with no more than a file.

Of course, the repaired stem will be a tenon’s length shorter than it was originally, and it may not fit as snugly as a professional job, but it will keep the pipe in service for a long time. The exact length of the new tenon can be marked as illustrated above (right) with a piece of Scotch tape. This permits the file to keep the line even at all times. Frequent measuring is necessary to insure a good, even fit.

If the shank is only slightly split, the crack can be tightly closed and the splitting stopped by use of a metal ferrule of the correct size. If you have none on hand, perhaps you can make one that will serve the purpose.

I once obtained a strong and durable brass ferrule from the wooden handle of an old-fashioned screwdriver. If you merely wish a strong band to prevent the shank from further spreading, you can get one by filing out a section of a large brass cartridge casing.

When a bowl cracks or burns out, the good stem may be made to fit an undamaged bowl whose stem is broken. Sometimes, the hole in the shank can be slightly enlarged to accommodate a stem with a larger tenon.

If the tenon is too small, it can be enlarged to the desired thickness by wrapping it tightly with a narrow strip of gummed paper tape. Should the stem be slightly smaller than the shank, the shank can be sanded down to make a smooth, even joint.

Heating the tenon and then pressing it against a table top will cause it to enlarge sufficiently to also fill the hole in the shank.

Small nicks and scratches will sooner or later appear on the sides of the bowl and on the shank. Fine sandpaper is preferred over a file in removing them since the sandpaper is less likely to change the contour of the bowl that might occur with a file if it were used improperly.

If the scratch is very deep and the worker is particular, it may be necessary to remove an equal amount of wood from the opposite side of the bowl in order to retain the symmetry of the pipe.

Such preliminary work should be followed with very fine sandpaper, and lastly the application of crocus cloth which leaves a very fine finish in itself.

Obviously the stain will have been removed in these spots, and it may be

(Continued on page 252)
Papuan Trade Pipes

Choice Mountain Grown Bamboo is Used in Making These Pipes Which Are Smoked in an Unusual Manner

By W. C. HARVEY

The pipes are made of thick sections of bamboo, with holes in one end and on one side. Why the pipes are made and how they are smoked are told in the article.

A MORE INTERESTING pipe from the standpoint of why it is made and how it is smoked does not exist than the famous bamboo pipe made by the natives of Papua.

From an artistic viewpoint, or as a work of art, the pipes have little to offer, for they are little more than a large section of bamboo with two holes, one on the side and one in the end.

How do the Papuan natives smoke these pipes? They don't. Strange as it seems they make lots of pipes, but they don't smoke them, or at least more than just a few of them.

The reason is that the Papuan makes his pipe not to smoke but to trade, and it is constructed from a standpoint of how much it will bring in barter from another tribe.

One reason it is so easily traded is that the Papuans live at a high altitude in the mountains of New Guinea. This is where the largest and best bamboo may be found, and the coastal inhabitants do not have access to it.

During the years these mountain people have discovered that their large bamboo pipes have a rich trading value with their many neighbors and create these pipes for that reason alone.

The pipes are exclusive to these people, and in exchange bring ornaments, weapons, food, and numerous other commodities which the mountain native does not have.

In making the pipe, the Papuan selects a nice piece of bamboo, often three inches in thickness, removes the nodules from within, and thus forms the tube. If the section chosen has solid ends, so much the better. If not, end pieces are made and inserted.

A small hole is made in one end, and another is placed along the side, usually near the opposite end from the first hole.

The markings on these pipes are distinctive and they can be identified as to the clan that made them. They are identical with markings which will later be tattooed on the chest, back, arms, or legs of a young man who is being initiated into manhood as he approaches maturity.

The method of smoking the pipes is even more strange. The pipes are traded to numerous tribes including the Gu-dangs of Cape York, the Murray Islanders, the Dalrymple Islanders, and various others.

It is the custom of the smokers to take a small cone of green leaf and insert it into the small hole on the side of the pipe. The cone is then filled with (Continued on page 253)
INTEREST IN pipe smoking contests was revived last month with two such events being held, one in this country and the other in Canada.

In Pensacola, Florida, the first round of a pipe smoking tournament was held at Bowman's Pipe shop. The photo at the right shows the contestants just before the preliminaries got under way.

According to Arthur D. Bowman, who sponsored the contest in the southern city, 20 men competed whose ages ranged from 18 to 82.

The winner was C. E. Roose who kept his pipe going for 41 minutes and 35 seconds. Mr. Chesser was second, puffing away for 36 minutes and 30 seconds while a close third at 35 minutes was Walter Johnson.

Each contestant was given a normal pipe load (1/16 oz.) of Mixture No. 79 tobacco which had been carefully weighed previous to the contest and placed in cellophane envelopes.

The bags were then placed on a table and each contestant was allowed to make his own selection. There were several more bags than contestants, so the last man still had a choice.

Two More Pipe Smoking Contests

Two matches, kitchen type, were given each contestant, but only one light was allowed. The second match was to be used only in case the first one broke or failed to fire.

Three judges governed the proceedings, one of whom served as timekeeper. It was up to the three to decide when any of the contestant's pipes had gone out thus eliminating him from the contest.

The shortest smoking time was one half minute. This contestant failed to get his pipe properly lit and as a result it went out almost immediately.

WINNERS IN PIPE SMOKING CONTESTS
As reported to Pipe Lovers Magazine

CHICAGO, ILL.—Joseph Johnson, 87 min. 45 sec.
Schenectady, N. Y.—Alfred Nessler, 88 min. 55 sec.
New Brunswick, N. J.—Franklyn Sulibarger, 64 min. 42 sec.
Pensacola, Fla.—C. E. Roose, 41 min. 35 sec.
Toronto, Ont.—Leslie Welch, 40 min.

(Times are not comparable since bowl sizes and amounts as well as brands of tobacco were not the same in all contests.)

Florida Man Goes 41 Minutes to Outlast 19 Other Entrants While Corncob Wins in Canadian Contest

By PAUL GARRETT

A sizeable crowd was on hand to watch the proceedings and the whole show was of interest to young and old alike. As soon as the marathon had begun, many of the spectators began to pick favorites and root for them.

Mr. Poulton, the 82 year old contestant, was the leading favorite and found many of the audience cheering for him. He was indeed a perfect picture of pipe smoking contentment. (He is seated closest to the camera in the above picture.)

However, his pipe had been incorrectly lighted and this was the cause for his pipe to go out in only 17 minutes. His elimination was a keen disappointment to the crowd.

Three more contests in Pensacola are scheduled and by the time this appears (Continued on page 252)
The AVERAGE collector begins by attempting to obtain every kind and type of pipe he can lay his hands on. This is as it should be, for there is no better way to learn pipes than by actually owning them and then studying them.

Unless the collector is well fixed financially and has a mansion in which to display his pipes, he will soon find that his collection is beginning to "take over the house" and he finds breathing room at a premium,—he must soon hang his hat outside.

When this time comes, the collector is often faced with the question of whether he should collect all kinds and types, or specialize on one particular class of pipe to the exclusion of all others.

There are sound reasons behind either choice besides the problem of adequate display space and a somewhat unlimited supply of capital.

The collector who specializes on certain types, such as, for instance, carved meerschaums, will obviously have fewer pipes, and he will find them much harder to obtain. This will be offset by the fact that his collection will appear unified and will be more than a heterogeneous accumulation of odds and ends.

On the other hand, the collector who spreads his interest over all pipes is continually finding something new and different, and his collection seems to be ever changing, to himself as well as his friends.

Specialists often are active in groups of two or three, with a meerschaum collector, a porcelain collector, and an Indian collector keeping an eye out for the others' interests. If the first spots an unusual meerschaum pipe he will immediately advise the third, and versa.

The general collector must alone, and he keeps an eagle eye on any pipe he can find. If he is a collector, he will obtain every pipe, for although he may have like it, or not want it himself, he sooner or later runs across someone who has been looking for this very special pipe and can effect a very profitable trade.

The specialist may further divide his collection as to certain types (such as meerschaums of animals only) or created during a certain period (such as 19th century porcelains) and will delight in the more vigorous search necessary by this narrowing down the field in which he works.

His activity will not be near as great as the general collector who requires as many different kinds and varieties as he can.

SOME OF THE nation's known collectors are specialists. Among the chosen fields are carved pipes all made by the collector himself, miniatures of famous collector's pieces, early English clays, or modern English briars.

One midwest collector or will have only Indian pipes in his collection, and a California enthusiast will accept only pipes which do not look at all like pipes.

But practically all collectors start out as general collectors, and they do not turn to specialization until an interest in that particular field arouses them to the extent that they cease to consider any other pipe and exert all their energies in obtaining only those items related to their chosen field.

(Continued on page 254)
Top, this Austrian or German meerschaum with ivory bit is thought to be about 200 years old. Bottom, metal figurine pipe of India shows native craftsmanship.

The average collector begins by attempting to obtain every kind and type of pipe he can lay his hands on. This is as it should be, for there is no better way to learn pipes than by actually owning them and then studying them.

Unless the collector is well fixed financially and has a mansion in which to display his pipes, he will soon find that his collection is beginning to "take over the house" and he finds breathing room at a premium,—he must soon hang his hat outside.

When this time comes, the collector is often faced with the question of whether he should collect all kinds and types, or specialize on one particular class of pipe to the exclusion of all others.

There are sound reasons behind either choice besides the problem of adequate display space and a somewhat unlimited supply of capital.

The collector who specializes on certain types, such as, for instance, carved meerschaums, will obviously have fewer pipes, and he will find them much harder to obtain. This will be offset by the fact that his collection will appear unified and will be more than a heterogenous accumulation of odds and ends.

On the other hand, the collector who spreads his interest over all pipes is continually finding something new and different, and his collection seems to be ever changing, to himself as well as his friends.

Specialists often are active in groups of two or three, with a meerschaum collector, a porcelain collector, and an Indian collector keeping an eye out for the others' interests. If the first spots an unusual tomahawk pipe he will immediately advise the third, and vice-versa.

The general collector must work alone, and he keeps an eagle eye out for any pipe he can find. If he is a wise collector, he will obtain every pipe he sees, for although he may have pipes like it, or not want it himself, he will sooner or later run across someone who has been looking for this very specimen and can effect a very profitable trade.

The specialist may further divide his collection as to certain types (such as meerschaums of animals only) or pipes created during a certain period (such as 19th century porcelains) and will find delight in the more vigorous search made necessary by this narrowing down of the field in which he works.

His activity will not be nearly as great as the general collector who acquires as many different kinds and types and varieties as he can.

Some of the nation's best known collectors are specialists. Among the chosen fields are hand carved pipes all made by the collector.
Top, left, a very fine meerschaum skull with amber stem. It is of Austrian manufacture and is 50 years old. Right, bearded Turk by Jacob Gambier, famous French clay pipe maker. Center, left, delicate hand carved meerschaum by one of the Austrian masters. Right, lion's head made of Italian meerschaum in Venice 50 years ago. Bottom, left, commemorative pipe made in 1930 to honor Austrian event of 1761. Right, flute playing nude of meerschaum with stem of amber, 75 years old.

himself, miniatures of famous collector's pieces, early English clays, or modern English briars.

One midwest collector will have only Indian pipes in his collection, and a California enthusiast will accept only pipes which do not look at all like pipes.

But practically all collectors start out as general collectors, and they do not turn to specialization until an interest in that particular field arouses them to the extent that they cease to consider any other pipe and exert all their energies in obtaining only those items related to their chosen field.

(Continued on page 254)
Breaking In the New Pipe

BITTER “break-in” is eliminated from some pipes by a secret—and exclusive oil process that removes all taste, tar, and foreign substances, leaving the briar clean and hard as petrified wood.

Thus your new pipe is conditioned to instant smoking pleasure. So don’t cull rum, alcohol, or any other “breaking” to the bowl as this only renders the bowl as this only second eight or ten smokes as this starts the years add to its mellowness. foliage, tar, and foreign substances, leave the particles of tobacco.

leaves with a sharp instrument or knock them out immediately, but do first eight or ten smokes as this starts the pipe.

The only major alteration which will have to be made will be to add strips of felt to the top of each drawer so as to render the compartments as near air tight as possible. As it is, they are a close fit, and a small humidifier in each drawer keeps the tobacco at just the right moisture content for blending and smoking. But the felt strips will decrease the frequency with which the humidifiers have to be soaked with water.

1. When filling the pipe, tamp the tobacco down gently from side to side.

2. Fill the pipe only half way for the first eight or ten smokes as this starts the cake to form from the bottom of the bowl and is essential if a proper cake is to be developed.

3. For the first few pipetaks smoke slowly, in measured draws all the way to the bottom of the bowl. Do not touch the ashes out immediately, but allow them to remain in the pipe until it has cooled. The ashes absorb moisture and are an aid to building and smoking. The smoke is less offensive odors, but nowhere have I ever read of the following suggestion which I would like to offer to fellow pipe smokers.

The suggestion may sound strange at first, but the results are worth it because you can tell by working the bit that when he gets through he will not have a poorly aligned stem.

The pipe thus altered will remain so in this locality.

For a simple yet 100 per cent effective remedy, ask the wife (mother or girl friend) to borrow her bottle of colorless nail polish.

A very thin coating of the liquid is now placed on the metal ferrule which serves as an airtight seal. Being transparent, of course it cannot be seen, and it keeps the high gloss of the ferrule for an indefinite period.

And, just as easily, if for any reason it is desired to remove the coating, a bit of polish remover does the job in a few seconds.

—ARTHUR R. KIESCH, Brooklyn, N. Y.

New Way to Sweeten Pipes

I have read and tried countless ways to keep a pipe smoking sweet and stay free from offending odors, but nowhere have I ever read of the following suggestion which I would like to offer to fellow pipe smokers.

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—ARTHUR R. KIESCH, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Polish Keeps Ferrule Bright

Pipe cleaners may take a lesson from metalcrafters who, when it comes to the metal ferrule on a stem, have a worthwhile suggestion to make.

I like to keep my pipes clean and look nice, and spend a lot of time in polishing and shining them, the metal ferrule included.

The tea has a soothing effect upon the tobacco and the smoke has a mild, satisfying, pleasing taste and feel in the mouth.

Different tobaccos, the same as different brands and kinds of tea, will bring different results, and those who are experimentally inclined may want to experiment in this direction.

As for keeping the pipe clean and in a sweet condition, you will find it does a swell job, believe it or not.

—G. A. MOCEL, West Allis, Wisconsin

Pumice for Tight Stems

You are continually offering suggestions on how to remedy tight fitting stems, but so far I have never read of one which I always use and which is the easiest and best of all those of which I have heard.

Polishation with pencils and powder does not remedy the situation, merely easing it for a temporary period. Later, the stem will be rebuffed again.

The worthwhile suggestion to make is to put some scouring powder or pumice on the tenon of the stem and in the outer facing of the shank hole just enough so that a smooth and snug fit is assured.

I have tried files and sandpaper for the same job which is the customary procedure, but invariably these do an uneven job. Either I get one side filed too much so that the stem is too loose, or else it does not fit flush on the outside.

With the use of a fine abrasive powder such as I have just described, more time will be required to accomplish the task, but the results are worth it because you can tell by working the bit that when he gets through he will not have a lop-sided, poorly fitting and poorly aligned stem.

The pipe thus altered will remain so indefinitely, and in most cases any further action will not be required.

—JAMES LAKE, Atlantic City, N. J.

Make Pipe Smoking More Enjoyable

There are experimentally inclined may want to experiment in this direction.

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—G. A. MOCEL, West Allis, Wisconsin

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—JAMES LAKE, Atlantic City, N. J.
Breaking In the New Pipe

(Editor's Note: Believing that breaking in a new pipe is of primary interest to all readers, Pipe Lovers presents in this column each month the recommendations suggested by America's leading pipe and tobacco manufacturers. This month's suggestions come from the Norwalk Pipe Co. of New York City, N. Y.)

BITTER "break-in" is eliminated from some pipes by a secret—and exclusive oil processing that removes all saps, tars, and foreign substances, leaving the briar clean and hard as petrified wood.

Thus your new pipe is conditioned for instant smoking pleasure. So don't apply rum, alcohol, or any other "break-in" treatment to the bowl as this only retards the natural course of mellowing.

However, you can get more from a new pipe by giving it careful consideration. Given the proper treatment, your new pipe will respond with a satisfying smoke that will grow more enjoyable as the years add to its mellowness. Following are a few simple guide-lines that will help you care for a fine pipe:

1. When filling the pipe, tamp the tobacco down gently from side to side. You should never press it down heavily since air circulation is needed between the particles of tobacco.
2. Fill the pipe only half way for the first eight or ten smokes as this starts the cake to form from the bottom of the bowl and is essential if a proper cake is to result in the pipe.
3. For the first few pipefuls smoke slowly in long, measured draws all the way to the bottom of the bowl. Do not knock the ashes out immediately, but instead allow them to remain in the pipe until it has cooled. The ashes absorb excess moisture and are an aid to building up the "cake."
4. Never scrape the inside of the bowl with a sharp instrument or knock the pipe on hard surfaces. In removing excess cake, use only a pipe reamer intended for the purpose, and leave a layer of cake at all times.
5. Make certain that the "cake" in the bowl never becomes too thick. Since the "cake" expands more rapidly than briar when heated, it may cause the bowl to crack or split.
6. Make sure the pipe is cool and bowl quite dry before refilling. The pipe should be cleaned daily.

Pass 'Em Along

Pass along your ideas, short cuts, pet discoveries, and suggestions to fellow pipe enthusiasts. Contributors whose ideas are accepted and appear on this page are given a Ronson Lighter employing the "press, it's lit—release, it's out" action, together with a Ronson Servicer which consist of a full kit of lighter accessories, courtesy of the Ronson Lighter Manufacturer.

Send all contributions, with photos and diagrams when necessary, to the editor. This is your page. The other fellows want to know what you've discovered that makes pipe smoking more enjoyable, the same as you like to read about his, so send yours in today.

Cabinet Makes Blending Easy

After having kept blending tobaccos in boxes and jars and cans I decided I would have to do something about getting some sort of a chest of drawers, a cabinet, or some similar object which would be more convenient.

Just what, I did not know, so I decided to look around furniture shops and similar stores for an idea.

I never did find just what I wanted in stores of that type, but the answer suddenly came to me one day when I was in a second hand store looking for some old pipes for my collection. I suddenly spied an old sewing cabinet, the kind that has each of its three drawers on either side linked together so that as it is opened, the contents of the drawers are revealed.

This looked to me as though it might be the answer to a tobacco blender's dream, and inside of a couple of minutes it was in my car headed home with me.

One of the drawers is subdivided into four sections, and I intend to partition off some of the other drawers in the same way. The cabinet is indeed easy and convenient to use, and I would recommend one of these old sewing cabinets to anyone for this purpose.

The only major alteration which will have to be made will be to add strips of felt to the top of each drawer to this way render the compartments as near air tight as possible. As it is, they are a close fit, and a small humidifier in each drawer keeps the tobacco at just the right moisture content for blending and smoking. But the felt strips will decrease the frequency with which the humidifiers have to be soaked with water.

—D. S. Atwater,
Long Beach, Calif.
New Way to Sweeten Pipes

I have read and tried countless ways to keep a pipe smoking sweet and staying free from offending odors, but nowhere have I ever read of the following suggestion which I would like to offer to fellow pipe smokers.

The suggestion may sound strange and many may be afraid to try it just from the sound of it, but I can truthfully say that besides giving a new and pleasing taste, it will keep the pipe in better smoking condition.

The idea is to take an ounce of any smoking tobacco and mix into it the amount of ordinary tea usually contained in one teaball.

The tea has a soothing effect upon the tobacco and the smoke has a mild, satisfying, pleasing taste and feel in the mouth.

Different tobaccos, the same as different brands and kinds of teas, will bring different results, and those who are experimentally inclined may want to experiment in this direction.

And as for keeping the pipe clean and in a sweet condition, you will find it does a swell job, believe it or not.

—C. A. Miller,
West Allis, Wisconsin

Polish Keeps Ferrule Bright

Pipecrafters might take a lesson from metalcrafters who, when it comes to the metal ferrule on a stem, might have a worthwhile suggestion to make.

I like to keep my pipes clean and looking nice, and spend a lot of time in polishing and shinining them, the metal ferrule included.

The briar and hard rubber retain their shine much longer than the metal ring, however, especially when the pipe is placed in a rack and not handled. Moisture and chemical gasses in the atmosphere bring about a quick tarnish, at least in this locality.

For a simple yet 100 per cent effective remedy, ask the wife (mother or girl friend) to borrow her bottle of colorless nail polish.

A very thin coating of the liquid is now placed on the metal ferrule which serves as an airtight seal. Being transparent, of course it cannot be seen, and it keeps the high gloss of the ferrule for an indefinite period.

And, just as easily, if for any reason it is desired to remove the coating, a bit of polish remover does the job in a few seconds.

—Arthur R. Kassin,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Pumice for Tight Stems

You are continually offering suggestions on how to remedy tight fitting stems, but so far I have never read of one which I always use and which I believe to be the easiest and best of all those of which I have heard.

Lubrication with pencils and powder does not remedy the situation, it merely eases it for a temporary period. Later, the stem must be re-lubricated again.

What I do when the stem is too tight is to put some scouring powder or pumice on the tenon of the stem and also in the shank hole.

Then I revolve the stem several dozen times. The fine abrasive action of whatever agent is used grinds down the outer surface of the tenon and the inner surface of the shank hole just enough so that a smooth and snug fit is assured.

I have tried files and sandpaper for the same job which is the customary procedure, but invariably these do an uneven job. Either I get one side filed too much so that the stem is too loose, or else it does not fit flush on the outside.

With the use of a fine abrasive powder such as I have just described, more time will be required to accomplish the task, but the results are well worth it because you can tell by working the bit when the needed alteration has taken place. The powder can then removed.

Also, since the action is uniform over the entire surface of both areas, an even job is assured, and the owner knows when he gets through he will not have a lop-sided, poorly fitting and poorly aligned stem.

The pipe thus altered will remain so indefinitely, and in most cases any further action will not be required.

—James Lake,
Atlantic City, N. J.

AUGUST, 1948
**Small Briar Diskets in Pipe Prevent Wet Heel**

*Will Fit Most Pipes*

Something new in the way of a wooden disc which prevents wet heel and keeps a pipe drier has recently been introduced by the Disket Company of Chicago, Ill.

The item is known as a disket and fits snugly into the standard pipe bowl. The sides are slightly tapered, thus allowing the disket to fit the slanted wall of the pipe.

The arrangement of holes permits the tobacco to be burned around the edges as well as just in the center, and permits the tobacco to burn clear to the bottom by keeping it dry. Tobacco particles are also prevented from entering the shank.

The little grates come six to a package and may be used repeatedly. When they become too dirty they can be instantly replaced.

The diskets are made of American briarwood and at this time are available only in the one standard size which fits most pipes. However, the manufacturer states that a smaller and a larger size are contemplated in the near future.

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**Air-Tight Can Is Developed**

The Can Manufacturers Institute has announced the development of a metal can for smoking tobacco that is claimed to be as nearly air-tight as it is possible to make a soldered can.

The Institute states its engineers have spent years of researching in the development of the container.

One of the outstanding features of the can is the hinge at the back that is formed from the solid body of the can, thus eliminating all openings. The top is said to be a perfect friction top that closes the can completely.

In announcing the new container, the Can Institute stresses the point that the content of the can is protected almost indefinitely and that the smoker will find it difficult to purchase stale tobacco.

Furthermore, the owner can smoke the contents at his leisure, be assured that the tobacco will remain fresh and moist, and that the last pipeful will taste as delightful as the first.

---

**Rubber Pipe Tip Relieves Teeth from Undue Strain**

*Helps Prevent Tongue Burn*

A new rubber tip for use over the end of the pipe bit has been perfected and is now being marketed by the Murphy Pipe Tip Company of Cleveland, Ohio.

The article is a small, almost inconspicuous rubber tip which is described as odorless and tasteless, yet firm enough to feel comfortable to the teeth. It helps protect both teeth and pipe bit from undue strain.

It helps prevent tongue burn and provides a cooler smoke because of an expansion chamber which allows the smoke to expand and cool before entering the mouth. The vertical egress causes the smoke to cool still more by changing the plane in which the smoke is traveling from a horizontal to a vertical direction.

Also, the vertical egress is said to prevent moisture from the mouth from entering the pipe stem.

An additional feature is that the tip need not be removed while the pipe is cleaned. As illustrated here, a cleaner can be inserted in the stem and shank through holes in the tip.
Marxman to Expand Its Series of Carved Heads

New Designs Being Made

It isn't every pipe enthusiast that can spend $100, $200, or $500 for a very handsome hand carved pipe, yet many pipe lovers have a yen for items such as these in their collection.

With this thought in mind the Marxman Pipe Company of New York, makers of the famous Marxman Heirlooms, have created a line of hand carved heads which sell for a nominal sum yet which retain the individuality and craftsmanship of the higher priced models.

The pipes, created by old-line craftsmen, include the Indian Squaw, Knight in Armor, Monkey, shown above, as well as a Steer With Horns, a Horse, a Bulldog, Friar, Devil and Skull. Each carries the Marxman guarantee.

Marxman officials report the hand carved line has received such enthusiastic reception from pipe smokers thus far that they have decided to expand this unusual line and at the present time are working on additional numbers which will be announced in the very near future.

Pipecraft, Ltd. Is Organized

A new pipe company known as Pipecraft, Ltd., has been incorporated in Brooklyn, N. Y., by I. N. Moss of that city.

No statement as to the kind or type of pipes the firm will manufacture has as yet been made public.

Cherrywood Pipes Being Imported

Pipes made of imported cherry wood (weichsel) are now being imported into this country and distributed here by Ernest Lind of New York.

These pipes, Lind pointed out, are available in two styles with one type having a flat base and the other having a round base. The flat type can be used as a stand, as a desk pipe, the flat base being used loop can be fastened to a chain, strap or cord, and can never be left on a log or dropped. The “loop” does not in any way interfere with the mechanism of the lighter and it offers the smoker the assurance that his lighter will always be on hand.

The same exacting standards and unconditional guarantee, backed by a time honored free repair service, which have always characterized Zippo lighters, are incorporated in this new model, according to the firm.

Enlarged Bowl On Kleensmok

A new enlarged bowl on the Kleensmok Pipe has just been announced by the Kleensmok Pipe Company of Johnson City, Tennessee.

The new bowl contains 50% more tobacco than in the standard bowl, giving the owner an increased amount of smoking time from each pipful.

The construction of the pipe remains the same and features the lower bowl which contains tobacco serving as a filter through which the smoke from the upper bowl must pass.

The Kleensmok is hand made of Italian briar and is available only in natural finish.

Finding the Ideal Blend Simplified With New Bar

Each Formula Is Recorded

One of the newest innovations to assist the pipe smoker in locating his ideal blend is this new LaFond Tobacco Bar which is now appearing in pipe shops throughout the country.

Dealers are installing the bar for the purpose of helping pipe enthusiasts to obtain a blend which suits their taste perfectly.

The pipe smoker can have available at his own request the personal tobacco blends that he alone desires. The five master blends can be reblended to suit the smoker's own particular taste.

He will then be able to purchase his own tobacco barrel, suitably humidified, with his own name burned into the wood in his own signature. The formula of his own private blend is recorded so that when he wants a refill of his own mixture, the clerk can blend it for him and place it in his own barrel.

The bar, brain child of Joe LaFond of Detroit, also includes numerous accessories for pipe smokers such as pouches, lighters, tools, cleaners, sweeteners, reamers, and current pipe magazines.

AUGUST, 1948
When Members of the newly formed club at Flint, Michigan, start for a meeting they leave their favorite briars and meerschaums on the rack at home and select a corncob pipe, for they know that if they are caught smoking any other, they will get fined $10.

Strict or not, that is the rule of the newest, and perhaps most unusual of the nation's many pipe clubs.

According to a description of the club which has been sent in by Paul Spaniola, Michigan's most enthusiastic pipe man, the Corn Cob Club of Flint was originated by Albert Lefers. Just why the group forsake all their other trusty pipes and smoke only a corncob at meetings is not explained.

The club started out with a limited membership of 12 members, but it has grown rapidly and now has 16 members—all corncob devotees.

The interest in the club is so keen that the members meet every Wednesday night from 8 to 10 p.m. Their report did not include what is covered on their program, but it is apparent they must have a good time to keep coming back for more every week.

It isn't women, for they have taken care of that problem by passing the regulation that no women will be permitted to attend meetings.

The group recently chose John Bowden as president, and Ernest Lenz was selected as treasurer.

The club has listed its address as 2406 Lewis Street, which no doubt is where the club holds its meetings. Whether this is the home of one of the members, a cafe dining room, or special club meeting room was not reported. Judging from the picture of the group above, it might be any of the three.

The $10 fine for smoking anything but a corncob pipe shows the boys mean business when it comes to enforcing the rule. It's corncobs and nothing else for this organization.

Is this the first "specialized pipe club" in the country? Is there a meerschaum club somewhere, a manzanita club, or a clay pipe club? We have no record of any such group but would appreciate hearing of any similar formation along specialized lines.

The Flint Corn Cob Pipe Club apparently has the distinction of being the first pipe club to limit its scope of activity, or at least its condition of membership to one particular field of pipes.

Knowing other clubs are interested in their programs and activities, we trust they will keep us informed of what goes on there each Wednesday night so that we may pass the information along to other readers who might be interested in this type of club for future consideration.

Pipe Clubs

Novel Michigan Group Will Smoke Only Corncob Pipes at Meetings, With Fines Given for Violations

New Clubs

Legion, Texas

Members of the Veterans' Hospital at Legion, Texas, are preparing to organize a pipe club, according to a recent report from Fred E. Fawcett.

"Several of the boys have been reading about the activities in other clubs around the country, and have decided to get going in the same way," writes Fawcett.

He has requested a copy of the mimeographed pamphlet "Suggestions on Organizing a Pipe Club", which was written and prepared by the editors of Pipe Lovers and which is available to all new groups upon request.

Although Fawcett did not mention his mailing address, those in and near Legion who would like to join the group...
or assist in its formation can probably reach him through the Veterans Hospital there.

**Club News**

**ELKHART, INDIANA**

Fred Beals has been appointed Indiana State Leader of the G. I. Pipe Smokers’ Club. He reports he is now making arrangements to go to the Percy Jones Hospital in Battle Creek, Michigan, for the purpose of distributing pipes and tobaccos to the patients there.

**BURBANK, CALIF.**

Members of the Lockheed Pipe Club have made the final selection on their club blend. From eight original mixtures the club narrowed this number down over a period of several meetings, and finally made their selection last month. The blend will soon be available in small packets, and will be obtainable in pipe shops in and near Burbank.

At a recent meeting the group saw three of the seven series of lantern slides from the Pipe Lovers Magazine (Continued on page 252)

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**PIPE CLUB DIRECTORY**

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<tr>
<th>DIST. OF COLUMBIA</th>
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<th>MARYLAND</th>
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<td>412 W. Washington</td>
<td>&quot;Editor Gardener&quot;</td>
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<td>A. S. WEINER</td>
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<td>Rand Miriam</td>
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<td>117 5th Street</td>
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<td>BURTON G. STARR</td>
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<td>WHITNEY WOODBURN</td>
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**National Associations**

(Enclose stamped self-addressed envelope when writing)

**THE G. I. PIPE SMOKERS CLUB**—Joe Coniglio, 86 Ave. "S", Brooklyn, N. Y.

**THE NATIONAL ORDER OF PIPE SMOKERS**—Albert I. Almand, 333 Holderness St., S. W., Atlanta, Ga.

**THE SOCIETY OF PIPE SMOKERS**—Ben D. Keller, Fayetteville, West Va.

**Pipe clubs already formed or now in the process of organisation are listed below. Persons interested in joining these groups should contact the name given.**

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**August, 1948**

247
Pro and Con

“I wholly disapprove of what you say, but will defend to the death your right to say it.” — VOLTAIRE.

This is the page set aside for the reader to discuss controversial questions pertaining to pipes and pipe smoking. Letters may be shortened, but the opinions expressed remain unchanged. For the most interesting letter received each month the editors will award a Darnley of London pipe, courtesy of the Imperial Mercantile Company of Cleveland, Ohio.

THIS MONTH’S QUESTION

“What bearing do you believe the size of the shank hole has on the coolness of the smoke?”

Carl E. Miller
Wilmington, California

In my humble opinion the shank opening has a great deal to do with the coolness of the smoke. In fact, I would say it is the greatest factor of all those involved in obtaining a cool smoke.

By shank opening I am talking about the amount of air space encountered from the bottom of the bowl to the mouthpiece.

Obviously, when the smoke leaves the bowl of the pipe it is very hot—just about as hot as it can possibly be.

If it enters a small, short, straight tube leading to the mouth it will go by the most direct and fastest route and will have no time to cool. As a result it reaches the mouth in a very hot condition.

But if it enters a large chamber with, for instance, several cubic inches of air space (made possible in an extra large or extra long shank) it will not go directly to the mouth but will remain there for a few seconds between draws and will obviously become greatly cooled.

The water pipe is an excellent example of how the smoke can become cooled by passing through a large air space en route to the bit and subsequently the mouth. Try smoking a water pipe without any water in it and notice how cool the smoke is. And so, by employing as large an air space as possible in the shank, the smoke will be cooled accordingly and in proportion.

John Lunsford
Alliance, Ohio

I believe the coolness of the smoke depends more upon the type of tobacco used and the smoker himself, than on the size of the shank hole. However a shank hole that is too small often clogs up and becomes a nuisance. Also a shank hole too large will often convey hot particles of burned tobacco and sometimes sparks into the smoker’s mouth.

Naturally it is impossible to set a standard size shank hole because of the many different sizes, shapes and designs of pipes.

I have found through experience that a shank hole of about 3/16 of an inch works very well. It is not too small to clog easily and is large enough to pull an adequate supply of smoke into the shank to cool between puffs.

Johnie Kirk
Prosper, Texas

I would say from experience that if the shank hole is too small, the pipe will smoke hot whereas if the hole is large; I would say, 3/16 inch instead of the regular 3/8 inch it will allow a free draw and will guarantee a cooler smoke.

The pipe with a small shank hole cuts down the draft thus keeping the heat all in the bowl making a hot smoke and we all know that too much heat spoils the taste of tobacco and is harmful to the bowl.

George M. Brewster
Topeka, Kansas

In my opinion, based upon my own pipe smoking experience, the size of the shank hole has considerable bearing on the coolness of the smoke.

If the pipe does not have a large enough shank hole to permit free draft the smoker has to do some hard puffing with the result the tobacco really fires up and the bowl becomes hot, resulting in a hot smoke.

If the shank hole is at least equal to the size of hole made by a number 16 drill the draft will be free, the pipe will almost smoke itself and you don’t have to puff so hard as to create too much fire in the bowl.

I re bore the shank hole in all my pipes with a No. 16 drill welded onto a handle made of welding material of the same size. This gives a large enough opening to permit free draft and easy smoking, with the result—a cooler smoke.

R. M. Schirmer
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

If by “coolness of the smoke” is meant the temperature of the smoke issuing from the bit, theoretical considerations would indicate that a cooler smoke would be obtained with a large shank hole as the result of a longer residence time in the shank with a greater area for heat dissipation.

However, I believe it would be impossible to detect a significant difference with an ordinary briar pipe.

If on the other hand “coolness of the smoke” is measured by the presence or absence of tongue bite, I know the size of the shank hole can have a very marked effect.

Several years ago I picked up a beautiful old straight grained briar in an

NEXT MONTH

SEPTEMBER—“What improvements would you recommend the manufacturer make on present day pipes?”

OCTOBER—“What words of advice would you give to the beginning pipe smoker to assist him in obtaining the maximum of smoking pleasure?”

(Answers must be received by September 5)

Address all letters to “Pro and Con” in care of this magazine. Anonymous contributions will not be used. Send a picture of yourself if you wish. As many letters will be used as space will allow. Suggestions for future questions are also welcome.

248 PIPE LOVERS
out of the way news stand. Being very pleased with this obviously excellent specimen, I was dismayed when it gurgled strangely while being smoked and gave me a severe case of tongue bite.

A local pipe maker patiently listening to my problem looked the pipe over, and cured the trouble with the twist of a drill. As he explained it, the shank hole was too small. Part of the moisture produced during the combustion of the tobacco is condensed in the cool shank. Instead of being harmlessly trapped there, it was being drawn into the mouth with the resulting "hot" smoke.

Robert Danby, Indianapolis, Indiana

For a long time I have been thinking that the ideal construction in the pipe shank should be a large hole with a small entrance from the pipe bowl. That is, the shank would be hollowed out as usual, only it would be hollowed out with as large a bit as possible. This bit would go to within a 16th of an inch of the pipe bowl. Then, through this 1/16 of an inch would be a very fine hole, not over 1/16 of an inch in diameter, or certainly not more than 3/32 of an inch. My reason is obvious. This would create a very large space in the shank where the smoke would come, being pulled through the small hole from the bowl when the smoker draws on the mouthpiece. Obviously the smoke would come into this chamber at a rapid rate, but with this great amount of air space the smoke would be slowed up in its travel and as a result have time to cool off.

G. S. Markey, White Plains, N. Y.

I have pipes with various sized holes in the shank, and without exception I have noticed that the larger the hole, the cooler the smoke. The reason for this, it seems to me, is that, assuming the draw is equal in either instance, the smoke coming from a large hole comes with slower force than when coming from a small hole. (The same principle applies as when water is forced through a garden hose. The smaller the opening, the greater the force of the water when it comes out.) A large opening gives the smoke a chance to spread out, and as it does so it strikes the tongue not only more slowly, but in a widened area, and as a result the concentration of smoke is not as great and it seems much cooler to the tongue.
He Learned About Pipes

WILLIAM KENYON was a pottery maker. He lived in the outlying suburbs of the great city of London in the 1850's. He enjoyed a good business in making dishes, pots, small statuary and other objects from the baked earth.

In searching around for a new medium which would give him a different approach to his art, old Uncle Bill, as he was known to the townspeople, one day saw a tobacco pipe made of pottery and decided that here indeed was something new to try.

Now Uncle Bill didn't smoke. In fact he never had, but that had little to do with his desire to turn out some really fine examples of his art. He soon learned that a pipe could be made in almost any desired shape or style and still be acceptable to the public.

Although he was far from an artist, he did conceive some wierd ideas, but they sold from the start, and as the word spread that he was making some unusual pieces, his fame spread. Men interested in obtaining the odd and out of the ordinary pieces came to his shop, with some occasionally commissioning him to create something special according to their own ideas. A pottery pipe by Kenyon was a welcome addition to any mantel piece or China closet, and business continued to grow.

Uncle Bill made all the pipes himself, letting the less interesting work of making dishes and statuary be completed by two assistants. He was enthralled by his own pipe craftsmanship, yet never once did he ever have the desire to light up one of his own products and see if it smoked satisfactorily. Actually, he didn't know how, even if he had wanted to, and anyway, he thought, his work was much too beautiful to be contaminated with tobacco leaves and smoke.

His satisfaction came entirely from the many townspeople and travelers who looked him up and bought his wares. For nearly two and a half years he had never had a complaint—had never had one of his pottery pipes been returned for any reason.

But one day that record was broken. Kenyon received his first complaint in almost two and a half years of pipe making. A Squire of London wrote him saying the pipe he recently purchased wouldn't smoke, and he explained the reason why. It was then that Uncle Bill learned for the first time that a tobacco pipe must have a hole through the stem!
Blends and Blending

By GEORGE ALPERT

If you have any questions concerning tobacco blends or blending, Mr. Alpert will be glad to help you. He may be addressed at 401 Broadway, New York 13, N. Y. Be sure to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for your reply.

LIKE THE TOE of an old shoe, there is an expression that turns up every now and then: A woman is a woman, but a good pipe gives a good smoke.

This of course, has no bearing on the fact that the gals are trying to get into the act. Just the other day we were casually discussing female pipe smokers who do give the old briar bowl a whirl on the side when either brother or daddy ain’t lookin', and the fact was that in Queen Victoria's time all the skirts had smudges on their thumbs from tamping down a pipeful.

What I'm getting at is that members of the fair sex read this magazine, and one especially either blends her own already or is considering same.

It was bad enough when a man had to come home and eat his dinner out of a can while the wife was either bowling with the girls, or seeing the same movie over for the third time. The situation is worse when the better half uses the kitchen for blending and uses up all that tobacco and tells pappa to eat downtown because she's mixing burley with Latakia on the table, instead of steak with potatoes. Rough!

THE USE of perique varies with the particular blend as well as the smoker's taste for this tobacco. Actually, you needn't feel as though you can't use perique because it is very strong and you neither like the taste nor the aroma.

The way to use perique is the way you'd use a fine sauce or some other flavorful ingredient. Either the perique should merely suggest its presence, or else it should just be there to add body and vigor and solidify the mixture, without its own influence being overpronounced in the tasted flavor of the mixture.

So many pipe smokers have written in saying they don't like perique and in listing the tobaccos they do like, they always include standard blends containing perique. Invariably they are smoking perique and liking what they smoke and they still say they dislike perique while smoking it all the time. Maybe it's stylish.

WHILE WE are on the subject, there seems to be confusion regarding perique and Latakia. One smoker will examine a mixture, and, sorting out the black leaf will say: Aha! here is perique. And by the same token he will say it's Latakia. Both seem blackish. And because they are black it seems they must be very strong.

And so we say to him, "When you see that black leaf, just take up a piece and taste it. If it is strong in taste and slightly bitter, that's perique, but it won't do you any harm and it's good for you. And if the black leaf has a flavorful taste and isn't bitter, why that's Latakia, and it's good for you, too. It's good for your mixture—both of those ingredients, and don't be afraid of them. They won't bite."

Perhaps, though, all of this has been to no avail and you are one of those who still prefers his mixtures without perique. Here is one to suit you in that respect, providing of course that you will accept a bit of Latakia:

Burley .......... 4 oz.
White Burley ....... 3 oz.
Cavendish .......... 3 oz.
Virginia Flake ....... 3 oz.
Latakia ........... 3 oz.

I suggest you try a few pipefuls without the Latakia. After you have become accustomed to the flavor of the blend then add the Latakia by degrees and notice the difference.

AUGUST, 1948
WHAT IS AMBER

Kraxtepellen to Rantau, and is entirely below sea level. Mining has been carried on at Warnicken and at some other spots. The mined variety is said to be less pure than that given up by the sea.

Amber is divided into numerous classes and sub classes. The first contains pieces of certain sizes and weights. And when it comes to color, transparency, and design, the classes are almost limitless. From one town alone come 58 different categories.

In the working of amber for pipe bits, the pieces are first cut into long sections an inch or less in depth and width. They are then either filed to shape by hand or turned on a lathe. Next they are rubbed smooth with pumice-stone and water and finally polished with any good polishing powder.

When a stem has to be bent, it is first soaked in oil thus preventing the surface of the amber and the opening of the bore from drying up when heat is applied prior to the bending process.

The stem is heated slowly and evenly and then bent with the greatest care. Not all qualities of amber will bend readily, and some will bend only in certain directions, and the knowledge of an amber expert is required.

The slightest speck or defect, almost invisible to the unaccustomed eye, may be sufficient to cause the amber to break at the first attempt to bend it, spoiling the piece and rendering futile all the labor spent in shaping it.

Some kinds of amber may be bent repeatedly, but the operation is seldom repeated with success on the ordinary quality.

Some types of cloudy amber are made clear by being soaked from 12 to 24 hours in warm oil, the temperature of which is gradually increased without being allowed to reach the boiling point. The color of the material is darkened by the process, and it is in this manner that some amber is colored artificially.

Among the many imitations of amber, perhaps the best is the production of a mixture of copal, camphor and turpentine. This composition bears a very near resemblance to the real substance. It melts in ether, however, while the genuine amber remains unaffected.

On a modern pipe, the amber bit is more valuable than the bowl, whether it be of briar, meerschaum, or any of the other pipe materials. Only in the higher price brackets today are pipes available with the genuine yellow substance, and its popularity as a pipe bit from a practical standpoint has long since given way to the more acceptable, even though less satisfactory hard rubber.

Were the two priced the same, it is now doubtful that amber would be the more popular of the two. Its romantic history which began long before man made tracks on this earth gives it a sentimental value which all other pipe stem substances lack, and this, plus its present day scarcity and high price, place it in the collector's class.

It will always be thought of and described as "tops" in pipe stem manufacture, but, like meerschaum, its greatest day has passed.

PIPE CLUB NEWS

The Toronto contest was held at the Sunnybrook Hospital in that city and was sponsored by the newly organized Pipe Smokers' Club of Toronto. It is said to be the first such contest conducted in Canada.

Walking off with top honors was Leslie Welch, veteran of World War II, who won first place by smoking a corn cob. The official time was 40 minutes. Much interest was displayed in the contest, and although the time was not as long as in some other contests, the affair was considered successful, with plans for another Canadian event being considered in the future.

FIX IT YOURSELF

necessary to remove the finish on the entire pipe and re-do it. Previous articles have dealt with how to refinish a pipe so we won't repeat the directions here.

Should the owner prefer a "virgin" finish, all he needs to do is to apply a bit of hard wax to the wooden bowl and rub it in thoroughly and briskly with a soft cloth. Of course a power buffer
does a better job, but a little time and patience, not to mention a bit of "elbow grease" will result in a pipe of which you may be proud.

These are the general troubles that occasionally befall a pipe, and with normal care and attention given to these directions, there is no reason why you can't keep all of your pipes in working condition.

**PAPUAN TRADE PIPES**

(Begins on page 238)

Tobacco or sometimes Pitcheri, a plant which grows in this section of the world and is in many ways similar to tobacco. It is lighted in the usual fashion.

Preparing the pipe to be smoked in its odd manner usually falls to the women members of the tribe. The woman opens her mouth and completely covers the cone and lighted tobacco with her lips. The cone, obviously, cannot be very large.

She then blows, forcing the smoke into the cavity of the bamboo, keeping her hand over the hole in the end of the pipe as she does so.

In a few moments' time the hollow bamboo tube is full of smoke. The leaf cone is then withdrawn and the pipe with smoke enclosed is handed to the husband or the man who is to do the smoking.

He places his hand over the hole in the end in order to keep in the smoke, and then inhales the smoke from the same hole in which the leaf was inserted. He uses his hand meanwhile as a valve to allow the requisite air to enter at the other end.

This gives the native a very cool smoke, and when the pipe is empty he returns the pipe to his wife or mistress who again inserts the cone of tobacco, lights it, and repeats the process.

The first account of the Papuan trade pipes was made by the distinguished naturalist H. M. Moseley, who discovered the oddity in 1874 while with the Challenger Expedition. Since that time the practice has been reported by numerous visitors to that section of the world.

Civilization has not changed the practice, and the fact that some contacts have been made with the modern age are indicated by the bottom pipe in the illustration on page 238. It has been covered with a sticky, tar-like substance into which have been inserted several coins of various nations, insignias, buttons, and other decorative ornaments. And at one end appear the rim of a flashlight! One wonder how much it brought in the traders' market.

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**THE REPAIR BENCH**

Conducted by

W. H. PACKER

(Readers who have questions or problems concerning pipe repairing may write direct to Mr. Packer, who conducts this column each month. He may be reached at 112 E. 12th Ave., Homestead, Penna. There is no charge for this service, but you must enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for your reply.)

IN THE repair bench mail, questions about the selection of tools are leading all other inquiries by about three to one. Some suggest that such a shop must be full of tricky inventions and gadgets that are not available to the average man. Actually, a moderately well equipped model making shop or a good hobby shop is ready to do pipe repair work at any time.

A list of the small machine tools was given in the July issue. The following list of hand tools and odd items will handle practically all repair jobs. Again, this is my own selection—the things that are within arms length when I start to work on a pipe. Some men will probably think that the list is too small. Others will insist that most of them are unnecessary. Anyhow, here is my list:

For measuring and laying out: A 12" combination square with center and protractor heads. This tool serves as a scale, try square, depth gauge and angle measuring device; a set of 3" toolmaker's dividers, inside and outside calipers; two Starrett small hole gauges, 2/10" to 4/10" for measuring the insides of shanks; a caliper rule for measuring the thicknesses of stems to be duplicated; a carpenter's marking gauge for laying out pipes and marking locations of bands on shanks; two drill gauges, one for wire gauges and one for fractions; a thread gauge measuring from 9 to 40 V threads per inch.

Tools for holding and grasping things: a 4" jaw swivel base machinist's vise solidly mounted on the workbench; a hand vise for holding small parts and drills over 1/8"; two pin vises for drills smaller than 1/8"; a pair of long nose pliers and two pairs of tweezers for picking small particles out of shanks; a pair of cutting pliers for cutting lengths of pipe cleaner and shortening metal filters; regular pliers for general work and fishing stems out of hot water; a few small C clamps and adjustable wooden jaw clamps for holding cemented shanks.

Threading tools; two tap wrenches to take taps from 1/8" to 1/2"; die stock for 1" round dies; assorted taps and dies, all the different sizes and gauges available between 1/8" and 1/4" and a few from 1/4" to 1/2".

Cutting tools: A 14" back saw and a coping saw for shaping briar blocks; a hack saw and 10 tooth blades for cutting antler and plastic; some small chisels made out of 3/32" drill rod; a pocket knife does duty as a scriber and scraper as well as the usual work of carving.

Files are very important: Soft metal files, flat mill files, flat bastard files, half round files, small square files, all kinds and sizes from 6" to 10" lengths. And a set of a dozen swiss needle files for small work. Files are used constantly on rubber and plastic and sometimes on wood.

**OTHER ITEMS:** A one unit electric hot plate and a one quart pan for boiling water to bend stems; a file brush and a wire brush for cleaning taps; small probes made out of drill rod for cleaning smoke bores; sponge rubber and chamois pads to help you get a grip on smooth surfaces; a drill and tap table; small brushes for staining bowls; and don't forget a hammer—a one pounder is about right for breaking stems away from the cemented in connector-filters.

I do not intend to imply that you cannot repair pipes with less equipment than the above. Far from it. It would probably be best to start in with the minimum essentials and then add to your set of tools as the need arises.
Classified advertisements are an inexpensive way of reaching pipe smokers everywhere. The cost is low—10c per word or 70c per line. Minimum, $2.00. Cash must accompany order. Closing date, first of the month preceding month of issue.

FOR SALE

- PIPE shop for sale, including complete repair setup. Only pipe shop in Santa Clara County. Ideal location, good lease, present owner Lt. Cdr. Naval Air returning to service. Couple can net $100 per week. Short hours, closed Sundays. $1000 plus fixtures and inventory. Write or call BOB BOYCE PIPE SHOP, 58 S. 1st, San Jose, Calif.

- FIRST quality pipes—straight grains—virgins. $5 each postpaid. Send check or money order. PAVEAU, 9 East 48th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

- IMPORTED French pipes—straight grains—aged virgin Algerian briar. $5 each postpaid. Send check or money order. ARTHUR MARTINEZ, 509 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

- ENJOY clean sweet pipes. Wizard Pipe Sweetener is easy to use and guaranteed to clean and sweeten strong, sour pipes. One ounce bottle and 12 white fluffy absorbent cleaners, 25c postpaid. Money-back guarantee. GENERAL PRODUCTS, Box 993, Owensboro, Kentucky.

- BLEND your own pipe mixtures and enjoy the best. Write for free booklet "Tobacco Blending Made Easy", stating your preference of aromatic or non-aromatic tobaccos. GREEN RIVER TOBACCO COMPANY, Box 990, Owensboro, Kentucky.

PIPE MAKING

- STERLING silver bands 8 to 21 m/m. 7/16 wide, 40c each, 6 for $2, 12 for $3.65. Nickel Silver, 35c each, 6 for $1.75, 12 for $2.80. All sent postpaid. WALTER DeLONG, 609 Russell Ave., Indianapolis 4, Indiana.

- UNPOLISHED seconds, $5.00 pipes, 2 for $1.00. Long Italian briar blocks 3 for $1.00. Complete pipemaking kit, large size block, bit, condenser and instructions, $1.00. Free literature. CARVAPIPE, 2829-V Dixie Highway, Hamilton, Ohio.

WANTED

- WANT to buy meerschaum blocks in any quantity. Send prices and description. C. E. MILLER, Box 21, Wilmington, California.

- DUNHILL Pipe Book and Pritchett's "Smokiana". CY PRUNER, 3807 S. Hill St., Los Angeles, Calif.

- WANTED Copies of February and March, 1946, and March, 1947, issues. Will pay full price (25c) for each copy in good condition. PIPE LOVERS MAGAZINE, 532 Pine Ave., Long Beach 12, Calif.

TOBACCOS

- A REAL smoke for your pipe. Do you like a straight tobacco that is cool, mild, and long burning? Unusual cut, finest imported, domestic tobaccos. Trial size 30c, 8 oz. $1.50, 16 oz. $2.75 postpaid. Everything for the smoker. ADE'S PIPE SHOP, 5314 Crenshaw Blvd., Los Angeles 43, Calif.

MISCELLANEOUS


- PIPES made to order. You draw the design, I make the pipe. $5.00 to $7.50. Jumbo sizes slightly higher. Send your design today and ask for quotation. Stems repaired. J. H. BRADSHAW, 1124 Linden, Long Beach, 2, California.

- EARN EXTRA MONEY selling subscriptions to Pipe Lovers to your friends. Liberal commission. You can also work up a profitable income by obtaining orders for monthly shipments to pipe shops and newsstands. Easy, spare time work. Every pipe smoker is a customer. Write today for full details and commission allowances. PIPE LOVERS MAGAZINE, 532 Pine Ave., Long Beach 12, California.

The illustrations this month indicate a variety of pipe types, some old and expensive, some new and unusual. Those on page 240 depict a very old Austrian or German meerschaum with an unusual ivory bit dating back to the 18th century, and below it a metal figurine from India that illustrates crude native craftsmanship. The head forms the bowl and the smoke outlet is in the rear. The flexible tubing and modern rubber mouthpiece is without a doubt a very recent replacement.

The skull on page 241 is as nice a piece of pipe making as any collector could ask for. The meerschaum bowl itself is excellently done even to the characteristic cracks near the top of the skull. It is complete with amber stem.

To its right is a bearded Turk made of French clay by the famous French pipe maker Jacob Gambier.

Below left is an excellent piece of meerschaum hand carving by one of the old Austrian masters. It is said to be about 75 years old. The human form is carefully done, and the background shows careful thought as to detail.

The lion's head is made of Italian meerschaum and was carved in Venice before the turn of the century. It possesses fine detail and has a lifelike appearance.

Below it is a flute playing nude which was made in Vienna some 75 years ago. The stem is of rock amber, while the pipe itself is of top quality meerschaum.

To its left is a very unusual although not necessarily valuable pipe. Unlike postage stamps and booklets and numerous other commodities which have been issued or manufactured to commemorate some historical event, pipes have seldom been made as a commemorative object. This one, however, is just that.

Tyrolean in style, it commemorates an early Austrian event in the year 1761.

By studying a pipe collection one soon learns much about the collector himself. Even the general collector has his preferences, whether for fine old pieces, pipes only in perfect condition, pipes typical to a certain country or era, or pipes with a fascinating history.

But all collectors have one thing in common, and that is that the implements man has long used for tobacco holds an ever increasing interest for them.

Molly Firth, of London, known as "Molly Cutpurse," was the first woman pipe smoker on record.

Dentist to sweet young patient in chair: "Sorry, but I'm all out of gas."

Patient: "Jeepers, do dentists pull that old stuff too?"

What this country needs is fewer people telling us what this country needs.

Anyone who appears before an audience without preparation should disappear without delay.

The teacher wrote "I didn't have no fun at the seashore," then asked Johnny how to correct the sentence.

Came the answer: "Get a boy friend."

Then there's the story of the lawyer who sat up all night trying to break a widow's will.

A man's greatest mistake is to suppose that grass widows are green.
**Headquarters for PIPES and TOBACCOS**

Visit These Better Stores in Your Community

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  - WEBBER’S SMOKE SHOP
  - LAKEFORD’S SMOKE SHOP

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- PHOENIX:
  - JACK’S PIPE SHOP
  - SANTA MONICA:
    - ED’S PIPE SHOP

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  - LEWIS PIPE AND TOBACCO
- SACRAMENTO:
  - OAKLAND:
  - SAN DIEGO:
  - BAKERSFIELD:
  - LA JOLLA
- BIRMINGHAM:
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  - THE PIPE CENTER

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- DIST. OF COLUMBIA
- WASHINGTON:
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  - THE HUEY

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- CORAL GABLES:
  - CORAL GABLES SMOKE SHOP
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    - LOVE’S

### GEORGIA
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### ILLINOIS
- CHICAGO:
  - SOMERKINS
  - GALESBURG
  - RAINY TOBACCO SHOP

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- INDIANAPOLIS:
  - SPORTSMAN’S SHOP
  - FT. WAYNE:
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  - SOUTH BEND:
  - EVIL BEHAVE
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    - TOPEKA

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- LAWRENCE:
  - HUMBLE SMOKE SHOP
  - TOPEKA:
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  - KENTUCKY HUMBLE SMOKE SHOP

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- JACKSON:
  - MOORE’S PIPE SHOP

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- KANSAS CITY:
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### FEEDBACK
- DEALERS: WRITE TODAY FOR DETAILS ON HOW YOUR SHOP CAN BE LISTED ON THIS PAGE

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**AUGUST, 1948**

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A new blend is created . . .

FEW PERSONS realize the tremendous amount of research and experimentation that must go on "behind the scenes" when a new pipe mixture is developed.

Untold hours of research are followed with a survey of retail tobacconists in order to obtain first hand the latest information on likes and dislikes of pipe smokers.

Then begin countless days of experimentation—various tobaccos are blended, tested, discarded. In the case of an aromatic blend certain well known flavors are tried out—all in an expensive and costly effort to bring you, the smoker, more enjoyment from your favorite briar.

Few smokers realize the efforts the tobacco manufacturer expends in this direction. It is a long and tedious procedure, receiving little appreciation, and with such terrific competition it often results in financial failure.

The creation of a new blend is one of the many interesting stories told by the great tobacco industry—one of many which this,—your pipe magazine, brings you regularly every month.

Pipe Lovers was created for the express purpose of presenting to you such little known bits of information as this—to tell pipe smokers more about the pipes they smoke and the tobacco they put in them.

Pipe Lovers, now in its third year, brings you these fascinating articles regularly each month. They are designed exclusively for you, the pipe enthusiast, to give you information on a subject you have long been searching for, hoping some day you would find.

Subscribe today, only $2.50 for 12 big issues, or, if you prefer, buy it regularly from your favorite pipe shop or newsstand. Each issue is an encyclopedia of pipe information.