

News from the June 2013 Meeting

The Pipe Show Edition

This Issue

We are going to focus on the Pipe Show and all the events around it. We are really fortunate that by the luck of the draw our regular June meeting falls on the night before the show starts. This gives people who are traveling to our show the option of coming in a day early and attending our meeting.

Putting these "outsiders" with our own eclectic blend of regular members makes for an electric meeting.

This will be a very picture heavy issue. Despite that I must tell you that the one thing we have screwed up for years is the ability to get good photos at the show itself. For whatever reason we just never get it done right. So I apologize in advance for the lack of photos of certain events.

Last Meeting

We had at least 30 members and 12 guests at the last meeting. We now have 114 paid members.

Our guest list was like a who's who of the piping hobby. It was really great having these people at our meeting.

In no particular order we had:

Tad & Cyndi Gage
Mike & Mary McNiel
Kevin Godbee
Brian Levine
Joe Skoda
Chuck Stanion
Gunnar Weber-Prada
Sally Gottliebson
Greg Pease
Mark Berman

That, my friends, is a stellar guest list.

We had two main events at the meeting. The first was the arrival of the 2013 Pipe of the Year by Michael Parks.



These pipes were way overdue but arrived in the absolute nick of time. These pipes are absolutely gorgeous. They are a little larger than we have had the past few years. We passed them out differently than we have in the past, also. Nobody was allowed to pick a pipe until the meeting. Then we called up the purchasers in order that they paid for the pipe. Now you had to be at the meeting to take advantage of this arrangement.

Our next major event at the meeting was the announcement of the new club tobaccos made by Mike & Mary McNiel specifically for the pipe show. They created a Virginia flake called “#14” in honor of our 14th pipe show. The second was a Virginia Perique that was actually blended by our own Steve Stein. The blend was called “Piper’s Choice”. These two tobaccos would sell out at our show.

The third tobacco was an aromatic and this is where things really got special. The club has a number of aromatic smokers, but Mike Sull may well be the most notable. Mike, as you know, is America’s finest penman. He has written widely acclaimed books on handwriting. After the May meeting it was suggested during the after meeting gabfest that this year’s aromatic be named in honor of Mike. Mike & Mary took the ball and ran with it, thus **Master Penman** was born.



Mike & Mary McNiel Presenting Master Penman to Mike Sull



Mike Sull With a “Who Me” Look



Mary McNiel Reading the Dedication on Master Penman

Maybe you had to be there to appreciate this moment but to the club members this was a big deal. Mike is one of our founding members and has always done everything he could for the club.

At this point the meeting adjourned and we moved into the social portion of the meeting.



Chuck Stanion - Editor of Pipes & Tobaccos Magazine

Chuck is one of the real stalwarts of the hobby. His annual issue on the pipes submitted to the Carving Contest has generated considerable positive publicity for the carvers mentioned. As one of them told me recently, "You can't buy publicity like that". Chuck is a humble guy and has a higher tolerance for humans than I do.

One of our favorite guests is Joe Skoda, master carver from Philmont, NY. Philmont has about 1500 people and is located two hours due north of NYC. It is a couple rock throws from the Massachusetts border.

In 2011 Joe submitted one of the winning entries for the Carving Contest. In 2012 he received two Best in Shows with Best Pipe and Best Carver.



Joe Skoda, Carver



Brian Levine Nat'l Sales Mgr of Brigham Pipes and host of the pipesmagazine.com radio show.

Brian Levine is a noted collector of Disney pipes and is the eminent host of the weekly pipesmagazine.com internet radio broadcast. I cannot tell you

how he has done it but the show is still fresh and lively after 40+ weeks. Who knew there was that much to say about pipes?



Greg Pease, Renaissance Man

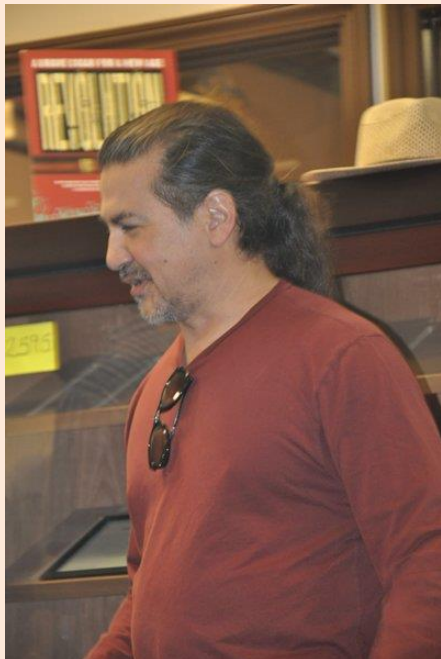
Greg Pease is one of the most interesting people in the hobby. He is renowned for the G.L. Pease blends of tobacco as well as the NASPC Hobbit blends.

Greg is also highly knowledgeable in photography, cooking, computers, wines, etc.

Also, attending the meeting was the effervescent "Pipe Tart", Sally Gottliebson. Sally runs one of the major online pipe retail sites in the country. She hails out of Columbus in the Buckeye State.



Sally Gottliebson, The Pipe Tart



Gunnar Weber-Prada, Carver & Artist

Gunnar is based out of L.A. and is widely known for his pipes, tampers, pipe racks, day packs, and other artistic designs.



Kevin Godbee, Founder pipesmagazine.com

In just a few years Kevin has become one of the most recognized people in the hobby as well as one of the most influential. It is amazing he gets anything done when you consider all the demands on his time.



Tad Gage, Barling Collector

Tad and his wife Cyndi have been coming to our show for years and it just would be a KC Pipe Show without them. Tad is one of the world's leading experts on Barling pipes.

Cyndi, attends the pipe shows with Tad and has created her own fan club due to her ebullient personality. She had just spent the day walking around various KC landmarks in a 20+ miles per hour breeze.



Cyndi Gage



Mark Berman, Perry White Collector

Mark hails out of Houston and is noted for his fine collection of Perry White pipes. He had a major exhibit of them at this year's Chicago Show.

We had a good amount of photos of the meeting with our guests but it is a shame that we didn't get one of Greg Pease sitting on the floor with new member Dan Weddle and Dan's dog Jude. Greg had a brutal flight in and it is amazing that he made it to the meeting.

2013 GKPC Pipe Show

Friday began with the evening buffet. The meal went without any mishaps and the food was actually pretty good. The problems were that despite being told otherwise everyone still wanted BBQ. And the plates we were given to use were really meant to handle appetizers and such. Not much capacity.

After the buffet we adjourned to the tent. The day had been very windy and that continued well into the evening. A constant blustery breeze of 20+ mph blew all day. This put the tent company well behind schedule. Then when they got there half the crew decided they had had enough and went home. The tent didn't get setup until 8PM or so. Our tent is just so cool. It sets in a courtyard that is surrounded on all four sides by either buildings or a glade of trees. The thing was 36x48 (over 1700 square feet) and sets on a really good plank floor. Things really began rocking then.

First we set up the vintage tobacco table. There was some really nice stuff set out for our guests to enjoy. We had Dunhill Royal Warrant 965 and Nightcap, some 30-year old Murray's Irish Whiskey (Donated by the pipe stud, Steve Fallon), a nicely aged white label tin of Escudo, a very old tin of Torben and Dansk Red Virginia supplied by Kevin Godbee, and a beautiful tin of 11-year old G.L. Pease Renaissance. Other people opened a tin of Mac Baren's No.1 Virginia, a tin of NYPC Bedloe's Blend, and a tin of In-B-Tween.

Then we moved into the main program of the evening. Anthony Harris brought his lathe down and did a 90 minute demo of turning a pipe bowl on a lathe. Thanks to Cam Schutte for supplying the video equipment so that he could rig up a setup whereby we could display the demo on a large screen monitor.

The non-carvers in the crowd moved right in to the social aspects of the evening.



Here we have a playful Adam Davison with Fred Hanna, Bruce Weaver, Tad Gage, and member Ken Davis. Ken had just received his new power scooter that really helped him get around and enjoy the show. Ramps are a good thing.



After Anthony's demo was over Mark Ryan (back to us) held a small discussion on Perique tobacco. On Mark's left is his associate Bill Doherty.



From the top you have Scott Thile, Quinton Wells, Ted Swearingen, Mike Sull, Brian Levine and a lady I do not know.



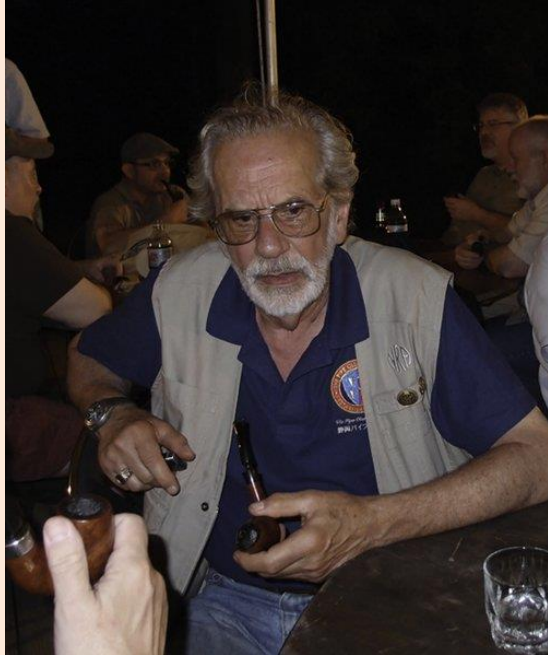
Here's John Enger of the Smokin' Girl's of Burlesque and Maria. And, yes, she is smoking.

Below is a good photo of Michael Linder. Mike is out of the Detroit area and just a superb carver.



As can be expected at these types of things there was a lot of table hopping going. I left at 1AM and heard others stayed until after 3AM.

Then there was Lee von Erck. Lee is from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Lee was recently award the Doctor of Pipes award by the CPCC. It was an award that was well deserved.



Saturday – The Show Begins

The doors for the show opened promptly at 9AM. And away we went. For the first six – seven hours there was pretty brisk floor traffic and they were spending money. Throughout the day most vendors and carvers reported good sales. Since I was tied up in administrative duties I can only go by what was reported to me. One thing I can tell you is that there was a definite buzz on the floor.



Anthony Harris' Magnificent Double Chambers Pipes



Dustin Babitzke of Briar Portrait Gallery

Below is part of Dustin's world class collection of blowfish pipes. Today they were let out of their aquarium and were allowed to roam free.

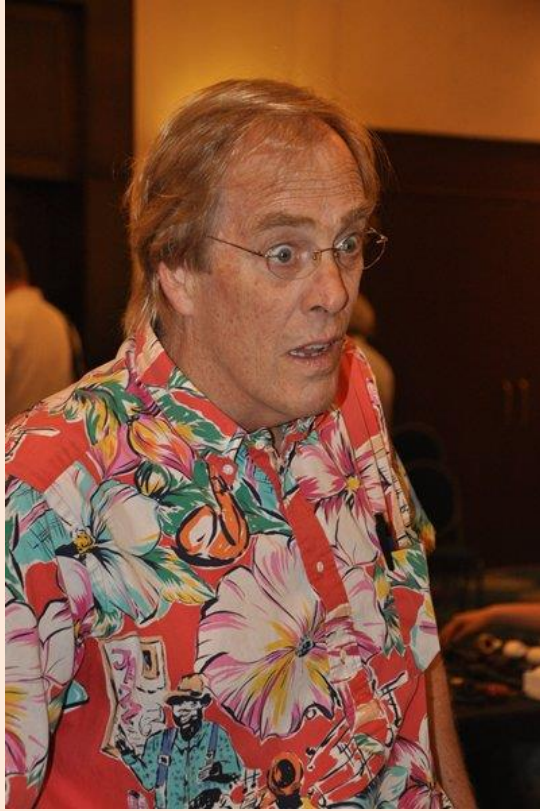


Joe Skoda is one of our favorite carvers. Here he is at his table with his pipes.



Here we have Steve Whetstone, IMP Meerschaum, discussing his wares with an unseen prospect. I was clever enough to make it by their table on Sunday and pick up a beautiful half-bent paneled meerschaum from Steve. He is a really nice gentleman.





I don't know what was going on here but I had to include this photo of a very surprised Bruce Weaver.

Around 11AM the club began doing its Grand Raffle drawings. Thanks to the many donations we received from supporters around the country we had just a tremendous amount of goods to award the winners. We had drawings at 2PM, 3PM, 4PM, and 11AM on Sunday. We actually had something like 20 bundles of prizes in these drawings. I had purchased a slug of raffle tickets and won three different sets of prizes on Sunday. That is more stuff than I have ever in my life. The funniest was a wonderful wine opener that came in a beautiful walnut case. I hate wine and we probably open 2 bottles a year.

Below is Jerry Crisswell and his wonderful selection of estate pipes, both smoked and unsmoked.



Russ Ouellette was in attendance. It was great to see him. He is continuing a wonderful recovery from the medical maladies that befell him just before the Chicago Show in 2012.



Above you can see his set up of his wonderful Hearth & Home tobaccos.

Also in attendance were Eddie Fleiss and Jeff Knoll of NASPC. I have said it a million times but if you are not a member of the NASPC you just aren't all that serious about the hobby. The Bi-monthly "**Pipe Collector**" is just a joy to read.



Eddie Fleiss & Jeff Knoll of the NASPC



Above is the always well dressed Nick Miller of Quality Briar. Nick has an amazing stable of incredible carvers. He has a real eye for discerning the great from the very good.



We had our first visit from Phil Morgan (above), the GM of Missouri Meerschaum. The cob pipes of MM continue to get rave reviews from those that smoke them.



Reverend Rolf & John Enger of the Great Northern Pipe Club



Nathan Rimkus & Victor Rimkus

We were also fortunate to have the father-son pipe carving duo of Victor Rimkus and Nathan Rimkus. They hale out of the Albuquerque area of New Mexico.

I wish this photo of Michael Lindner had shown some of his magnificent pipes.



Michael Lindner



Premal Chheda

Another of the good guys in the hobby is Premal Chheda who operates "**Smokers Haven**" in Columbus, Ohio. Premal was one of the winners in this year's carving contest.

Another unsung guy in the hobby is carver Scott Thile (he is also known as Chris Thile's Dad). In addition to being a fine carver Scott is also the founder of Pipepedia.org.



Another up and coming carver is Nate King. He had a bent brandy at the Chicago Show that I was too dumb to buy the instant I saw it. Gosh it was gorgeous. I went over Sunday to buy it and somebody bought it about ten minutes before I got there. You snooze you lose. Nate is also the creator of steam punk pipes which are just cool as heck. You will see them featured in the most recent issue of **Pipes & Tobaccos** magazine.



Nate King



Dead Guy Pipes by Dru Melpolder

Here is a good look at Cam Schutte's collection of Comoy's. This picture doesn't near do them justice.



Then there is Bobbe Beyer. She was one of the last few people to buy a ticket to the Carving Contest Raffle and yet she won the entire 7-day set.



Here is Brian Rowly of Growley Pipes setting up his wares.



Here is a good photo of Gunnar Weber-Prada. Gunnar brought some magnificent tampers with him.



Here we have Bob "Lawdog" Lawing taking a look at the pipes of Jesse Jones. I really liked what I saw on Jesse's table and ended up buying a small, elegant bulldog from him.



Here is a shot of Mark Ryan of Daughters and Ryan Tobaccos.



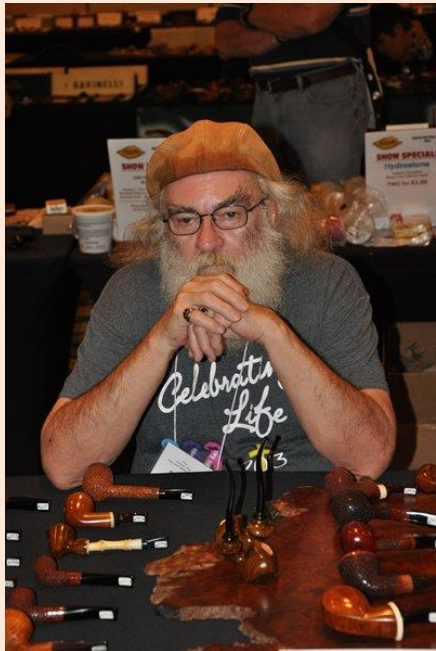
Below is Lyn Beyer, Cigar & Tabac, at his table holding an unlit cigar. Lyn and Bobbe are life-time members of the GKPC.



One of our longest attending vendors is Steve Monjure of Monjure International. Steve has been our guest speaker at two previous shows.

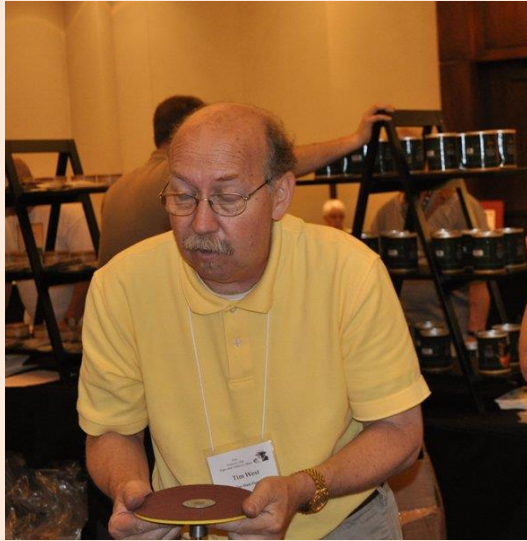


A vendor who has been very supportive of both the club and our show is **smokingpipes.com**. Here is their table as manned by Ted Swearingen.



Above is well known carver, Bob Gilbert, of Denton, Texas. His pipes at this show would win the award for best display.

Below is Tim West. Tim is a fine carver in his own right but may be better known for his skills in refurbishing and repairing pipes.



Carl Staudenmyer needed someone to watch his table during the show. I think he choose wisely.



Sam of Fidel's Cigar Shop in Westport

It won't surprise you that this photo below is my favorite from the show and one that I fondly refer to as "The Three Skirts".



Dru Melpolder with the Smokin' Girls of Burlesque



The Pipe Tart Having a Moment!

The doors of the show closed at 5PM. This gave people who were going to the banquet about 90 minutes to freshen up.

At 5:30PM Tim West and George Dibos did a seminar style discussion of pipe refurbishing and repair. About 30 people attended this and it was well received. These two guys are craftsmen.

The Awards Banquet

The big deal at the banquet is the guest speaker. This year we were honored to have the inimitable Greg Pease as our speaker. This is something that we had been working on for almost two years. Good things come to he who waits.



Greg spoke on how he got in to the pipe hobby and the twists and turns that it had followed over the years. He then opened the floor for a period of questions and answers.

John Cermak, Club President, then made the announcements of the winning carvers in the Pipe Carving Competition as well as the "Best in Show awards.

The winning Carvers were:

Adam Davidson
David Huber
Jerry Crawford
Maigurs Knets
Matt Brannon
Micah Cryder
Premal Chheda

Honorable Mention:

Thomas James Richards
Wayne Teipen

The "Best in Show" awards were as follows:

Best Pipe – Adam Davidson

Best Carver – Anthony Harris

Best Collection – Cam Schutte

Best Display – Bob Gilbert

Best Non-Briar/Meerschaum Pipe – Paolo Becker

At this time President Cermak called Greg Pease back to the podium for a special award given to him for his contributions to the piping hobby.



For the final award of the night John announced that as president he was going to make a special President's Award to a club member who had met his criteria of long and dedicated service to the club. He announced that the recipient of this award would be Walt McKenzie, Club Historian. Speaking for myself, I don't think John could have picked a better person.



Mike Sull, Walt McKenzie & John Cermak

Both of the award plaques were designed by Master Penman, Mike Sull.

At this point we adjourned for another extended social hour in the courtyard.

From this point on we have no pictures. So all I can tell you is that a wonderful time was had by all.

Sunday – The Final Day

By Sunday, a number of us were getting a little tired.

The pipe smoking contest began at 10AM with 11 entrants. This kind of took us by surprise as we haven't had that many in years. After the pipes, matches, tobacco, and tampers were passed out the contest began. The winners were:

First Place – Dave Houfek 57'

Second Place - Walt McKenzie 49'

Third Place – Clyde McIntyre 46'

At 11AM we had our final Grand Raffle drawing and it was spectacular. Lots winners receiving lots of quality prizes.

Then we moved into the Carving Contest Raffle. The main prize here was the 7-day set of winning pipes in the carving competition. Iwan Reis had

contributed four \$500 gift certificates to this prize pool. Pipes & Tobaccos magazine offered a life-time subscription to their wonderful magazine.

The winners were:

7-Day Set	-	Bobbe Beyer
Iwan Ries \$500	-	Dan Coomer
Iwan Ries \$500	-	Vernon Vig
Iwan Ries \$500	-	Lyle Erickson
Iwan Ries \$500	-	Scott Thile
P&T Subscription	-	Bob Lawing

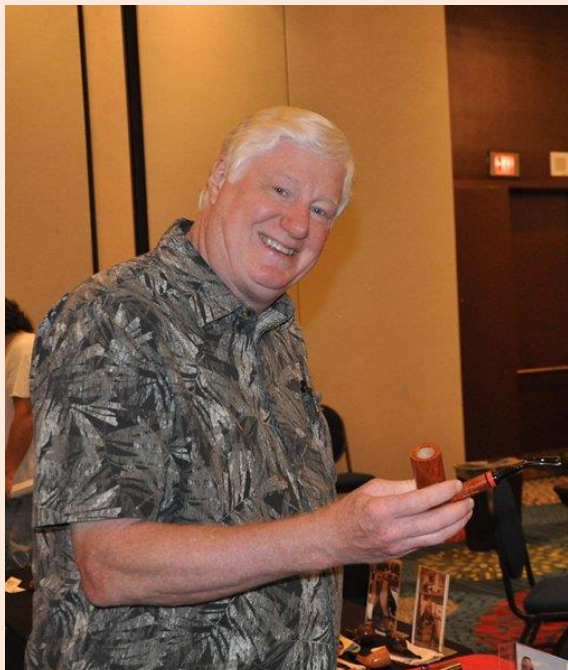
At this point another great show wound down and folks began departing for airports and other parts unknown.

I would like to thank all the vendors and carvers who attended the show and who contributed so generously to the show.

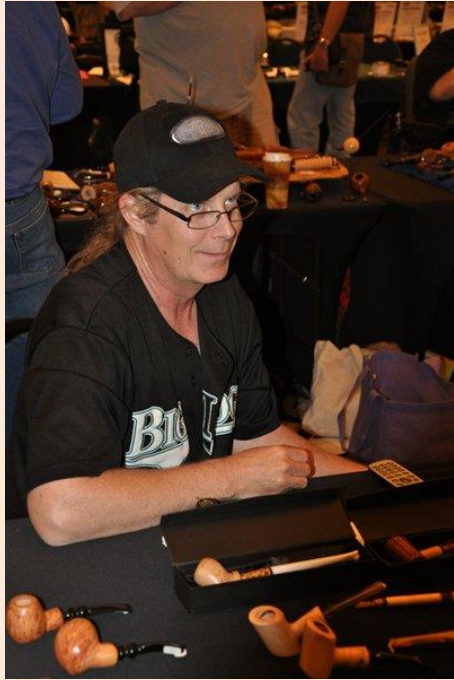
We owe a great deal to the people who helped us put on this event. Without your support our show would not be possible.

You have our deepest thanks.

Additional Photos

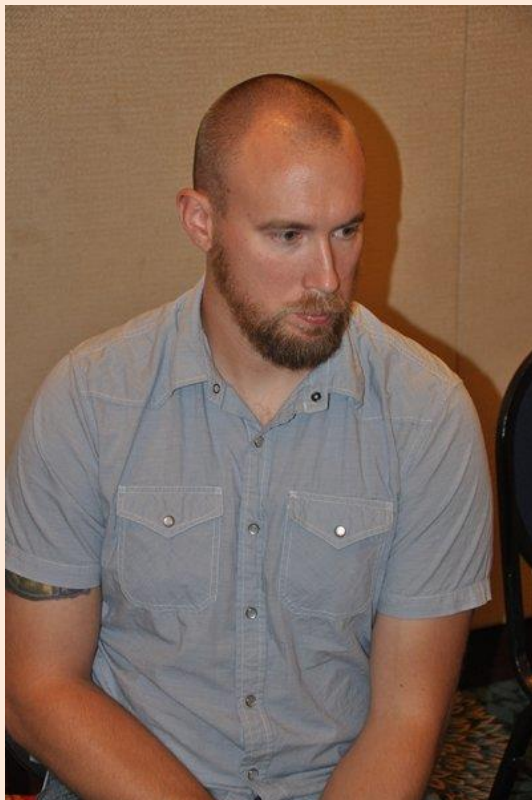








King Merendino



Matt Roussel



Tom Dinelli





Christian Slater



This Might Be Who Richard Thompson Had in Mind When he Wrote “Vincent Black Lightning 1952”.