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Welcome to *Nib Noise*. I hope you'll enjoy reading this month's issue.

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The robot that sends it out refuses to learn to read. If you have comments or questions, send email to:

richard@richardspens.com

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Ah, summertime! The sun, the cool breezes, the pens in our collections... Above, we have an Eversharp Skyline in the Modern Stripe Brown color, with a gold-filled derby, resting on a moss-covered log as if it lived there. Modern Stripe, in Blue, Green, Gray, Brown, and Red, came early in the life of the Skyline; these were not colors that could be produced by the later injection molding polystyrene, and they were celluloid. As Eversharp began using molded plastic in the mid-1940s, celluloid was reduced to striated caps, and Modern Stripe was a thing of the past. Modern Stripe, generally called *moiré* these days, is today one of the more popular Skyline finishes, and Red (often called "Garnet") seems to be the most popular Modern Stripe. It's easy to see why!



Speaking of the Skyline, if you're a fan of the Boys of Summer, as my grandfather was, my mother was, and I am, I have a little light summer

reading for you in the form of a naïve little summertime short story I wrote some years ago. There is a connection between the two, I promise. Set in a real place and in a real time, the story stirs up an oft-forgotten piece of history, and it might give you a chuckle. Or bring a tear, either one is just fine.

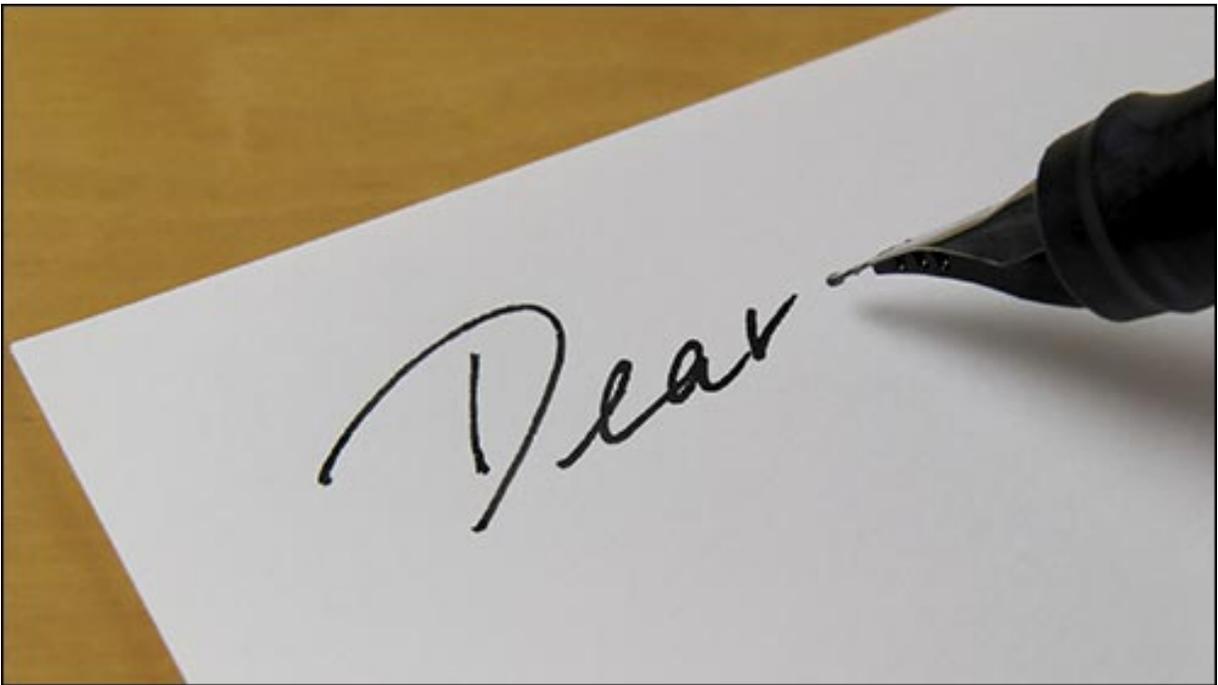
And if you haven't yet read my profile of this famous pen, it's available for your edification and enjoyment.

Our Next Pen Show

The Washington DC Fountain Pen Supershow has been cancelled for this year. The probability of our seeing any shows this year is becoming dimmer by the week as states reopen too soon and see their COVID-19 infection rates spike. We will update our show schedule as we are informed by show organizers.

BROAD STROKES

With little else to do these days besides gardening, the Pen Doctor took a break from building anti-rabbit fences to drop in at the Nashua Pen Spa, and he's left some useful new summertime prescriptions for pen users. That's you, right?



*By Don Fluckinger
December 2002*

With the face of pen collecting changing, as newer collectors don't go so much after the big-name vintage pens, which are now much harder to find and much pricier than they were even 20 years ago, there still remains the opportunity to collect less prestigious older pens, many of which are good and reliable and inexpensive, and Don's going to take us on a journey through a little of that territory.

The Joy of "Junk" (Part 1 of 2)

"We're magpies in this hobby, attracted to gold and silver. Lest we forget, however, back in the old days there were countless brands of inexpensive

pens, and people bought them. And used them.”

From the *Glossopedia*

With more than 1,500 entries comprising (with subentries) more than 1,650 individual terms, more than 950 illustrations, more than 190 patent citations linked to their respective patent documents at various archives, and extensive cross-references, the RichardsPens *Glossopedia* is the most comprehensive resource of its kind anywhere. Each month, *Nib Noise* includes a randomly chosen *Glossopedia* entry.

Richter-Leblang (*Richter-Leblang Company*) A corporation located in New York City, with offices there and in San Francisco, California; founded in 1914 by Henry Kohn, David Richter, and Joseph Leblang to handle pens, novelties, and general merchandise. Little is now known about the company other than that it handled cone-cap piston-filling pens, of which some were imprinted and sold as souvenirs of the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. The piston mechanism in these pens was a standard single-action screw, a modification of U.S. Patent No 834,373, which was issued to Frank O. Ellis on October 30, 1906. The photos below illustrate two versions of these pens, differing in detail sufficiently to suggest that Richter-Leblang jobbed them from two different manufacturers. See also piston.





If you would like to suggest an entry for the *Glossopedia*, I invite you to send an email to me at richard@richardspens.com with your proposed entry. If you don't have a definition for your entry, I'll do my best to find one.

And if you don't think you can wait more than 125 years to see the whole *Glossopedia* here, one entry at a time, you can easily jump the gun by purchasing your own copy in ebook form for Amazon's Kindle and Kindle app, Apple's Books app, or Barnes & Noble's NOOK and NOOK app. I just released the Fourth Edition this past month.

To help you find reference articles on my site that have been edited recently, there is a handy heading right at the top of the reference index, listing the five most recently added or edited reference pages. For edited pages, there are brief descriptions of what was changed.

The Pen Doctor

The Pen Doctor is a regular visitor to the Nashua Pen Spa, and every so often he puts a few prescriptions up on my site. Each month (except when I forget), I'll be reprinting one of his past prescriptions here.

Q: I recently put a new sac in a Sheaffer triumph-nib 1000 lever filler. The pen fills and functions well, but the lever is loose when in the closed position; it pivots about 1/8" and rattles when the pen is shaken. The pressure bar appears to be in good shape and tight to the barrel, though I have not taken it out of the pen yet. There is a bulge in the barrel where the lever ring is. My first question is what can be done about the lever, and second, can I eliminate the bulge?

Rx: The simplest thing to check is whether the pressure bar is really tight. This entails removing the pressure bar because Sheaffer pressure bars are compound bars but are made in one piece. (See the photo below.) The center "tongue," which runs from the front to the back, is the pressure bar, and the side tails are the spring. The tongue is the critical part, but it isn't the barrel that it needs to be tight against; rather it's the lever itself. You may need to try a couple of different bends, but the best results usually happen when the bar is straight and aligned properly.



But there is, as you may have surmised, more to it. The lever itself can be a problem if its short end, where it bears against the pressure bar, is worn. A badly worn lever will have a pronounced rounding-off where it rubs the pressure bar. (See image below.) If it is worn, it may not bear fully on the bar, and this can cause a rattle.



I've saved the worst for last. That barrel bulge you noticed can be, and probably is, the root of your problem. When the barrel is bulged in this way,

the lever is not seated as far into the barrel as it should be, and it doesn't bear on the pressure bar. It's possible to remove the bulge, but it's risky. You need to remove the lever and then apply carefully controlled heat to the barrel. The idea is to soften it just enough that you can gradually reshape it back into its original perfectly cylindrical shape; but it is not easy. Soften it too much, and you end up with a worse problem; soften it not enough, and nothing happens. Even with just the right amount of heat, you can still mess it up; among other pitfalls is the possibility that the groove into which the lever clip ring fits will simply collapse and leave a groove around the outside surface of the pen. If you do manage to get the bulge out, you should make a new clip ring using spring wire 0.005" smaller in diameter than the original to reduce the probability of a bulge in the future.



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