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

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[richard@richardspens.com](mailto:richard@richardspens.com)

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### **Are They Classics, or Are They *Classics*?**

On the first Saturday of October every year, the Church of the good Shepherd in Nashua, New Hampshire, runs the Harvey Shaw Memorial Car Show and Auto Tour, a charity event that brings together people who own interesting cars: classic cars, sporty cars, muscle cars, weird cars, any kind of cars. There's a tour around the backroads of southern New Hampshire for a glimpse at what Mother Nature is doing to the leaves, and there's an opportunity to just walk around and share time and a common interest.

Fountain pens are kind of like cars. We show them to each other, we chat about them, we work on them, we even take our pens for test drives.



Speaking of cars and pens, two of the all-time classics are the 1963 Chevrolet Corvette Sting Ray and the 1963 Parker 75 Sterling Ciselé. If you haven't had the opportunity to fall in love with the Parker 75, perhaps my **profile of this amazing pen** will convince you.

A couple of other classics are the subject of this next photo: the Willys MB ¼-ton 4×4 truck, aka the Jeep, and the Morrison Patriot. This particular Jeep was made in 1945 and will be participating in the Harvey Shaw show. The Patriot was made sometime between 1942 and 1945, but it will not be going to the show.



There has been a profile of the Morrison Patriot on my website for several years, but this summer it has undergone some improvements, most recently including two variants that I had never seen before this past August. The edited version of the Patriot profile will go up on my site next month, to celebrate Veterans' Day.

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## BROAD STROKES

We collect fountain pens because it's fun. We enjoy their variety, their features, and the way they write. For some of us, collecting holds another thrill for us, the excitement of finding a pen and then restoring it so that it will be as good as it can be — maybe even as good as it was when it rolled out of the factory lo, these many years ago. This month I present the first in what I've planned as an occasional series titled *Adventures in Pen Restoration*. The introductory episode is titled **More than You Bargained For**, and I hope you'll enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it for you.



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### The RichardsPens Bookstore

I don't actually have a bookstore, but I have written a few books, and I let other people do all the work of selling them. Right now, I'm working on the second edition of *Japanese Pocket Pens* and the fifth edition of the *Glossopedia*, and there are new books in the planning stage. My latest book, *The Best of the Pen Doctor*, arrived in Amazon, Apple, and Barnes & Noble ebook stores last May. It's selling well, and it's also available as a deluxe full-color paperback.



There's a complete listing of my books on my site, with direct links to pages on Amazon, Apple, Barnes & Noble, and Lulu where you can buy them for your own library.



By Don Fluckinger  
August 2005

*I've seen the light and understand the coolness of music nibs and why they're a hot thing on the message boards and in the pen-show halls.*

“Message boards” are so last-decade. Today, think social media. Read about Don’s epiphany in **Using Music Nibs: No Grind for This Lefty**



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### From the *Glossopedia*

With more than 1,550 entries comprising (with subentries) more than 1,700 individual terms, more than 1,000 illustrations, more than 200 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.

**job** In reference to pens or other manufactured goods, the production of an item by one company (a jobber, or job shop) under contract to another company for sale by the second company, usually under its own name. The term is used as a verb, and it applies both to completed products and to parts for assembly by the second company. E.g., the National Pen Products Company produced pens by jobbing parts from manufacturers like C. E. Barrett and assembling the pens. National then jobbed the completed pens to Sears, Roebuck & Co. for sale under Sears’ Gold Medal, Tower, and Webster brands. Today, dozens of pen companies job nibs from JoWo. See also job shop.

If you would like to suggest an entry for the *Glossopedia*, I invite you to send an email to me at [richard@richardspens.com](mailto: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 129 years (note how this number keeps growing as new entries are added) to see the whole *Glossopedia* here, one entry at a time (if I don’t slip up and repeat an entry or three), 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.

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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.

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### 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:** Do you think I can use Windex instead of pure ammonia to flush my pen? The ingredients in Windex are isopropanol, 2-butoxyethanol, ethylene glycol, n-hexyl ether, water, ammonia. The other chemicals used in Windex are also commonly used as solvent in inks and paints, so I was thinking Windex may actually be a good alternative to pure ammonia.

**Rx:** Please don’t use Windex. Ammonia and water are no problem, but experience has shown that the other components of Windex, such as isopropanol, are not necessarily all that pen friendly. You can get clear household ammonia (not sudsy ammonia, and most definitely not lemon scented!) in the cleaning-products aisle in a supermarket, same as the Windex, and ammonia is also good for other things that you wouldn’t use Windex for. Note to chemists: this is not pure ammonia. Household ammonia is a 10% solution already, so mixing it 1:10 with water produces a 1% — very dilute — solution.

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