

How the Christopher Morley Pipe Club got started.

by Ira Stone

Back some 25 or more years ago when I was walking home from work late one night I happen to pass Bob Page. I was smoking my pipe and Bob being a pipe smoker asked me what I was smoking and struck up a conversation standing in the street. It lasted no more than 10 minutes. We happened to meet again some days later when we were both smoking our pipes in Rittenhouse Square (AH, those were the days.) This time I believe Bob told me about a previous failed attempt to start a club and we determined to try again.

He invited the other person he knew from that failed attempt. Dr. George Amram, and we met one evening in the back of Bob's shop, the Classical Guitar Store. I guess it was Bob who then worked out that we could meet and smoke at Chris's Jazz Cafe nearby if we started the meeting early enough to be finished before the first set at 9PM. We each invited a couple of guys and, as they say, the rest is history. Nothing fancy.

Somehow we have continued for all these years pretty much just propelled by the number of folks in the region who want a convivial place to smoke and hang out once a month. I'm not sure what she did, so I'm not sure what I'd do differently.