# CONF. COR.

# KNEWSLETTTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- Back Filing
- ✓ Ebay Ramblings
- ✓ Race Knives

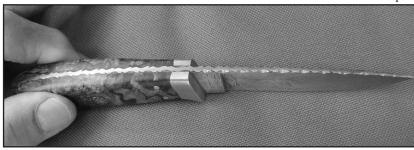
- ✓ Paul Wellborn
- Military Cutlery
- ✓ 2005 on Label = Dues Due

Our international membership is happily involved with "Anything that goes 'cut'!"

# October 2005

# An Added Pretty Part by Merle Spencer

Back filing, spine decorating, non-slip thumb grooves. Whatever you call it, the added decoration on the back of a knife makes it very attractive to many people, including me.



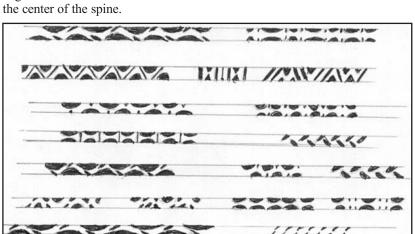
A serpentine pattern begins to emerge right away and becomes more evident as the notches are deepened. Of course all this takes place on a non heat-treated blade. Decorating the spine of a hard blade requires a more aggressive procedure, to be described later.

My first try at back filing took about twenty-five minutes for me to file a pattern from the bolster area to the tip of the blade on a little bird and trout knife. I did this while sitting at the kitchen table, holding the blade on my knee. A vise works better for holding the blade, but my method worked on that first one. I used files from one of those packages of small files you see for sale at shows. I was surprised at how fast the files cut the soft steel.

Next day I took the blade down to show Woody how well I had done. However I wasn't finished yet. Woody explained to me that I needed to go back over each notch and round off the corners so that a nice vine pattern showed. I did it to his satisfaction.

My first acquaintance with back filing occurred when I had just hand sanded one of my first blades, one that Woody Woodcock had ground for me that had not yet been heat-treated. I had seen his serpentine, or climbing vine pattern, on one of his knives; and I asked him how to do it.

He described a procedure for me that requires only the use of a six-inch half-round file and a triangular, or three-cornered file of the same length. The idea is to file half-round notches about 1/4 of an inch or so apart alternately on opposite sides of the blade. Then a three cornered file is used to file small notches directly opposite each half round notch. All the time the file is held at a 45- degree angle to the blade. As soon as each little notch with the triangle file is deep enough to keep the file from slipping out, the point of the file is turned toward the tang and a 45- degree angle is maintained until the cut reaches almost to the center of the spine





On another blade of the same kind some time later, after I had accomplished several different types of file patterns, I decided to file a pattern the same as that first one. Imagine my chagrin when, after the work had proceeded halfway along the blade, I discovered that in one place, I had filed not one, but two cuts between the half-round notches. This looked like an irreparable mistake, but I have not had to throw a blade away yet. After some deep and soul-searching thought, I found that by filing two notches in all the spaces, I had a nice serpentine pattern that was different but just as attractive.

There are many patterns of file-work that can be used and one can dream up new ones as desired. Woody called a few of them egg and dart, alternating egg and dart, dog bone and

Continued on page 9.

# **Knotes on United States Military Edged** Cutlery

by Frank Trzaska

Son Tay Raider Equipment

I was recently contacted by a fellow who knew of the equipment used by the Son Tay Raiders. In fact he was connected with that famous group and sent me a few photos. Listed below is the actual equipment list of items taken along on the raid.

### WEAPONS

2 M-16 Automatic Rifles 48 CAR-15 Assault Rifles 51 .45 Caliber Pistols 4 M-79 40 mm Gr Launch 4 M-60 Machine Guns 2 12-Gauge Shotguns

### AMMUNITION

1,200 rounds 18,437 rounds 1.162 rounds 219 rounds 4,300 rounds 100 shells

# **Equipment**

15 Claymore Mines Special Demolition Charges 213 Hand Grenades 11 Axes 12 Pairs of Wire Cutters 11 Bolt Cutters 7 Coils of Rope 2 Oxyacetylene Cutting Torches 2 Chain Saws 5 Crowbars 17 Machetes 34 Miners Lamps 6 Strobe Lights 6 Night Vision Devices 6 Baton Lights 14 "Beanbag" Lights

### 1 per man

2 Cameras

6-inch Knife Goggles AN/PRC-90 Survival Radio Pen Flare Pen Light Survival Kit Strobe Light Aviators' Gloves Compass Earplugs

The items we will be most concerned with are of course are the knife and the machete. The requirement was for every man to have a six inch knife. That may be a little misleading or in fact a misprint. The fact of the matter is that every photo I have seen of the raiders actually shows a knife is that of the five inch Jet Pilot knife. Many were used examples with dark scabbards, while others seemed to be recently acquired examples with very light, almost blonde, scabbards. Some worn on the belt, while others were worn on the leg. If more pictures are discovered, we may even find one



on the harness mounted inverted as it was a typical wearing place of the times. Nothing special here, no fancy special issue knife, just the handy, current issue Jet Pilot Knife. The machete is another story. Here we find an answer to a question often asked. What did they look like? The famous picture of Col. Arthur D. Bull



Simons taken just before launch shows the Bull wearing a machete, but from the angle taken it is really not identifiable. It seems to be a local made item of Asian design with an ivory or horn type handle. In some reference books the machetes issued are stated to be cut down US made items. In fact in Schummer's book

The Raid, the best book out on the raid itself, he plainly states that they used cut down M1942 machetes on the raid. Not so according to photo evidence. Previously this made perfect sense as these cutdown M1942 machetes were most certainly used by SOG teams and many other SF



and Ranger groups throughout Vietnam. Early on this lead to the development of the SOG Bolo knives, in the attempt to find a shorter, handier machete. Also at the same time period the U.S. had been experimenting with a new design "Trail Cutting Machete" as I wrote up in "Knife World." So we can see the machete field was wide open to possibilities and items on hand. This picture of a display board set up at the Raider reunion brings to light what machete was used, but it creates more questions as to why. Why was it selected? Where was it procured? How was it found? And so on. As is usual with investigations, we are confronted with more questions all along the way. Anyway here is the photo of the Son Tay Machete. The machete and description can also

be found as Plate #381 in Ron Flooks book British and Commonwealth Military Knives. If you can add any more to this story, I am all ears!

Information on the Son Tay raid can be found at http://www.sontayraider.com/

# Speaking of machetes...

Recently it came to light that the D-C marked machetes shown in Cole IV Pg 122 were made in Australian by DieCasters Ltd. DieCaster were much better known for making Australian Sten Gun parts and marking those parts with the same D-C markings. I had known about that previously but for whatever reason had never put the two together. In fact I had once discussed this company in depth with a fellow who collected Australian guns, but again the two never crossed. In further checking another Australian machete with a cross hatched handle can also be found. So many clues were out there on this one, but it never came all together. This again points to the fact that the Internet is a powerful tool in the search for information.

### November 1942

I just picked up a book today titled Carlson's Raid: The Daring Marine Assault on Makin by George W. Smith. Haven't read the first page yet, but I did leaf through the pictures. One of them caught my attention. It is a common picture of a group of Marines playing cards, nothing special about that. What is interesting is the place is Guadalcanal, and the date is November 1942. That in itself still would not be anything special except that one of the Raiders is wearing a 1219C2 Fighting/Utility knife on his belt. We have long thought that these knives never made it to the fighting until a bit later then this. In fact the end of November is always credited with the adoption



of this knife type. This leaves us with two conclusions, either the picture is misdated or the 1219C2 made it to the islands much earlier than we think. While the former is very possible, I have long thought the latter is correct. In fact I think there was a 1219, 1219A, 1219B, 1219C, 1219C1 and then the 1219C2 in the design family tree. I have nothing to back it up with, but the thought still exists.

Frank Trzaska [trz@mcsystems.net]





# **OKCA Knews** and Musings

ibdennis

# Monthly meeting....

The next get together will be Wednesday, October 19, at the Sizzler restaurant. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. We have had pass the knives show-n-tell for many years and we added an enhancement at the last meeting. After the knives pass around knives were nominated to determine the best knife that was brought that evening. That person won a special medallion. It was given to Ford Swauger for his beautiful handmade knife. We will try this again at the next meeting and again offer an award for the knife judged best.

### December Winter Mini Show details......

We have about 50 tables spoken for at this time for the December 10<sup>th</sup> Winter Mini Show. The tables are free to members. We do not assign tables at this show instead it is first-come first-serve when the doors open at 7 am on Saturday morning. It is imperative that tables are requested as early as possible as there are only 100 tables. The Show goes until 4 pm, and you may not leave early or cover your table; grave consequences will result. Don't show if you intend to go. At 5 pm we will have our traditional pot luck. June Morrison will put this part of the event together. Bryan Christensen has volunteered to coordinate the Toys for Tots part of the day. This is one fun event so mark your calendars accordingly.

April Show Display Award Knives...
Wayne Morrison is tending to the gathering of the award knives that will be given to the best displays at the April Show. These are the knives that were used in the blade grinding competition at the last Show. Twelve makers have agreed to finish the knives, and we are hoping for early delivery of these knives so we can use them for advertising and give recognition to the makers who help.

# **Blade Show West.....**

Elayne and I went to Portland for the Blade Show. I was hoping that someone would have done a review on this Show, but here it is deadline and nothing. I would guess about one hundred tables were at this mostly custom and commercial Show. The room and location were super, and it looked like a sold out Show. The commercial knife manufacturers had booths on the outside walls. We had originally thought we would only be a few hours due to our time constraints but cheated and stayed most of

the day. Elayne did the oooh's and ahhh's on the knives, and I found myself the social butterfly. It was rather fun to see a knife show and enjoy with no pressures.

Much time was spent at the Lone Wolf booth discussing the proposed Club knife for 2006. It was great for the OKCA directors to get a touch and feel of the pattern. Word was that this show will happen again next year.

### **Donations R US....**

The many donations and the time and efforts of our contributors are what make our Show happen. The donations generate revenue in the silent auction and raffle. They also generate excitement for our visitors knowing they can get a door prize or win something in our auctions. Usually the bulk of the donations come just prior to Show time; however **David Shirley of Northwoods Knife Co.** wanted to be the first to offer a super knife to our organization. I am impressed. The knife is the Willow Leaf, and it is a gorgeous knife.



We are pleased to have this be the push to start the ball rolling for our organization. Thank you, David Shirley.

### Mal-Contents.....

Our open letter from the Board in the last Knewslettter generated many positive supportive comments to members of the board from our membership. In trying to please everyone we were sent into a tail spin with the comments and suggestions by a few people. We really tried hard to address these issues, but it has strengthened our belief that we are doing the right thing with our organization. This Knewslettter will be the last word on this issue. Get involved with our organization if you like what we have been doing for the last thirty years. If you are one of the Mal Contents, either grumble softly to yourself or go your own direction. Enough discontent and strife has been generated already. No more please.

# Article contributors......

We want to thank Mike Silvey, Merle Spencer, Bob Patrick Jack Birky and Bernard Levine for their contributions in this month's Knewslettter. It is greatly appreciated.

### Get your table reservations in now.....

Those who had tables at the 2005 Show have the first right of refusal on their tables until December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you desire a change in table location, please apply early so that we can plan on changes. There is an application form for tables and for membership in this Knewslettter. Not to put off that which you should do today.

# Free Ads.....

Over the years I have heard those that advertise in our Knewslettter get positive results from our ads. Lately the request for ads has dwindled. One of the benefits of being an OKCA member is the free ads. It's free and that is a very good price.

# Lodging in Eugene....

We have suggested possible lodging for your visit to Eugene. With the added tables at the Show, it might be wise to plan ahead. We have made arrangements with several facilities in the area. The Valley River Inn has been our strongest partner over the years and will continue for 2006. You can book rooms today if you like as everything is in place.

The Valley River Inn -(800)543-8266 - (541)687-0123 -Our top recommendation. Fills up fast. A quality place to stay. Official home for folks away from home visiting the Oregon Knife Show. Special Show rates if you mention the OKCA Show.

**The Campbell House** -A City Inn - (800)264-2519 -(541)343-1119 -Classic Hospitality. A very unique experience. Top quality.

Courtesy Inn - (888)259-8481 -(541)345-3391 -The closest motel yet to the Knife Show. A budget motel and special rates if you mention the Knife Show.

**La Quinta Inn** - (541) 344-8335 - Cost effective and in a delightful setting. Close to a park, the river, the bike trail and in the city. Call direct for special OKCA rates.

Phoenix Inn 800-344-0131 (541) 344-0001
- Cost effective
and close to the
college campus
and downtown.
Nice, clean and a
pleasant place to stay.



# The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

The first meeting was held September 21 at the Sizzler in Springfield. We had 34 present. It seemed to indicate that knife interest was back in the forefront of people's thoughts.

The Blade Show West will be held in Portland September 30, October 1 and 2. Also the Northwest Knife Collectors will have tables in a special area at the Puyallup Washington Arms Collectors Show October15-16. Be sure to support our local gatherings.

June Morrison has agreed to coordinate the December 10 potluck which will be held after the December Mini Winter Show. Advise her what you will bring.

Dennis has been invited to present the OKCA views at the Lane County Board of Commissioners meeting, Tuesday, September 27. The group was in agreement that we do not want the Lane Events center to be moved to another location. We think it is very convenient for access at its current location.

We are currently in negotiations with Lone Wolf knives for the 2006 OKCA Club knife. Prices and additional information will be advised as it becomes available.

Table sales are slow but steady. The first Knewsletter has been mailed and applications are now being received. The 2006 Show will have added tables—at least 50 since American Bowie Collectors Association has agreed to hold their annual meeting in conjunction with the April Show. Get your reservations in. This will be a very special event. Be sure to write the name of all members for which we need to make badges. Be sure to enter the name you want on the second tableholder badge on your table contract. We must have a signed contract for each tableholder.

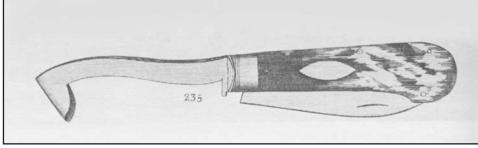
Dennis and I visited the Blade Show West in Portland and it was a fun time. It was very pleasant to walk the show and have no agenda. I could view the knives on the tables and yak with the tableholders.

Thank you very much for all the positive comments regarding the Show that have been received since our infamous letter from the Board of Directors. It is unfortunate that for every positive we need to start with a negative.

By the by--One of the benefits of membership in the OKCA is free admission to the April Show all three days. Dennis and I have attended a number of shows recently which are club shows and admission is not free for members--they get a reduced rate, maybe \$1.00 off. Something else for which we have bragging rights.

Hope to see you at the meeting of the OKCA October 19 Sizzlers Gateway Springfield.

# RACE KNIVES & TIMBER SCRIBES by Jack Birky



This research started with what Joseph Smith's Explanation or Key 1816 has for us. Only one Folding Race Knife/Blade.

R. Timmons & Sons, Birmingham pattern book C.1845 portrays 16 Fixed Blade Timber Scribes!! All with fixed points for making circles. Philip Walker states in *The Victorian Catalogue Of Tools For Trades and Crafts*, "...concerning the timberscribes, also known as race knives, were designed to cut shallow circular and straight grooves into a wooden surface. They were used by coopers & other trades to mark their work with letters and numbers."

My 1896 *Hammacher, Schlemmer & Co* catalogue shows a picture of a Folding Knife as a race knife and a picture of a fixed blade/point as a timber scribe. I personally agree with this call...

Chas. A Strelinger 1897 catalogue *Working Tools*, shows a Fixed Point and Grover, calling it a race knife or timber scribe! Hummm!!

R A. Salamon *Dictionary of Tools* C. 1700-1970 says, "Timber scribe: race knives; scorer; screives or scrieve hook; scriving knife; skiving iron; raze knife." The simplest type consists of a steel blade with the end bent round to form a sharp gouge like cutter. This excavates a groove (or Race) when pulled toward the user. Others incorporate a central spike and a second cutter for making circular grooves, and an additional Drag-Knife for scribing numbers and letters. They were used by foresters, timber merchants, shipwrights, coopers and other tradesmen to inscribe serial numbers, letters, or code marks on timber and wooden objects. Medieval carpenters used ascribe (or a v-shaped chisel) to mark the members of a wood-framed builing. This was done to ensure that when the parts of the frame were transported to the site for erection each tenon would be fitted into the mortise for which it was intended.

Special uses. Shipwrights, who commonly call this tool a Scrive Hook, use it for making out the plan of the ships frame on the Scrive Board. The drawings are "layed off" in full size on this board, which occupies the greater part of the floor. Since they are frequently walked over, any markings less pertinent than an actual incision on the face of the board might become obliterated.

Coopers sometimes us a Timber Scirbe for cutting a croze groove in very small casks. A large size of Timber Scribe is used for rubber tapping.

A. Sellens *Dictionary Of American Tools* states, "Timber Scribes: (also called gaugers; marking iron; race knife and timber groover. A tool used to cut an identification mark in the end of a log or plank.

William Marples, *Sheffield 1909 Catalogue* shows both Fixed Folding and Ajustable, under the title Timber Scribes showing both fixed and folding!

My 1927 Winchester catalogue has one Folding race knife 3-5/8" long. It is called a Lumberman's race knife.

In 1929 Henry Mercer wrote in *Ancient Carpenters' Tools*, Race Knife "the lumberman's little two- or three- pronged timber scribe or scorer used to register tallies, numerals, crosses, circles, etc. on log ends, balks or boards for selling them, or otherwise to mark the parts of worked up material in assembling it into framework. The fixed point of this tool with form a centre of a circle inscribed with its hinged scoop point, while the fixed scoop, also used singly, cuts hollow channels. The race knife was used by coopers to mark barrels or barrel parts, or by lumbermen to scribe or number balk or log ends, or by carpenters to register junctions for heavy framework. A simpler form of this tool (see "Race Knife," Knight) consists of a single, steel scoop-point fixed in a wooden handle."

John Horsley in *Tools Of The Maritime Trade* states a Racing Knife was a small knife used for marking lines with a cut- known as racing, whether done with a knife, point of a compass or any other point. I have known for some time that shipwrights carved a line around the ship and filled it with white lead to denote the full capacity line, if not heeded you were on your own or on the bottom of the bay.

So in conclusion, me thinks that a Race Knife for the most part is a Folder and a Fixed Point is a Timber Scribe! The uses of either were used by electricians, coopers, shipwrights, carpenters, barnwrights, bridgebuilders, lumbermen and foresters.

Then to confuse things even more there is the lowly Bark Blazer.







# OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND SHOW TABLE CONTRACT

\*PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE or a photocopy. DO NOT CUT IT UP!\*

Name(s)						
Mailing Address						
City	State	Zip				
Phone: Eve ( ) Day (	)	Date				
* Collector * Knifemaker * Dealer * Mfr./Distrib. * Other Email OKCA membership includes newsletter, dinner/swap meetings, free admission to OKCA shows, free OKCA Winter show tables, right to buy OKCA club knife.  _ Start/ Renew my/our OKCA membership (\$20 individual/\$23 family) \$						

# 31st Annual Oregon Knife Show • April 7-9, 2006 470 — 8'x30" Tables

Exhibit Hall, Lane Events Center and Fairgrounds, 796 West 13th Ave., Eugene, Oregon. For Information Contact Show Chairman: Dennis Ellingsen, (541) 484-5564

**AUTOMATIC RESERVATIONS:** If you had a table at the 2005 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2006, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2005. You may still apply for a table after this date, but we cannot guarantee a table after December 15. NO RESERVATIONS HONORED OR APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT! Note to NEW exhibitors: your table(s) will be assigned after 12/15/05.

ALL TABLE HOLDERS AND VISITORS agree to abide by the OKCA show rules, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane County Fair Board harmless for any accident, loss, damage, theft, or injury.

**ANY QUESTION OR DISPUTE** arising during the show shall be resolved by the Show Chairman, whose decision shall be final

THIS IS A KNIFE SHOW. All tables must be 90% knives or knife related items (e.g. swords, axes, edged tools, edged weapons, knife books, knifemaking supplies). If in doubt, check with the Show Chairman ahead of time. The OKCA reserves the right to bar any item from display or sale. No firearms made after 1898 may be sold or shown at this show.

ALL EXHIBITORS are required to keep their tables set up throughout the public hours of the Show: 9 AM Saturday to 3 PM Sunday. ANY EXHIBITOR WHO LEAVES OR COVERS THEIR TABLE BEFORE 3 PM SUNDAY FORFEITS HIS FUTURE RESERVATIONS AND WILL BE DENIED TABLES AT FUTURE OREGON KNIFE SHOWS.

**DISPLAY TABLES** will be around the perimeter of the room. All displays are eligible for display awards, which are handmade knives donated by members and supporters of OKCA. Display judging will be by rules established by OKCA. Special category awards may also be offered. *NOTHING MAY BE SOLD FROM DISPLAY TABLES*.

**SALE/TRADE TABLES** Sharing of tables will not be allowed. Exhibitors must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. Oregon has NO SALES TAX.

**BADGES:** Each table holder is entitled to one additional show badge.

**KNIFEMAKERS** who are present and are table holders at this show may enter knives in the knifemaking award competition.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on categories and judging criteria in the display and handmade knife competitions, contact the Show Chairman.

SHOW FACILITATORS will be provided by OKCA from 10AM Friday until 4 PM Sunday. However, exhibitors are responsible for watching their own tables. Neither the OKCA nor the Lane Events Center will be responsible for any loss, theft, damage, or injury of any kind.

CITY AND COUNTY REGULATIONS require that there be:

- No Smoking within the Exhibit Hall at any time;
- No alcoholic beverages consumed within the Exhibit Hall during the public hours of the show;
- No loaded firearms worn or displayed at the show;
- No swords or knives brandished or displayed in a provocative manner.

Violators of these safety rules will be asked to leave.

NOTE ON SWITCHBLADES AND DAGGERS: In Oregon it is legal to make, sell, buy, or own switchblade knives. However, it is *ILLEGAL* to carry a switchblade knife, a gravity knife, a dagger, or a dirk concealed on one's person, or for a convicted felon to possess a switchblade or gravity knife. Most other states have banned switchblade knives. Under federal law, it is *ILLEGAL* to mail, carry, or ship a switchblade or gravity knife across state lines.

# SHOW SCHEDULE

Friday, April 7, 2006. 10am - 8pm set-up; open ONLY to table-holders and members of OKCA.

Saturday, April 8, 2006. 7am-9am set-up. 9am-6pm open to public.

Sunday, April 9, 2006 8am-9am set-up. 9am-3pm open to public.

Tables that are cancelled will revert back to the OKCA.
Subcontracting tables is not permitted.

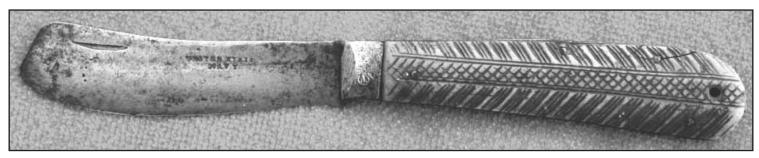
r				
<b>EXHIBITOR CONTRACT</b> : PLEASE ENCLOSE FULL PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM. Full refund granted if reservation canceled by February 15, 2006; for later cancellation, refund will be granted only if your table is rented to someone else. <b>DON'T GET LEFT OUT!!!</b> MAIL THIS PAGE AND YOUR CHECK TODAY. A signature is required.				
Type of knives on your tables				
Name for second badge (two ba	adges per table holder)			
Club Dues (Total from above)				
TOTAL ENCLOSED (make check payable to O.K.C.A.)\$				
I have read and agree to abide by the OKCA show rules as set forth in this contract, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane Events Center harmless for any accident, damage, loss, theft, or injury.				
Signature Date				

# **EBAY RAMBLINGS** by Mike Silvey

Most of us collectors readily volunteer that we find the hunt one of the most enjoyable aspects of collecting. It gets us out to gun, knife and antique shows, which provide hours of intense entertainment. The hunt makes a stop at an out of town antique shop an adventure filled with anticipation, although, more often than not, ending in a bit of disappointment. Nevertheless, like all good hunters the answer to the quest is just around the next bend and possibly that antique shop down the street may have something we're after. The hunt also

able to get it for a few bucks more than \$12.94. This was going to be so easy. Nobody else knew this was on eBay. I checked it several times a day. I couldn't believe my good fortune. I followed it right up till the close of auction and then with just two minutes to go I placed my bid. I knew it would be mine because there was still only one bid and it was still sitting at \$12.94. The possibility that somebody else found this on ebay and knew what it was seemed so remote, really not even possible. But just to be on the safe side I bid \$200,

time doubling my first attempt. I quit breathing. The same message came back. Outbid again. The auction closed and the only other bidder got the knife at a bargain price. I, however, got a great lesson on eBay hunting: always bid the maximum amount you are willing to give for the item. This does not mean that you will always have to pay that amount. My experience has shown that two things are likely to happen. First, someone wanted it more than you and expressed this need by bidding more than you were willing to give. OK, that's the



No makers mark. Stamped in the center of the blade in tiny letters, "United States/Navy". Circa 1810

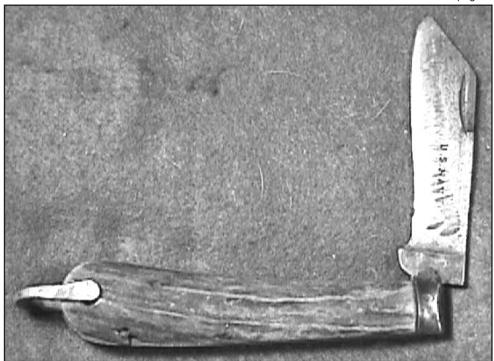
introduces us to like minded fellows who share our passion for great knives. Over the last few years a new area of hunting has opened up which, unfortunately, lacks many of the enjoyments listed above and often is a solitary pursuit that may, from time to time, yield some unexpected results. This is eBay, which right now as I write this, is offering for your bidding pleasure some 48,692 knives! This is a quantity that I'm sure exceeds that of the average knife show. However, the quality of most offerings is low, the chance of finding a "sleeper" is also low and the opportunity for the give and take of friendly negotiation is nil. It also requires time sitting in front of an unfriendly computer getting eye weary and a bit bored. So why do it? Well, because it offers success from time to time.

I'm hooked on knives in general and on U.S. military folders in particular. I've been collecting the latter for more than twenty years and the opportunity to add something new to the collection is infrequent. But I have not tired of searching. Years ago while hunting eBay, I came across an interesting treasure. Over the course of a few searches I came across a listing that read something like, "Brass diving knife? German?". I passed by it several days but then curiosity got me and I took a look at it. Well, it was a very rare and valuable C4 knife, a trial piece made by Camillus during the Vietnam War. It had three days to close of auction and was sitting at \$12.94. I couldn't believe my good fortune. This thing was worth thousands, and I might be

confident that within two minutes I would win the knife. I clicked the bid button, the screen blinked and reappeared with the bold message announcing "YOU HAVE BEEN OUTBID". I was in disbelief. How could this happen? Panic. Heart pounding. What do I need to do? BID AGAIN, DUMMY! I did. Without hesitation, as only seconds remained before it closed, I bid again, this

way it goes, you gave it your best shot but made no stupid assumptions. The other alternative is that you got it and usually for much less than you were willing to give. The way the eBay rules work is that even though you have bid substantially more than the next highest bidder you are only required to beat that bid by a few dollars and that is what you pay. For example, let's say you

Continued on page 9.



Makers mark is "Wilson, Hawksworth, and Moss. Blade center stamped "U.S. Navy". Circa 1840



(The following is an article about one of our members which appeared in our local newspaper. Hope you enjoy the read)

June 27, 2005

People: He's a Finder and a Keeper

By Serena Markstrom Photos by Chris Pietsch The Register-Guard

SPRINGFIELD -As a child in the early 1930s, Paul Wellborn would tag along with his grandmother when she went to work as a housekeeper in Marcola.



During each visit, her boss showed young Wellborn a box of arrowheads unearthed on his property, and told the boy to choose only one. It would become Wellborn's first collection.

"I've been a collector all my

life," said Wellborn, 77, knuckles bloody from making custom knives using horseshoe files, his latest hobby.

The Springfield resident is well known in antiques and collecting circles for his trove of toasters, waffle irons, tobacco cutters, guns, knives, axes and coffee grinders.

It would be considered a handsome body of work for an average collector -but he is far from average. He has more antiques than most shops, and almost every square foot of wall space in his three-bedroom home is covered with his treasures, displayed neatly on improvised shelves.

"He has so much stuff, I can't even keep up," said Dennis Ellingsen, who met Wellborn more than 30 years ago through knife collecting. "I think it's like when you start a book you want to finish it. He's like that with toasters. It's all part of the chase and part of the excitement."

Wellborn began stockpiling toasters shortly after he retired as an automotive instructor at Lane Community College in 1980. He has since amassed between 700 and 800 toasters, some of which are worth up to \$2,000. Still, he toasts his bread with a \$1.50 St. Vinny's find.

He's not much of a coffee drinker, yet he has 100 double-wheeled coffee grinders, some displayed elegantly in his living room.

Before he sold his collection of antique Ford Phaeton convertibles - because he had no place to store them -he had every body style change between 1913 and 1936. He was once the president of the Road Kings hot rod club, and he held a Northwest record of 187 mph before it was broken the next day.

Now, when he drives, he's behind the wheel of an old Volkswagen GTI and only before dark.

He's owned airplanes, boats and motorcycles, and made a career working on engines as a mechanic before he became a college instructor.

He has fond memories of tearing across Fern Ridge Lake on speedboats and flying all over Central and North America in his airplanes.

"Those were the good old days," he said. "We're not going to see them again."

He thrills in finding appliances, cutlery and gadgets from those good old days at good prices.

Wellborn has two new hips and doesn't move easily anymore. So he admires old stuff that still has working parts, things that fulfilled a function back in the day that might seem absurd by today's standards -such as electrical gadgets designed to tone skin. "If I don't know what it is, that kind of turns me on," he said. "I buy it because I like it, then I find out what I have."

He relishes in learning history through relics. His collection of appliances shows the evolution of electricity, as used in the home.

For example, there was a time when indoor electrical outlets were not standard, so it was difficult for manufacturers to create products that would work in every home. Light sockets, however, were standard, so they made appliances that screwed into ceiling sockets. Wellborn stays connected to other enthusiasts by attending regular

meetings of an antique tools club, a knife club and the "Road Kill" club -a sort of antiques show-and-tell for grown-ups. Ellingsen, who runs the annual Oregon Knife Collectors
Association show, said he's amazed



that Wellborn catalogs his finds mentally, without a computer.

"In your life you are going to wander by and see some special people. He's one of those people," Ellingsen said. "He is a mystery."

Twice divorced, he lives alone with his Yorkshire terrier. The dog, Honeybug, is a good "wife," he said. And he has his collectibles. Everyone has vices, he said, and acknowledged that some think he has too much stuff.

"Some people say it's cluttered and that's their view," Wellborn said. "My view is `God, I like that stuff.' The more the merrier."

### PAUL WELLBORN

Job title: Retired Lane Community College automotive instructor and collector extraordinaire

Job perk: Finding something he doesn't have that he wants

Bet you didn't know: He's flown planes but never jumped from one. "It's the only thing I've never done that I'd like to do. The only thing I'd be worried about is breaking one of my hips."

# From Bernard Levine

Mr. Mike Silvey of California, well-known author of military knife books, recently purchased a curious jack knife from a collector in Australia. It was offered as a "rope knife," a description he doubted, and rightly so.

It is 3-5/8 inches long closed. It has steel mounts, and beautifully cut and fitted stag handles. The unusual blade has a cutting edge that is



straight along the middle, and gently curved at either end. The round tip of the blade is not sharp, and neither is the concave cut-out in the back, above the tip. The tang stamp is LEWIS/BARNASCONE/ SHEFFIELD.

In The Sheffield Knife Book, Mr. Geoff Tweedale recounts a brief history of the Barnascone brothers. Lewis and Henry Barnascone were Swiss emigrants who settled in Sheffield in the early 19th century. Partners at first, they split up in 1868. Lewis Barnascone & Son used trademarks COMBO, COMBINATION, and GRASSHOPPER. Henry Barnascone & Son used PROLIFIC and HUNGRY WOLF. Both firms endured into the 1920s. Evidently they were merchants and retailers, not manufacturers. Lewis Barnascone had a branch store in Paris. France.

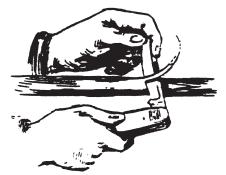
As to the blade, I knew I had seen something similar before, but I could not recall what or where. I asked around, and finally Mr. Dwight H. replied, "Could it be made to be used as a small 'one-and-a-half-handed' draw-shave --

pulling with one hand, guiding for finer control with a couple fingers of the other? The blunt point is consistent with this notion also. I've seen single handled woodcarving knives that are somewhat similar (fixed blade though)."

His guess was right on the money. It reminded me of a knife I had written about in my "Knife Lore" column, in the September 1994 "National Knife Magazine." The knife was a 4-blade jack knife (all four blades in one end, each with its own spring) belonging to Dr. Howard Melnick, who collects gadget and tool knives. One of its four blades was similar to the single blade in these two Sheffield knives.

We did not have to guess about its purpose, since he also had an original 1902 ad, promoting the knife as a free premium (\$2 retail value) for subscribing to Perry Mason's "Youth's Companion" magazine (that was the real Perry Mason, after whom the fictional lawyer was later named). It was a special knife for whittling, and one of the four blades was a round-end draw-shave, much like the ones on Mr. Silvey's and Mr. Shoe's knives, though saber-ground, and not as wide. The other blades were a sharp-pointed clip master blade, a punch, and a saw blade with hand-filed teeth. The ad even included a how-to drawing.





All four blades were tang stamped LOCKWOOD. This was not the Lockwood Brothers of Sheffield, but rather the Lockwood Mfg. Co. of Massachusetts. At various times, and on various knives, this "Lockwood" firm was listed in Boston, Lynn, Chelsea, and Springfield. It advertised "Pocketknives and Razors Made to Order," and in fact this magazine premium knife could then be ordered with the young subscriber's name and address imprinted in the handle. But was this Lockwood Mfg. Co. really a manufacturing company, or was it in fact an advertising specialty company selling private-brand knives, with sales offices in several cities? This is still an open question.

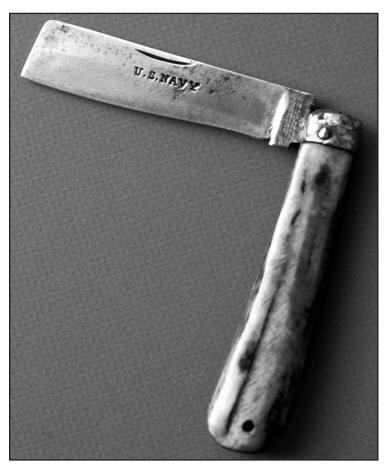
So, when was Mr. Silvey's LEWIS BARNASCONE draw-shave knife made? It is not marked ENGLAND, but since it was made for sale in either England, France, or Australia, there was no reason that it should have been. I suspect it was made around the same time as Dr. Melnick's Lockwood knife, about a hundred years ago.

# **Ebay...** (Continued from page 6)

bid \$300 and the next highest bid is \$100. You're awarded the winning bid at \$105. The seller will not know what your real bid was

Well, enough of my sad story. I learned a lesson and with this new knowledge I continued to search and hunt on eBay. The knives that get me fired up the most are the old Navy rope knives; those stag handled beauties with the big square point blades with "U.S. Navy" forged into the blade center. I've collected several of these over the years and finding one I don't have is quite a thrill. To my disappointment, I have never been able to add a single rope knife to my collection through the conventional methods of hunting the shows and antique shops. I have purchased knives from friends and other collectors but have had the real success on eBay. I have found three new knives, knives I didn't even know existed. In addition, I acquired them at very reasonable prices. One is perhaps the earliest I've ever seen, and I believe it dates to the early 1800's. Another is from the 1830's and the third is from the late 1800's.

Is this a case for the computer? Well, yes, it is. I know many collectors who have resisted the computer and hence, the Internet. I can understand this, as it is complex tool made all the more complex by those who like to baffle others with technical jargon. It is also expensive. And, unlike a lot of other new things such as television once was, it requires more than passive involvement. It's more like your VCR in that you have to learn how to use it. It can also provide a rewarding link between you and the rest of the world. You can communicate with your kids, grand kids and friends throughout the world. You can send and receive pictures, show and tell with other collectors. You can listen to the radio and get news that is presented more fairly than the failing "mainstream" media is able to do. You can get the weather and road conditions whenever you need them. You can find out almost anything about anything; it's a 100,000,000-page encyclopedia. I heard it said, "I'm too old for that", "You can't teach an old dog new tricks", etc. There is some truth to these emotions but it is a tool that we can learn how to use, perhaps not too easily, but it can certainly enhance our lives and if you are a motivated hunter, it can provide rewards.



Maker marked, "Joseph/Jeffries" and blade center is marked "U.S. Navy". Circa 1850

# ...Pretty Part (Continued from page 1)

the serpentine previously mentioned. There can be others left only to the imagination. Some patterns don't even depend on continuity.

Woody told me to practice on a 1/8-inch brass bar to develop patterns, and I did this a little; but I soon got right to work on the actual blade. I measure and mark the spine in even increments at the distance I have selected, and then cut a tiny notch with a cut-off wheel at each mark to give the file a place to catch. Woody didn't do this. I have seen him work on a file-pattern with no marks at all on the blade, but just his finger holding the file from slipping out of place, and the same finger moving the file up the blade to the next place he had selected. I have found that a very slight difference in the distance between the notches isn't noticeable any way.

Regular chainsaw files and triangle files are suitable for this practice. A jeweler's saw is useful for some patterns, especially one that encompasses diagonal cuts between alternating chainsaw file cuts. Decorating the spine of a blade that has already been heat-treated requires much the same procedures, except that files won't cut the harder steel found in some blades. I once decided to decorate the spine of a hard blade by using a cutoff wheel in the hand piece of my flex-shaft tool. I marked the notches with a black art pen and went to

work gouging them out with the wheel. By holding the hand piece very steady, no small accomplishment in itself, I was able to remove steel from the half-round marks without going over the lines; but the notches were jagged and uneven. Actually, they looked terrible. Attempting to smooth them with a chain saw file didn't work at all. This was one of the few times when I thought I was going to have to junk a blade.

I kept trying to think of some tool that would smooth up those notches. A tiny stone I found in my rotary burr holder helped a little, but quickly wore out. Luckily, on a friend's advice, I purchased some rotary chain saw stones in three different diameters, finding that one of them was just the right size. The chain saw sharpening stone, chucked in my flex-shaft hand piece, cleaned those notches nice and bright. That blade, with a stabilized spalted maple handle, became a beautiful hunting knife. The new proud owner says he will never take it to the woods, but will just keep it pretty.

I have read that a working knife should have a smooth back where the thumb contacts the spine, and I agree with this. But a little back filing will surely make a knife attractive. Those little file notches catch the light like diamonds.

**V** 

# To the OKCA Board of Directors, From Bob Patrick

Regarding the Mal Contents article. As a full time knifemaker and a long time attendee at the Oregon Knife show and as someone who regards the show as the best of the best here is what I have to say.

The OKCA attracts to its annual show people who all have an interest in knives. The vast majority of these patrons have come to spend money on knives. A fellow I chatted with last year spent over \$10,000.00 on knives and about half was on handmade knives. A friend who came to the show with me spent thousands and thousands of dollars on knives, a lesser percentage on handmade knives than the first guy but a fair amount just the same. The other friend I came with spent quite a bit of money but none of it on handmade knives. Not because he doesn't like handmade knives but because he didn't find anything he liked that he was willing to spend the amount being asked.

The point here, knifemakers, is that you're surrounded by knife buyers that have been, through a lot of hard work, supplied to you by the directors of the OKCA. If you can't sell them a knife or two, then you better have another look at your product, your presentation, your prices or maybe your personality. The OKCA has done its job the rest is up to you.

Now, having said that let me point out that for me personally the Oregon show is not great for sales of my handmade knives. Over the years I've sold a few here and there; but nothing to excite the accountant, that's for sure. In fact he's mentioned that it would be a good idea for me to, "just once, bring in more

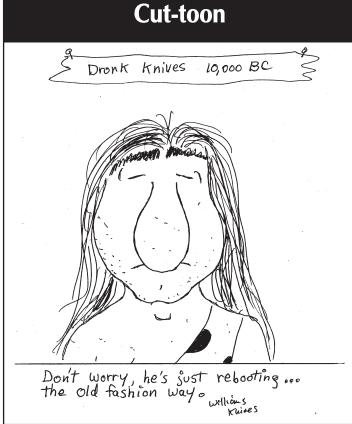
than you spend".

My reasons for putting this show at the top of the list is because I enjoy it more than the others. I like the variety of knives available, It's a friendly show and has the best displays I've seen and like no other show it's a place to learn about knives.

Here's one knifemaker who doesn't want this show to change.







KCA Club member, Thad
Buchanan, was honored recently
at the Blade Show West held
October 1 and 2 in Portland, Oregon.
Thad was awarded the 2005 Blade
Handmade Award for his work making
custom hunting knives. As a result Thad
and his knives will be profiled in Blade
Magazine in late 2006 or early 2007. Thad
was also awarded the Best Hunting Knife
award at the show. The award winning
knife was a 4" semi-skinner made with
154CM steel and had a micarta handle.
Dennis and Elayne were quick to purchase
it to add to their custom knife collection.

In 1987 Thad won the OKCA Best New Maker award. In the years since winning that award Thad's Eugene Police
Department career kept him too busy, and he was not making knives as often as he liked. However, that has changed. Thad retired in December 2004 and moved to Prineville, Oregon in January 2005. He spent the first part of the year building his new shop. After moving his shop from the valley with two other OKCA members, Ron Lake and Bob Lum, he started making knives again in July.

If you'd like to contact Thad or his wife Melissa, they can be reached at (541) 416 -2556 or e-mail

knives@crestviewcable.com

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Free classified ads will run up to three issues and then be dropped. Available only to paid members. Write your ad on anything you have handy (except nebbish's) and email or snail mail to the **OKCA**, **PO Box 2091**, **Eugene OR 97402**. The number and size of ads submitted by a single member will be accepted or excepted dependent on available space and the mood of the editors.

Knife Maker's vise -I will only be bringing to the show those vises that have been prepaid. They are \$160.00 and if you order before March 1st 2006 you can choose your own pool ball numbers. Bob Patrick 816 Peace Portal Dr. Blaine, WA 98230. (604) 538-6214 or bob@knivesonnet.com



WANTED: Seguine knives. Please call or email Jack. 805-489-2222 or 805-431-2222 (cell) email: jh5jh@aol.com

**Throwing Knives -** Anyone wanting to pre-order Pierce Arrow, Vanishing point of the new Claw-Z throwing knives please contact Bob Patrick. See Knife Maker's Vise for contact info or www.knivesonnet.com

**For Sale** - 50 year collection of Case knives. Tested thru 10 dot. Mostly all mint. Toenails, doctors, melon

testers, stag mueeum set, many others, plus old boxes, display, etc. Frank Miller (541)822-3458. Leave message or email fshnfrank@aol.com

WANTED: I am a collector of Ek knives. I have limited my collecting to those models made during WW2 and Vietnam periods. I am always interested in purchasing additional pieces including original sheaths; silent partner books and other vintage advertising items. Contact Richard Schechner P.O. Box 181923 Coronado, CA 92178 (619) 437-0564; email: rgs522@san.rr.com



Wanted: Pea Knives.

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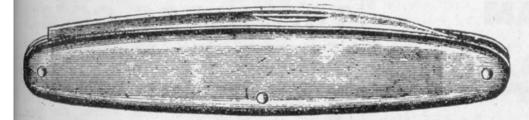
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Collectible Knives of Finland by Lester C. Ristinen. 176 pages of Finnish knife history, factory and cottage. Knife catalogs form the 1920s to present. 40 pages with color and introductions to makers of today. \$40.00 + \$3.00 postage. Les Ristinen 17533 Co Hwy 38 Frazee MN 56544

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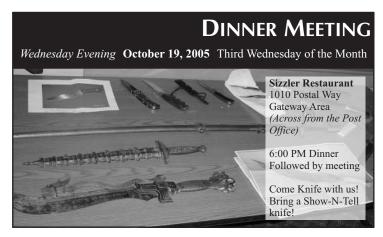
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# **Events Calendar October 2005**

October 2005					
Oct	14-16	_	Montana Knifemakers - Missoula MT (KW-B)		
Oct	15-16	-	NorthWest Knife Collectors - Puyallup WA (KW-B)		
Oct	15-16	-	Ft. Myers Florida Knife Show (KW-B)		
Oct	21-23	-	Shepherdsville KY Show (KW)		
Oct	23-23	-	NCCA East Windsor CT (KW)		
Oct	28-30	-	Las Vegas Steel Classic -Nevada (KW-B)		
November 2005					
Nov	04-06	-	Scottsdale Knife Show - Scottsdale AZ (KW-B)		
Nov	05-06	-	Mt Vernon Illinois Show (KW-B)		
Nov	11-12	-	Ohio Valley Knife Show - Cambridge OH (KW-B)		
Nov	11-13	-	New York Custom Knife Show (B)		
Nov	19-20	-	A.K.C.A. Phoenix -Mesa AZ (KW-B)		
December 2005					
Dec	10-10	-	Oregon Knife Collectors December Mini Show		
Dec	01-03	-	Parkers' Greatest -Pigeon Forge TN (KW)		
January 2006					
Jan	20-22	-	American Bladesmith Expo -Reno NV (KW-B)		
Jan	27-29	-	Gator Cutlery -Lakeland FL (KW-B)		
Jan	28-29	-	Gateway Area Knife Show - St Louis MO (KW)		
February 2006					
Feb	18-19	-	The Collector's Show -Napa Valley CA (B)		
Feb	24-26	-	Knife Expo - Pasadena CA (KW)		
Feb	25-26	-	Keystone Blade Show - Lewisburg PA (KW)		
March 2006					
Mar	10-12	-	Northwest Georgia - Dalton GA (KW)		
Mar	24-26	-	Badger Knife Show -Janesville WI (KW)		
April 2006					
Apr	08-09	-	Oregon Knife Collectors - Eugene OR (KW)		
Apr	08-09	-	Bunker Hill Knife Show -Bethalto IL (KW)		
Apr	22-23	-	Vancouver Knife - Coquitlam, B.C. Canada (KW)		
Apr	21-23	-	Shepardsville KY Show (KW)		
Apr	28-30	-	Solvang Custom Show -CA		

	- May 2006				
May	11-13	-	Parkers Greatest Pigeon Forge TN (KW)		
May	13-14	-	NCCA Mystic, CT Show (KW)		
May	19-21	-	NKCA Springfield Knife Show (KW)		
June 2006					
Jun	08-10	-	ParkersShow -Pigeon Forge TN (KW)		
Jun	16-18	-	Blade Show - Atlanta GA (B)		
Jun	23-25	-	Springfield Show -MO (KW)		
September 2006					
Sep	15-17	-	Ohio Fall Knife Show (KW)		
November 2006					
Nov	30-02	-	Parkers Greatest -Pigeon Forge TN (KW)		



Contact Dennis or Elayne (541) 484-5564 for additional information on OKCA events. For non-OKCA events, contact the sponsoring organization. Additional info = (B)lade Mag. -(KW) Knife World - (KI) Knives Illustrated

