

- ✓ December 9 - Mini Show
- ✓ Michael Price
- ✓ Ivory Corrosion
- ✓ Signal Corps Knives
- ✓ Military Knives
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- ✓ Ford Swauger Knife Club
- ✓ Application Form

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

December 2006 Michael Price Bowie Knife, Walrus Ivory, Engraved M. Price, San Fran.

This article is compiled and written by Bernard Levine

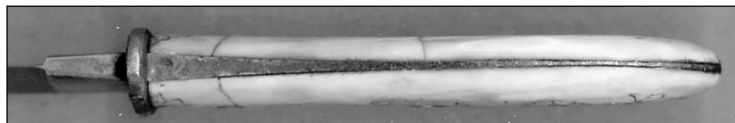
Michael Price, San Francisco, California bowie knife, recently found at a flea market in the San Joaquin Valley of California. Overall length 10 inches; blade length 6 inches.



Hand-forged steel blade, silver plated. Oval steel guard with traces of silver plate remaining. Walrus ivory handle scales. Front handle engraved with a scene of a tiger hunting in tall grass. Back handle engraved with ribbons and leaves. Three silver rivets with cross-hatch engraving.



Silver scabbard (probably coin silver, but I am not certain of this). Front of scabbard engraved with acanthus leaf scroll framing a blank ribbon. Back engraved with three scrolls surrounding the steel spring clip (this clip was designed to retain the metal scabbard in a leather over-scabbard, not as a belt clip). [Another Price bowie engraved by the same artist is



pictured on page 487 of the *Antique Bowie Knife Book*.]

Condition: This knife appears to have been recovered from a damp location, as those steel parts not protected by silver plating (mainly the guard, the edge of the tang, and the spring-clip on the scabbard) are deeply corroded. The blade, though pitted in spots, was largely protected by its silver plating, and is very nearly full. The walrus ivory handles are cracked in three places at the rivets (two on the front, one on the back), and are beginning to turn brown from exposure. The scabbard is missing its lentil-shaped tip. The knife looks better in person that it does in the enlarged detail scans.

THE TIGER

The Tiger: While it might just be an ordinary tiger, more likely the tiger on this knife is the symbolic "Tammany Tiger."



The California "Democracy" (Democratic Party) before the Civil War, like the national party at that time, was a coalition of plantation and slave owning southern Cavaliers, southern frontier Mountaineers of the Andrew Jackson type, and Tammany Hall men from New York, who knew how to run a big-city immigrant political machine. The tiger was the totem of Tammany Democrats, long before the elephant and donkey symbols were created. All the leading Democrats in San Francisco, especially after 1861 (when many southern Democrats returned home to take part in the Civil War), were Tammany men from New York. See the 1888 newspaper excerpt about Price below.

"Tammany Tiger on the loose..." by Thomas Nast 11/11/1871

Michael Price, who came to San Francisco from Limerick, Ireland, in 1856, made bowie knives for the leaders of the California Democracy. Many tales survive of the bowie knives Price made for prominent Democratic politicians and judges throughout his 33 year career, as well as for Confederate volunteers in the Civil War.



The Republicans, Freemasons, Methodists, Mormons, etc. of California bought their bowies from Hugh McConnell (an Ulster man from western Pennsylvania) who died in 1863, and then from his successors, Will & Finck (Frederick Will from Albany NY, Julius Finck from Baden, Germany).

Michael Price died in 1889. Will & Finck continued to make knives in San Francisco until 1905. The knifemakers of old San Francisco made the most exotic, the most costly, and perhaps the most beautiful knives ever produced in the United States. For more information, see my book, *Knifemakers of Old San Francisco, 2nd Edition*.

Excerpt from the *San Francisco Examiner* 1888, courtesy Larry J. Wood and *Knife World*.

Continued on page 6.

Knots on United States Military Edged Cutlery

by Frank Trzaska

Quote

"The officers will take all proper opportunities to inculcate in the mens' minds a reliance on the bayonet; men of their bodily strength and even a coward may be their match in firing. But the bayonet in the hands of the valiant is irresistible."

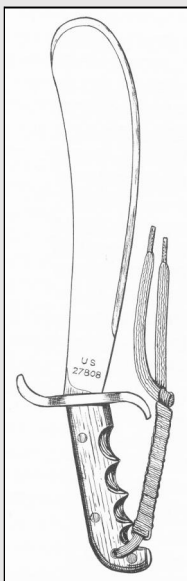
Lieutenant-General Burgoyne, General Orders, 20, June 1777

Hospital Corps Knives

One of the most often asked questions is,

"What did the Hospital Corps do with the large bolos?" And the most often given answer is amputation and/or circumcision. I guess it just sounds good for I too have given that answer often just to evoke a response.

Another answer is to make stretchers with. This is a good answer as it was one of the uses, but not the specific one in mind. First a little exploration of casualties is in order to see why they needed knives in the first place. OK, we could



understand scalpels, but bolos, what would a medic need one for? The answer is that it wasn't for the medic at all but still a Hospital Corps man.

It is stated that during World War II over 17 million patients were treated by the armed services. Of these the Army treated 640,000 combat casualties, so who were all the others; and why were they treated? Well whoever they were, they were 20 times more likely to visit the doctor than somebody wounded in battle. V.D. was a big problem, so large in fact they made training films and booklets about it. But we all know they wouldn't need a knife

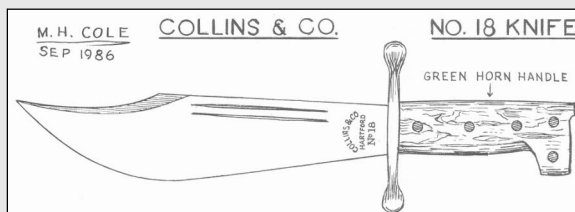
that large to cure that problem, more like that scalpel would do the trick, ouch! The real need was created by a disease, but not one caught so pleasurably. These killers would come from the environment created by nature and aided by man.

On Guadalcanal it was estimated that over 70% of the combat forces had Malaria. It put 648 of every 1,000 men out of commission in the China, Burma, India theatre. On Okinawa there were 300,000 men in a 600 yard front line, it is said you could tell where the front was with your eyes closed, just by the smell. You see there weren't any "johnny on the spots" to run to, you went where you could and hoped you didn't get shot. Combine that with lice, fleas, flies and rats and you can see where this is heading. The bolos were made to clean up the environment to help stop the proliferation of disease. They could help in the cleaning of downed trees causing water to puddle, drain swamps created by massive shelling and build hospitals and shelters for the sick. It was created as a general purpose tool, and that it was. The rounded tip of the Model of 1905 was to express that the bearer was not a combatant, but a relief worker. The same applied to the USMC machete made much later. This was supposedly to coincide with a treaty or convention that preceded the large one in Geneva, but I have not found the name of it. Pity the Japanese didn't really care, as a prisoner to them was worse then a dead person, so even the highest ranking officer or doctor was presumed dead and made to work as a slave.

So there we have it, the short answer on why the HC knives were made.

Collins No 18 Machete

I just watched an eBay auction end with the prize going for \$666.59, and I thought that



was a great deal. Now you may ask what kind of Collins No 18 machete is worth that much?? One of the many things to watch for, as we all know, is the markings. What becomes tough is that eBay lists thousands of knives, bayonets and machetes everyday. What made this one different, you ask... It

was a "Sword Stamped" model, not the typical Legitimus, Arm and Hammer marked model. Perhaps I have seen six of them in excellent plus condition sold in the last 20 years, if that many even. They all had green horn handles, as they were made prior to the molded Bakelite handles. Although they all may be made from the same substance, many look quite a bit better then others. Look for streaks of white in the horn to add flair and color. All had the red brass guards and pins, again common, as this was the only offering in 1934. So there are not many variations to this model except for the markings, and it is still a tough one to find. It may not have been a steal, but I thought it a great price. Lucky is the collector who can find one of each model and marking in nice condition. Just goes to show you that the nice ones are still out there..

Quote:

"Deny your soldiers a proper bayonet and you will find a foreign one at your throat."

Attributed to an "old soldier saying." Can anyone tell me where it originated?

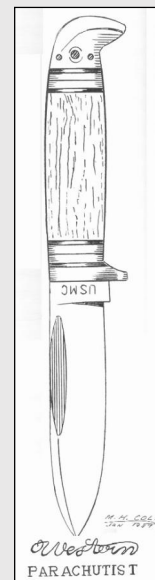
Western Parachutist Knife

At a recent show I had the pleasure of viewing, holding and examining a mint condition Western

parachutist knife. The asking price... \$5,000.00. Is it worth it? You decide. I am sure it is to someone. Few were made, it is perfect; and it is stamped USMC, everything you need to be collectable in this day and age. What will the price be in another ten

years for these items? Well, considering the knife cost the USMC \$1.30 in 1942, that is a pretty good earnings statement; and the future potential is very prominent. You can be assured the top knives will continue to increase in value.

trz123@comcast.net



OKCA Knews and Musings

ibdennis

It won't be long now.....

The December Mini Show is just a few days away. We are close to our 100 table limit so it looks to be the makings of another great event. If you were thinking about a table but stuttered at the gate... you might get lucky by checking with us on space. This Show has allowable sharing so we can make room generally if it gets to be a squeeze. And tableholders please honor our be-there-for-the-whole-event request. No table covering and stay until the bell at 4 pm.

The social is taking shape quite nicely; but if you are pot lucking with us, please let us know what category your food falls into. So for a brief informational sketch: doors open at 7 am on December 9 and tables are on a first-there claim basis. Doors open to the public at 8 am, and the doors close at 4 pm. The potluck social starts at 5 pm and goes until it is over. Remember Toys for Tots and let's fill that table to overflowing. Not wrapped, new toys are the only requirement. **Bryan Christensen** has organized this part of our Show.

On the same day as the Knife Show there will be two other events on the Convention Center property. There is the Saturday Market's Holiday Market and the Holiday Farmer's Market. Both events are free and the parking is free too.

Membership and 2007 Table reservations.....

Your label on this Knewsletter will give you a clue whether you have re-upped or not for 2007. If it shows 2006, then you had better think about our deadline of December 15 for tables. If it seizes 2006, you have until December 32 until your membership expires. Ours is a calendar year membership.

We are also still analyzing if our room will be filled to capacity. Our goal of 470 tables has been met for several years, but we have had no waiting list. If after December 15 it appears to be too close, we will need to cut back on the Show to about 430 tables. This will mean some slight shifting of table spaces and will create a better fit. The problem with an almost-full show is that at Showtime when we get cancellations we have empty tables. A waiting list helps to maintain a full room. Also be aware if we do downsize, we will have to shift those that are

last to request a table.

Articles - Stories and Words of sharpness...

This month we thank **Bernard Levine, Frank Trzaska, Dan Westlind, Mike Silvey and Lonnie Williams** for their contributions to this issue. This Knewsletter is well supported, but the future is a tad dim for articles. I am on bended knees and request you to help us out with the Knewsletter. Please, please. Our Knewsletter is a very integral part of our Club and Show success.

Smile Knives.....

I was just about ready to give up on the smile knife series when I received a package from Bob Soares. I couldn't imagine what it was from the outside; and when I opened it, the lady standing next to me at the Post Office responded to my "oh my gosh & gollies." Whether she wanted to know or



this knife at an attractive price. The Oregon Special version of this knife cannot be shipped and is only available to Oregon Club members. There are laws on this item to which we must adhere. Any questions: email or call.

Lodging in Eugene....

We have suggested possible lodging for your visit to Eugene. 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 2007. 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

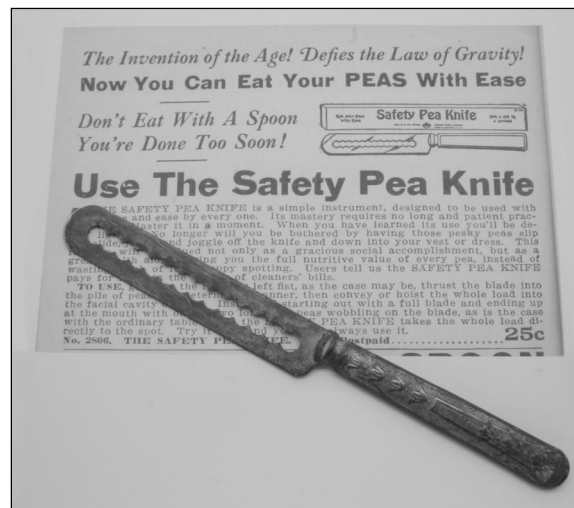
Knife Show. Special Show rates if you mention the OKCA Show.

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.



not, she is now fully educated on the subject of pea knives. I can only imagine what she told her friends. I posted an ad in our Knewsletter over a year ago, and the results were finally realized. (Our ads have very positive results.) The only pea knife I had ever seen was advertised in a 1929 catalog, but now I have my very own. So much for eating my peas with honey.

I eat my peas with honey,
I've done it all my life.
It makes the peas taste funny,
But it keeps them on the knife.

Club Knife - Ford Swauger 2007.....

This Knewsletter offers the **Ford Swauger** knife for sale. It is a special knife so you might want to hurry your reservations for this item. A color picture can be found on our website along with an application form you can print. This is a Club project to help offset our costs; and, as a knifemaker who wanted to help the OKCA, Ford is offering

The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

The November 15 meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant, Springfield, Oregon was attended by 38. We currently have a paid membership of 1388.

The motion passed which cancelled the December 20 meeting. Remember--no December meeting.

The prototype of the **Ford Swauger** 2007 Club Knife was available for viewing. It was very well received. Oohs and Ahhs. (The order form is located in this Knewsletter. See the color photo on our website--AWESOME!) This knife will sell very quickly. Those who purchased a 2006 knife will need to reserve their knives early.

Please advise if you want a table at the December show. We need to be sure we have sufficient to accommodate our tableholders. We currently have 80 persons and can accommodate 100. We don't want to pay for more tables than we need. December 9, Lane Events Center, Eugene, OR, Wheeler Pavilion (round building north end of parking lot) 7:00am-4:00pm members and tableholders. 8:00am-4:00pm free admission to the public.

The 2007 membership cards will be available at the December show. **John Priest** and **Larry Criteser** have printed and laminated the cards. If you have not paid for your membership, please mail your payment. Your label prints your current membership status--2006, renew; 2007, it has been done. Thank you. If your address has changed, be sure to advise the OKCA.

Remember December 15 is the deadline to reserve your 2006 table for 2007. It is very much appreciated when you mail your payments so they can be processed before the December show.

Please advise if you will attend the potluck after the December show. (Call 541-484-5564 or email elayne@oregonknifeclub.org) **Phyllis Goddard** has volunteered to coordinate this event. The smoked turkey and baked ham entrees will be provided by the Club.

Bring a new, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots which has been coordinated by **Bryan Christensen**.

If you volunteered to complete one of the blades in the grinding competition which will be used as the display award knives for 2007, please contact me. (541-484-5564 or email elayne@oregonknifeclub.org) We would like to include photos of the knives in our Knewsletter. It will be an additional advertisement for our contributors.

We have arranged for a Thursday nite social April 12 (the evening before the Show opens for members and tableholders day) at the Valley River Inn. Yes, we will request more chairs this year. This is a costly event and donations were requested last year. We are again passing the hat and have had donations from **Phyllis and Wayne Goddard** as well as **Arthur Greene**. Thank you for your generosity.

One of the perks of membership is free advertising in our Knewsletter. We receive a number of requests to promote individuals and events, but we have restricted our promotions to members and knife only events. Our membership fee is minimal, and we continue to believe that it is in the best interests of our group that we continue to restrict to knife only events and members.

If you have a web page and would like our website to link, send us an email and it will be done. We are very proud of the website we have available. Check it out.

See you at the December 9 show. Lane Events Center, Eugene OR, Wheeler Pavilion, 7:00am-4:00pm.

Hope you have a very happy holiday season.

More Signal Corps Knives - Scant Evidence Michael W. Silvey

Figure 1: While perusing eBay a while back I came across the remnants of a knife that attracted my interest. It was being sold with



another knife with the suggestion that they could be used for parts. The knife that drew my interest had a shield marked U.S. No. 10213 with the numbers looking like they were stamped individually. It had two blades, the main blade was a spear point and the secondary blade was a pen. Part of the front scale was missing, and there was no back scale. The pivot pin was a nail, and there were only remnants of a flat brass bail. The other knife, which was equally rough, was a two-blade jack with bone handles. I followed the knife closely for a few days and did bid on it but was shocked to see the auction close at nearly \$300. Now, I was really wondering what was it about the knife that commanded such a dear sum. I sent an email to the winning bidder asking him what he knew about the knife. I did not get an answer and resolved I would never know what prompted such a high price. Two weeks later I find that the knife has been re-listed, probably the result of some buyer's remorse that ended in a no-sale. This time my bid was successful, and I ended up with both knives for about \$40.

The bone-handled jack went into the junk drawer, but the other knife was fascinating. The main blade was marked Challenge Cutlery Co. Bridgeport, Conn. The pen blade was not original to the knife but was an ill-fitting replacement. When I removed the pivot pin (nail), it became obvious that the secondary blade had been a screwdriver blade, a la TL-29 style, but not quite. This knife had the early Signal Corps type locking screwdriver blade, a fairly common type lock with a unique release mechanism. A tab on the main blade back spring extends through the center liner and rests atop the back spring of the screwdriver blade. When the closed main blade is depressed, the tab pushes on the screwdriver back spring thus releasing the interlocking backspring and blade and thus allowing the screwdriver blade to close. The knife is the shape and size of a regular World War II vintage TL-29 but is curious with the early locking mechanism. Challenge Cutlery Co. was no longer in business after 1928 so I view this knife as a transition piece between the early Signal Corps knives of World War I and the later TL-29's. The piece needed some preservation so I replaced the screwdriver blade, backside scale and bail then repaired the front scale. (See Fig. 1) OAL: 3-3/4 inches. Shield: 1-1/4 inches.

Continued on page 7.



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 December Mini show tables, right to buy OKCA club knife.

__ Start/ __ Renew my/our OKCA membership (\$20 individual/\$23 family) \$ _____

32ND ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 14-15, 2007
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 2006 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2007, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2006. 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 12/15/06.

ALL TABLE HOLDERS AND VISITORS agree to abide by the OKCA show rules, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane Events Center 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. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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 13, 2007.
10am - 8pm set-up; open ONLY to table-holders and members of OKCA.

Saturday, April 14, 2007.
7am-9am set-up. 9am-6pm open to public.

Sunday, April 15, 2007
8am-9am set-up. 9am-3pm open to public.

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

EXHIBITOR CONTRACT: PLEASE ENCLOSE FULL PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM. Full refund granted if reservation canceled by February 15, 2007; for later cancellation, refund will be granted only if your table is rented to someone else. DON'T GET LEFT OUT!!! MAIL THIS PAGE AND YOUR CHECK TODAY. A signature is required.

Type of knives on your tables _____

Name for second badge _____ (two badges per table holder)
NO EXCEPTIONS

_____ Club Dues (Total from above) \$ _____

_____ Sale/Trade table(s) @ \$95 each (members only) \$ _____

_____ Collector Display table(s) free with sale table: Quantity _____

_____ Saturday Night Social Tickets \$5.00 each \$ _____

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 _____

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

Michael Price... (cont. from page 1.)

COSTLY AND DEADLY KNIVES

Knives Made for Business in the Early Days of California

Michael Price

In 1858 M. Price, who then had a small cutlery shop, sat up nights and made a fine bowie knife, which he exhibited in the first Mechanics' fair held in San Francisco. After the fair Ward Eaton took the knife to the Bank Exchange and raffled it for \$150.

Price had taken great care in tempering the blade, and had offered to forfeit \$100 if any better steel could be found. At that time Billy Allison of Yolo [County], was making knives, which were sought by all men who wanted reliable weapons.

Surveyor General Higley had an Allison knife, and he backed it against Price's blade. The test was made in the Bank Exchange, and aroused as much interest as a national election.

Gen. Higley laid a half dollar on the counter and drove the Allison blade through it, without turning the point or edge. Ward Eaton wielded the Price blade with a steady, strong arm, and achieved the same feat. Gen. Higley then tried two half dollars, and the point of his knife turned. Eaton piled up three of the coins, drove the Price knife through them, and when he raised the weapon the three half dollars were impaled on the point, which was not turned.

That made Price's bowie knives as famous on the Pacific Coast as the Toledo blades were in Spain. Every man who went heeled had to have one.

*

Marion Moore, a noted mining and sporting man, whose nitroglycerine blew up Wells Fargo & Co.'s express office on the corner of California and Montgomery streets, ordered of Price the best knife he could make. Moore gave Price a gold brick and a piece of gold quartz that he had taken out of a mine with his own hands and told him to work the metal in. Price made an eight inch bowie, having a gold handle inlaid with quartz. Moore paid \$175 for the weapon and handed back to Price the gold that was left over.

Moore's lawyer, McCabe, got a gold mounted knife for \$100; and these two expensive weapons played a leading part in a bloody tragedy in White Pine, Nev. Moore had a mine there, and, as was usual in those days, somebody tried to jump the claim. Moore and McCabe were caught in the tunnel by a band of fighters hired by the other claimants and cut their way out with their bowie knives. Several men were killed in the fight; and as most of the dead had only knife wounds, it is supposed that Moore and his lawyer did some game and lively work.

*

In 1861 Price made two knives for Col. Jack Gamble, who supplied Mexican gold onzas for the handle frames. The handles were inlaid with abalone shell and gold quartz, and the colonel paid \$400 for the two weapons. Gamble gave one to his friend, Charles Norris, who lost it some years later. It was a mere fancy of Gamble's to have such a weapon, as he was never known to use it.

Joe Winters, in 1864, walked into Price's place with two friends, saw three \$75 knives in the case, bought them, and turning around, presented one to each of his companions, just as he would hand about cigars.

*

One of the men who bought an extravagantly expensive knife from Price came into the shop some time after a fight had occurred in a mine and several men had been carved to death and exchanged the weapon

for some other wares. As he put the gold mounted bowie down, he said with a shiver that he would never use a knife again. When the weapon was examined, the blade was found rusted with blood; and there was blood even in the crevices between the slabs of the handle and the frame.

*

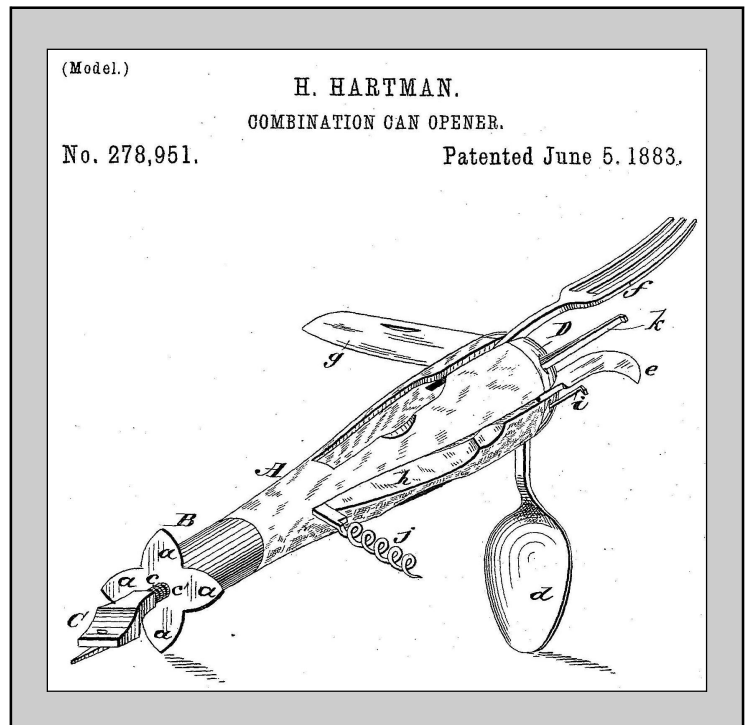
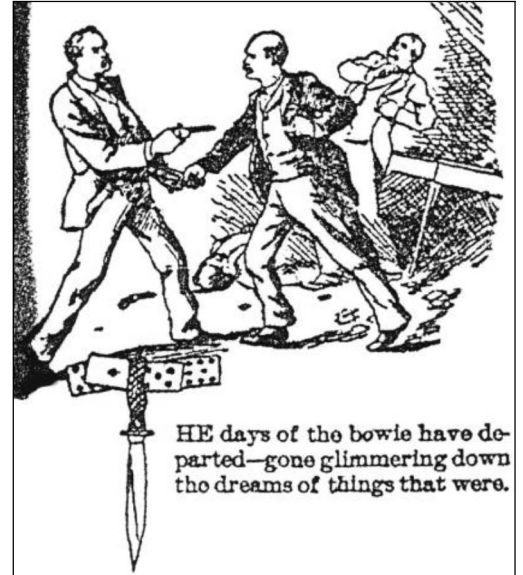
"Trail Cutters"

The first big knives made by Price were for a party of United States surveyors, who wanted them as substitutes for axes in cutting trails through the brush. The blades were twelve inches long and very heavy, and in the hands of a strong man would cut a person's head off at one blow.

"At the beginning of the war," said Mr. Price years afterwards, "the demand for these big knives was remarkable. All the southern men in San Francisco suddenly discovered that they wanted to go to Salmon

river or some other far away mining country, and they had to have trail cutters. Apparently they were going to a very brushy country, and expected to slash out an immense quantity of chaparral. The orders for trail cutters piled in, and I worked night and day to fill them. I had only a small place on Montgomery Street, and one man to help me. I made three knives a day,

and got \$35 apiece for them. They were plain serviceable weapons, with buckhorn handles, and you could cut firewood with them."



Cattaraugus Discovery by ibdennis

In our collection of scout/utility knives we favor Cattaraugus (1891 - 1963). Back in the 1915 time slot, they patented a compass that fit into the utility knife handle. They also had a unique style can opener that not only



opens cans but sliced my son's thumb open requiring an emergency room visit for stitches.

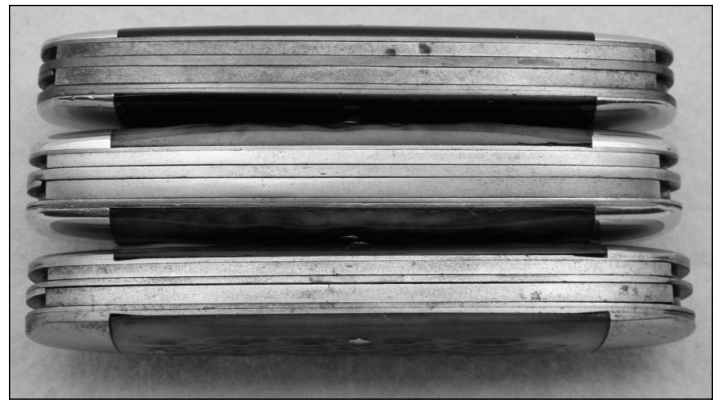
The utility pattern knives we have are well constructed and have sunk joints to make it easy to carry in the pocket. The bone handles on these knives are a honey bone colour, and the jiggling is unique. I guess I could go on and on about these special knives, but I must get to my story.

I just received a Cattaraugus knife I purchased on eBay for a rather reasonable price. I was hoping to throw it in my pocket since it was a duplicate (I thought). The seller identified it as great condition with no



faults, crack or chips. I prefer knife shows because I can see the knife and look closely and even smell it, if I am of a mind. I should have learned my lesson by this time that everything on eBay has a certain stink to it, and this one certainly did. A hairline crack was center stage; and although minor in appearance, it is still there. The knife has historical significance to me so I will keep it, but now realize it was way too much to pay for what it really was.

The pictures tell my story quite well. The dark celluloid handled knife is the knife at its best. It not only has the great construction features but has brass liners. Earlier patterns have had a compass in them and a spear main



blade, and they all carried the pattern number 42219C. Typically the compass went hand in hand with the spear blade. The knives I am referring to in this article are the same pattern number but have a clip point main blade. You don't usually find clip blades on utility pattern knives.

So now we have brass liners, a clip point, sunk joints, great construction and built for stout; a hefty pocket tool. The knives pictured have all these same features. The second knife has brass outside liners, the center liner is steel. The most recent eBay knife has no brass parts on it at all. The center liner is half the thickness of the other specimens; and the bone, while good, is rather flat and lacks the worm groove jiggling that other Cattaraugus knives have in common.

In the expression of "if only this knife could talk" I have discovered that these knives talk and quite loudly. I am pretty sure that this clip style knife evolved during the 1930s. The use of brass suggests early 1930s, and the evolution to steel as we got closer to WWII. Brass was in short supply as we got closer to 1940. The knife I got recently has no brass and a cut back on the amount of metal that went into making a knife. This tells me that this knife was probably war time production and could have even been a government authorized knife.

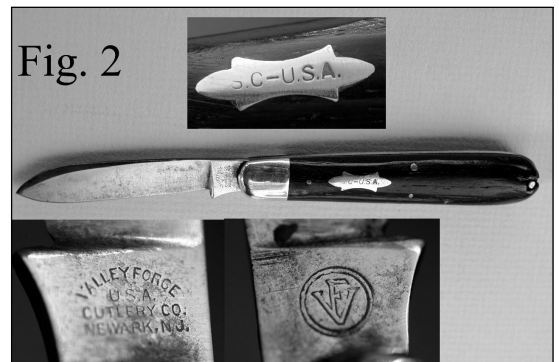
I really like the Cattaraugus knives I have and I enjoy the stories they tell.

Signal Corps... (cont. from page 4.)

Figure 2: The knife shown in Figure 2 is not the knife it used to be. In fact, it's only about half of its former self. This is an early Signal Corps knife normally found with a spear point blade and a locking

screwdriver blade. In this case, the screwdriver blade is missing along with its backspring and center liner. The knife has been modified but

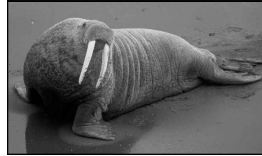
retains much of its original good looks. It is likely of the World War I era and should take its place with the other great Signal Corps knives of that period, which have been documented by M. H. Cole. These include those by Case, Keen Kutter, Miller Bros., Camillus, Ulster and Empire. This specimen by Valley Forge is the only one I've ever seen. It is distinctive in that it has a very small shield, only 3/4 inch from tip to tip. The overall length is 3-5/8 inches.



Ivory, Corrosion, and Working Mammoth Tooth

by Dan Westlind

At the Blade Show West, I was discussing a few things about ivory causing rust on carbon steel. All ivory contains some salt. Walrus ivory, especially newer, white ivory, is really loaded with salt. Several years ago I made a set of pistol grips for a guy who put the grips on a Colt 1911 45 Auto. I made the grips from a piece of walrus ivory he brought down that was purchased back in the 1960s. Six months later the guy called me up madder than the proverbial wet hen. The ivory had caused rust to form where it was in contact with the grip area to the extent of pitting the gun and actually pushing the grips up away from contacting the pistol frame. I ended up having to buy the gun. Hard lesson learned. Ever since that, I always spray the contacting surface of the ivory with clear lacquer or put a spacer between the ivory and the metal it is contacting. Fossil ivory does not seem to be a problem, but I still do not like direct contact of ivory with carbon steel. I usually use the thin spacer material available from the knife suppliers. Just another thing us custom makers have to be cautious of.



PLEASE READ THIS AND TAKE EXTREME CAUTION !!!! The chemicals used to stabilize wood, ivory and mammoth tooth is extremely toxic. Under no circumstances should you work any of these materials without proper safety equipment such as a canister type or air fed respirator or something equivalent. **DO NOT USE A PAPER TYPE DUST MASK LIKE I USE!!** I even try to sand these materials outside to prevent the dust from settling in my shop as I do not have a good air filtration in my shop. I also use a surplus toxic waste cleanup suit to keep the chemicals off my clothes. I got my toxic suit from The Sportsman's Guide. You can check and see if they still have some at www.sportsmansguide.com

Mammoth teeth scales are becoming more available as the treating processes have been improved enough to make the tooth material more workable. I first used mammoth tooth 12 or 13 years ago or more, and all I used was the root as it held together better and had more character and color. All I did was treat it with CA glue (cyanoacrylate). With the newer stabilization processes, the rest of the tooth is now usable and produces some of the most unbelievable, natural colors and character I have ever seen. Most mammoth tooth we are cutting up are not yet petrified and can be worked with standard tooling that most of us have, without resorting to lapidary equipment. Here are a few tips I have found that help when working the tooth. The tooth almost has to be stabilized before cutting, if not, it will just crumble when you try to cut it. I use a fine tooth, bi-metal or carbide toothed saw blade. A diamond blade will work also. I have not had very good luck with the blades that have grit instead of teeth on them, although I know some people who use those particular blades. When cutting, leave yourself about an 1/8 inch to sand up to your line as the sawing will chip the edges. I found that the black silicon carbide sanding belts work better than any other belts, and that is all I use on mammoth teeth. When drilling, use a good grade of drill bits. Use cobalt, carbide, or TiN coated drill bits and make sure they are sharp. The tooth, even though it is stabilized, will still break; but it can easily be repaired with CA glue. The tooth has so many cracks in it that the repair will not be noticeable. I like to glue a backing to the tooth scale before I start just to give it some extra strength. I again use the thin spacer material, thin titanium or some very thin micarta. I have also glued a piece of wood to the tooth and then just sand the wood off when I'm done fitting the scale. I hope these tips help and don't be afraid to use the material, as it is so beautiful when it's done. If you have any problems, give me a call, good luck.

Oregon Knife Collectors' 2007 Club Knife

This year we are offering a Ford Swauger folding pocketknife for the members of the OKCA. This will be our second Damascus folding knife. The blade steel is made in Ford's shop and is a blending in what Ford calls a "left right composite twist pattern" with an L6 center. The bolsters are 140 layer random pattern Damascus. The handles on the manual knife are polished amber bone. The handles on the Oregon Special knife are Australian Mother of Pearl. The handle length is 4 inches, and the overall length is 7 inches. The back strap has ornate file work on it, and the blade will have a false edge top grind. We can handle requests for left hand versions if orders are placed well in advance. There is no price adder for this request.

The knives will be serial numbered, year dated and marked as Oregon Knife Collectors knives. The marking will be on the inside of the knife to preserve the beauty of this knife. These knives are only available to Oregon Knife Club members, and the Oregon Special is only available to Oregon residents who purchase the set. There will be 25 sets available and 25 manual knives making a total of 75 knives.

The Oregon Special knife is referred to as a double action knife and is what Ford calls his Dial-Matic mechanism. This dial serves as a blade lock release in the manual version and as an opening and lock release in the Oregon Special version. This mechanism is a Ford Swauger exclusive design and works very easily.



Serial number special requests will only be honored for those who have purchased knives with the same number in the last two years. All other serial numbers will be random drawn. Delivery will be at the April Oregon Show.



This is a fund raising project for the OKCA so help out and also make an investment in what will soon be a very desirable knife to own. These knives will go fast so don't delay. One knife or set is available per member on this first offering. Additional knives can be purchased after December 15 if there are any left.

The price on the manual knife is \$325, and the set will be \$700.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Regular manual knife _____ quantity.

Oregon Special set of two knives _____ quantity.

Total amount enclosed _____

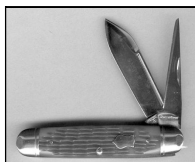
Your 2005/2006 serial number if desired was _____

Please add \$10 for shipping if you are not able to pick this knife up at the Show on April 14 - 15, 2007. The Oregon Special Knife cannot be shipped.

OKCA Free Classified Ads

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 Tootsie Pop wrappers) 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.

For Sale: Special Factory Order Harness Jacks! I had Queen make 200 total Schatt & Morgan Harness knives in varying bone, ebony, stag and other handles. About 100 sold in two weeks. Get yours before they are gone!



charlie.campagna@telus.net or call (604)731-1707, Push 1, and leave Charlie a message!

For Sale: Schaublin 102-80 Plain Turning Lathe 220V-3ph, Lever tail stock, Lever collet closer, Cast iron cabinet, F27 collets On pallet ready to move \$1,500 Call or email Thad (541) 416-2556 or knives@crestviewcable.com

Wanted: US Army and US Navy wooden practice swords and cutlasses. Lee Bull, Seattle, a private collector. email leeguns@hotmail.com or call me (206)324-6709

Randall Made Knives. Buy, Sell, Trade. Also a good selection of Case knives, and many custom knives for sale or trade. Jim Schick www.nifeboy.com (209)333-1155.

Wanted To Buy: Old imported knives from around the world. Anything considered that is in fair to excellent condition from any of a number of countries. Collections or single pieces. Chris Hyde (360)250-1573. chris@worldknives.com

Wanted Thistle Top Knife any maker maybe considered. If I have it, I still may want to trade up. See example in *Levine's IV* page 346. Send photo(s) description and your price via email to Beaker@sunset.net

For Sale: The latest Goddard Lightweight ClipIt with a Burgundy handle is now available. 3-5/8" blade of VG10 steel. Limited quantity at \$75.00 each. US dollars, Visa, MasterCard and Discoverly gladly accepted. Call (541)689-8098 ask for the ClipIt Lady. Or e-mail to wgoddard44@comcast.net

In stock: *Knives 2007, The Encyclopedia of Marble's Knives and Sporting Collectibles*, Mokume Gane, plus an extensive list of blade and blade related books. Collectible, custom, antique, and military. Quality Blade Books, P.O. Box 41854, Eugene, OR 97404 --(541) 688-6899 -- wagner_r@pacinfo.com Web Site www.qualitybladebooks.com

Wanted: Seguin Knives ---Call Jack at (805)431-2222 or (805)489-2222 or email jh5jh@aol.com

Collection of W.C. Overholser knives consisting of eighteen folders and one dagger. For additional information please call (541)923-5210 or email gshown@uci.com

Wanted: Knives made by Angus Arbuckle (1924 -1982) of South Africa. Marked on ricasso: CUSTOM HANDMADE KNIVES above a Griffin logo and ARA below. Please contact: Richard Schechner (619)437-0564 or email rgs522@san.rr.com

The new, revised, full color edition *Wayne Goddard's \$50 Knife Shop* is here and ready for delivery. This all new book is fully revised, updated and has a new chapter on jigs and fixtures for the knifemaker. This will be an autographed copy. \$20.00 if you pick it up. \$25.00 shipped priority mail within the US. Cash, check, Visa, MasterCard and Discoverly welcome. Call (541)689-8098 to order or mail to Goddard's, 473 Durham Ave., Eugene, OR, 97404 e-mail wgoddard44@comcast.net

For Sale: Knives by American Blade, Camillus, Case, Cripple Creek, Gerber Paul, Remington, Hen and Rooster, Schrade and Winchester. Please call evenings Chris Lindsay (541)389-3875 for more information.

Wanted: Gerber Mark II Combat/Survival knives: interested in early and unusual pieces, related items and histories. Canted blades, colored handles, dive knives, etc. If you carried a MkII please let me know. Also Knuckle Knives, Kukri's, Randall's, F-S Commando, U.S. Military Knives and nice old fighting knives in general. Phil Bailey POB 13000-A Portland OR 97213-0017 -(503)281-6864, email: pbailey@europa.com

1000 + Knife sheaths 5 different sizes excellent quality fits 4" and smaller hunting knives. \$15.00 each or 3 for \$40.00. Wild Boar Blades Ray Simonson (360) 735-057- info@wildboarblades.com www.wildboarblades.com

Wanted: OKCA Club Knives #16. Need years 79 Case --- 80 Gerber ---81 Gerber---83 Gerber ---87 Al Mar --- 89 Cripple Creek ---91 Mark Walster --- 92 Gerber, will buy or trade . Contact Fred Coleman (541)915-6241 or leave message (541)688-3624 . DESPERATELY LOOKING AND NEED AND WANT.

For Sale: Criswell Swords. Rob has again started making swords. Woohoo! 28" katana w/G10 saya. 7-1/2" tanto w/G10 sheath. Hawthorne Cutlery 3208 Se Hawthorne Blvd Portland OR 97214 (503)234-8898

Wanted: Carbon steel kitchen/butcher knives and top-quality stainless steel. Buying single piece or large quantities. email Leroy: knipenifer@gmail.com

For Sale: Oriental makers..cured stiff white/clean ray skins. All sizes. Special. 4x10 packs of 5 only \$60.00. Prepaid shipping. Call Elliott (480)945-0700 or send order and Visa/MC to Hiltary 7303 E Earll Drive Scottsdale AZ 85251

For Sale: Tourquoise, lapiz, coral, malacite, amber, only \$20.00 per piece. 5x1-1/4 square. Shipping \$5.00. Call Elliott (480)945-0700 or send order and Visa/MC to Hiltary 7303 E Earll Drive Scottsdale AZ 85251

I have 157 knives for sale. Most are riggers and sailor's knives. Can send a CD with pictures and info on each knife. E-mail lgnunn@yahoo.com - Leonard Nunn (509)456-6954

Knife Maker's vise -\$160.00. Bob Patrick 816 Peace Portal Dr. Blaine, WA 98230. (604)538-6214 or bob@knivesonnet.com

Wanted to buy: Folding bowies Larry Hogan (253)927-3909 email rhogan39@net-venture.net

The Bowie Knife: Unsheathing an American Legend by Norman Flayderman. 512 pages, over 260 color plates, hard cover. This book covers the fact, fiction and folklore of the world's most famous fighting knife. Only \$79.95 plus \$5.00 shipping. James D. Hayden Bookpeddler, 88360 Charly Lane, Springfield OR 97478. Check or Visa/MC orders (541)746-1819. Info email jhbkpdlr@pacinfo.com

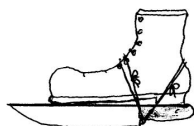
KNIFE LAWS on-line. Federal, state, local. <http://pwweb.net.com/~brlevine/appr-k.htm> Bernard Levine (541)484-0294 <http://www.knife-expert.com/>

Official Scout Blades a new book by Ed Holbrook 112 pgs. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls. Pocket knives, sheath knives, axes, 99% complete from 1910 to date + price guide \$25.00 + \$3.00 postage Ed Holbrook 12150 S Casto Rd Oregon City OR. 97045

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Cut-toon

knife idea #7



The poor man's ice skates.
William
Borefoot Forge

OKCA Club Whot-zits & Whos Zits

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Knewsletter by elayne & dennis

Cut-toons by Judy & Lonnie Williams

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Events Calendar December 2006

----- December 2006 -----		
Dec	09-09	Oregon Mini Knife - Eugene OR (KW)
----- January 2007 -----		
Jan	05-07	Las Vegas Invitational Knifemakers (KW-B)
Jan	26-28	Bladesmith Exposition -Reno NV (KW-B)
Jan	27-28	Gateway Knife Show - St Louis MO (KW-B)
----- February 2007 -----		
Feb	02-04	Gator Cutlery - Lakeland FL (KW-B)
Feb	03-04	AKA -Little Rock Arkansas (KW-B)
Feb	10-11	Dover Show - Dover Ohio (KW)
Feb	16-18	East Coast Custom - New York (B)
Feb	24-25	Northwest Knife Collectors - Tacoma WA
Feb	23-25	Knife Expo -Pasadena CA (KW-B)
----- March 2007 -----		
Mar	09-11	Northwest Georgia - Dalton (KW-B)
Mar	17-18	Bunker Hill - Bethalto Illinois (KW-B)
Mar	23-25	Badger Knife Show -Janesville WI (KW)
----- April 2007 -----		
Apr	14-15	Oregon Knife Collectors Show - Eugene
Apr	27-29	NKCA Ohio Show - Wilmington OH (KW)
Apr	28-29	Gulf Coast Custom -Gulfport MS (KW)
Apr	27-29	Solvang Custom Show -California (B)
Apr	28-29	Wolverine Knife Collectors - Novi MI (KW)

----- May 2007 -----		
May	04-05	NCCA Extravaganza - Mystic CT
May	11-12	NKCA Shepardsville KY (KW)
----- June 2007 -----		
Jun	08-10	Blade Show -Atlanta GA (B)
----- September 2007 -----		
Sep	14-16	NKCA Ohio Fall Show -Wilmington OH (KW)
----- October 2007 -----		
Oct	13-14	Northwest Knife Collectors -Puyallup WA

DINNER MEETING



NO DINNER MEETING

**Come to the
December 9, 2006
Mini Knife Show!**

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