



NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



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- ✓ Small Knives
- ✓ Application Form
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- ✓ New Ads

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

September 2007

Michael Bell - Dragon Fly Forge by Dennis Ellingsen

This article appeared in the August 2007 issue of Knife World and is printed with this publications permission.

I met Michael Bell on August 26, 1984 at a knife show in San Jose, California. It was a momentous meeting which I recall vividly. There were some star players at this show. Of special import was Bernard Levine who introduced me to Michael Bell and, in turn, also introduced Michael to Bob Loveless. Michael lived in San Francisco and was the owner of Mission Cutlery; and in addition to selling, sharpening and repairing cutlery, he also was making and repairing Japanese swords.

When Bob Loveless was told that Michael made Japanese swords, Bob asked to see his work. Michael had a sword with him but was reluctant to show it to Loveless. After some coaxing the sword was brought out for viewing. Bob Loveless went over the sword with a discerning eye and considerable praise. Praise from Mr. Loveless was difficult to earn, but the sword was that good. When Bob asked Michael why he was slow to show it, Michael informed him the sword had a flaw in it and was destined for destruction. The sword was again given close scrutiny, and Bob admitted he could find no flaws. At that point Michael pointed to the one microscopic carbon flaw that was in the side of the blade. It actually had to be pointed out since it was very small.

Bob scoffed at this and stated that this was not a flaw but was a personality mark that singled out this one sword from all others Michael might make. Bob Loveless also stated that he could make perfect knives; but in order to give each a personality of its own, he incorporated a mark or flaw in all his knives. We had purchased a Loveless knife at that show, and it did indeed carry an intentional flaw just as he had stated.



In 2004 Michael was awarded Best of Show at the Oregon Show with this sword.

Michael Bell has become known worldwide for his skills at making Japanese swords. The very best for sure. His skill was learned during a five year apprenticeship with Nakajima Muneyoshi in 1970.

Nakajima Muneyoshi was born and raised in Japan and studied all phases of Japanese swordmaking. Nakajima learned the total sword with all of its parts including making the furniture of the sword and also polishing. In the early 1960s he came to the United States at the urging of the Japanese Sword Society of the US. It was desired that a person be placed in this country that would be able to identify the missing treasures of Japan which could be returned to Japan. Also this person would be able to identify the work necessary to restore a Japanese sword. Since Nakajima was skilled in all facets of Japanese swordmaking and restoration, it was a wonderful opportunity for Michael Bell to serve his apprenticeship with a master. It was this traditional education that Michael Bell

learned and is the same style he teaches in the courses that he offers today. History is being passed on. For more information on this refer to Michael's web page on Dragonflyforge.com.



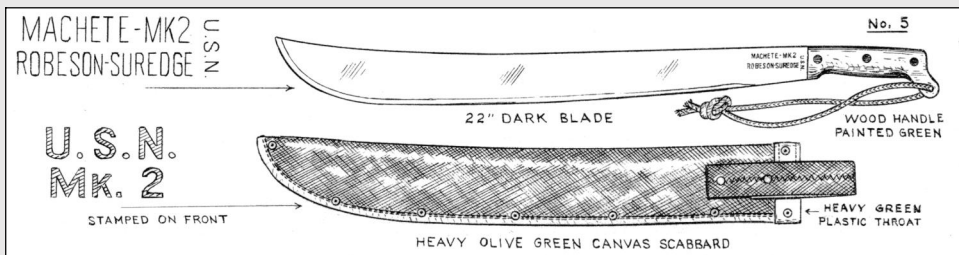
These two pieces were made from cable Damascus. The tanto was made in 2007 and the sheath knife in 1994.

Knots on United States Military Edged Cutlery

by Frank Trzaska

Robeson Shuredge

In a recent discussion with a fellow collector I compared knots on the Robeson Mark 2 machete. A somewhat



rare machete to find these days and very rare to find one with the wood handle intact. Why do you suppose that is? Just about every Robeson machete I have seen and held has had a split or cracked handle on it. For sure machetes were work horses and did a tough job so they were used and abused. I have found large numbers of used Collins machetes which were almost sharpened to the spine, but the handles were still intact. Although most manufacturers used plastic of some sort by World War Two for machete handles, some were still using wood. Perhaps this is one of the reasons wood was phased out. Can anyone chime in here on this one? Your experiences with the Robeson wood handled Mark 2 machete, cracked?

The DAS Markings

Just because it has a Defense Acceptance Stamp® (DAS) mark doesn't mean it is right. If the forger can fake the bayonet, they can surely fake the paint and ink stamp, child's play for those folks. Just as the item could be authentic without the stamp, it could be a fake with one. Don't bet the farm on the white ink stamp, use your head as with anything else. In fact the DAS stamp could make you lower your guard, be extra suspicious of a perfect one, just for good measure. The DAS was approved as a replacement for the proof and inspection markings in late 1952, but was not actually used until a year later. Around November/December 1953, the standard Defense Acceptance

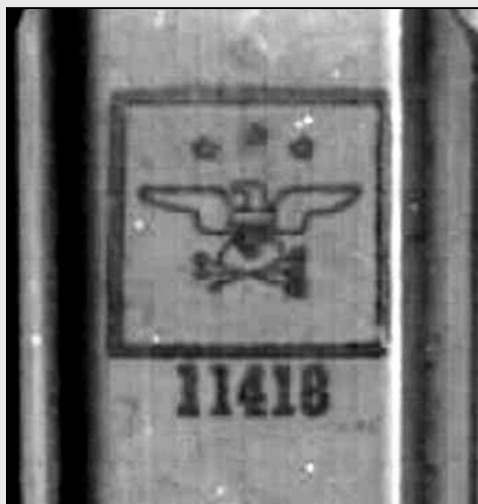
Stamp made its appearance on the stock of the M1 Garand rifle among other places. They are prominent on the M5, M6 and the M1917 bayonets, look for them now that you know what they are. The DAS is simply an eagle with wings spread sitting over three stars and surrounded by a box, usually in white ink but also seen in black. Some bayonets have it hot stamped right into the guard. Again just because it has one does not make it official government issue.

Why Do Folks Dislike eBay So Much?

I hear an awful lot of folks bad mouthing eBay and the high prices, sniping etc. Well it ain't eBay that is doing any of those things, it is other buyers. Ebay just establishes the place for people to meet and put up their wares for sale. Just like the biggest knife show in the country but not just on a special weekend, every day. High prices you say? Think back to pre computer days. Just how many of the current knives and bayonets on eBay would you have seen without that computer? Do a search on just the local areas you would frequent. If you live in Maine, don't look at the knives in Florida or Oklahoma, just Maine or perhaps New Hampshire or Mass. Remember you would not have seen those other items without

eBay. If you were one to fly to a few shows a year, you may have seen a bit more; but wait, how much did that cost? Flights, hotels, parking, meals, car rental, taxi, bus etc. A quick weekend trip to a big show would set you back a grand. Think the M1905 on eBay went for about \$150.00 too much? Hell, you just saved \$850.00 and found one that was just about mint. The variety on the web is immense; you will see more in a month then you normally would in a year of just doing shows. I am not saying to do away with shows, I love them, and the computer cannot compare to actually being there and handling the knives; but if you want to see a lot and not leave your house, you can't beat it. The biggest problem I see with it is that other people know about it, a lot of other people; and you frequently get out bid. Too bad, supply and demand dictates price, and emotion dictates value. You may not want to spend \$10.00 on a knife I want for \$100.00. Value is what the seller wants to get rid of an item matched with what a buyer is willing to pay, nothing more, nothing less. Just like beauty is in the eye of the beholder, value lies in the individual. Just because the price of gas is \$1.25 doesn't mean everybody will like it, anymore then a Robeson M3 blade marked and dated mint in an M6 scabbard would be worth \$1000.00. Value is a perception, not a fact or a price written on the tag. Sure if you wait long enough you may find that Robeson for \$400.00 and gas at \$1.15; but for those who don't want to wait and think it is of value, the web just brings it to your door. On another front eBay allows collectors to see variations they would take years to see. Even if the person does not get to buy the item, they can see it and know one is out there. It took me over 25 years to get the Mark 2's I have. It took ten years to get every date of MIL-K knives. I see folks getting knives that took me years to find in months. For those studying knives and bayonets, it is a literal gold mine on the web. Sale lists in the past were few and far in between. Today they are non stop on the web. There is too much good going on for me to look a gift horse in the mouth. Now if they would only allow guns back into the site, I would even be happy with them.

trz123@comcast.net



OKCA Knews and Musings

ibdennis

The Summer break is over.....

It was a grand summer break for Elayne and me, and we are revitalized to start back with the organization. Our highlight was a visit to **Disneyland** escorted by son Ray. A great time was had in spite of the temperatures which soared close to the triple digit marks. August is not the time to visit Southern California.

The Wednesday Nite Meeting.....

The Oregon Knife Collectors meeting will be held at the Sizzler in Springfield on Wednesday September 19. Dinners from 5 until 7 at which time we will have a short business meeting. It will be good to see ya all after a three month absence. Bring a sharp or pointy item for Show-N-Tell.

The Shows.....

I want to remind everyone that we have reduced the table number by 36 tables for the 2008 Show so if you intend to do this Show please observe our December 15 deadline. Any whining and gnashing of the teeth will be ignored after the 15th.

The December Mini Show will be on Saturday the 8th. The same setup as in the past. The tables are free to current members. One table per member please. You must request a table in advance, preferably 30 days in advance, as we need to order the tables that we have to pay for. For those that do not request a table in advance but slither in and snag a table the day of the game, we will stop by and collect your donation of \$100 for a table. Likewise early departure before show posted times will suffer painful consequences. No exceptions save for severe medical excuses and a note from your doctor or undertaker, whichever fits.

Please note that the decision to reduce the number of tables at the April 2008 Show has been solely due to the last minute drop outs at Showtime. Without a waiting list we are faced with empty tables. We have always entered the Show dates with a sold out Show, but this many tables makes us vulnerable with the inevitable cancellations. The Show is still growing and is still on the upward bound in attendance and participation.

The Theme of the 2008 Show.....

We have suggested in the past that we have shown interest in special collecting arenas but have never had a theme. The 2008 Show

will feature a theme encompassing "Japanese Swords." When son Ray was but a wee small lad, we bought a museum quality Japanese sword at a then unheard of price. With cautionary words to Ray, we left the sword out in the open. He had proved trustworthy with the firearms in the house, however a sword was something different for him to investigate. One day we came home to find slice marks in the living room ceiling, and our favorite Westminster mantel clock cut and damaged from what appeared to be sword play. The Ninja in the ceiling were dispatched for sure; and if the clock was the reincarnation of a samurai warrior, then he to was sent back to his resting place in the netherland. With the fear that Ray would do damage to himself next time, we sold the sword. I have for years tried to get another sword to replace this forced-sale memory but was afraid to enter into an unfamiliar market with the escalated costs of these items. So I went to **Jim Wilson** and purchased a Katana WWII Japanese sword that I knew was right and honest. With this sword fulfilling my empty spot, I became interested again in the Japanese swords and thus sprang the idea of the theme for our 2008 Show. The OKCA board approved this call to a theme, and we are in agreement to have this happen.

Japanese Stories and Parables.....

Ray Ellingsen, while pursuing his interests in martial arts and swords, was given the project to fulfill one of his martial arts degrees by putting to paper the oral tradition stories and parables of the Japanese culture. These stories are not about a person but rather an ideology. We will print each of these original written works in the upcoming Knewsletters.

The Ads in the Knewsletter....

We have purged all the left over ads in the Knewsletter and have started out fresh once again. The ads are free and will or can or might run for three months dependent on the mood of the editors. We will also put these ads on the web site so your membership can work well for you should this appeal.

The video was found.....

The 1992 video of the Saturday Nite Social has been found. We have had a few copies made so this classic event will be preserved. Who knows.... maybe we can get a sword swallower to swallow one of **Michael Bell's** Japanese style swords once again at the 2008 Show.

OKCA 2008 Club Knife....

The 2008 Club knife has been a work in progress for almost a year now. **Roy Humenick** will be making a folding knife for this project. I received a special

prototype of this knife during the 2007 Show, and it is gorgeous. The pattern is a single blade small coke bottle pattern. In October we will have an order form and pictures of this knife. It is a beauty.

Smile Knife ?????

I have run out of smile knives to add to the Knewsletter. This will be the last of it unless someone steps up to the plate. This is barely a smile knife or knives as the tang marks are Y-B Cigars. Over the years I have discovered that back in the 1950s, one could send in ten labels and fifty cents to Yocum Brothers Cigars in Reading PA and



have your name put on a small pocketknife. At one time I thought these were famous people's names; but it appears you were "famous" if you had the cigar bands, fifty cents and a stamp. The tool that is seen can pull nails from a box of cigars, push back the nails in the box and open a bottle of Nehi soda pop should you want one while smoking your cigar.

Places to stay in Eugene

It is not too early to stake your claim (reservations) on lodging in Eugene for the April 11 - 13, 2008 Show.

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 -

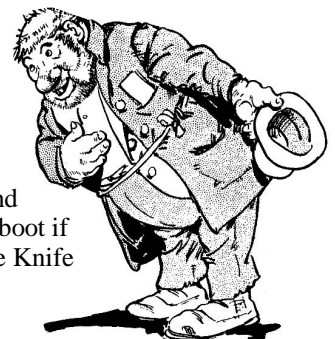
(800)264-2519 -(541)343-1119 -Classic Hospitality. A very unique experience. Top quality.

Courtesy Inn -

(888)259-8481

-(541)345-3391

-The closest motel yet to the Knife Show. A budget motel and special rates to boot if you mention the Knife Show.



During the next several months we will be publishing stories and parables some of which are about the exploits of the famous Samurai warrior, Miyamoto Musashi. For the most part, these tales were an oral tradition, passed down from instructor to student. While there were many stories about numerous warriors throughout the ages, it seems that Musashi is credited with most of these deeds, even though he may not have been present during the said event. It must be understood that these adventures are not necessarily about a person, but rather an ideology. As such, it is the lesson, and not the individual, which must be acknowledged. The first of these will be about the great sword maker, Muramasa. Ray Ellingsen

THE LESSON OF SPIRIT

One spring morning the renowned sword maker Muramasa was visited by a young sword maker named Hidoshi. "I have been told that you are the greatest sword maker in the land. I am here to prove that I am better," stated the journeyman bladesmith.

Muramasa shook his head sadly and ignored Hidoshi, continuing with his work. Hidoshi was relentless however, and challenged Muramasa to make a better blade than his own. "How do you propose that we judge such a contest?" asked Muramasa.

"We will cut through the bodies of convicts as they are condemned already and see whose blade cuts deeper," said Hidoshi. Muramasa refused this method but finally agreed to have a neutral party test the blades on inanimate objects.

The whole province gathered to watch the contest as an elected samurai tested each blade. First the warrior sliced through several large bamboo stalks with each blade. While both blades severed the stalks cleanly, the tester noted that Muramasa's blade cleaved through the stalks with slightly more difficulty. Next the samurai placed each blade between two rocks and bent the blades as far as they would go to test the strength of their steel. While both blades bowed, they each straightened back to true. The finishes on each blade were flawless, and after exhaustive testing the exasperated samurai declared that he could tell no difference between the two swords.

Hidoshi clenched his fists in frustration while Muramasa sat calmly. Finally, Muramasa stood and said, "There is one final test if you are willing to take it." Hidoshi eagerly agreed, believing that his blade could best Muramasa's if given the chance. Muramasa took both swords and walked down to a large cherry tree at the bottom of a hill. A stream wound through the forest and around the base of the tree.

There in the shade Muramasa handed Hidoshi his blade and said, "place the spine of your blade across the top of the water with the edge facing skyward." Hidoshi complied. As they waited, cherry blossom petals drifted down into the stream to be carried away. Several of these fell across the edge of Hidoshi's blade and were cleaved cleanly in half as they touched the blade. Hidoshi smiled and withdrew his blade. Muramasa placed his blade in the water in the same manner. Several petals floated down; but upon reaching Muramasa's blade, the petals veered off at the last moment, landing unharmed in the water. Hidoshi's smile faded. He flung his blade into the water and bowed before Muramasa. "Though I thought myself a master you have shown me that I am still only an apprentice. You are truly a master, and I can only hope that one day I may achieve your greatness." In the coming years Hidoshi studied faithfully under Muramasa, and one day did indeed himself become a master.



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) \$ _____

33RD ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 12-13, 2008
430 — 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 2007 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2008, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2007. 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 12/15/07.

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 11, 2008.

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

Saturday, April 12, 2008.

7am-9am set-up. 9am-6pm open to public.

Sunday, April 13, 2008.

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, 2008; 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!*

Small Knives In My Life

By Merle Spencer

Small knives have always appealed to me, and I've written about some of these before.

I guess the first small knife in my life came with a pair of lace boots my mother had ordered from a catalog when I was just a small boy. I don't remember much about the knife, but there was a small pocket sewn on the side of the boot to carry the knife in. A flap with a snap secured the knife in place. Think of how pleased a little boy could be, now that he had the same equipment the big boys had.

Skip about twenty years to a time when I was looking at knives in a store, and the proprietor was telling me about the blades of a small pocketknife being made of stainless steel.

"They'll never rust," was the selling point he offered. Well, the upshot of this little story is that, a day or so later, I laid the knife down where I had been using it outside and forgot to pick it up. It rained that night.

A few days later I found my new knife with the stainless steel blades that would never rust and would be just as bright and shiny as new. They weren't. The blades had become dull and dark. Some places were darker than others.

When I showed the blades to the storekeeper next time I was in town, his only comment was, "Well, the salesman said they were stainless steel. I'm going to tell him about this." That was all.

Such was my introduction to the semantics of the terms stainless and stain resistant.

A few years after my lesson on stainless steel, I opened a package on Christmas morning and found a small red-handled knife. It was one of the Victorinox Swiss Army Knives that have since become so familiar to us. This one was the size called the Executive, and it contained several small blades and tools. Included were two blades, a

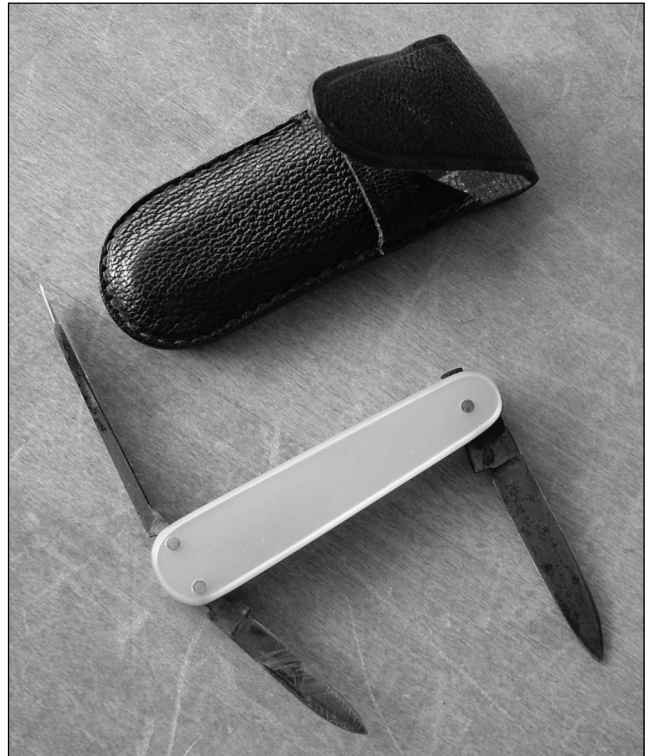
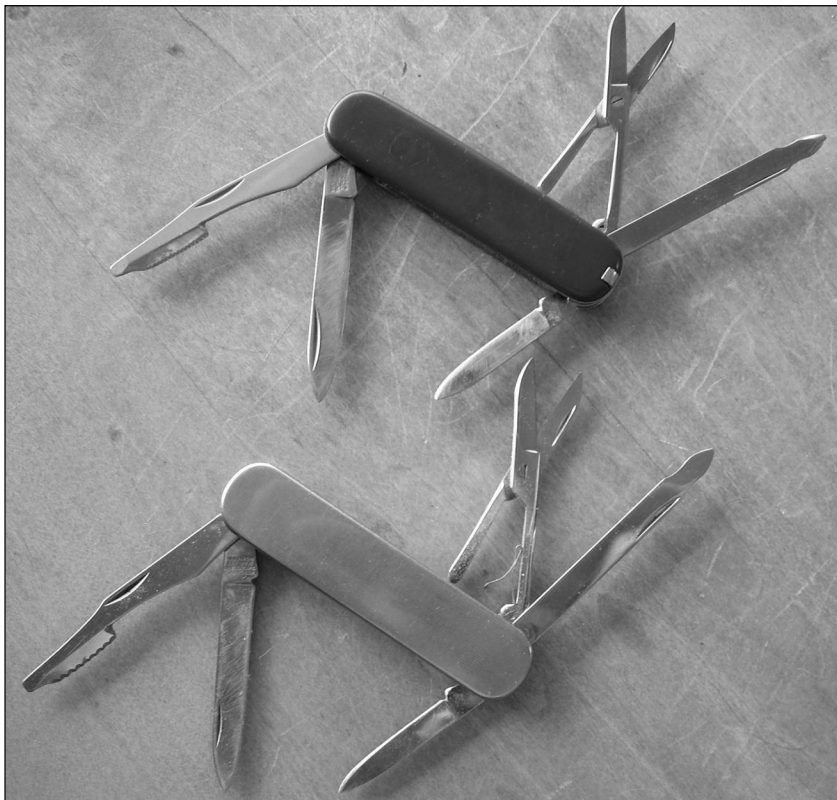
combination screwdriver/pipe-cleaner/orange-peeler, scissors, nail file, tweezers and a toothpick. I carried the knife almost daily for about 35 years. During this time the toothpick was replaced a half dozen times, and the scissors spring was replaced twice. The first time the spring broke, I made do with part of a metal hairpin, which lasted several years.

A friend gave me a knife a half-dozen years ago that is just like my red one, except it has a silver-colored metal handle. I carry it often when doing outside work. One time it disappeared for a few days until a friend found it in the street outside our driveway. I must have driven out with the little knife lying on the hood of my gray and silver pickup after using it there.

The last couple years I have carried a smaller red handled knife called the Classic. I have three of these, one of which has a little ring for carrying it with my keys. I also have a blue one that I bought at a flea market. Sometimes I'll miss one of them, but it will always turn up in another pair of pants or in my shave kit after a driving trip, or even on the shelf where I keep loose change.

One time at a show, I bought a small Buck knife to add to my collection. I kept it in the cherry wood display case that I had made to store my small collection of knives in after my wife declined to part with her antique spool cabinet. This little two-blade knife was similar in size to the red handled Classic, but somewhat thicker. One day my son admired it when he had come to visit, and it went home in his pocket.

Later my older brother sent me a tiny pearl-handled knife with two blades. The larger blade is an inch and seven sixteenths long, and the smaller one is only an inch and one sixteenth. It also has a nail file on the side opposite the blades, but the spring for that has been broken. When closed, the knife measures two and one eighth inches. It stores in a leather case with a flap that slides under a keeper. The blades are tarnished and show signs of inexpert sharpening. A magnifying glass shows no identification marks, but the knife appears to be very well made, and the blades open and close with the familiar snap.



At one Christmas, my wife, Janie, gave me a Leatherman Micra. This combination tool kit contains some basic implements that a person might need, but probably doesn't usually have all the time, and the whole is housed in a fold-up case about two and a half inches long. It opens to reveal a very sturdy pair of scissors and other useful things, including a bottle opener and a sharp knife blade. Mine rides in a small tray on the consul of my vehicle, at hand for those unforeseen times such as a lunch at a wayside stop. There are even screwdrivers and a pair of tweezers.

In Hawaii last spring, we attended a large swap meet in Honolulu. I came across a booth that had a display of Victorinox Swiss Army knives, all new and in the box at attractive prices. A year or so before, I had borrowed one of Janie's two little red handled knives, since the one on my key ring had a broken mainspring. I had intended to check on getting it replaced, but never followed up.

I purchased the little classic size knife and gave it to her.

"Be sure to pack this in your check-in luggage," I told her, remembering the stories of small knives being confiscated at airports

When we got home, as she unpacked, Janie couldn't find the little red handled knife anywhere. The box with the warranty paper inside was there, but no knife. She was disappointed, of course, but with all the things involved with getting back to daily life, no more was made of it.

A couple days later, while emptying out the small purse she had carried on the trip, she found the knife at the bottom of one of the compartments. It had apparently been right with her all the time. So now it's on her key ring.

This prompted me to look at the paper that came with her knife to see if anything could be done about the broken spring in my knife. A phone



call directed me to a web site. I printed out a form for repair, which I filled out and mailed along with the broken knife. The cost of postage was \$2.50..

Three days later a package came from Swiss Army Brands Ltd. Inside was a brand new red handled Classic. It now fills a place on my key ring.



The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

The summer hiatus is over. It is now down to the business for the preparation for the 2008 Oregon Knife Show.

We have been receiving renewals for tables and memberships through the Summer, however I have not processed these unless they were new memberships.

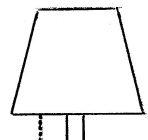
I would appreciate a confirmation call from the knifemakers who have agreed to do the award knives for the 2008 Show. It would make my duties a little easier.

Please be sure to watch the date for table requests since we have reduced the number of tables for the 2008 Show to 435. December 15 is the last date you can renew your 2007 table for the 2008 Show. I imagine the December 8 show will be a busy time for membership and table renewals unless you plan ahead.

See you at the dinner meeting Wednesday September 19.



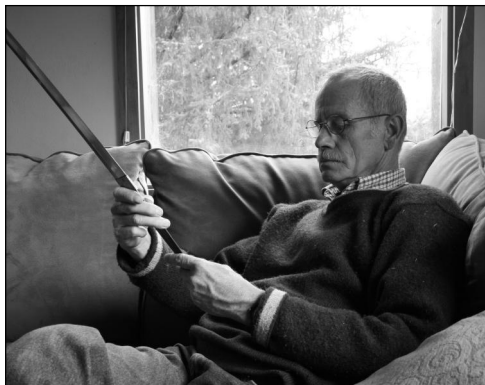
Cut-toon



Oh dear, I saw a bunch of Knives at a garage sale today. They were made by some guy named Randall. They wanted two dollors apiece for them so I passed.

William's
Knives Foot
Bare Forge

and started the Dragon Fly Forge. Michael chose the name because he has always had respect for the dragon fly and considers it a being



of beauty. His home and shop are near the top of a high hillside, and there is a half mile road that requires other than a passenger car to reach the top. Near knocked my teeth out getting tossed around on this steep climb. But what a view! Awesome. And just how he got the two ton trip hammer up

this hill is a mystery. Where there is a will, there is a way. There certainly is very little in this environment to distract Michael in the patient approach each sword requires in order to be made.

I recently purchased a small tanto knife from Michael; and although it is an item of great beauty, it was the maker that held my greatest interest. I know little about the language of the sword or its history, but I am content with this. Being a part of the legacy of the maker and his philosophy is even more exciting to me.

Part of the uniqueness of the swords made by Michael is the use of forge welded Damascus cable steel. The finished steel has superior and aggressive cutting capabilities, durability and remarkable strength. This was evidenced by the sword my son, Ray, has which he used to decimate many trees while visiting with Michael. The blade survived this tortuous testing over and over again. It should be mentioned that all parts of the swords are made by Michael, from the blade to the smallest parts.

The Oregon Knife Show has seen many years of Michael Bell. Not only does he participate as a tableholder but also supports the organization. One year the Bell family entertained at the opening ceremonies and played on the Japanese taiko drums. Michael has also garnered numerous awards at this Show for his swords and knives in the custom knife competition held each year. At the 2007 Show Michael won Best Art Knife for the tanto that is now in my custody.



Tombo Taiko drumming by the Bell family entertained all at the 2004 Oregon Knife Show.

The school of swordmaking that Michael is now teaching deals with many aspects of the traditional Japanese swordmaking just as he had been taught. He does not re-invent the techniques, but refines the art. It is this art that Nakajima Muneyoshi gave to Michael Bell, and this needs to be passed on. The classes teach traditional blade forging, along with courses structured on Habaki, Koshirae, Tsuka and Kajioshi.

There is one story that needs telling in regards to the swords of Michael Bell. At the Oregon Knife Show in 1992 we decided to have some very unique entertainment at our Saturday Night Social. There was a juggler that threw pointy and sharp objects in the air and managed to keep them in motion without a single cut. There was also a magician team that thrust swords into a straw basket in which his lovely assistant was housed. There were other acts of prestidigitation with the cutting edges that enthralled the audience. And then there was the sword swallower.....

When the sword swallower arrived on the afternoon of the Show, I asked him if he would walk around and find a sword that was on display that he could swallow that would prove credibility to his act. After cruising the Show, he said that he had found a sword that he wanted to swallow. You guessed it... a Michael Bell traditional Japanese style sword. I suggested that Michael's swords were using swords, they were curved and extremely sharp. The sword swallower insisted, and I asked Michael if he would allow such use of his sword. Michael repeated the same cautions as I had but said that since the sword could not be hurt, if he really was intent on doing this then it was alright.

After the magician's swords had been swallowed to the amazement of the audience, the performer brought out the Michael Bell sword. I doubt whether there was a single person in the room that didn't know about Michael and his swords. The silence was absolute as the sword entered the mouth and was guided down to what appeared belly depth. I still have wetness in my palms thinking of this event. It was recorded on film, and I still look through my fingers as I watch this.

That in itself was an event to see, but what happened after was even more interesting. I saw Michael after the performance and asked if his sword had been returned. It had been. but he was concerned because there was blood on the tip of the blade; and he worried that the sword swallower might have punctured an internal organ. I ran back to the staging area and saw the man as he was changing to his street clothes. I asked him if he felt alright and was assured that everything was fine. I suggested that maybe he should get medical attention as there were traces of blood on Michael's sword. With great apologies he said he had intended to wipe the blade off but had forgotten. The blood had come from his finger which was now bandaged. It seems that prior to the performance he had tested the sharpness of the sword and accidentally cut his finger.

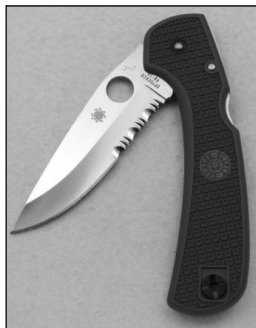
Michael Bell's swords are for using and are not designed for museum and wall hanging. And on that day in 1992, the sword got used in a way that very few Japanese style swords will ever be subjected.



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 paper exceptions) 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.

Spyderco/Goddard model C16PSBRG, \$65.00, free shipping when you mention OKCA. Goddards, 473 Durham Ave., Eugene, OR, 97404 - 541-689-8098



Knife Laws on-line. Federal, state, local. Bernard Levine (541)484-0294 www.knife-expert.com.

For Sale: Ed Fowler 'Pronghorn' custom drop-point hunter, 4-3/4" blade, 52100 steel, mint condition. Overall length 10", comes with leather scabbard. Asking \$1900, includes insured shipping within the U.S. Contact Susan at (509)721-1070, slbeeman@isp.com

For Sale - 2007 Club knife by Ford Swauger #1. Contact okca@oregonknifeclub.org or (541)484-5564. \$750 (incl S&H and insurance)

Wanted: SEGUINE Knives -Please call Jack at: (805)431-2222 or (805)489-8702 -- email:jh5jh@aol.com

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.

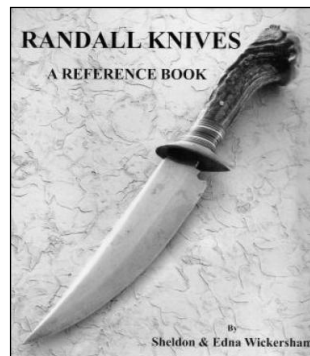
Knife Maker's Vise with the pool ball handles. If you need one of these -and everyone does-and would like it personally delivered to the April Show please pre-order. If you order very soon, you can choose your own ball numbers. These vises are now selling for \$175.00 and shipping is usually about \$25.00. For bonafide OKCA members in good standing, who pre-order, this year's price will be an outstanding \$150.00. I'm also a knife collector and love to trade so call me up or email and let's talk. Bob Patrick (604)538-6214. bob@knivesonnet.com.

Pierce-Arrow throwing knives, Claw Z throwing knives and the new NEV-R-MIS throwing Bowie will be at the Show again this year. I ran out last year so please pre-order if you want to be sure to get what you want. Bob Patrick (604)538-6214. bob@knivesonnet.com.

I'm working on a display about Stan Shaw for a future show. Knives and any ephemera, information, stories etc. would be greatly appreciated. Bob Patrick (604)538-6214. bob@knivesonnet.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.**

Randall Knives - A Reference Book by Sheldon & Edna Wickersham. A comprehensive guide for knife collectors and enthusiasts to help approximate the age of knives owned. This is not a pricing guide. 8-1/2" x 11" hardcover format. 250 pages consisting of 22 chapters with 250 full color photographs. \$64.95 + \$5 S&H. Check or MO payable to Sheldon Wickersham (406)257-2228. Credit card orders can be placed through bluestarknives.com.



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Cut-toon

Drunk Knives 19000 BC.



Knives, the next generation.

Williams
Armed

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The Newsletter
Oregon Knife Collectors Association
PO Box 2091
Eugene, OR 97402

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Events Calendar September 2007

----- September 2007 -----		
Sep	14-16	- AECA - Oak Lawn IL (KW-B)
Sep	14-16	- Blade Show West - Portland OR (B)
Sep	14-16	- NKCA Ohio Fall - Wilmington OH (KW-B)
Sep	22-23	- Wolverine Fall Show - Clawson MI (KW-B)
Sep	28-30	- Knives Illustrated Grapevine TX (KW-B)
Sep	29-30	- Wind Gap PA Knife Show (KW-B)
Sep	29-30	- Paris France (B)
----- October 2007 -----		
Oct	05-06	- Northern Lakes Knife -Janesville WI (KW-B)
Oct	13-14	- Northwest Knife - Puyallup WA (KW-B)
Oct	13-14	- NCCA Knife - Saratoga Springs, NY (KW-B)
Oct	13-14	- Great Southern - Cobb Center GA (KW-B)
Oct	20-20	- BAKCA - Santa Clara CA
Oct	26-28	- NKCA Shepardsville KY Fall Show (KW-B)
Oct	26-27	- Ohio Classic Knife - Cambridge OH (KW-B)
----- November 2007 -----		
Nov	03-04	- Mt Vernon Knife Show -IL (KW-B)
Nov	03-04	- Fort Meyers Knife Show -FL (KW-B)
Nov	03-04	- Oklahoma Custom - Oklahoma City (KW-B)
Nov	16-17	- New York Custom Show - NYC (KW-B)
Nov	17-18	- Arizona Knife Show -Mesa AZ (KW-B)
Nov	16-17	- Woodmead, Sandton, South Africa (B)
----- December 2007 -----		
Dec	08	- Oregon Knife Club Mini - Eugene OR (KW-B)
Dec	06-08	- Parker's Greatest Show - Sevierville TN (KW)
----- January 2008 -----		
Jan	18-20	- Las Vegas Custom -(KW-B)
Jan	26-27	- Gateway Area Knife -St Louis MO (KW-B)

----- February 2008 -----		
Feb	01-03	- Gator Cutlery Show - Lakeland FL (KW-B)
Feb	15-17	- East Coast Custom -New York, NY (B)
Feb	23-24	- Arkansas Custom Knife -Little Rock (KW-B)
Feb	23-24	- Dayton Ohio Knife Show (KW-B)
----- March 2008 -----		
Mar	01-02	- Bunker Hill Knife Show - Bethalto IL (KW)
Mar	28-30	- Badger Knife Show - Janesville WI (KW)
----- April 2008 -----		
Apr	12-13	- Oregon Knife Show - Eugene OR (KW)

DINNER MEETING



Wednesday Evening
September 19, 2007
Third Wednesday of the Month

Sizzler Restaurant
1010 Postal Way
Gateway Area
(Across from the Post Office)

6:00 PM Dinner
Followed by meeting

Come Knife with us!
Bring a Show-N-Tell knife!

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

