



## NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



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

December 2007

### Kershaw Quality & Customer Care by Dave Anderson - The Kershawguy



I was lucky enough to be able to tour the Kershaw Manufacturing facility in Tualatin, Oregon, several months ago, on my way to the great fishing grounds to the North. I began formulating a plan for an article on what I had seen. It's a very overwhelming task to say the least. The only way I could tell you about all that I saw would

be to actually write it while I was there.

I always thought that Kershaw probably contracted out a lot of the parts and pieces that they need to build the knives. Well, I was wrong; they do it all in shop. They even make their own screws and thumbstuds. I will tell you what I saw pertaining to quality and customer care, rather than machinery and mechanics.

First of all you need to know a little about my knife habits, so that you will know where I am coming from. I have been a Kershaw collector for almost three decades. My first Kershaw was a rotary-opening knife similar to the Gerber Paul knife. The fit and finish on my first Kershaw was perfect, and the price was extremely attractive. Since then I have collected many Kershaws, the fit and finish has always been impeccable. I have collected Kershaws made in Japan, Italy, Germany and the USA. No matter where they were made, they always had the same Kershaw quality and reasonable price tag. As the years progressed I never really gave much thought to the production end of things, I just became accustomed to fine knives and never thought about the process of them being made.

I have come to realize that quality and customer service are no accident. The knives I have taken for granted all these years pass through many hands before they ever reach the market place. The process that happens in the development stages is amazing and technology has provided many new and innovative tools for those with the talent to design the knives we take for granted. The people I met there were excited and dedicated to what they were doing, all the way from design to shipping.

Each knife, during the production process, goes through approximately nine stages, during which it may pass through as many as fifteen different people, whom all inspect and test every detail of each and every knife. I was amazed at the amount of time and people power that was afforded to the Quality Control process. In the sharpening room, each and every knife is hand sharpened and tested for clean cutting edges. I always thought some machine probably did it, I never realized that so many people touched and inspected my knife before I did. Every knife gets several spine whack tests to make sure liner locks are solid. My knives would never get used that hard, and then I hear guys talking about liner locks failing or their knives being

dull out of the box; and I have to scratch my head in wonder, because I have seen the process with my own eyes. I know what it takes for a Kershaw knife to hit the retail shelf. Please be assured that you can buy Kershaw knives with confidence, every detail was checked and double-checked. That every knife was made with pride of workmanship and respect for you, the consumer.



Now we can move on to customer service. Pete Kershaw started Kershaw knives in 1974 with this model: "To produce knives of high quality and value with a no-hassle lifetime guarantee." Fifteen years later in a 1988 catalog, he said, "In 1974 we set out to do some innovative things in the cutlery business without compromising quality for volume. We backed our products with a no-hassle, no-time limit guarantee. These principles haven't changed through the years. We can offer such a strong guarantee only because of our tough quality controls all along the way, and our policy of sending our customers only what we ourselves would buy. I see a great part of the satisfaction of our efforts in the mail we receive from users of Kershaw knives-letter after letter thanking us for service that isn't generally found these days and a product that exceeded their expectations. You can be sure that every knife branded "Kershaw" is the best that's made. You've got my name on it." Pete Kershaw



This business model has not changed in 33 years. Kershaw's customer service is unequalled anywhere in my experience with the retail world. If you have a problem with a Kershaw knife, it is handled fast and properly the first time and every time. The people in customer service take their jobs just as seriously as those that design the knives in the first place. I wanted you to hear about the people at Kershaw, because they are the reason that Kershaw is successful. When you have people that are dedicated and care about the products they make and sell, you have a successful company that cares about their customers.

These are but a few of the reasons that I have been such a Kershaw fan for so many years, pick up a few Kershaws and you will know the rest of the story.



# Knotes on United States Military Edged Cutlery

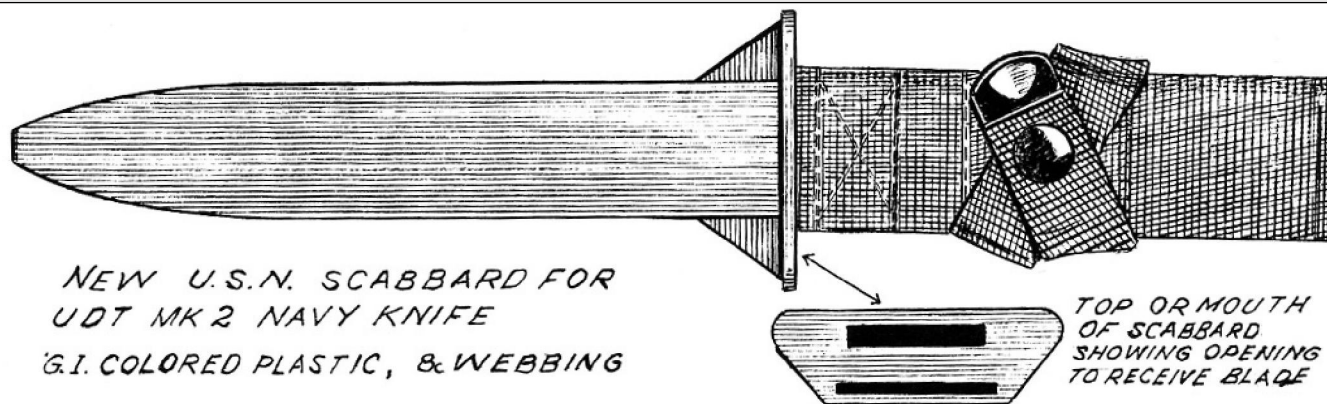
by Frank Trzaska

## UDT Scabbard

We find out from our good friend Bill Adams that the so called UDT scabbard shown in *Cole IV* pg. 81 was a commercially available scabbard sold by Healthways, a well known diver's supply company. When Bill was trying to track them down as to who made them, he ran into stone walling from the Navy. Bill approached his then Senator Sam Nunn, head of the Senate Armed Services Committee, to encourage the Navy to supply the name of the contractor. Well, it worked; Bill was supplied the name of Healthways as the supplier. This, it would seem, leads to the fact that someone in the Navy knew of the scabbards. Bill tried to arrange to procure them to sell through his company, but the cost for the wholesale

## "Uncle" Bob Riggs Knives

A reader wrote about a knife he just found and was looking for some information on it. Attached were some photos of the knife and much to my surprise, it was a rare Riggs' knife. As I have not written about them before, this seemed like a great time to do so. I have never found any source material for these knives so have held off on reporting about them, although I have known of them for years. Most of the information I do know of them comes from word of mouth; and the excellent book by Bill and Debbie Wright, *Military Theatre Knives of World War Two*. (Picture taken from this book.) The knives were made by Bob Riggs of Fife, Washington. Blade lengths varied, but most observed had six to eight inch blades with fullers and are of the clip point design. Handles are elk horn held in place by six rather large copper pins that are spun on both sides. The full length double guards are made from brass which was hard to come by in wartime USA. Riggs was a retired machinist and tinsmith. Born in 1861 in Indiana, he retired from his official working years in 1937. Riggs started making knives for servicemen in 1943 at the age of 81. Prior to



order was prohibitive to make any money. The scabbards were made in a velcro closure as well as the familiar snap closure retaining strap. While I have never seen any proof that these scabbards were in fact used or tested by the SEALs, I do now know they were commercially sold items; and in fact the Navy knew about them.

## Quote

*...The cavalryman wants a good horse, a good rifle, a good revolving pistol, and a knife. I adhere to the opinion stated in my letter of January 30, 1878 and recommend that the saber be abolished.*

*Chief of Ordnance, Brig. Gen. S.V. Benet  
Letter to Board on Army Equipments  
Convened December 16, 1878*

that he had made knives as a hobby since his retirement in his home machine shop. The estimate generally acknowledged is he made between 150 and 300 knives during the War, that classes his knives as a rare commodity today. The knives were reportedly sold for \$4.00 each and took about two days to make. The knives were stamped with a large "V" on the ricasso which was the standard symbol for Victory during World War II. Riggs passed away on February 7, 1946, while chopping wood at his home. He lived long enough to see the end of the War that he provided knives for and speak with a few men that carried them. Today a Riggs' knife, in excellent condition with proper scabbard, would bring in the range of \$1,200.00 to \$1,500.00. A good investment.

## LF&C Markings

It was recently brought to my attention that the earliest of the Model 1913 Sabres made by Landers, Frary & Clark were serial numbered. When did this practice stop and by whose authority? Was this a major rethinking on the Ordnance Departments part? The M1917, M1918 and the M1918Mk1 knives were never marked with a serial number; yet prior to this and after this date bayonets were still serial numbered. The bolo knives had serial numbers, and also they were made without them. The Model 1917 bayonet lacks a serial number in the same years that the Springfield made Model 1905 was numbered. Why? Can anyone tell us?

trz123@comcast.net

# OKCA Knews and Musings

ibdennis

## **This Knewsletter is all about.....**

The upcoming Mini Show on December the 8<sup>th</sup>. It is not too late to get a table if you drop this Knewsletter right now and call or email immediately. About 80 tables are spoken for now and we will hit the 100 mark I should think. There is a map in this issue for those that need help getting here. Tableholders are required to be set up from 8 am until 4 pm. No excuses for leaving early, save for gurney departure, are acceptable. Toys for Tots are a big "Let's Do It." We want a pile that will rival all past years. Unwrapped, new toys please. Bringing more than one is quite acceptable.

If you should find that you cannot attend the Mini Show but you had reserved a table, please be kind enough to let us know. We know about spousal refusals cuz you were bad, and we hear stories about car failures, along with storms, and not feeling up to snuff. As a courtesy please let us know. Telephones, emails and yelling loudly work.

## **Table reservations nearing deadline.....**

On December 15<sup>th</sup> we will stop holding tables for those that had tables at the 2007 Show. We have quite a waiting list at this time for tables. Don't be late as we are looking at a sold out Show once again.

## **Which brings up a wild rumor.....**

The Oregon Knife Club is still growing. Membership has increased; attendance was the highest ever at the last Show; enthusiasm still is high, but the rumor is that we are slipping down hill. The soothsayers that hold their wet thumbs to the wind are at it again. Once and for all..... We are backing down on two rows of tables at the April Show because it makes good business sense. When you are sold out before Show Time but you have zero on the waiting list, and receive cancellation calls from those who are sick, broken down, on bad terms with their spouse or experience an out of body experience then you have empty tables. Not only is it a financial issue, but it is also a scramble to creatively cover the empty tables. For the last few years this has been the case, but we were slow to take a corrective action. I can predict a waiting list this year; and if it comes to it, we might even open it up to sharing of tables. Maybe. But my crystal ball needs a cleaning so we will see.

## **Dues Kan B Dew.....**

Membership in the Oregon Knife Collectors Association works for a calendar year,

beginning January 01 and ending December 31<sup>st</sup>. Our Knewsletter is the best in the Knife Kingdom and hopefully should be enough incentive by itself to join and support us. Look at the mailing label, and the year above your name tells you the year your membership ends. Our membership is a calendar year. If you see a date of 2007 and think you paid for your tables, you might want to call and clear the question of tables paid for.

## **A profound statement....**

In a recent newspaper article there was the story about cell phones and the rudeness and lack of consideration when people use these devices. It is the same lack of consideration that people exhibit when they interrupt conversations or as more commonly referred to "butt in." The statement that eloquently addresses this is, "*If anything characterizes the 21st century, it is our inability to restrain ourselves for the benefit of other people.*"

## **This issue .....**

**Mike Silvey, Dave Anderson, Bob Patrick, Frank Trzaska and Ray Ellingsen** have contributed to this issue of the Knewsletter. Last months Scagel eBay article was the talk of the town. It was great. Someone asked about the parables by my #1 son Ray. When Ray was a student of martial arts many years ago, his instructors would walk the floor while students were exercising and recite these parables. None had been written down. When Ray had gone through several black belt stages, one of the tasks from his instructor was to write down these parables to capture them. These stories also appear on our web site.

## **2008 OKCA Club Knife....**

There isn't anyone that has seen the Roy Humenick Club knife that hasn't spoke well of this special knife. It is gorgeous and beautiful and oh yes very functional. It is handmade and the effort to do this is considerable. This is one special offering so don't get left out. Besides that it is a benefit to our organization when you order one.

An application form is in this Knewsletter and is posted on our website which has the advantage of seeing it in color. Get yours ordered today. Multiple orders will be accepted; but final OK will be after December 15, dependent on how many might be unclaimed by this date. I suspect slight few for this

limited edition of 50.

## **The Wednesday Nite Meeting.....**

The Oregon Knife Collectors meeting will be held at the Sizzler in Springfield, Wednesday, December 19. Dinners from 5 until 7 at which time we will have a short business meeting. Bring a sharp or pointy item for Show-N-Tell. This Knewsletter was geared to highlight the Mini Show so don't lose track of the meeting which is 11 days after the Show.

## **Places to stay in Eugene**

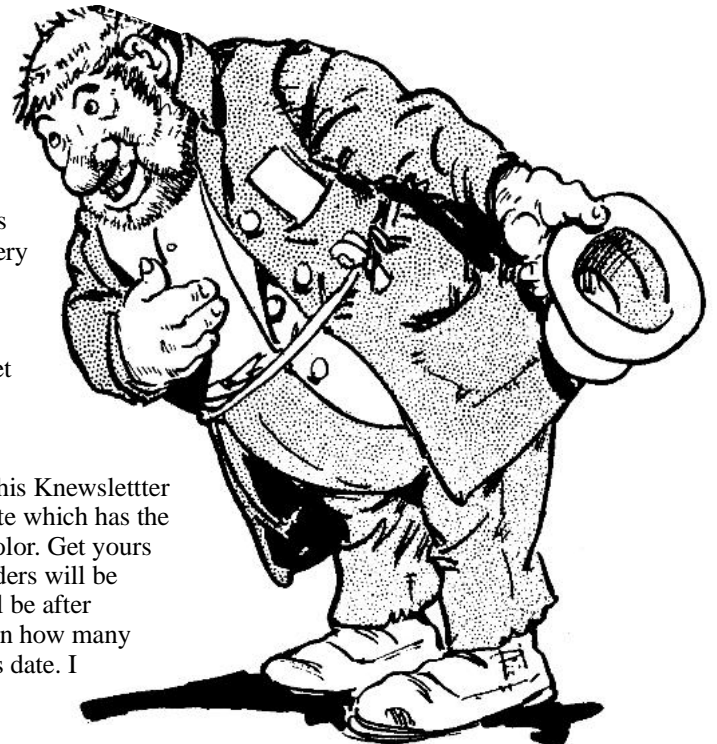
It is not too early to stake your claim (reservations) on lodging in Eugene for the April 11 - 13, 2008 Show.

**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.

**Hampton Inn** - (541-431-1225) - My personal favorite when on the road in other cities. Mention the OKCA for a special rate. You must call this location for that rate.



## Tales of the Samurai

*The following is a story or parable about the exploit 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. Ray Ellingsen.*

### THE SECOND LESSON OF INTENTION

Musashi was traveling through the mountains one day on his way to report to the Province Shogun. As he and his attendant came upon a fork in the path, they were suddenly surrounded by several bandits. The leader of the group ordered Musashi and his charge to hand over all of their possessions. Musashi gave no reply and simply stood unmoving. The bandit again made his demand, this time louder. He also brandished a club menacingly to emphasis his point. Still, Musashi stood his ground quietly. Frustrated, the leader screamed to Musashi, "Give us everything you have, now; or we will attack you."

In one swift motion, Musashi drew his sword and sliced the bandit's club cleanly in half. Musashi's return stroke arced toward the bandit's neck, stopping barely one inch in front of the startled thief's throat.

Wide eyed, the bandit carefully motioned his comrades to back away. As Musashi lowered his blade, the hoodlums all turned and fled back into the forest.

Two days later, on their return trip, Musashi and his attendant were again stopped along the pathway. This time by two different brigands. Musashi stared at the two men; and they stared back, holding their weapons at the ready.

Without warning, Musashi's blade seemingly leapt from its sheath. Musashi's first stroke severed the head from the lead bandit. His second, cut across the second man's stomach, disemboweling him. Both of them fell to the ground, dead.

The attendant, still in shock from what he had just witnessed, turned to Musashi and asked, "When we were besieged two days ago, you only discouraged the men who attacked us; and yet today you killed these two without hesitation. Why?"

As Musashi cleaned his blade and prepared to sheath it, he replied, "Those men the other day, while hungry, were not committed to doing us harm. As such, it was a simple matter to convince them that we were not worth their efforts. These men at your feet were committed to robbing us at any cost. There was nothing I could do to convince them otherwise."

"Those who talk are not prepared to act. Those that are prepared to act, do not talk, they simply do. To be in control of your actions, you must be able to distinguish between the two."

Musashi and his attendant continued their journey without further incident.



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: 8 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 - 7pm set-up; open ONLY to table-holders and members of OKCA.

**Saturday, April 12, 2008.**  
7am-8am set-up. 8am-5pm 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 \_\_\_\_\_

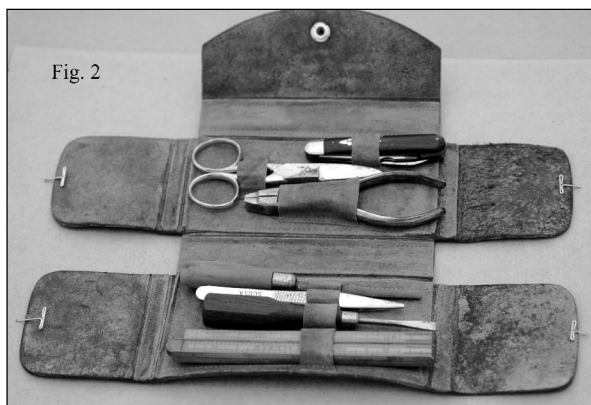
\* PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE or a photocopy. DO NOT CUT IT UP!\*

# United States Army Signal Corps Inspector's Pocket Kit by Mike Silvey

Do you always approach your knife collecting with a single-minded focus, always chasing knives here and there? Maybe even with compulsion? Yeah, well, me too. Every now and then, however, something comes along that puts things in a different perspective. It happened to me when I came across a small bifold leather box, about 6.5 by 3.5 by 1.75 inches. Imprinted on the flap closure of the box is, "INSPECTOR'S POCKET KIT./SIGNAL CORPS, U.S. ARMY." (see fig. 1) This box came to me many years ago when I purchased a nice little World War I Signal Corps electrician's knife by Ulster. The box is quite well made of rugged top grain leather and lined with suede to reinforce the boxed flaps and fold lines. Inside there are seven loops for holding tools. In my box, only one loop was filled, and it contained the Ulster folder. I wondered what other tools once filled those now empty loops. I registered this question in the back of my mind, hopeful that if some of the answers fell in my lap I would, with luck, remember the original question.



For years I had picked up folding rules as I shopped flea markets and antique shows. I thought they were neat; and if the price was right, I put it in my bag. Well, I had quite a bowl full of these things; and one day, while fiddling with them, I noticed something I had previously overlooked. Stamped on a Lufkin No. 780 (62 1/2) rule were the initials, S.C.U.S.A. This is a very nice brass bound rule that folds out to 24 inches. Could the initials represent Signal Corps United States Army? Could it be one of the missing tools? It sure did fit nicely under one of the loops, but this was inconclusive. The search continued; and one day on eBay there showed up an "Inspector's Pocket Kit" which contained a few tools, including the rule, a pair of scissors and a few other loose "tools" which looked like they really didn't belong in the kit.



was complete. He was able to tell and show me what went under each loop. It took another year or two searching eBay to come up with the remaining tools (See fig. 2).

During my hunt I met, via eBay, Mr. Ray Doone of California who is knowledgeable about Signal Corp history. He sent me a copy of War Dept. Document No.541, Chapter 8 dated 1916. It is from the Office of the Chief Signal Officer, Manual, #3, Technical Equipment of the Signal Corps. In addition to a picture of the kit, it gives the following description:

## INSPECTOR'S POCKET KIT.

[The inspector's pocket kit is manufactured under specification No. 186.]

As the name implies, the inspector's pocket kit is of such size that it may be conveniently placed in a pocket of clothing. The tools furnished with this kit are only those which may be required for the repair of an instrument or inside line.

The case is made of leather which folds in such a manner that when closed it is impossible for the contents to become dislodged from the case. The inspector's pocket kit is shown in figure 8-22.

### Marking

The carrying case has stamped into the leather the following:

*INSPECTOR'S POCKET KIT,  
U.S. SIGNAL CORPS.*

No. \_\_\_\_\_

### Equipment

*1 screwdriver and skinning knife, combined with safety spring, Empire, No.372.*

*1 scissors, electrician's, 5-inch, nicked, J.Wiss & Sons.*

*1 pliers, 5-inch, side cutting, nicked, pair, U.D.F.&T. Co., No.1250 or P.S. & W., No.1240.*

*1 file, bastard, 3-inch, half round, with handle*

*1 tweezers, 4 1/2 inch, nicked, pair.*

*1 screw driver 2-inch, Tuck's Giant.*

*1 rule, 2-foot, narrow, fourfold, boxwood, brass bound, C.S. Co., No. 62 1/2*

*Electric drills, spring hammers, and other special tools are kept in stock at Signal Corps general supply depots, and are issued to construction parties when the magnitude of the work involved warrants such action. These special tools should be invariably returned to supply depot from which received, upon completion of the work for which they are issued, unless instructions for different action are issued by the Chief Signal Officer of the Army.*

I continued to search for information and began to contact other collectors. Among them was Adrian Van Dyk of Ohio who, it turns out, had one of the kits that

I've now had the opportunity to see a few complete kits and have found that the manufactures listed in the War Department's document varies most likely due to new contracts being let. One thing I have found that all these early kits have in common is that each tool is marked



"S.C.U.S.A." or some variation of this. (See fig. 3).

These kits must have continued to serve a useful purpose through the years, because I've recently found that a World War II version exists. The leather box is marked, "SIGNAL CORPS U. S. ARMY / TOOL EQUIPMENT TE-5". The construction of the box is nearly the same but the quality of the tools has been downgraded significantly.



## Twass the Night Before...

Bob Patrick

'twass the night before the knife show,  
And all through the shop,  
Not a fixed blade in sight,  
'cause the makers a flop.  
The folders were all nestled,  
Each one wrapped in lace.  
But the thing of it is,  
They were all made by Case.  
What was he to do?  
This maker highly rated,  
He hadn't done his hunters,  
He'd procrastinated.  
So he turned on the old grinder,  
And could not deny,  
That he needed a new one,  
As he watched this one die.  
When what to his wondering eyes,  
Should appear,  
But a little old fat guy,  
With plenty of gear,  
He had a new Burr King,  
And plenty of belts.  
He brought steel and epoxy,  
And for sheaths, leather welts.  
They worked through the night,  
and by midnight were done.  
With hunting knives a-plenty,  
This show would be fun.  
He turned to say thank you,  
And put an arm around his shoulders.  
But fatty had gone,  
And he'd swiped all the folders.

## Looking at a Japanese Sword

Always ask permission of the owner if you want to examine a Japanese sword. If you are unfamiliar with the proper way to view a sword, then let the owner guide you through the steps. There are several things that can go awry if you do not use proper care when handling a sword.



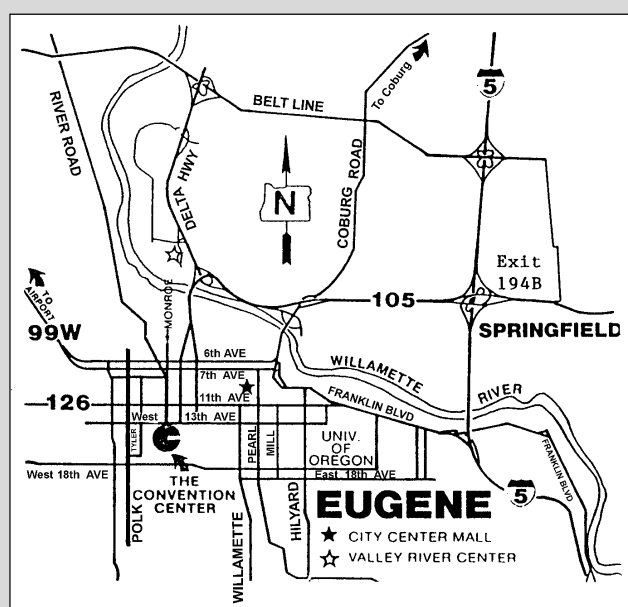
Always hold the cutting edge of the sword pointed up. With the left hand, knuckles up, hold the saya or scabbard in front of you. First check if there is a button release that would hold the blade in place. If one is present, press the button. With your right hand grasp the hilt. If a light tugging on the hilt does not remove the sword, place your two thumbs in a position where they push against each other to break the resistance that holds the sword in the saya. Do not strong arm the sword as it may break free and will be out of control. If these actions do not work, request help from the owner.

Japanese swords are extremely sharp. This is not just a casual warning. Japanese swords are extremely sharp. Never ever test the sharpness by touching the blade. Japanese tradition mandates that touching the blade is reserved for the owner of the blade. High carbon blades can rust easily when body acids come in contact with the metal. The other reason not to touch the blade is that these swords are extremely sharp. A cut from one of these swords can definitely ruin your day.

Once the sword starts to release from the saya, draw the sword completely out of the saya in one motion. The edge should be straight up and never down or sideways. The blade should also ride on the back of the sword (mune) of the saya so that the blade does not cut the saya. The saya is made of magnolia wood (Ho) and can be damaged if the edge cuts into the wood. Remove the sword in a slow but steady motion.

Once removed there is much to look at and examine in the blade. The length, width and shape all play a part in the sword. These factors can determine when the sword was made. The degree of curvature (sori) also can reveal the period that the sword was made as well as the point (Kissaki) and its style. The grain (hada) of the steel, as seen in the examination, will also reveal time lines as to when it was made. The temper line or hamon is also a distinctive feature to the sword. As you examine the sword, you will begin to appreciate the beauty of an item that can date back hundreds of years.

When you are done examining the sword, place the point in the saya (edge upward) and let the mune ride back into the saya. Make certain that the sword is fully engaged into the saya. Enjoy the experience of a Japanese sword and above all be careful.



### DIRECTIONS TO THE LANE EVENTS CENTER

From I-5 take exit 194B. Stay on I-105 West until the end (it crosses over the Willamette River and then curves to the left). I-105 ends at 7th and Jefferson (when I-105 widens to three lanes, stay in the center lane to avoid being forced to turn). Proceed straight ahead, south on Jefferson, straight through the intersection at 13th & Jefferson, where you will enter the Lane Events Center and Fairgrounds: 796 W 13th Ave., Eugene, OR 97402, (541) 682-4292. Wheeler Pavilion is the round building on the north end of the property once you are in the main parking area.

# The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

We held the monthly meeting of November at the Sizzler Restaurant, Springfield OR, the day before Thanksgiving and had anticipated we might have a meager showing of members. There were 39 present which was a pleasant surprise. Again the main topic was the upcoming December Winter Mini Show to be held December 8, Lane Events/Fairground, Eugene OR, in the Wheeler Pavilion (the round building North and West of the big building where we hold the annual Show). The hours are 8:00 A.M. until 4:00 P.M. The doors will open for tableholders at 7:00 A.M. No tables will be assigned. First-come first-serve. We will have a potluck dinner after the show. Please remember to advise me what you will bring. If you want a table for the show, you need to contact Elayne or Dennis so sufficient tables will be available. The tables are no charge to members, but we don't want to pay for tables not used and also don't want empty tables. Bring a unwrapped, new toy for Toys for Tots donation.



The new membership cards will be available (thank you **John Priest and Larry Criteser**), and you will have an opportunity to pay for your 2008 dues and 2008 table (deadline December 15, 2007 to reserve your 2007 table for 2008).

**Larry Criteser** has advised the blank for the grinding competition will be Damascus. Plan to enter the competition and contribute to our organization.

**Dennis Ellingsen** intends to offer a Thursday seminar prior to the Show. The topic will be Japanese swords. This will add to our Show theme of Japanese swords. Hopefully we will add a number of displays not previously seen.

We have reduced the number of tables for the 2008 Show by 35. We want every table full, and it is a challenge when we receive last minute cancellations. This will help to create a waiting list from which we can fill in.

We have changed the Saturday hours for the April Show. The original flyers (yellow color) have been updated with a beige/ivory flyer. The hours will be 8:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. We hope this will eliminate the long line at the door on Saturday. This will also make it more convenient for attendance at the Saturday Social since it will start at 5:00. Hopefully we will be able to encourage more attendance to this event. It will still be possible to stop in and yet make it to a dinner reservation. The Club underwrites the majority of the cost of this event in the hope that all will be able to attend if the costs are affordable. Please try to put our event on your dance card.

We have a few of the 2008 Club knives available for sale. There is an application for payment available in this Knewsletter and also a color application is available on our website.

We have been advised we will not have a concession stand at the December Mini show. The Holiday Market will be running concurrent. There will be a Lane Events concession stand and also food vendors from the Saturday Market will be set up, so tableholders and visitors will be encouraged to go next door to the big building to purchase food.

I am hopeful some of the blades from the 2007 grinding competition will have been completed by the December show. We want to acknowledge the individuals who have volunteered their time and talents to our organization. If you are one of the people who have agreed to complete one of the 2007 blades, please contact me to advise me when you will have it completed.

See you at the December Winter Mini Show December 8. Bring a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots.

Happy holidays

## Oregon Knife Collectors' 2008 Club Knife

This year we are offering a Roy Humenick handmade folding pocketknife for members of the OKCA. This knife is a Coke Bottle pattern and measures 3 5/8" closed. The blade is made from S30V steel and is flat ground and hand rubbed. The unique bolster/liner material is made of 416 stainless. The handles are select mahogany bone with beautiful jiggling. All pins are stainless steel, and the oval shield is pinned in place. This is a knife that just begs to be put in a pocket and used. Pretty it is but user friendly too.

Roy Humenick has been making knives since 1984, and this project has been in the works for several years. The time was right, and the special pricing was arranged as a favor by Roy.

The limited edition of only 50 knives will be serial numbered, year dated and marked as Oregon Knife Collectors' knives. These knives are only available to Oregon Knife Club members.

Serial number requests for your 2007 number will be honored if possible. All other serial numbers will be random drawing. Delivery will be at the April 2008 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 is available per member on this first offering. You may order multiple knives but getting more than one will be determined after December 15<sup>th</sup>.



The price on this knife is \$325.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Roy Humenick knife \_\_\_\_\_ quantity.

Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Your 2007 serial number if desired was \_\_\_\_\_

Please add \$20 for shipping if you are not able to pick this knife up at the Show on April 12 - 13, 2008.







# 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 wax paper) 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

**For Sale:** Boss sewing machine. Jack Squires P O Box 495 McMinnville OR 97128 (503)472-7290 or (971)237-7595 (cell)

**Wanted:** Coote belt sander Jack Squires P O Box 495 McMinnville OR 97128 (503)472-7290 or (971)237-7595 (cell)

**For Sale:** Handle Material, Beautiful Quilted, Tiger Stripe & fiddle back Maple.. Hickory, Cherry. Blocks 1/12x1-1/4x4.5 to 5 inches. \$3.50 . Scales 3/8x1-1/2x5 \$3.50 not stabilized. I will e-mail pictures. Call 541-856-3980 or e-mail akmake2003@yahoo.com or see you at the show in April.

**WANTED: Knives by Angus Arbuckle** (1924-1982) of South Africa. Marked "ARA: in a diamond (early mark) or "Handmade ARA" over a winged cat. Contact: Richard Schechner P.O. Box 181923 Coronado, CA 92178 (619)437-0564 rgs522@san.rr.com

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

**For Sale** - Cotton wood bark for carvers. By the piece or in large quantities. Will ship or deliver at April Show. Jim Bond (541)451-3645.

**The Keen Edge of Perfection** -A History of the Morseth Knife by James R. Beall with Gordon Morseth Sr. Told by family members. Acclaimed by experts. Great gift for outdoor sports enthusiasts, collectors, and history buffs.

Available online at: [www.saviolopublisher.com](http://www.saviolopublisher.com), or from Saviolo Publisher PO 2675 Mandeville LA 70470. (985)792-0115; Fax: (985)792-0199 email to: [ssj@saviolopublisher.com](mailto:ssj@saviolopublisher.com) or [jbeall@fred.net](mailto:jbeall@fred.net)

**For Sale:** Made in France. Ready to blue or polish. Heavy 1095 French drop forge patch knife blades- 5 assorted- 2-1/2 to 3-3/4 plus strong rod tang. Pre hand shaped. You just sharpen and handle with stag or branch wood. Then sharpen as you will (5 blades) including shipping \$33.00. Visa/M/C/AMX. Sorry no pictures. 100% satisfaction. Club member Elliott-Hiltary Diamond 6060 E Thomas Rd Scottsdale AZ 85251 (480)945-0700 Fax (480)945-3333 [usgrc@cox.net](mailto:usgrc@cox.net)

**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](mailto:slbeeman@isp.com)

**For Sale** - 2007 Club knife by Ford Swauger #18. Contact [okca@oregonknifeclub.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:bob@knivesonnet.com).

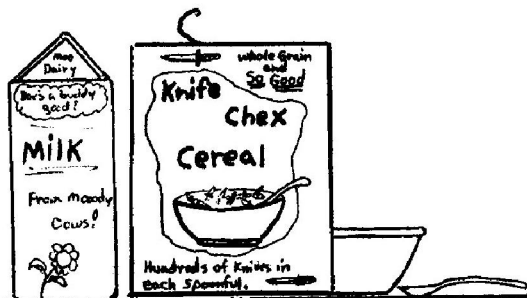
**I'm working on a display** about Stan Shaw for a future show. Knives and any ephemera, information, stories etc. would be greatly appreciated. Bob Patrick (604)538-6214. [bob@knivesonnet.com](mailto:bob@knivesonnet.com).

**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](http://bluestarknives.com).

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## Cut-toon



Start your day the right way with Knife Chex!

*Williams Knives*

## OKCA Club Whot-zits & Whos Zits

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President (541) 285-1412

**John Priest**  
Vice President (541) 689-6020

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Knewsletter by elayne & dennis

Cut-toons by Judy & Lonnie Williams

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

## Knife Events Calendar

### December 2007

- Dec 08** - Oregon Knife Club Mini - Eugene OR (KW-B)  
 Dec 06-08 - Parker's Greatest Show - Sevierville TN (KW-B)

### January 2008

- Jan 18-20 - Las Vegas Custom -(KW-B)  
 Jan 25-26 - American Bladesmith - Reno NV (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 09-10 - Dover Show - Dover OH (KW)  
 Feb 15-17 - Knife Expo 08 - Pasadena CA (KW-B)  
 Feb 22-24 - 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-B)  
 Mar 07-08 - Northwest Georgia Knife Show - Dalton (KW)  
 Mar 28-30 - Badger Knife Show - Janesville WI (KW-B)

### April 2008

- Apr 12-13** - Oregon Knife Show - Eugene OR (KW-B)  
 Apr 11-13 - Ohio Spring Show -Wilmington OH (KW)  
 Apr 19-20 - Wolverine Knife Show - Novi Michigan (KW-B)  
 Apr 25-27 - Solvang Custom - California (B)

### May 2008

- May 03-04 - NCCA NorthEast Cutlery -Mystic CT (KW)  
 May 23-26 - Shepherdsville KY Spring Show (KW)  
 May 30-01 - 2008 Blade Show - Atlanta GA (KW-B)

### June 2008

### July 2008

- Jul 31-02 - Knifemakers Guild Show - Orlando FL (B)

### August 2008

### September 2008

- Sep 12-14 - Ohio Fall Show - Wilmington OH (KW)

### October 2008

- Oct 24-26 - Shepherdsville KY Fall Show (KW)

## DINNER MEETING



Wednesday Evening  
**December 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 - (TK) Tactical Knives

