



NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ Camillus Knives
- ✓ Are We There Yet?
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Our international membership is happily involved with "Anything that goes 'cut'!"

March 2008

Camillus (Kah-mill-us) The Way They Were by Hank Hansen

In recent months we have read about the last breaths of a fine old cutlery company and its sad ending; but before this, Camillus was a great and exciting firm that produced wonderful knives. When you look at some of the knives that they made in the past, some of them will certainly warm your hearts and make you wonder, why, why did I not appreciate the quality and beauty of these knives made in New York State a long time ago.

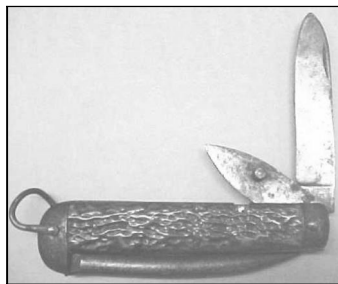
The Camillus Cutlery Co. was so named in 1902. It had its start some eight years earlier when Charles E. Sherwood founded it on July 14, 1894, as the Sherwood Cutlery Co., in Camillus, New York. The skilled workers at the plant had come from England. Like many of their predecessors in the cutlery trade, they had learned their trade in Sheffield.

After operating the plant for about two years, it was then leased to the Robeson Cutlery Co. for about two years. It was then re-opened by Mr. Sherwood as the Camillus Knife Co. in 1898. In 1901, Sherwood sold the business to Adolph Kastor and Brothers, cutlery jobbers with offices in New York City.

Most of the knives the Kastor firm sold had been made in Germany. Due to stiff tariffs being added to the price of foreign made goods entering the United States in the late 1890s, Kastor had to do something to enhance, or even save his thriving import business, which he, as a 20-year-old entrepreneur, had started in 1876. After buying Camillus, Kastor changed the methods being used to make knives and speeded up production. They also renamed the company Camillus Cutlery Co. in 1902. The quality of the knives they produced was good, and with a good reputation, their sales and production numbers continued to rise annually. With 200 or more workers, they were making a million knives a year by 1914.

Contracted for the British and Canadian navies, at or near the start of WW I, was a large, 4-7/8" long, folding knife that included a marlinspike and a can opener. The example shown along with this article shows lots of use, but the beautiful bone handles show no cracks. The trademark used on both tangs of this knife is the traditional 4-line marking, except the U.S.A. on the bottom line is offset to the far left and the date of 1915 is added to the far right. An acceptance stamp is also stamped on the spike. Over 200,000 knives of this pattern were produced for the navies. Allowing for saw cuts, this order would have taken a combined total of over 25 miles of choice bone slabs that are 7/8" wide, with each finished handle cut to a 3-7/8" length.

The stunning SWORD BRAND marking, with crossed swords between the two words, was first adopted in 1906. This mark is often etched on the face of the master blade. It was also used as a tang stamp, sometimes with the 4-line mark on the reverse tang, or on the secondary blade



tangs. The elephant toenail pattern pictured has the early 3-line stamp on both tangs along with the sword brand etch. Also the word CAMILLUS, in double outlined bold letters, was sometimes etched on the face of the master blade along with the early 3-line tang marks.

The different tang stamps used by Camillus, and the time period they were used, are wonderfully illustrated by John Goins in his *Goins' Encyclopedia of Cutlery Markings*, available from *Knife World*. Other house brands that were used include Camco, Catskill, Clover, Corning, Cornwall, Fairmount, Farragut, Federal, High Carbon Steel, Mumbley Peg, Stainless Cutlery Co, Streamline, Syracuse Knife Co, and Tip Top on the Barlow pattern.

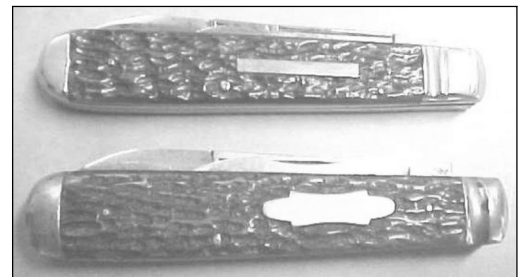
Like most of the American manufactures of cutlery during the first half of the 1900s, Camillus made knives to be used as a tool. The patterns that they produced were similar to those of their competitors, but with enough differences that you can often recognize the maker without looking at the tang mark. One pattern that is quite unique is the Farmers Jack, or if you prefer, Rooster Comb. It is 4" long, the pruning style master blade is flat taper ground on the front and the backside has a flat grind flush with the tang. The stubby modified sheep foot blade also has the same grind with a swedge added to the back top side and a hollow for your finger to lay in on top; in addition, the tang is rather long with a half-moon shape that is serrated for a thumb grip. Really fits your hand for close up delicate work. The rather large bar shaped shield gives this knife a handsome look.

Also pictured is an early 4-1/8" congress pattern. It has the early 3-line stamp, with all



four blades marked. The curved bar shield gives it a nice look.

A pair of English Jacks is shown. They both have the Sword Brand etch on their master blades. The larger, heftier, one is 4-1/2" and has the early 3-line mark. The one with the grooved top bolster is 4-3/8" and is marked with the 4-line stamp.



The single lock-blade with a folding guard, measures 4-5/8". It has The Sword Brand etch and the front tang is also so stamped. The reverse tang has the 4-line stamp.



Knotes on United States Military Edged Cutlery

by Frank Trzaska

USMC = United Shoe Machinery Company

Every so often an odd implement turns up with USMC stamped on it and a question arises, just what is it? Many of the tools are very old and look to be of very good quality. This is a question that often repeats itself, as the USMC logo is fairly well known even in other countries. The Marines have a solid lock on the famous initials, but they are not the only ones with them. The United Shoe Machinery Company also uses the USMC letters in their company logo. Albeit a stylized version it is often mistaken for the Marine Corps. Pictured below are two tools that have been mistaken for Marine Corps items, they are leather worker and shoe repair items.

Founded in 1899 by a merger of the supposedly non-competing Goodyear Machinery Company, Consolidated Hand Lasting Machine Company and McKay Shoe Machinery Company, United Shoe Machinery Company, as it was then known, revolutionized shoe equipment manufacturing and the shoe industry itself. Its establishment of an international division made it one of the first three international companies ever formed, and it became a worldwide powerhouse as affiliated companies were set up in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada, South America and Asia by 1905. The new company became United Shoe Machinery Corporation on May 1, 1905.

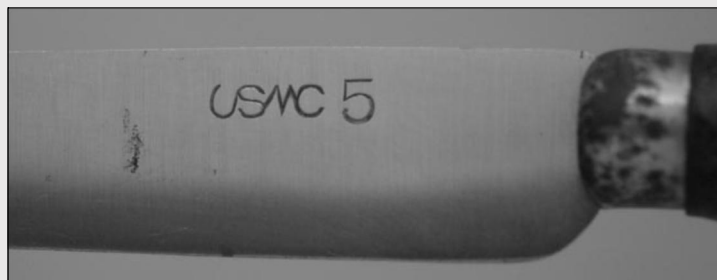
The company held a monopoly on shoe making equipment through various patents that allowed the company to lease the equipment and receive compensation as a royalty on the number of shoes made. It became a blue chip company to invest in. They built the first Boston skyscraper and leased the smallest of hand tools, the items we run into now and again. The Cummings Historical Society has purchased some of the property of USMC and returned it to its former state. The machinery on display has the stylized logo as proof of the ownership by USMC. So here we have it, not United

States Marine Corps equipment, United Shoe Machinery Company items.

Marine M1917 Not really, this ran in the Rifleman.

Q I recently purchased an M1917 Enfield rifle with "U.S.M.C." markings on the bolt. I was not aware of Marine Corps-marked M1917 rifles and assume this is a rather rare variant. Can you give me some information on these U.S. Marine Corps-issue M1917 rifles?

A Actually, you do not have a "Marine Corps-issue" U.S. M1917 rifle. While it is a logical assumption, the "U.S.M.C." marking on the bolt of your rifle does not signify "U.S. Marine Corps." Rather, it means "United Shoe Machinery Company." The United Shoe Machinery Company of Beverly, Mass.,



manufactured replacement bolts for the M1917 rifle under government contract during WWII. Many of these bolts were used for overhaul and replacement purposes. The presence of "U.S.M.C."-marked bolt is indicative of a M1917 rifle that has been arsenal rebuilt and has no connection with the U.S. Marine Corps.-Bruce N. Canfield

Quick Fact

Did you know the word sword is used 380 times in the King James version of the Bible? I didn't count them but I am told it is so. That would be quite a few quotes to dig out!

Lewis & Clark Knives

I have long known of the published lists of material used by the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery but for one reason or another always failed to follow up on it. The part of particular interest to us knife collectors is the one line statement of "25 Large Knives" to be procured from the Harper's Ferry Arsenal along with the rifles and other ordnance supplies. In all of the published journals I have ever read, no further description is ever heard on the topic of the knives. We fixate on whether or not a Hicks' knife is actually military issue to place it at the beginning of the list for issue blades circa 1840. No evidence I have ever found will corroborate this, but it is still held as fact as it has been written in not one but at least two books by famous authors. One book, *American Knives* by Mr. Peterson states the information to come from the *Letter Books of the Allegheny Arsenal*. The books are held in the Philadelphia Branch of the National Archives. I know the place well and have read through many of those books, until eyestrain would let me proceed no further, only to come back again on another day. Not one reference to Hicks in any I read, nor any that the reference archivist could find for that matter; and he read more of them than I did at every sitting. Anyway, getting off track here a bit, the 1803 Lewis and Clark Corps would predate the Hicks by 40 years as a military knife. Now what exactly did it look like? Has anyone ever seen a picture or artist rendering of what it would look like? Any museum holdings have a knife from Harper's Ferry in the same time frame? Our good friend Wayne Goddard brought the topic up again to me, and I have to admit not knowing what one looks like. Anyone?

OKCA Knews and Musings

ibdennis

Forgot to Pay your 2008 dues....

This *Knewsletter* is being sent to those who have forgotten to update their 2008 dues and also to those who have renewed their membership. The date on your mailing label tells your status. Aside from missing *Knewsletters*, you will not be able to get in early on Friday or, for that matter, gain free entry to our Show. We will take renewals at the Show on Friday but only after 2 pm.

The Thursday Seminar has been cancelled....

I couldn't put the seminar together in time so we will not be having the seminar as planned. Instead we will have presentations on Saturday of the Show weekend which will cover many subjects about the Japanese sword.

Other things Happening at Show Time...

There are other events taking place on the weekend of the Oregon Knife Show. Willamette Cascade Model Railroad, Builders Garage Sale, Friends of the Library Book Sale and Collectors West Gun Show. Also when wandering around you might check out the Japanese restaurants in the Eugene area. I am told there are two sushi offerings.

Other Show Notes....

We have had a Chapel service on Sunday morning for the last few years. It has been so well received that we will have it again this year. Please note the announcement in this *Knewsletter*. A few years ago we had **Paul Poehlmann** attend our Show. **Mr Poehlmann** is the designer and inventor of the "Paul Knife." You can find **Paul Poehlmann** at **Lone Wolf Knives** (Table I01). Lone Wolf is making the series of Paul knives.



Friday Morning Metallurgy seminar...

Starting at 9 am on Friday, before the doors open, **Scott Devanna, Frank Cox** and **Ed Tarney** from **Crucible Steel** will be giving a seminar on Metallurgy. This has been a well attended meeting in the past years. To get in the building for this event go to the doors at the Southwest corner of the building. This seminar is held in Meeting Room #4 just to the south of the Show area.

The Show is Sold Out...

A waiting list has been started for tables at our April Show. We have already had a cancellation for health reasons and, depending on the size of the waiting list, we **MIGHT ALLOW** table sharing.

We asked for donations and...

They are arriving. The flow of mailed in donations for raffle and door prizes has started. This is a key factor in the success of our Show. To date we have received items from **Buck Knives, Culpepper & Co (Mother of Pearl/Stingray Products), Dixie Gun Works, EK Commando Knife Co, Emerson Knives, Chris Hyde (World Knives), Bud Lang, Leatherman Tool Group, Ken and Sharon McFall (Knife and Gun Finishing Supplies), Smith Abrasives, Spyderco, Sheldon and Edna Wickersham (Blue Star Knives)** and **WR Case & Sons**. Thank you for your support of our organization. Many thanks to **Bernard Levine** for his letter which requested the donations.

The silent auction has been a great funding project for our organization. We have been advised that **Terry Davis, Roy Humenick, Bill Ruple, David Shirley (The Custom Shoppe)** and **William Henry Knives** will again donate a special knife for our silent auction on Saturday. It doesn't get better than that.

The Contributors to the Knewsletter...

I want to thank those that write for our *Knewsletter*. I have always believed that this is the glue that keeps us together. Thank you for your help in this issue **Jose Diaz, Ray Ellingsen, Hank Hansen, Jim Taylor** and **Frank Trzaska**.

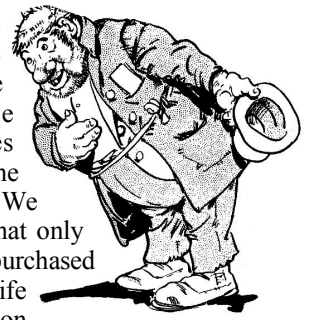
Thursday Nite Social...

We will again be having the Thursday Nite Social at the Valley River Inn. We were hesitant to do this again due to the expense, but we were vastly out voted. Everyone enjoys the relaxed atmosphere and the social aspect of this event. Please help us raise additional donations earmarked for this event.

2008 OKCA Club Knife....

There are but a slight few of the **Roy Humenick** 2008 Club knives available. So few that we decided to not include an

application this issue. We are also debating on the subject of the prototype knives that will be in the silent auction. We may make it so that only people that have purchased a 2008 Club knife will be able to bid on



the pearl prototype and the standard prototype. The final decision has not been made yet. Those that have ordered the Humenick Club knife may pick them up at the Show at Roy's table (Table P09).

See you at the Sizzler on March 19th.

Places to stay in Eugene

Get your lodging reservations in soon or you might have to bring your tent. We have worked out special rates for the Knife Show so take advantage when suggested below.

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.

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 Oregon Knife Show for a very special rate. You must call this location for that rate.

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

Tales of the Samurai

The following is a story and parable 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. Ray Ellingsen

THE LESSON OF STRATEGY

One spring morning Musashi decided to take a boat trip to the islands. During the voyage, as he leaned against the railing enjoying the ocean view, a bully circulated through the passengers, harassing them. Soon he made his way to Musashi and bumped Musashi rather rudely. Musashi ignored this and continued to stare out onto the sea. The bully appraised Musashi and began to taunt him with insults. When Musashi refused to reply, the bully shook his head in disgust.

"My sword method is the cleaving sword style from the northern mountains and the most fierce in the land," said the bully. He patted the large sword protruding from his sash and smiled with satisfaction. "I see you wear a sword as well. What is your style?" the thug asked. Musashi calmly turned to the man and said, "My sword method is the style of fighting without fighting."

The bully stared at Musashi in dismay. "I have never heard of such a method," he said, "show it to me." Musashi looked about the cramped quarters of the sailing vessel and shook his head. "There is not enough room here, and others might get hurt if we draw our blades," said Musashi and turned back to survey the water around him. The bully stared at him for a moment then began to draw his sword. Musashi held up his hand to stop the man and calmly said, "Obviously you require a demonstration so let me propose this." Musashi pointed to a dingy being pulled along behind their boat and said, "We will take that small skiff and row to one of the small islands nearby. There we can demonstrate our methods to one another."

Satisfied, the bully nodded and they proceeded to mount the small dingy. Once they settled into the little boat Musashi removed his sword and set it between them. After rowing a few strokes and banging his paddle against the handle of his own sword, the bully reluctantly removed his sword and did the same. The two men concentrated their efforts on making for a small island.

Finally, upon reaching the island, the bully jumped out and pulled the boat up onto the beach. He turned to find Musashi returning his sword under his sash. "Hand me my blade," demanded the bully. Musashi stepped out of the boat and drew his own blade. He pointed the tip of his sword at the thug and backed him, unarmed, up the beach. "Where is my sword?" cried the man. Musashi regarded the whimpering bully and said, "I dropped it in the ocean while you rowed here. Now, let us do battle." The bully eyed Musashi's sword then lowered his eyes in defeat. "All the skills and all the swords in the world are useless if one does not have the strategy and wisdom with which to wield them." The thug bowed respectfully and he and Musashi got back in their boat and continued on their journey.



Knife Show Chapel

Howard Hoskins, Chaplain
(208)790-4900

Sunday, 8:05 a.m.
First seminar room to the right
of the main entrance

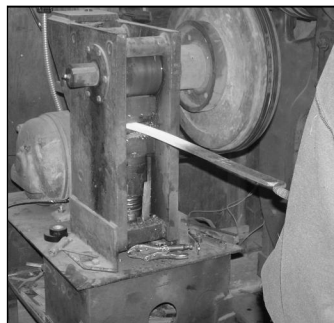
Special speaker
Chuck Buck
Chairman of the Board
of Buck Knives

All are welcome -
non-denominational service

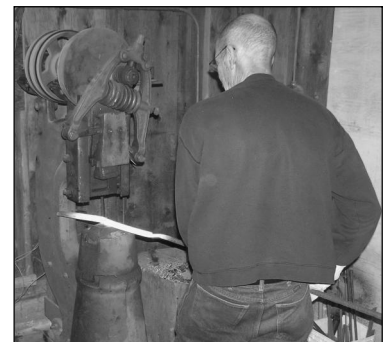
We will have you out in time to get
your tables ready for the public

Grinding Competition Blanks

In keeping with the Japanese theme, Larry Criteser and Ford Swauger are working on a Damascus Tanto blank to be worked on during the grinding competition on Saturday morning. Get your name in early to try your hand at the grinding competition. These are the blanks that will go home with the grinder and be returned as display awards for the 2009 Show. This is where the joining of collectors and makers happens and is the basis of our Show where we deal with all things that go cut. The pictures here were taken by Larry Criteser at Ford Swauger's shop. Ford will make five three foot long billets, enough for 15 blanks. Ford has also agreed to finish one of these blanks for the display awards.



Using the "Muncher" on the billet.



Ford at the Power Hammer

The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

The February meeting was held at Sizzler Restaurant, Springfield, OR, February 20, 2008.

Larry Criteser has arranged with Ford Swauger to supply the blanks for the blade grinding demonstration/competition. The blank will be a Damascus tanto. Plan to participate in this event. The blanks will be completed and be presented in 2009 as display awards. This is one of the ways we are able to recognize and honor both knife collectors and knifemakers.



We have cancelled the Thursday seminar. We were unable to get commitments from enough people to provide speakers for a day long seminar. The cost of the room could not be justified if it were less than an all-day affair.

We will have a Thursday Nite Social at the Valley River Inn which will start at 5:00pm. Finger food, no host bar. Please advise if you will attend so sufficient food can be ordered. If you are able, please donate funds to offset the cost of this event. We have already received donations from Wayne and Phyllis Goddard, Russ Haehl, Joe Seale, Rod and Rhoda Smith and Jim Walker.

The Show is sold out. However if you want a table and have not paid, we encourage you to gamble. Unfortunately, we know we will have cancellations before the Show so you should still be able to get a table.

The names of the contributors to our 2008 Show have been added to our website and will be listed in our May issue. These donations are thanks to the begging letters mailed by Bernard Levine. We also thank Brian Huegel who has also written and solicited donations. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf. Recent donations from the Buck Knives, Culpepper and Co (Mother of Pearl/Stingray Products), Dixie Gun Works, EK Commando Knife Company, Emerson Knives, Inc., Leatherman Group, Spyderco, William Henry Knives and WR Case & Sons.

Please be sure you have your membership card or your table confirmation. If you do not have one and believe you should, please contact me. You will not have entry to the Show if you are not a current 2008 member. Membership is January-December; not April to April. March *Knewsletters* will be mailed to lapsed 2007 members, as well as current members. Look at the label on your *Knewsletter*--Does it read 2007?--you need to renew. Does it read 2008 or greater?--you are current. Memberships will not be accepted until after 2:00pm Friday of the Show. If you are a tableholder and your partner at the table has changed, contact me so we can have a badge available at the door. It will save a hassle.

Elsewhere in this *Knewslettter* there is information for shipping your knives to the Show. The Lane Events Center does not have a secure facility for storage. **DO NOT SHIP TO THE LANE EVENTS.** Use the Barons Den for shipping packages you will retrieve yourself. **OKCA % The Barons Den 86321 College View Road Eugene OR 97405-9631. (541)744-6229.** No shipments by USPS (United States Postal Service/Post Office)

See you at the meeting March 19 at the Sizzler Restaurant, Gateway Mall, Springfield OR.

Are we there yet? by José Diaz

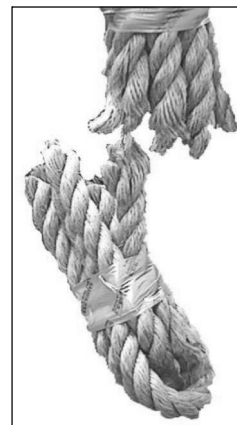
On a long road trip, he will hear a youngster ask this question. It is an annoying question to those in the know. Especially if you know that there is a long way to go. But for me this question is important on my journey as a knifemaker.

As a new knifemaker (read youngster), my goal, like many others, is to make the ultimate all-around camp knife. I know I have so much to learn. There are several places that I look for lessons in improving my knife making. One of them is cutting competitions.

During a cutting competition I can receive direct feedback from the knife. I can truly tell performance of the blade, while it is in my hand working. Will a handle design work? How comfortable is it during hard use or subtle wrist flicks? Will my heat treatment create a durable blade? Will my blade chip or crack? Will my edge hold during hard chops and stay sharp enough to make subtle cuts after heavy work? Will a recurve or a flat edge or a convex edge profile work better for one cut or another? Is my blade heavy enough? Is it too heavy, will it tire out; is it to light, will not penetrate? These questions, and many more, even the ones I have not thought to ask will come up. The proof is in the pudding, as they say.



I also received feedback from other knifemakers. Many of whom are well known. They critique design, fit and finish, materials and heat treat. I have gotten suggestions on grinding techniques. I have also received useful information on sharpening and edge geometry. Mostly, I have been asked to keep an open mind. One of the best bits of advice I have received was from Ed Schempp, ".build the knife, and see how it works. You'll never know if a design will work, unless you test it in the real world." Everyone is extremely giving with his or her years of experience and knowledge. I'll find many common truths and lots of opinions. All are valuable in my pursuit.



Another really cool thing about cutting competitions, they are a lot of fun. They are fun for the observer; they are fun for the participant. This makes the journey to all this knowledge enjoyable. These competitions provide camaraderie for the participants. The loudest cheers usually come from the participants encouraging other competitors. Observers of these competitions have always come back to me saying that they had fun watching us cut all the stuff up.

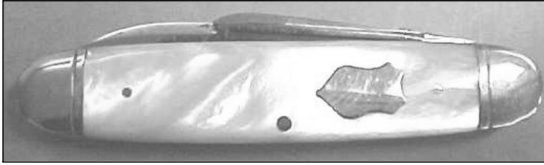
One thing for sure, no one has all the answers. From the very experienced to the very new, I have heard the same thing. We all have much to learn, and a long way to go. So, are we there yet? No, we're not there yet, maybe one more mile.

For more information on cutting competitions in general, look up the web site bladesports.org.



Camillus... (continued from page 1.)

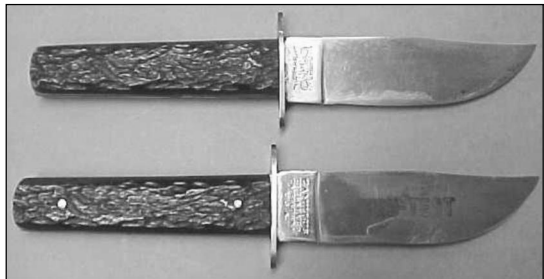
So you like jumbo whittlers? Trappers? Cigar patterns? How about easy open two blade jacks? These are also shown along with a pearl handled cattle knife that is so etched.



The large 5-1/4" coke bottle pattern shown has a Forest King etch. You might also find this pattern with a Daniel Boone etch. Both will have the over-size bow-tie shield that is nearly 2" long.



Information about the older straight knives Camillus might have made is not plentiful. The patterns they produced for the military are well documented, but other patterns with bone or stag handles seem elusive. The one that is often seen is the Outer's pattern. It has a near 4" blade with bone slab handles. The two pictured have the 4-line stamp on one tang and the Sword Brand stamp on the reverse. In this instance the two stamps are reversed on the two knives. One also has TRU-TEST etched on the face of the blade. Happy hunting for other examples.



In addition to their own trademarks, Camillus made contract knives for many hardware and wholesale firms including Henry Sears, Hibbard Spencer and Bartlett, Kent, Sears Roebuck along with their Craftsman brand, E. C. Simmons along with their Keen Kutter mark, Shapleigh Hardware and their Diamond Edge mark, and Van Camp.

The 3-5/8" swell centered whittler pictured has the 4-line Camillus stamp on the master blade and also on the smaller clip blade, the pen blade has a Brantford



Cutlery Co U.S.A. tang stamp. Judging from the condition and patina on the knife, I am sure that this blade was put in during initial assembly, so Butler Brothers from Chicago must have contracted at least some of their knives to Camillus.

Camillus also made many advertising and figural knives including the Babe Ruth endorsed bat shaped knife, most of the early Coca-Cola knives, and some of the fancy knives given away by Adolphus Busch. Camillus also made the

famous Remington reproduction Bullet series beginning with the 1982, 1123 pattern, and continuing for more than 20 years, and also Camillus made some patterns for Buck and Case on contract.

The above-mentioned work was all very important to Camillus and to their many customers that they had strived to acquire, and satisfy, with quality workmanship and quantity of production. Perhaps just as, if not more so, significant to their survival, reputation, and pride of the employees, were the many millions of knives they produced for the military branches of these United States during WW II, and continuing afterwards.

Camillus made knives for all the military branches. Many patterns were made as per specific government specifications. After making 18,000 fighting knives for the Marine Corps, with a 7" blade as specified, a serious design flaw was discovered. Alfred Kastor insisted that the design be corrected before any were shipped to the field for service. This redesign was approved, resulting in improved strength of the knife plus a savings in material costs. The company voluntarily reduced the price to the government.

Some of the military patterns produced included the Mark I and Mark 2, M3 trench knife, M4 Bayonet knife, U.S.M.C. fighting utility knife, U.S.M.C. stiletto, folding machete, Jet Pilot's survival knife, orange handle parachutist knife with the snap open shroud cutter blade. Many TL-29 electricians knives and a nice big 4-1/4" stockman pattern were made for the U.S. Signal corps. Lots of two blade jack knives, four blade utility pattern and two blade easy open patterns were also produced.

The number of knives produced was staggering, but Camillus had a perfect record when it came to meeting shipping deadlines. In 1943 the Army-Navy "E" Flag was awarded to management and to the dedicated employees of Camillus for their dedication to excellence in manufacturing and delivery. On three separate occasions to follow, they were awarded a star for their flag in recognition for their continuing excellence.

Management, at this time, had always been quite proud of their decisions to acquire new, up to date, machinery, make improvements in designs and in production times. They advertised that they were using the best cutlery steel available and continually analyzed it for content. Also, they strived to maintain close tolerances in manufacturing processes. Even more importantly, they were quick to give their hundreds of employees due credit for the high quality of the products produced, and employees were rewarded with generous benefits.

Production of knives for sale by the hardware distributors had been sharply curtailed due to the war effort. After WW II ended, Camillus resumed the printing of their catalog, which had been postponed at the start of the War. The knives offered at this time still included many bone-handled knives. The tang markings had been reduced to a 3-line stamp. The 4" stockman pictured with



this article has nice darker brown, near red, bone scales accented by milled liners and an etched blade. The stamp on it indicates it was made in the 1960 - 1976 period. Camillus made a nice wildlife series in the 1970s and then followed with an imitation stag line that included over a dozen patterns, some with a sliding lock button in the front handle.

In 1963 Albert Baer obtained the company. He had previously worked for Camillus as a sale representative.

Looking back, what if Camillus would have seized the opportunity to buy Tim Leatherman's idea of a tool knife? What if they had collaborated much sooner with a custom maker to offer some unique opening mechanism?

It still has been a great 100+ years.



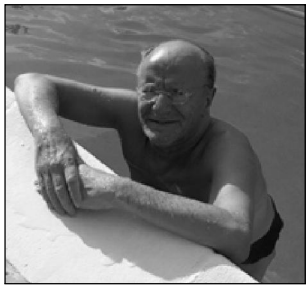
HEY, WE MISS YOU GUYS! by Jim Taylor.

My first year at the Oregon Knife Collectors' Association (OKCA) annual knife show, was 1988. Cindy, who was not yet my wife, hauled me over to the West coast with the laconic comment. "You'll love it." Boy was she ever right!



You must remember here that I am a Brit, and I had never been exposed to knife shows. Not that I was a stranger to knives, oh dear me no! Having resided in Sheffield and had actually worked at a cutlery factory. Furthermore, I had done a little writing for Bruce Voyles, back when he owned the *Blade Magazine*. My interest in these little gadgets had actually developed some 40 years earlier.

The sheer size of the hall was the thing that struck me the most. And all those tables!! The next thing that I recall from those early days was the enthusiasm. Good word, that, enthusiasm! Nowhere did I find as much enthusiasm for a knife show than was evident in Eugene, Oregon. This remained obvious even after visiting most all of the other venues that mounted such events. Including, I might add, the much celebrated Blade Show, in Atlanta. (formerly in Knoxville TN.) That original enthusiasm is still there today in Eugene, a fact that the membership should embrace, because elsewhere a decided lack of interest is becoming obvious.



2006 was the year that we decided to retire from the knife show circuit. We had attended every Eugene show since my arrival into this great country. Before that, Cindy had attended the previous half dozen shows in Eugene on her own. This decision "jelled" with us both for several reasons, the main one being the aggravation that the air lines were causing the poor old travelers. Flying around the country with four cases of knives, particularly after 9/11, became far more trouble than it was worth. So much so, that we started to ship our knives out via Fed/Ex, in advance. Don't even ask about the cost of such an undertaking!

Do you need a second reason? Well, I was born in 1933. Get my drift?

Here we are today, two years later, and I just wanted you all to know how much we miss you! We miss Dennis and Elayne for their superior management of the show. Trust me on this, the OKCA knife show is by far the best run knife show in the entire nation! We miss our old buddy Jim Pitblado and his wife Barbara, and our trips out to McGrath's fish restaurant. We miss our annual sighting of that rare bird, Bernard Levine and his technicolor suspenders! I can't name everyone, but let it be understood; WE MISS ALL OF YOU! We miss the camaraderie; The annual greetings; "Hi Jim, I see that you survived another year, eh; The regular customers that made a bee line for our tables; The chatter when in-line outside; The annual surprise event; The downright "good" feeling of being made welcome and not forgetting the count down at the end.... 10-9-8-..... You get the picture!

What don't we miss? It's a short list but an important one. Air line aggravation would have to be number one; Packing and unpacking; Setting-up and breaking-down; Being away from home.

These days we play around selling knives and associated materials on eBay and we enjoy that. The overhead is zilch (in comparison) and we only do it if we feel like it! It's called: Being retired! Can't beat sitting in front of the computer with a cup of coffee, whilst checking all of the bids that come in worldwide.

Regardless of the above, together with our contentment at our present lifestyles, please don't think that Jim and Cindy have forgotten their friends on the knife show circuit, particularly those friends in Eugene. Far from it, you are constantly in our thoughts and we will always wonder what you're all up to, come that week in April.

Simply put, what this little article boils down to is this: It's the people over there that cause us both to be nostalgic and hey, we miss you guys!

I'm Jim Taylor and I approve this message..... tehee!!

This year I will be donating one of my relatively new NEV-R-MIS throwing knives to the OKCA. Unlike the Pierce-Arrow thrower this one has micarta handle scales and comes with a leather sheath.

I was inducted into the International Knife Throwers Hall Of Fame as the 2007 "International Throwing Knife Maker of the Year." This knife is the same model that was submitted with my application.

Details: 13-5/8" long X 1/4" thick
- 5160 steel -
Linen micarta scales -
Leather sheath

Bob Patrick
(Table J04)

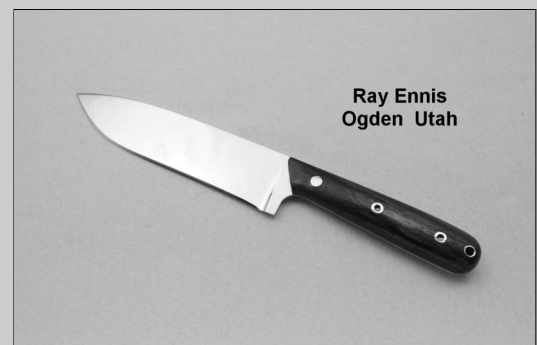


Show Display Knives

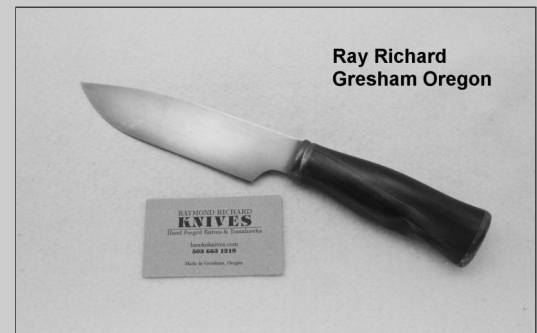
We have received two more display award knives from Ray Ennis and Tedd Harris. These knives were the blanks that were ground in the grinding competition at the last Show. The knife by Ray Richard and Tedd Harris are on display at Excalibur Cutlery here in Eugene. Ray Richard has table H08; Tedd Harris has table S03 and Ray Ennis has table location J11. All the display award knives will be shown at the Club table during the Show.



Tedd Harris
Hillsboro Oregon



Ray Ennis
Ogden Utah



Ray Richard
Gresham Oregon



OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND SHOW TABLE CONTRACT

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) \$ _____

Shipping Your Knives to the Oregon Show by ibdennis

If you are driving to the Oregon Knife Show in April, you need only throw your knives into the car and then go. But if you are coming via air... then that is another matter. The security systems at our airports do not lend themselves to ease of travel with knives or, for that matter, anything. The horror stories abound with the hassles and indignation. The knives get there, but the agony lingers on. And in some cases the memories are so strong that some will not travel with knives ever again.



We asked ourselves just what it is that we could do on this end to make the transportation of knives to our Show a bit easier. We do not have all the answers, but we do have some ideas that might be attractive to those coming to our Show.

The carriers that deliver packages have become pretty reliable these days. In the business that I am in, we experience almost no losses; and the damage to cartons is usually the result of poor packing rather than poor handling. We also can track the package from the point of departure to the destination with a high degree of accuracy.

In year's past I have volunteered to be the recipient of knives and packages as a service to the visitors that come to the Show. I am always nervous about this, as the burden of responsibility weighs heavily on me; and I really do not have a secure storage facility for items of value. So what to do?

Well the first thing was to find out which carriers could handle items such as those with which we are involved. There were several that provide tracking and will carry up to 150 pounds per package. They also require a signature at the point of receipt, and you can get a delivery confirmation if so requested. The carriers that I checked on were United Parcel Service (UPS), Federal Express (FedEx), Roadway Express (RPS), Airborne Express and the US Post Office. All of these have Internet web sites so detailed information can be had through these pages. More details as to your particular needs must be requested of the carrier of choice. Some of those might be round trip planning and also pick up and delivery details.



The real problem on our end was where to send these packages. A solution has been found. I frequent a firearm's store and shooting range here in Eugene called the **Baron's Den**. They have installed a bank vault on their premises for firearm's storage. The security here is the best you can find. The Oregon Knife Collectors has arranged with the Baron's Den to receive your packages. On arrival they will be stored in the vault until you claim them. The Baron's Den is also open on Sunday so you can deliver your return packages to them with delivery instructions. **The Baron's Den will serve as a safe house only; you must arrange packing and shipping the packages for return. This means you make the calls and other arrangements to have it returned. (The return via our West 11th site on Monday may prove more convenient.)** We have arranged with the Baron's Den so there will not be a charge for their services. You must mark your packages for OKCA and provide identification when you pick up your knives. Pretty neat I think. The Baron's Den has a web site. Check out the hours when they are open.

There were a few last year that wanted to ship USPS (U S Postal Service), but the Baron's Den does not have delivery directly with USPS; therefore any shipments via USPS must be shipped to the address below. I will then hand deliver to the Baron's Den. All other carriers can be sent direct. Please mark your packages in some way so we will know that these are for the Show. Just OKCA and your last name will work wonderfully.



So ship only the below directly to the Baron's Den (Not USPS).
United Parcel Service (UPS) - <http://www.ups.com>
Federal Express (FedEx) - <http://www.fedex.com>
Roadway Express (RPS) - <http://www.roadway.com>
Airborne Express - <http://www.airborne.com>

Ship USPS (Post Office) packages and anything else to the address below. Please advise to take to the Baron's Den. Catalogs and no value items will be stored elsewhere.
Oregon Knife Collectors Assn.
3003 West 11th PMB 172
Eugene OR 97402

US Post Office - <http://www.usps.com>

The Baron's Den - <http://www.thebaronsden.com>
86321 College View Rd Eugene Oregon 97405-9631 Phone: (541)744-6229

Oregon Knife Collectors - <http://www.oregonknifeclub.org>





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 titanium foil) 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 Blade blanks, mosaic pins and lanyard tubes, stabilized wood. (Table Q10) Gene and Sally Martin. bladesmith@customknife.com, www.customknife.com (541)846-6755

USEFUL BLADE BOOK REFERENCES -Custom knives, collectible knives and other blades, Military blades, swords, tools, etc. If we don't consider it to be a good book we will not sell it. (Table T01) Rick Wagner, P.O. Box 41854, Eugene, OR 97404 (541)688-6899 wagner_r@pacinfo.com www.qualitybladebooks.com

New Product to be introduced at April Oregon Knife Show - Walker Wax -The best product around for cleaning and protecting your knives and guns. Everyone who has used it loves it. See us at our table (E15) at the Show or email walkerwax@hotmail.com. Jim Walker.

Spyderco/Goddard Model C16PSBRG, \$65.00, free shipping when you mention OKCA. (Table N10) Goddards 473 Durham Ave Eugene OR 97404 (541)689-8098

Buy, Sell, Trade: Victorinox and Wenger knives. Need SwissBuck Models 87533, 87535, 87536, 87544 and 87553. New in box or like new preferably. Call Allen Shurtliff at (208)454-9966 or allenknives@msn.com

Wanted: Information re H M Finch stag handled Bowie knife. History info?? (Table I14) Michael Luft email mereload@aol.com

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

Wanted: Information regarding the 20th Anniversary OKCA knife created by Wendell Fox. Scrimshaw by Jerry Whitmore. Who has it??? Contact Elayne OKCA (541)484-5564 email info@oregonknifeclub.org

Wanted: Cootie 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 1/4x4.5to 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 akmabe2003@yahoo.com or see you at the show in April. (Table Q03)

WANTED: Knives by Angus Arbuckle (1924-1982) of South Africa. Marked "ARA: in a diamond (early mark) or "Handmade ARA" over a winged cat. (Table D06) Contact: Richard Schechner P.O. Box 181923 Coronado, CA 92178 (619)437-0564 rgs522@san.rr.com

Knife Laws on-line. Federal, state, local. (Table N01) 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, or from Saviolo Publisher PO 2675 Mandeville LA 70470. (985)792-0115; Fax: (985)792-0199 email to: ssj@saviolopublisher.com or 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. (Table L01) Club member Elliott-Hiltary Diamond 6060 E Thomas Rd Scottsdale AZ 85251 (480)945-0700 Fax (480)945-3333 usgrc@cox.net

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. (Table I04) Jim Schick www.nifebov.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. (Table J04) 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. (Table J04) Bob Patrick (604)538-6214. bob@knivesonnet.com.

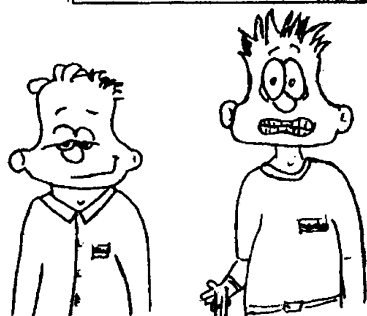
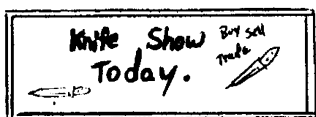
I'm working on a display about Stan Shaw for a future show. Knives and any ephemera, information, stories etc. would be greatly appreciated. (Table J04) Bob Patrick (604)538-6214. bob@knivesonnet.com.

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 . (Table B06) 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



yes, guaranteed to stick point first every time.

W. Williams

OKCA Club Whot-zits & Whos Zits

Darrold (Ole) Olson
President (541) 285-1412

John Priest
Vice President (541) 689-6020

Elayne Ellingsen
Sec/Tres. (541) 484-5564

Craig Morgan
Master at Arms (541) 345-0152

Dennis Ellingsen
Show Coordinator (541) 484-5564

Knewslettter by elayne & dennis

Cut-toons by Judy & Lonnie Williams

Web page
<http://www.oregonknifeclub.org/>

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The Newsletter

Oregon Knife Collectors Association
PO Box 2091
Eugene, OR 97402

Knife Events Calendar

March 2008

- Mar 15-16 - Canadian Knifemakers - Mississauga, ON (B-TK)
Mar 28-30 - Badger Knife Show - Janesville WI (KW-B-TK)

April 2008

- Apr 04-06 - Shenandoah Valley Show - Harrisonburg VA (KW-B)
Apr 12-13 - Oregon Knife Show - Eugene OR (KW-B-TK)
Apr 11-13 - Ohio Spring Show -Wilmington OH (KW-B)
Apr 18-19 - Mason Dixon Knife Show - Fredrick MD (KW)
Apr 19-20 - Wolverine Knife Show - Novi Michigan (KW-B-TK)
Apr 25-27 - Solvang Custom - California (KW-B-TK)

May 2008

- May 03-04 - NCCA NorthEast Cutlery -Mystic CT (KW-B)
May 16-17 - NKCA Springfield MO (B)
May 17-18 - Knife Show - St. Charles, Missouri (KW)
May 23-26 - Shepherdsville KY Spring Show (KW)
May 30-01 - 2008 Blade Show - Atlanta GA (KW-B-TK)

July 2008

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

August 2008

- Aug 01-03 - Knifemakers Guild - Lake Buena Vista FL (KW)
Aug 22-24 - Montana Knifemakers Assoc. - Missoula

September 2008

- Sep 12-14 - Ohio Fall Show - Wilmington OH (KW-B)
Sep 26-28 - Blade Show West - Portland OR (B)

October 2008

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

DINNER MEETING



Wednesday Evening
March 19, 2008
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

