



NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



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

Responses To Gifts of Knives Merle Spencer

February 2009

I have given a number of handmade knives that I have completed as gifts to relatives and friends. This has been going on over the past fifteen years or so that I have been involved in this hobby. Since I have never sold any of my completed creations, and sometimes took as long as two years to complete some of them, there always was a recipient in mind to give me a reason for continuing the hobby. Another reason for having a recipient in mind, although a less important one, is storage never becomes a problem.

One would expect someone who received a nice handmade knife as a gift, to say, "Oh, that's beautiful! Thank you very much." This is not always the case. Usually, but not always

One or two years may seem like a long time to complete a knife; but even though the total time needed for the project may be forty to fifty hours, I did not work at the same project continuously. Perhaps I might spend three or four hours one day and not get back to the same project for a week or even months. I have several hobbies, and this practice was especially true during the salmon fishing season.

My method has been to start with a blade purchased from a knifemaker, and then to embellish it with a fine handle, sometimes adding back filing and even some engraving or scrimshaw. I often use mosaic pins. I make a sheath for the knife when it is finished.

Most of the blades I used were already heat-treated, but not finish sanded. So with the hours involved in hand sanding the blade to a mirror finish, plus the hours required to make and shape the handle and possibly add some engraving, the result was a one-of-a-kind knife with no small worth to it.

I purchased some of the blades before they were heat-treated; and I enhanced these with some engraving on the blade itself, as well as on the guard or bolster.

There were instances where I emailed pictures of the knife in progress so that the person for whom it was meant could see it in its various stages.

I remember the first knife I completed especially for a gift. I had just put together my first knife ever and was showing it to a friend. He asked me to make him one. Until then I hadn't even given much thought to making any more. In a few weeks, I presented him with a nice knife and a sheath. I had learned how to make the sheath from a book by Richard Barney and Bob Loveless.

His response was, "My brothers have looked at this; and they want it, but they ain't gittin' it." I was well pleased.

Next my brother wanted one, so I gave him one I had just completed. And then he wanted another one because he wanted to give the first one to someone else. I guess he figures blades and materials are free. Well, there was a reason to make another knife.

Since then I have completed and given away almost twenty knives, and most of the responses were close to the first one. I didn't give all I have finished away, though. I just checked the knife case that I made to display my own knives and the small collection I have acquired. I still have a few of my own work. I always take pictures of my finished work and keep them in my files. (I keep a small album in my car for bragging purposes.)

About twelve years ago, I completed a nice knife with a two-piece sambar stag handle and gave it to my son. Just a few months ago when I visited him in another state, he brought that knife out to show it to me.

He said, "Dad, that is a nice knife."

I said, "Yes, that is a nice knife." But what I meant was that I was pleased he appreciated it.

One knife that I completed with a black buffalo horn handle, I folded over a piece of leather and put a couple of harness rivets in to make a protection pocket and sent it to a relative halfway across the country. The handle was inlaid with a piece of ivory scrimshawed with initials.

I didn't hear any word for a couple weeks and was beginning to worry that it hadn't arrived. I finally called and found that they had just returned from a trip that same day. He was immensely pleased to find the gift waiting for him. A couple years later, I visited him; and he brought the knife out to show to some company. Here it was still in that folded piece of leather. He thought it was a hip-pocket sheath, and by golly it was!

A knife with scroll-engraved blade and guard was a project that I undertook because a friend's wife told me he really wanted what she called a "Merle" knife, but was reluctant to ask. When I finally finished it and presented it to him, he looked it over and over then just looked away and handed it to his wife. He usually has a lot to say, but I guess words just wouldn't come.

One time, several years ago, I wrote a story about a young fellow who was part of our elk hunting group (See "From Pen Knife To Hunting Knife, Dec, 2003). It was such a success, and he liked the story so well that I asked him if he would like a handmade hunting knife. He said he couldn't afford several hundred dollars for a knife.

I said, "I don't sell knives."

Over a year later, we met him on our way to a show; and I presented him the completed knife and sheath. The knife had a blade made from ATS-34 steel and a stabilized spalted maple burl handle with engraved brass bolsters. It was accompanied with a leather sheath tooled with my usual elk and bear track design. He looked it over and over and commented again and again about how he liked it and what a great gift it was.

Later he called me and thanked me very profusely. He went to great lengths telling me how much he liked it and that it would never be used, but would be kept on a shelf for display. A few days later he called me again to tell me how much he liked it and that he takes it down now and then just to handle it. That was one of the most gratifying responses.



Merle Spencer and Jerry.

A Thumbnail Sketch Of Modern Flint knapping Eric Bergland

We've all seen them - baskets of small arrowhead in gift shops, tie bolo spearheads, arrowpoint earrings and large replica blades sold as wall-hangers or collectibles. Despite their obvious differences in size, raw material and workmanship, these artifacts all have one thing in common - they were handmade by modern-era flint knappers. It's often thought that flint knapping is a "lost art." I prefer to think of it as a remnant technology, one which nearly died out, but which has been revived. And like all reborn survivors, its changed from the original pattern.

Chipped stone tools were made and used by every prehistoric culture on earth. Western or European cultures pretty much stopped using chipped stone tools when bronze and iron became readily available by about 2500 years ago. However, the flint knapping craft never completely died out even in Europe, because gun flints and flints for fire starters remained hand-chipped production work. As recently as the 1950s, British flint knappers were chipping out gun flints for export to the colonies, where colonial authorities allowed native people to use only muzzle-loaders.

In Australia and the Americas, minor amounts of chipped stone tool use continued until the post-WWII era. Well-researched articles document modern Australian Aborigines making chipped quartzite knives and Mayan Indians in the Yucatan Peninsula rough-shaping their corn-grinding "metates" with basalt choppers. These examples all show that stone tool use continued in areas where metal for tool stock was scarce or too expensive.

In North America, a few Indians in the West continued using chipped stone technology into the late 19th and early 20th Century. It was a highly adaptable technology - arrowheads chipped out of bottle glass or even fine-grained ceramic are occasionally found in historic period Native American archeological sites. At the '87 OKCA Show, an Indian fellow told me his granddad was still scraping deer hides with obsidian tools as late as the 1950s.

Probably by the early 1900s Native Americans were producing "authentic" artifacts for sale to tourists and collectors. Indian flint knappers taught others the rudiments of their craft, and in the 1930s the first "how to" articles were published. Within the span of 70 or 80 years, stone chipping had been transformed from a "subsistence" technology to one meeting the interest of museums and amateur collectors.

Artifact forgery was well-established during the WWII era. One authority estimated the 75% of the large chipped stone blades in Ohio River collections were forgeries. I've seen a number of suspicious large chipped blades for sale as originals at Lane County shows. I began marking my blades after I thought I saw one being resold as an original. (Because I use strictly authentic blade making technology, my blades are virtually indistinguishable from prehistoric specimens). Although forgery is an exploitive practice which capitalizes on human gullibility, it has helped keep the craft of flint knapping alive.

Metal tools are and were used extensively by high-production flint workers, such as the Mexican Indians who produce the large quantities of gift shop arrowheads, and the English flint knappers. Their production tools include iron and steel hammers, punches and pressure flakers. Copper or bronze rods are commonly used in modern hobbyist flint knapping. They are mounted in handles and used in place of the antler or bone-tipped pressure flaking tools of old. Many prefer metal tools because they are less prone to breakage than antler or bone, are easier to get, and generally last longer. When the tip of a pressure flaker

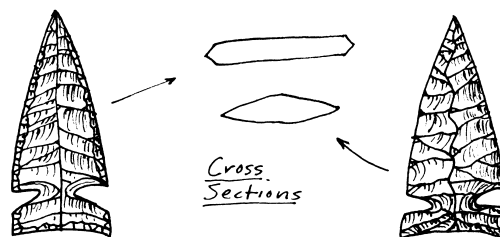
breaks during use, it usually creates a small crushed area on the edge of the blade being worked. Thus, blades made with copper tools will often have a neater appearance. I myself only use antler or bone-tipped pressure tools, since I have a ready supply of such materials and since my blades are "technologically authentic."

Some modern arrowhead makers use diamond lapidary saws to cut slabs of obsidian, opal or agate. Some even use electric grinders to shape the striking platforms (the area along the edge of the stone blade where force is applied during the flaking process). Use of these modern power tools further enhances the "tidiness" of the finished product (which in my opinion somehow misses the point of a primitive replica). Slabbed-out arrowheads or blades are usually perfectly straight along the edge, with a marked flatness in cross-section. There are also occasional patches of remnant saw cuts showing through on one or both of the blade's flat sides. I never use saws, cut slabs or power grinders in my work since technological authenticity is my approach.

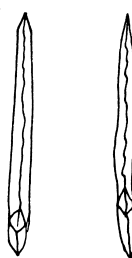
My flint knapping background goes back over eleven years to a demonstration I saw at the U of O Archeology field school. The 1970s was a real boom period in "college flint knapping" all over the U.S., when instructors sought to make their courses more meaningful to students. A number of students "caught the bug." For myself, flint knapping has become a professional research aid, a creative outlet, and even a handy part-time income.

Despite the fact that metal blades are more durable, chipped stone blades will continue to be made. Why? Two reasons: first, they're unique, visually appealing objects; second, there's the fascination of the by-gone days; when you hold one, you're looking far back into the past, to a time when your own ancient ancestors made and used chipped stone.

*made from cut slab,
w/ copper-tipped
flaking tool*



*authentic
technology,
made on a
large flake*



*Long
Sections*

Large "Northern Side-Notched" Replicas - L., replica made on a lapidary-cut slab, grinder-prepared platform, with a copper tipped tool; these tend to be very straight, with an almost schematic appearance to the flake scars. R., replica made with authentic technology on a large, hand-struck flake; these will often be somewhat curved (side view), and will be more convex in cross-section; other than shininess of the raw material, these are almost indistinguishable from originals.

OKCA Knews and Musings

ibdennis

Show status.....

As of the first of February we have but a slight few tables available. Like under a dozen. This surprised us considering all the factors. I think it is safe to say that we will be sold out once again. Orders for tables still keep trickling in. Get ready for another 430 table fantastic Show.

The enthusiasm for this Show is still up to par in comparison to past years. I only say this as there are daily comments in our news media about the state of the economy. I guess it is only as bad as we want it to be.

We have had a surprising number of people that have made cash donations to our organization. Most have come out of the blue. That speaks well of our goals and what we are trying to accomplish.

Thursday Nite Social.....

In trying to pare back on expenses, it was suggested that we dispense with the Thursday Nite social held at the Valley River Inn. The feelings about that were enough to puncture ones ear drums with the cries of "No Way!" So we will again have this before the Show event. This is a gathering of members and Show attendees to socialize in a relaxed atmosphere prior to the Show. This event is costly and in years past we have had donations to help offset this. We again ask for help. If you can, please dig deep and help us out.

Shipping knives to the Show....

Once again the Baron's Den has offered to help us with ways to get merchandise to the Show. Please see the article in this issue about this subject.

The Show.....

Just a recap for those that forgot or to those new to the Show. Friday is a members day. The best of the three in my mind. There will be entry only after 10 am for everyone badged. That means all at 10 and not before as there are no special entry considerations. Name identification must be prominently displayed or you will be asked to leave. There are membership cards and then there are Show badges.

Show badges are reserved for the tableholders and will be available in the Show packet when you enter the Show. Because of the abuse of the Show badges, we are strictly enforcing that there will only be two badges per tableholder. Not tables... tableholders. If you have a family membership, there are membership badges for those that qualify as a family living under one roof. The member that claimed 25 family

members confessed that they were not all under one roof, ever. He said he was with Verizon. Oh sigh.

Tables can be open or closed on Friday, however come 8 am Saturday this is not allowed. We are open for business during Show hours and insist this be the order of the Show.

There will be an awards event on Saturday at 5 pm after the Show. There has been debate on this event due to rising costs. We will again have it this year. This is an awards event for displays and for custom competition. Spend an hour with us from 5 to 6 and support this happening. Please. It is only 5 bucks and the social aspects and wind down are worth the short time. It also allows you time to socialize Saturday evening with friends after this awards event. And if you say you don't have friends, then this is the perfect venue to meet some friends.

We are putting together demonstrations for Saturday, and we have plans that are unique once again. The forging demonstration will be a group affair. We will have a martial arts seminar using the knife as a tool. And "Shaving with a machete?" Plus more. Scrimshaw, flint knapping, wood carving and engraving.

Smile knives or now maybe "wince" knives.....

Is a wince like a smile? Maybe we should offer another group of knives. Smile knives and wince knives. This month's knife has to be a wince knife. Last month's knife was certainly a wince knife.

This month's knife submitted by **Jim Kirk** is often referred to as a "chicken nutter." It is used in the poultry industry. I think I would like to call it a capon knife. A capon is a rooster (cockerel) whose reproductive organs have been removed at a young age (caponization). Typically, the castration is performed when the chicken is between six and twenty weeks old. The benefits to this process are non-aggressive males that produce ample, tender, chicken-flavored meat when butchered and are a choice poultry meat in some locales.

This knife advertises stainless handles and is marked Squibb. I wonder if we might have a



poultry competition with custom knives at our Show? If we get enough interest, **John Priest** may open up that category.

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 the help in this issue to **Eric Bergland, Jose' Diaz, Mike Silvey, Merle Spencer, Lonnie Williams and ibdennis**. We always can use articles for future issues of the *Knewsletter*.

See you at the Sizzler on February 18, 2009.....

Our meetings are a fun part of our organization and are always an educational and entertaining experience. And be prepared to talk about that special knife you got at the Mini Show. The last few meetings have resulted in some "roasts." Great fun.

OKCA Web Page....

The Oregon Knife Collectors web page might be our best kept secret. The site is very up to date and has a wealth of information. It was designed for easy viewing and easy access to information. I have yet to see any gaping holes on the site for our organization. We have links galore, but only for our membership; and no commercial links unless they are members of our group. If you do a Google search on OKCA, we pop up first. Of course we can be found at www.oregonknifeclub.org also.

The Silent Auction and Raffle

We again will have donations for our Silent Auction. This Saturday-only auction is a key fund raiser for our organization. Some of the makers that have donated knives will again do so. This is so special. Our raffle is really taking shape through the super help from **Brian Huegel** and **Bernard Levine**. These two powerhouse individuals are using all their resources to gather items for our raffle. **Bowen Cannoy** has again offered to head this event.

Grinding.....

The article by **Jose' Diaz** in this issue sums up the grinding competition on Saturday at Showtime. **Larry Criteser** has again put together the blank blades and organized this event. Grinders.... take your mark.

Officers....

The current officers or board were named once again to serve for 2009. I am quite pleased as this brings harmony, consistency and strong structure to the organization and the goals we all share. Ours is the best "things that go cut" organization in the world.



Gifts of Knives (continued from page 1.)

I agreed to complete a knife for a relative in another state from a nice Bob Engnath ATS-34 blade. Sometimes things don't go just right in knifemaking just as happens in other endeavors. The finish on the handle material didn't turn out as expected, and the guard was kind of bulky to complement the sturdy blade.

When the person received it, he seemed disappointed; but he took it home. About a year later, on a visit here, he left the knife with me with the idea that maybe I could improve it.

When I showed it to one of my friends, he said, "He gave it back? I'll take it!"

About a year later I had drilled some holes in the handle and inserted decorative pins. I also had ground the guard until it was thin and graceful. On the guard itself, I engraved some feathers and an arrowhead. This time he liked it. Sometimes it takes awhile to get it right.



Then there was another really nice response. At a wedding breakfast my wife's cousin asked if I would make a knife for her son who was retiring from the Army. The date was three months away.

Now, I knew this young man and liked him, so it wasn't as though it would be for a stranger. As I've said before, there has to be a reason to make a knife. I had several blades in my shop and a small supply of different kinds of handle material; plus I was only working on three other blades at the time. Well, O.K. But I told her it wouldn't be three months, but probably over a year.

This was one of those projects which you want to get finished but things go wrong. The ATS-34 steel blade polished up all right in about six hours, but it took three tries to cut and shape the brass bolsters and get them riveted. The drill bit kept slipping and making crooked holes. Then when I glued the handle slabs, the epoxy never did get solid; so I had to cut off a set of beautiful stabilized spalted maple burl scales and start over -cutting, shaping and gluing another set.

After about a year and a half on this knife, I had it all finished and polished, except for making a sheath. I also wanted to engrave some nice scrolls on the bolsters, as this was to be a special gift from his mother. I had been emailing him pictures of the progress all along, as I didn't feel he should have to wait a year or more to even see the gift.

I hadn't tried engraving for over a year, since I had been taking treatments for macular degeneration in one eye. I had taken a workshop in engraving a few years before and had had some success in putting stuff on metal, although far from professional. After some cutting on this one, I found that much of the time I was seeing two lines and couldn't tell which one to follow with the graver. After several unsuccessful attempts at redoing the engraving over the next few months, I decided to sand the whole design off and polish the now narrower bolsters and not have engraving. (My vision has since improved, and I have done some more engraving.)

And that is what I did. I finished the knife about one week after my eightieth birthday and made a sheath for it and sent it off to him.

This young man sent me a two-page letter extolling the virtues of the knife and said that it just fit his hand and that it was going to be a using knife. He likened the gift to his first shotgun that his grandfather had given him. That really touched me.

During hunting season, I received an email from him showing a first deer his son had bagged, and a picture of the deer with the knife laying on it.

Later his mother called me and told me she had finally got to see the knife and that it was beautiful and that it just fit her hand. Nice to hear such enthusiasm, but I'm always surprised when they turn out so well.

For a nephew I completed a nice stag-handled drop-point hunter on another ATS-34 blade ground by Bob Engnath. When my nephew called me to thank me, his compliment was, "When I showed it to a friend of mine his response was, 'Where's mine?'" He is another one who says he'll never use it, but just keep it to look at.

I put together a folder from a kit years ago and put stag scales on it. I did some engraving on it and made a nice display box out of cherry wood. Then I sent it to my younger brother as a gift. He met us at a show soon after that; and as he was going around, I saw him pull that box with the knife in it out of his pocket several times and show it to people. I hadn't thought it was so fine, but he was proud of it. So I was proud of it, too.

Out of the fifteen or so knives I have completed as gifts, I know of only four that have actually been used in the field - two on elk, one on deer and one on small game and birds. I keep telling them that these are using knives, made of the best of materials. I had already quit the hunting sport when I started this



hobby, but I have always wished that I had a chance to see how my knives compared to the old Western and some of the others I used to carry. From all the reports I have read of how these modern steels perform, I have to conclude that they would out do the old ones. I can be happy with that.

Then there was the knife I completed due to Janie's fondness for old jewelry. I used to stop at a jeweler's in a town about 50 miles away where I looked at the estate jewelry he had on display. Sometimes I chose some for my wife. Since he, too, was a craftsman, I occasionally showed him whichever knife I was working on at the time. He was always appreciative.

Jerry grew up in North Dakota, and I grew up in South Dakota, making us neighbors, so to speak. He and I visited quite a bit and became friends. Janie had accumulated quite a stash of jewelry, and we decided to have him appraise the jewelry for insurance purposes. When I started to pay him, he said, "No charge, you are good customers."

Of course I objected and insisted on paying him anyway, but he refused. Later, in the conversation, he jokingly said, "I might take a knife."

He did not expect a knife I knew, but here was a way to make myself feel I had done right, and again a reason to start another knife. So I completed a knife on the last 440C blade that I got from Woody Woodcock before he died. It was a bird and trout blade that was just profiled and not even beveled.

Cameron House beveled it for me and later heat-treated it after I had engraved North Dakota Badlands scenes on both sides of it. I kept Jerry up to date on the progress, mostly to hear his favorable comments. A stabilized spalted maple handle set it off beautifully. The wild prairie rose, the North Dakota state flower, engraved on one bolster added to his pleasure.

When I finally finished the knife, we met at a local cafe; and I presented it to him in a wrap-around leather sheath in which he carries it often. This one is a using knife.

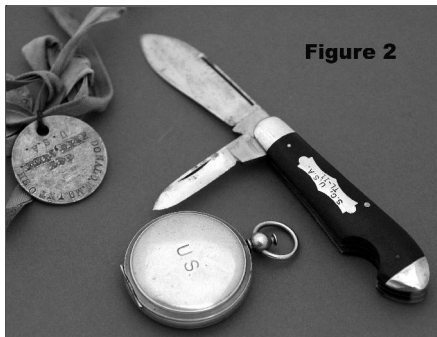
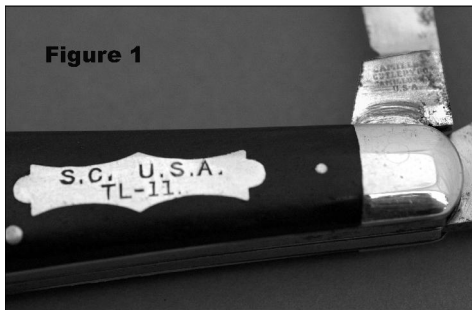


SIGNAL CORPS KNIFE TL-11

Mike Silvey

In the mid-1800s an Army physician, Albert Myer, conceived a visual communication system using “wig-wags.” The Army adopted his system in 1860, and the United States Army Signal Corps was born. As time went on, the line of sight cloth signal flags (wig-wags) gave way to the telegraph, then to voice radio and ever more advanced technology.

Of course, soldiers were required to install and maintain this equipment, and the Army provided the tools to do the job. Initially these tools were pretty simple, consisting of pliers, screwdriver, scissors, file, ruler and a pocketknife. Most of us are familiar with the common TL-29, two-blade folder, with a spear point main blade and screwdriver secondary blade. I believe the TL-29 began its service shortly before World War I, and it continues to this date. At the time the TL-29 first came into service, other knives were available to servicemen; and one of these was a robust easy-opener with two blades.



M. H. Cole has documented these knives by Miller Brothers and Empire. Recently, while perusing eBay, I came across another variation. This one has a shield marked “S.C. U.S.A./TL-11” (figure 1) which represents Signal Corps United States Army Tool for Lineman number 11. It has an overall closed length of 3-5/8 inches and cocobolo handles, brass liners and nickel silver bolsters (figure 2). The spear point main blade has the words “Sword Brand” intermixed with crossed swords while the small pen blade is stamped with the Camillus four line logo, “Camillus/Cutlery Co./Camillus, N.Y./U.S.A.”

The specimen by Miller Brothers is similar but is a bit larger with a closed length of 3-3/4 inches. It also does not have the TL-11 marking. This is the first time I have come across the TL-11 mark. I have a U.S. Army Signal Corps Inspector’s Pocket Kit of the same era that contains a similar knife by Camillus, but it has an unmarked gimp shield with “S.C. U.S.A.” stamped into the wood scale on the reverse side. I believe this TL-11 pattern knife saw service for only a short period of time and had all but disappeared from use by the time World War II began.

To complete the eBay part of this story, I followed this knife for several days, placed my bid and was happy to have been the winner of this knife. eBay has been my most productive source for adding new information about the stuff I collect. Yes, eBay has its headaches; but where else can you rummage through some 50,000 plus knives any day of the week? eBay will never replace the knife or gun show with the joy of sharing stories and mixing with like-minded people, but it does have its small rewards.

The Magic of Knives ibdennis

Sometimes in the knife/cutlery world there are moments that are magical. Usually they occur from a friendship or a knife and sometimes from both. In our September 2008 *Knewsletter* there is the story of a Robeson whittler pattern knife that involved just that combination where a friendship and a knife were a binding relationship.

The knife was a Robeson whittler pattern, and my friend was Loy Moss. The short version (longer version is on the website in our *Knewsletter* archive) is that Loy had a knife... I wanted it...he wanted it,,, so we shared the knife for several years until Loy lost the knife. It took many long years before I found another just like it and tragically had to pay an absolutely outrageous price for it. Don't ya just love eBay?



But there are no regrets. The article that was mentioned above triggered some nice comments

from Club members. Shortly after the article appeared, I was in Portland wandering through a knife show when I was again complemented for the article. Being a Show coordinator does not allow me the luxury of getting to know each of our 1500 members on a familiarity basis. I only know the names sometimes as they pop up in the database.

The individual that spoke with me was Jim Wells from Vancouver, Washington. Our conversation was casual, fun and cordial. Jim said he really enjoyed the article, and that it caught his fancy. As a result he wanted me to have a knife. The knife was not with him, but he promised to get it to me. I graciously thanked him and expressed my feelings that it was something that he did not need to do. Jim was adamant and said it was something he wanted to give me.

I pretty much forgot about this event until we had our December Mini Show on 12/12/08. In the process of working the show a person came up to me with a package. I was informed that Jim Wells could not make the Show, but this package was to be given to me. Inside the wrapping was a Robeson whittler pattern knife. Words fail me sometimes, but I am good at babble. I was stunned. This was a beautiful knife and a beautiful gesture. I think I said “Wow” and was so excited I said “wow” backwards.

The Loy Moss Robeson whittler is a treasure that resides in my special place. In honor of Loy the picture of this knife is the icon that signifies the end of each article in our *Knewsletter*. The Loy Moss whittler is 3-1/2" long with gorgeous brown bone handles. It is pattern 632498 and has “Pocket Eze” on the shield. The Jim Wells’ whittler is 3" long and has beautiful strawberry red bone handles. It is pattern 632319 and has Robeson on the shield. The magic of all this is that I now faithfully carry the Jim Wells’ Robeson whittler with me everyday which is a pleasant reminder of the magic of our organization and the friendships that I have, all associated with a knife. This is indeed a precious memory held in my pocket.

Shipping Your Knives to the Oregon Show 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 directions and 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 better.** 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, but the Baron's Den does not have delivery directly with USPS (US Post Office); therefore any shipped 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 Knife 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>



The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

The January meeting was held January 21, 2009 at the Sizzler, Eugene Oregon. There were 31 present.

The reports were as expected:

We are continuing to get renewals for membership. All the table confirmations and membership cards have been mailed. If you think you should have a card, please contact me; and I will check the records. Note the label on your *Knewsletter*; if it reads 2008--need to renew; if it reads 2009--need to have a membership card. If you have not received your table confirmation, please contact me (email - elayne@oregonknifecolclub.org or call 541-484-5564).

We have received a number of donations to offset the cost of the Thursday Nite Social at the Valley River Inn. Thank you, **BK Brooks, Bob Cassidy, Phyllis and Wayne Goddard, Arthur Greene, Jeff Hungerford, Joe Seale, Rhett and Janie Stidham.**

The Show is filling up, but there are still some tables available. It would be good if we had a waiting list so we would be able to cover for the inevitable cancellations we will face come Showtime. But considering all the obstacles we face filling up is good.

We will have two new judges for the handmade knife competition. There is also an additional category in the competition--hand handmade knife (please read article with explanation January *Knewsletter* on our website).

Larry Criteser is coordinating the grinding competition and will order the steel this month. It will still need profiling. (Please note the

article by Jose' Diaz in this *Knewsletter*. Maybe you might be interested to enter the competition in 2009.)

Bowen Cannoy will coordinate the raffle and silent auction. Thank you, Bowen. **Tim Cooper** has coordinated the schedule for the facilitators for the 2009 Show. Thank you, Tim.

And then the election of officers. **Larry Criteser** made a motion to reelect the 2009 officers for 2010. A second from the floor. The vote was unanimous. It was over. All of the officers of the OKCA thank you, the membership, for your vote of confidence. We do realize the responsibility we face in directing this organization. The upside we have is the ability of the officers to rule by consensus and the support we receive from the membership. Rah, rah, OKCA.

Brian Huegel and Bernard Levine have mailed the letters which request donations for door prizes and raffle items. These items help to entice the public to our event in April as well as raise funds to offset the costs for the Show. (The \$95.00 does not go far to pay for the facility, tables, chairs, advertising, etc.) We have already received some donations--**Benchmade, Jerry Bodner, C.A.S. Hanwei inc., Gary Giffin, Kershaw Knives, Leatherman Tool Group, SOG Specialty, William Henry Studio.** As each item has been received I have attempted to mail a thank you/acknowledgment as well as have the website updated with the names of the donators. A sincere thank you to all of these who are helping us to have a very educational and fun event.

See you February 18, 2009 at the Sizzler, Springfield OR. Bring something for Show -N-Tell.



The Grinding Competition from the Perspective of a New Maker By José Diaz



I was introduced to the grinding competition at my second Oregon Knife Collectors Association show by Ed Schempp. He mentioned to me that it might be something I would like to do. I saw pictures of him on the Oregon Knife Collectors Association website participating in the grinding competition. As he is my mentor and good friend, I took his advice and have not yet regretted it. As a matter of fact, it has provided me with many benefits.

The first benefit has been educational. One of the things that Ed Schempp, and other experienced knife makers have told me about becoming a better grinder, was to grind, grind, grind. The grinding competition gives me the opportunity to attack a project which I would normally not do in my own shop. The profile of the knife blank is done by another person. Usually, the patterns are traditional. Those who know me can say that I normally do not use traditional patterns. So it forces me a little outside my box and gives me an opportunity to grow. It also gives me limited time to do a project in, as the competition is timed; and you have less than one year to heat treat and finish the project.

The grinding competition is a chance to reinforce a connection to a community that has been a support to me as a knifemaker. The OKCA Knife Show was my first show. It has also been one of my most successful shows to date. Last year's show helped encourage me to

believe that I could make knifemaking a career. I feel that it's just one thing as a custom knifemaker I can do to give back to this community.

Financial benefits can motivate anyone. Well, it never hurts anyway. Recently I sold a knife as a direct result of the OKCA's website posting the knife I completed from the grinding competition. A customer followed a link from the picture that was posted on the OKCA website to my website. In these tight financial times you can never beat free advertisement, especially when it sells your products. I must thank the OKCA for that sale.



The grinding competition is a fun distraction from selling knives. It's time limited so it doesn't take me away from my table too long, but it gives me a tactile distraction that I enjoy. It's also a way to show the public how we, as makers, turn a blank into a knife. I also enjoy meeting the winner of my knife. These are collectors who put a lot of work into displays that bring a lot to our Show.

I look forward to the day when I can encourage a young new maker to partake in the grinding competition. I can confidently say that there are many benefits to participating in this fun and educational event.





OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Eve (_____) _____ Day (_____) _____ Date _____

Collector Knifemaker Dealer Mfr./Distrib. Other _____ Email _____

OKCA membership includes newsletter, dinner/swap meetings, free admission to OKCA shows, free OKCA Winter show tables, right to buy OKCA club knife.

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

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. Call direct and mention the OKCA.

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

OKCA Club Knives for sale. 1 of each.

From the collection of Gordon Shown.

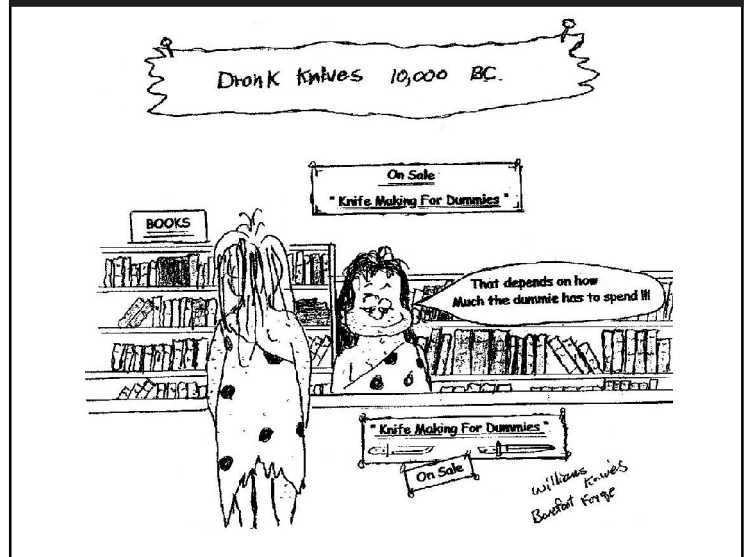
- 1981 Gerber LST White Micarta
- 1982 Jim Corrado slipjoint, silver Sherwood engraved #022
- 1985 Gerber FSII w/beaver scrim by Blair, factory box #37
- 1988 Benchmark folder, engraved, sheath & factory box #42
- 1989 Cripple Creek stag coke bottle #41
- 1992 Gerber FS1 w/beaver scrim by Buchner, laser engraved wood box, #01
- 1993 Steve Huey/ Terry Davis slipjoint, black Micarta #17
- 1994 Steve Huey/ Jim Corrado slipjoint, silver Sherwood engraved #17
- 1995 Jim Corrado mini slipjoint, silver Lynton McKenzie engraved #17
- 1996 Gerber Paul II, brass shield, laser engraved wood box, #30

Also a variety of 1980s-90s custom and factory knives.

- 2 early Terry Davis folders
- 4 Bob Crowder fixed blades
- Olsen, Moulton, Peterson, Eck, House, Freer fixed blades
- 9 Benchmark fixed blades + 3 Folders
- Many Case, Winchester, Hen & Rooster folders

Bernard Levine.
541-484-0294
brlevine@ix.netcom.com

Cut-toon



The Gift of Giving

We want to thank those who have been very generous to our organization. There have been cash donations, and there have been cutlery donations from individuals. We list these contributors on our web page. Of special note are knives that we receive to help our cause. One such is from Jerry Bodner from Louisville, Kentucky. We received another from Gary Griffin from Bend, Oregon. The knife is pictured here. The knife is 5160 spring steel with a dyed & stabilized camel bone and juniper heart handle. Gary has table D04 at the Show.

We also cannot forget the numerous people who donate time and effort to make this organization work. Most of these people will be listed on a special board at the Show. B K Brooks, Bob Cassidy, Wayne and Phyllis Goddard, Arthur Greene, Jeff Hungerford, Joe Seale, Rhett and Janie Stidham have also donated to offset the Thursday Nite Social. Thank you one and all.





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 barnacle shells) and email or snail mail to the **OKCA, PO Box 2091, Eugene OR 97402**. The number and size of ads submitted by a single member will be accepted, or excepted, dependent on available space and the mood of the editors.

KNIFE SHEATHS -Sizes 3,4, & 5 available. Sheaths are brand new. Priced to sell at \$10.00 each or 12 for \$100.00. See me at the Spring Show at table S-1. Wild Boar Blades Ray Simonson (360) 274-7069

WWII ALLIED MILITARY FIGHTING & POCKET KNIVES 1941-1975. Buy/Sell/Trade. I'm well known in the collecting fraternity for dealing in high grade examples, and with an impeccable reputation for over 26 years now. I also do consignment sales on Ebay with a 100% Positive Feedback record for 10 years running. My eBay name is *jsfischer1fs*. Thank you! JOHN S. FISCHER P.O. Box 47 Van Nuys, CA 91408 email: *jsfischer1@aol.com*

1999 OKCA Club Knife For Sale. Gerber Applegate Covert folder in beautiful wooden hinged box with beaver on lid. Mint. Number 21/50. Will sell for original issue price of \$130 and I'll cover the cost of shipping. E-mail Chuck at *Vaquero@comcast.net*

FOR SALE: 175 issues, which are all different, of my KNIFE WORLD subscription. The papers span many years and have provided a lot of enjoyable reading. \$100.00 for the lot, fob, Milton, Wa., Email me at *ronjoyceedwards@comcast.net*. thanx, Ron Edwards

WANTED: Clarence "Pete" Heath knife/knives. Articles, brochures, catalogs, letters and other Heath memorabilia also wanted. Jake Jakus S35 W33193 Honeysuckle Ct Dousman WI 53118 (414)331-1151

WANTED: 1962 U.S. Camillus MIL-K stainless steel utility knife. Rich Jones (503)956-5790 or *rljshalom@verizon.net*

WANTED: OKCA Club knives serial numbered "16." Need 1992 Gerber FS1—1989 Cripple Creek---1987 Al Mar Tanto—1983 Gerber Paul—1981 Gerber Gentleman Jack LST---will give \$100.00 for any 1980 Club Silver Knight. Fred Coleman (541)688-3624. Leave message.

Limited edition sprint run of Junior Clipits. White Micarta handles, partially serrated blade. This is variation #13 in the Spyderco/Goddard Clipits. \$135.00 each, free shipping if you mention *OKCA Knewsletter*. Goddards, 473 Durham Ave. Eugene, OR, 97404 (541)689-8098 e-mail *wgoddard44@comcast.net*

Grinding Machine -2 x 72 BladeMaster. Similar to Burr King. Comes with a small wheel attachment, 8" contact wheel, and flat platen assy. Has a 1-hp Baldor motor with three speed pulley system and a floor stand. This is a great machine that is in excellent condition. \$1000. Pick-up only. Gene Dietzen, (360) 834-9230, Camas, WA.

Collecting & dealing in investment quality 19th C. edged weapons & knives since 1981. I currently collect, buy, sell & trade fine antique 19th C. Sheffield folding dirks, folding Bowies, switchblades & pocketknives. I also authenticate, appraise, broker & take consignments for quality antique Sheffield & American Bowies. 20+ year member of the Antique Bowie Knife Association. Dave Lennon, *experienced1@sbcglobal.net* (707) 435-9550 Northern California.

Wanted: 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000 OKCA medallions. Heceta Lighthouse, Oregon Beaver, Multnomah Falls and Mt. Hood. Call Jim (562)716-9857 or email: *jpitt306@earthlink.net*.

For Sale blade blanks, mosaic pins and lanyard tubes, stabilized wood. 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. Rick Wagner, P.O. Box 41854, Eugene, OR 97404 (541)688-6899 *wagner_r@pacinfo.com* www.qualitybladebooks.com

Spyderco/Goddard Model C16PSBRG, \$65.00, free shipping when you mention OKCA. 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?? Michael Luft email *mereload@aol.com*

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: 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: 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*

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

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

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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

Knewsletter by elayne & dennis

Cut-toons by Judy & Lonnie Williams

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

Club email *okca@oregonknifeclub.org*

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

Knife Events Calendar

February 2009

Feb 28-01 - Keystone Blade Show -Lewisburg PA (KW-B)

March 2009

Mar 06-08 - Expo 09 - Pasadena CA (KW-B)

Mar 13-15 - NKCA Georgia Show - Dalton (KW-B)

Mar 13-14 - Central Texas Show -Round Rock TX (KW-B)

Mar 14-15 - Bunker Hill - Bethalto IL (KW-B)

Mar 14-15 - Canadian Knifemakers - Mississauga Ontario (TK)

Mar 21-22 - Willamette Valley Arms & Knife Show -Eugene OR

Mar 27-29 - Badger Knife Show - Janesville WI (KW-B-TK)

April 2009

Apr 03-05 - Shenandoah Valley Show - Harrisonburg VA (KW-B)

Apr 10-12 - NKCA Ohio Show - Mitchell KY (KW-B)

Apr 18-19 - Oregon Knife Collectors -Eugene Oregon (KW-B-TK)

Apr 17-18 - Mason Dixon Show - Frederick MD (KW)

Apr 25-26 - Wolverine Knife Show - Novi Michigan (KW-B)

May 2009

May 01-02 - Palmetto Cutlery Show - Wellford SC (KW-B)

May 02-03 - NCCA Mystic CT Show (KW-B)

May 15-17 - Ohio Spring Show - Mitchell KY (KW-B)

May 29-31 - Blade Show - Atlanta GA (KW-B-TK)

June 2009

Jun 11-13 - Parkers Greatest -Sevierville TN (KW-B)

Jun 26-28 - Kentucky Cutlery Association - Shepherdsville KY

July 2009

Jul 10-12 - Spirit of Steel - Grapevine TX (TK)

Jul 24-26 - Central Kentucky Knife -Lawrenceburg KY (KW)

August 2009

Aug 21-22 - ABS Knife Exposition - San Antonio TX (TK)

September 2009

Sep 11-13 - Blade Show West - Portland OR (KW-B)

Sep 11-12 - Chicago Custom - Arlington Heights IL (B-TK)

Sep 17-20 - Knifemakers's Guild Show -Louisville KY (B-TK)

Sep 26-27 - Wolverine Show - Clawson Michigan (KW)

October 2009

Oct 02-04 - NKCA Fall Kentucky Show - Louisville (KW-B)

December 2009

Dec 12-12 - OKCA Mini Show - Eugene Oregon

Dec 10-12 - Parkers Greatest -Sevierville TN (KW)

DINNER MEETING



Wednesday Evening

February 18, 2009

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

