



KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ Kukris
- ✓ OKCA Sunfish Club Knife
- ✓ Another List
- ✓ Remember the Maine
- ✓ An Interesting Western
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- ✓ Membership & Show Application

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

December 2010

English Army Standardized Pattern Kukris Ted Fitzwater

The purpose of the article is to look at English military kukris, patterns Mark 1 through Mark 5. (Pictures start on page 4)

Mark 1: Introduced in 1903, generally thought that production stopped in 1915; but it may have been produced as late as 1917. Generally it is a good size kukri (Picture 1), and there are several variations. The primary identification feature is how the handle is secured to the blade. Up to the introduction of the Mark 1, most kukris had a half tang that secured the blade to the handle. (Diagram 2) The Mark 1 had a rat-tail tang which goes all the way through the handle. It is secured by a round, slotted nut that is counter-sunk flush to the butt of the handle. (Picture 3 and Diagram 4) The blade length may vary from 13-1/4" to 14" and weigh 24 oz to 33 oz. Some Mark 1 may be found with a leather covered metal sheath.

Mark 1's can be found with no markings whatsoever, but some have been seen with the following manufacturers marks:

CO--Cosspar Armoury
FW--Fort Williams in Calcutta
QU--Quetta
RP--Rawalpindi
E.Botta Singh & Son Rawalpindi

Mark 2: First produced in 1915 and was made as late as 1947. The Mark 2 has a full, flat tang with two rivets. The early Mark2 has two rings on the handle which help the hand from slipping when striking an object. The ring can be found on some Mark 2 up to the early stages of WWII. (Picture 5)

Blade length in my collection vary from 12-5/8" to 13-1/4" with weights of 22.4 oz to 25.6 oz.

Manufacturers of **World War I** Mark 2 kukris:

CO--Cossipore Arsenal
DHW--Unknown
GOB and Co.
E. Botta and Son Rawinidi
A.S. and Son
RFI--Rifle Factory Ishapove

Manufacturers of **World War II** Mark 2 kukris:

ATD--Army Trader Dharan
MI or MIL--Military Industrys
Pioneer Calcutta
JNB--Unknown contract
M.A.D.--Unknown contractor
SNB--Unknown contractor
RPA--Rawlpindi Arsenal
Qeyoom Bros--made in what is now Pakistan
MG--Unknown contractors

Another variation of the Mark 2 is a kukri called the M43. Primary identification of the M43 is the rivets which are recessed into the handle, and the M43 may be stamped on the handle near the bolster. I have heard two trains of thought on the M43: It is just a contractor variation; or it was produced to simplify manufacturing techniques, the bolster being welded rather than braised on. (Picture 6)

Blade length of the M43 in my collection is 13" and weight is similar to a standard Mark 2, 25.5 oz.

There is a short M43 variation which has the recessed rivets; the same as the long M43, but the blade is only 10-7/8" long and weighs 20.1 oz. There is speculation that they were made for tank and aircraft crews. (Picture 7)

Fake M43's

I have seen at least two kukris sold on eBay with fake M43 stamps. Do your research; know what you are buying!

Mark 3: The Mark 3 was introduced in 1943. It has a full, flat tang with a steel butt cap; it was clearly made for ease of production. The longevity of the Mark 3 is up to debate. The Mark 3 was used by the Indian Army in great numbers up to the 1980s. How long the British Army used the Mark 3 is my big question mark. I have seen Mark 3's stamped LD with a broad arrow dating to the 1960s, and another Mark 3 marked KED 1975 with a broad arrow. Are they true blue, I just don't know; and the experts can't tell for sure either.

The true World War I Mark 3 is hard to come by. Atlanta Cutlery had a few, but they are long gone. (Picture 8) The Mark 3s I have in my collection have a blade length which varies from 11-3/4" to 12-1/2" and weigh from 19 oz to 26 oz.

Manufacturers stamps and Markings for the Mark 3:

MIL--Military Industries
WCS--Windless Steel Company
CMW--Located in Calcutta
DKW--Unknown
K45--K stands for kukri and the 45, the year of manufacture
HW--Unknow, but it could stand for a city called Harwar located between Almora and Dharadun India. Both Almora and Dharadun served Gurkha Regimental centers.
LD64--Unknown
KED1975--Unknown
RGR--Unknown. This stamp was on a very nice modified Mark 3.
SA--A proof mark found on some kukris made prior to India's independence in 1947. SA stands for small arms.

Mark 4: This is one of the rarest of the military kukris, and at a glance it looks very similar to Mark 3 in appearance. (Picture 9) However

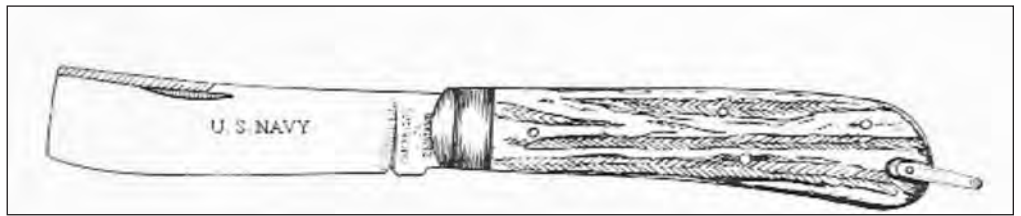
Continued on page 4

Another List Mike Silvey

As knife collectors we have lists: sometimes written, sometimes not, maybe just carried in our heads. Our list may be organized according to pattern, maker, or some other category of our choice. Our list defines our quest and measures our progress towards our goal. It's the collection we want to put together.

My focus in collecting over the past few years has been U.S. Navy folders of the 19th century, and the list I've been working on is ever changing. It started with just the four knives M. H. Cole drew up in his books on U.S. Military Knives. I was impressed with these distinctive rope knives with "U.S. Navy" deeply stamped into the center of their single blades. I was fortunate to learn of similar knives from fellow collectors like Adrian Van Dyk, (who had assembled a collection before everyone else did) and from research. As time went by my checklist expanded as new specimens were found. Here is what the U.S. Navy rope knifemaker list looks like at this point in time:

1. No maker mark, scored bone handles, "United States Navy" on the blade. Circa 1800.
2. E.J. Higgins, checkered bone handles, "Don't Give Up The Ship" on the blade. Circa 1820.
3. Wilson, Hawksworth and Moss, "U.S. Navy" on the blade. Stag handles. Circa 1835
4. Wilson, Hawksworth, Ellison & Co, "U.S. Navy" on the blade. Stag handles. Circa 1846
5. Warne Cheever & Co., "U.S. Navy" on the blade, wood handles. Circa 1850.
6. J. Cox & Sons Celebrated Cutlery, "U.S. Navy" on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1850.
7. Thomas Turner & Co, private purchase and etched "U.S. Navy" on the blade. Stag handle. Circa 1850.
8. Joseph Jeffries, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1850.
9. George Wostenholms IXL Cutlery, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1860.
10. Tally-Ho C.T. Bingham, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1860.
11. H.H. Taylor & Brother, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1860.
12. Chapin & Phipps Celebrated Cutlery, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1870.
13. F. Westpfal Acme, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, second cut stag handles. Circa 1875.



14. Alfred Field & Co., "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1880.
15. Smith Brothers, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1885.
16. H.B. Claflin & Company, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1890.
17. Thomas Fenton, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1890.
18. England, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1890.
19. Cambridge & Co, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1895.
20. J. Ward & Co., "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1898
21. Miller Brothers, "U.S. Navy" etched on the blade, jugged bone handles, gravity knife. Circa 1898.
22. Alfred Williams, "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1890-1920.
23. Challenge Cutlery Co., "U.S. Navy" stamped on the blade, stag handles. Circa 1900.

Almost all the knifemakers listed above were British manufacturers from Sheffield and discovering the history behind their marks can be a challenge. Besides the usual resources like *Levine's Guide* and Goins' *Encyclopedia of Cutlery Markings*, there are a few Sheffield resources that may be useful. (Thanks to Garry Zalesky for this information.)

1. Sheffield Archives, 52 Shoreham Street, Sheffield, S1 4SP, tel: 01142039395, email: archives@sheffield.gov.uk
2. Sheffield Local Studies Library, 1st Floor, Central Library, Surrey Street, Sheffield, S1 1XZ, tel: 01142734753, email: localstudies.library@sheffield.gov.uk
3. Sheffield Records online: admin@sheffieldrecordsonline.org.uk
4. Sheffield Forum.co.uk
5. The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire, The Cutlers' Hall, Church Street, Sheffield, S1 1HG, Tel: 01142728456 (Google them and use their on-line inquiry form)

As a final note: if you can add to my list, please let me know. m.silvey@comcast.net.



Tour Bus to the Coast

Many years ago Elayne and I went down to San Diego for a convention. One of the highlights for us was the charter bus tour that allowed us to see San Diego in a most memorable way. For years I wanted to promote a similar event here in Oregon in conjunction with our April Knife Show. Considering that a large percentage of our guests are from out of town, we thought they might enjoy a charter tour of the Oregon Coast while they are here and do so in the comfort of a charter bus.

The tour is planned for Thursday, April 07, 2011, and will leave in the morning from Eugene and depart for the Oregon Coast, 60 miles to the west. Return time will be about 5 PM that afternoon just in time for the



Thursday Nite Social at the Valley River Inn. The tour schedule will include the Heceta Head Lighthouse, the Sea Lion Caves and time in the coastal town of Florence, Oregon. Exact tour details will be available after we confirm sufficient reservations to make this a happening.

For now we are requesting a head count. The cost per person will be about \$25. At this time we need you to indicate an interest by email, letter, call or carrier pigeon if you would like to take advantage of this charter tour. Based on interest in the next 30 days, we will go forward or stop in our tracks. Let us know



OKCA Knews and Musings

ibdennis

Tables for the Show.....

The deadline for first right of refusal for tables at the April Show will be December 15. If you were a tableholder at the last Show and want to secure the same location or any location for that matter, then you need to re-up by December 15. Your label on this *Knewslettter* will give you a clue as to membership or whether you have responded for a table. The code of 2011 tells all. If the number is greater or equal to, then you are good at least for membership. We are a non profit organization and to maintain this we need to support the cause. Join or update now.

December 15 dinner meeting

We will again be meeting at the Sizzler getting there twix 5 - 6 for dining and for our meeting at 7 PM. The November meeting was very special and made me appreciate the camaraderie and fellowship of our organization and meetings. This month's meeting will a scant few days after the Mini Show so we should all have a special knife to do a Show-N-Tell with.

The December Mini Show.....

We still have a few tables available for the December Winter Show. At this point it is stacking up to be a great happening. We are fast approaching our goal of 80 plus tables. Not bad for a little ole knife show in the dead of winter.

Toys for Tots....

Bryan Christensen has volunteered to head up the Toy for Tots donations for our Mini Show. Table-holders, members and guests can contribute to this worthy cause, especially in the economic environment we are having. New, unwrapped toys are the goals. We will have several tables for placement of these items waiting for the Marines to get them on Saturday at the Show. I will push hard, as will Bryan, to make this a spectacular gathering for a worthy event. Elayne has already purchased her toys for this event. It is just a matter of prying them loose from her on Saturday as she is but a kid at heart.

Charter Tour Bus.....

Please look over the write-up for the proposed charter bus tour before the April Show. We are looking for interest level only now, to see if we can make it work based on how many would enjoy such an event.

Great Eastern Club Knife...

The first response to the 2010 OKCA Club knife has been quite encouraging. Look for the application form in this *Knewslettter* and get your order in for this special knife. There will only be 50 knives offered so get that order in early so you will be assured to get this knife.

Our lead article this month....

is by Ted Fitzwater; and although my personal interest in the subject of Kukri knives is not along my collectable directions, I found the history and the variations to be quite fascinating. The information on the subject is scant at best so laying a foundation for this study is great fodder for research. And this in itself makes this little ole *Knewslettter* a special contribution to our interests in anything that goes cut. We get responses from articles done 20 years ago where interest renews itself on various subjects. And for this reason we extend a wish for all to contribute their knowledge on any "cut" subject. Don't forget that our *Knewslettters* are available on our web site going back to 2001 and select articles are posted that go back even further?

Smile Knives or Not....Contributions of smile knives to the *Knewslettter* have fallen off to nothing. As a result of this I have reached deep into the crevices of my interesting knives, and as a rule I was reluctant to inch into this subject. This knife does measure up to at least a half a foot and has a metric conversion too. The knife is a product of G. Ibberson - Sheffield England. It is a two



blade pen knife with (mm/in), making this a great English or American knife. Made of rustless steel, it would fare well at measuring the depth of water on the floor if you break a water pipe. There is a symbol over the name on the small pen blade. Guesses anyone?

The Knewslettter....

We have some outstanding contributions of words for the *Knewslettter*, but more are always welcome. This month we thank **Martin Drivdahl, Ted Fitzwater, Hank Hansen and Mike Silvey** for one-of-a-kind contributions. This *Knewslettter* is a first class endeavor, but only because of the help we get. I know most of us have stories to tell and share about things that go cut. Get that digital graphite memory out and share your knowledge with us pleeze.



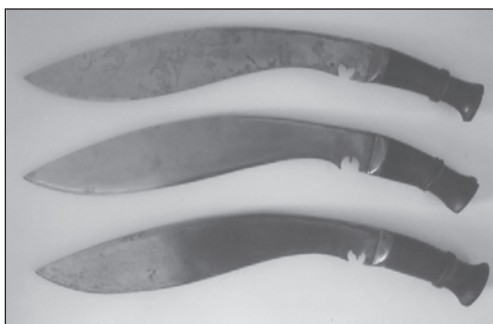
English Army...(continued from page 1)

with a closer look, it is of much higher quality and workmanship. The story that I have most often heard is that kukris in use were just not holding up, so a request was made to Wilkerson Sword Company. They produced 1400 very high quality Mark 4s. What happened to them, most experts believe, is that they were shipped to Malaya and simply used up. The jungle climate is very hard on everything. Another story I have heard is that the Gurkhas didn't like them. The metal was too hard and could not be sharpened properly with the *chakmak* provided with the Mark 4 (the *chakmak* is a sharpening steel provided with each kukri). Who knows, they could be sitting in a warehouse someplace. If you suspect you have one, the first thing you will note is that they are made with very high quality. The ones I have seen are stamped WCS 51. There are general proof marks, (Diagram 10); and the tang is chrome plated to reduce on corrosion. The *chakmak* and *karda* (the *karda* is a small utility knife provided with a kukri) will also have the WCS stamp, if original to the Mark 4. Value will depend on condition, on *eBay* recently one was on auction starting at \$1,580.00. It had both *chakmak*, *karda* and original sheath; but it did not sell until it was reduced at auction to \$900.00

Mark 5: The Mark 5 was introduced in the 1960s and is still in use by the British Gurkhas. It is lighter and of a smaller size than previous kukris used by the British Gurkhas. The Mark 5 is produced in Nepal, and most are unmarked; but I have one stamped ORDEP NEPAL 1/81. The seller told me that it came out of a Gurkha unit in Iraq. They have a rat-tail tang with brass bolster, butt cap and a black horn handle. Quality will vary from very good to tourist grade. The Mark 5 is issued with a *chakmak* and *karda*, also with black horn handles. In Jonathan Sedwell's paper the *20th Century British Military Pattern Gurkha Issue Kukris*, he states there are three grades of Mark 5: ceremonial, issue and training grade kukris. (Picture 11) In my collection they have blade lengths of 10-3/4" to 11" and weigh 14.0 oz.

I can take very little credit for the contents of this paper, I have borrowed very heavily from Jonathan (Spiral) Sedwell's paper the *20th Century British Military Pattern Gurkha Issue Kukris*. His paper can be found at the International Kukri Research and Historical Society (IKRHS) website under articles. If you are interested in kukris, the IKRHS has a great deal of outstanding information on the subject.

I would like to thank Simon Hengly of Tora Blades for providing me with pictures of the Mark 1 and Mark 4 kukris. Tora Blades also has a website with a collector's forum.



Picture 1-Three Mark 1 kukris made by different contractors. These are not mine, so I can't give any specifics. Pictures courtesy of Simon Hengly, Tora Blades.

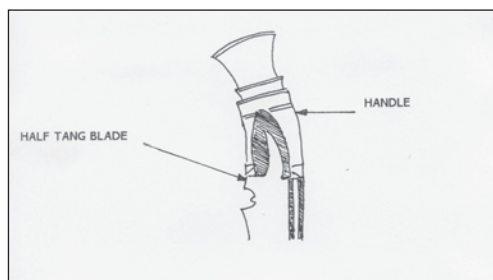


Diagram 2-A half-tang kukri, the blade is secured in the handle by a homemade epoxy. Some of the ingredients are natural saps and pitches found in Nepal's forests and jungles.



Picture 3-Three butt caps of the Mark 1 kukris shown in Picture 1. Note the slotted, round nuts mounted flush or semi-flush to the butt of the Mark 1s. Picture courtesy of Simon Hengly, Tora Blades.

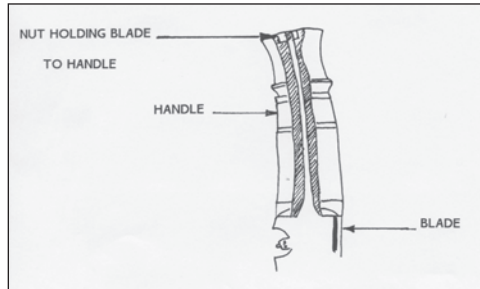


Diagram 4-The handle of a Mark 1 kukri. Note how the tang of the blade passes all the way through the handle and is secured by a recessed nut.



Picture 5-Mark 2 kukris top to bottom

A. This is the earliest kukri in my collection - DHW1919. It has an overall length 17-1/4", blade length 13-3/8" and weight 22.9 oz. You will note the notches filed just above the markings; there are a total of seven. Five across the top and two in front of the cho-religious notch. These could be for years of service, unit designation, plain old vandalism or head chopped off.

B. M.A.D. 41 note the rings on the handle. Overall length 13-1/2", blade length 12-3/4" and weight 24.3 oz.

C. Pioneer Calcutta 1944, overall length 17-1/2", blade length 13-1/2" and weight 28.7 oz.

D. ATD 42 overall length 17", blade length 13" and weight 27.4 oz.

E. SNB41 is a very rough manufacturing and a lot of sharpening. Overall length 17-1/4", blade length 13" and weight 24 oz.



Picture 6-Full length M43, note the M43 stamp just in front of the handle. Also note the SA stamp on the handle just in front of the bolster that you may not be able to see. The rivets holding the handle on are not as clearly recessed on the top long bladed M43 as the below short blade.



Picture 7- The short M43 Mark 2 is compared to top long blade M43 Mark 2.



Picture 8-

- A.** A style of karda, small utility knife often found with the Mark 3.
- B.** K45 Mark 3. There is a broad arrow above the K45 stamp and the handle has a broad arrow and an SA stamp on the opposite side of the handle. Overall length 16-3/4", blade length 11-3/4" and weight 19.8 oz.
- C.** HW 45. There is an SA stamp above the HW45. I could not find any other markings. Overall length 16-3/4", blade length 12" and weight 22.2 oz.
- D.** LD 64 Mark 3. A pattern made after WWII. The markings are very poor which is not uncommon. Overall length 16-3/4", blade length 12-1/2" and weight 23.1 oz.



Picture 9 - A very nice Mark 4. It is in the collection of Simon Hengle.

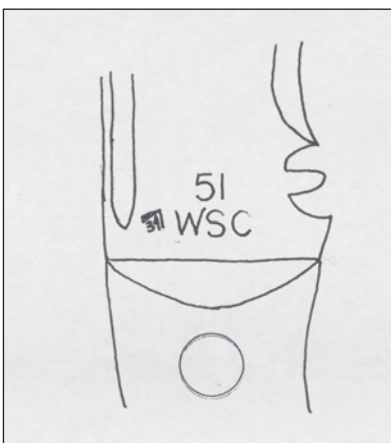


Diagram 10 - Markings found on a Mark 4



Picture 11- Mark 5 kukri

- A.** Standard issue Mark 5 that was presented to U.S. Special Forces member R. P. Mohs by the 1/2 Gurkhas in 1978. Overall length 14-1/4", blade length 10-3/4" and weight 14.0 oz.
- B.** Ceremonial Mark 5. Chrome plated and stamped ORDEP 1/81. Overall length 15-5/8", blade length 10-7/8" and weight 14.6 oz.
- C.** Ceremonial Mark 5. A highly polished steel blade. Overall length 15-5/8", blade length 11" and weight 16.4 oz.

Oregon Knife Collectors Club Knife 2011



The Great Eastern Cutlery Sunfish is this year's Oregon Knife Collectors' Club 2011 knife. A mock up of this knife is shown here but will be moderately modified. The knife will be in the style and fashion as all our Club knives.

The handles will be jigged bone, and a shield of a beaver will be a one-of-a kind shield for this knife. The pattern number is 362211 and marked Northfield which is their premium line. The length is 4-1/4" and the two blades are 1095. The main blade will have a double pull. The total of 50 knives will be serial numbered and will come in the Northfield cardboard roll so familiar with this company. Serial numbers will be randomly drawn, but you can request the same serial number you had for the 2010 knife. Membership in the OKCA required to purchase this knife.

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Great Eastern Sunfish @ \$145 _____

Serial number request if you purchased a 2010 knife

Shipping, if needed, add \$20 _____

Total _____

Payment in full at time of order.

www.oregonknifeclub.org



OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND SHOW TABLE CONTRACT

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

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

OKCA membership includes knewsletter, dinner/swap meetings, free admission to OKCA shows.

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

36TH ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 09-10, 2011 430 — 8'x30" TABLES

Exhibit Hall, Lane Events Center and Fairgrounds, 796 West 13th Ave., Eugene, Oregon.

For Information Contact Show Chairman: Dennis Ellingsen, (541) 484-5564

AUTOMATIC RESERVATIONS: If you had a table at the 2010 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2011, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2010. You may still apply for a table after this date, but we cannot guarantee a table after December 15. NO RESERVATIONS HONORED OR APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT! Note to NEW exhibitors: your table(s) will be assigned after 12/15/10.

ALL TABLE HOLDERS AND VISITORS agree to abide by the OKCA show rules, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane Events Center harmless for any accident, loss, damage, theft, or injury.

ANY QUESTION OR DISPUTE arising during the show shall be resolved by the Show Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

THIS IS A KNIFE SHOW. All tables must be 90% knives or knife related items (e.g. swords, axes, edged tools, edged weapons, knife books, knifemaking supplies). If in doubt, check with the Show Chairman ahead of time. The OKCA reserves the right to bar any item from display or sale. No firearms made after 1898 may be sold or shown at this show.

ALL EXHIBITORS are required to keep their tables set up throughout the public hours of the Show: 8 AM Saturday to 3 PM Sunday. ANY EXHIBITOR WHO LEAVES OR COVERS THEIR TABLE BEFORE 3 PM SUNDAY FORFEITS HIS FUTURE RESERVATIONS AND WILL BE DENIED TABLES AT FUTURE OREGON KNIFE SHOWS.

DISPLAY TABLES will be around the perimeter of the room. All displays are eligible for display awards, which are handmade knives donated by members and supporters of OKCA. Display judging will be by rules established by OKCA. Special category awards may also be offered. **NOTHING MAY BE SOLD FROM DISPLAY TABLES.**

SALE/TRADE TABLES Sharing of tables will not be allowed. Exhibitors must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. Oregon has NO SALES TAX.

BADGES: Each table holder is entitled to one additional show badge. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

KNIFEMAKERS who are present and are table holders at this show may enter knives in the knifemaking award competition.

FOR MORE INFORMATION on categories and judging criteria in the display and handmade knife competitions, contact the Show Chairman.

SHOW FACILITATORS will be provided by OKCA from 10AM Friday until 4 PM Sunday. However, exhibitors are responsible for watching their own tables. Neither the OKCA nor the Lane Events Center will be responsible for any loss, theft, damage, or injury of any kind.

CITY AND COUNTY REGULATIONS require that there be:

- No Smoking within the Exhibit Hall at any time;
- No alcoholic beverages consumed within the Exhibit Hall during the public hours of the show;
- No loaded firearms worn or displayed at the show;
- No swords or knives brandished or displayed in a provocative manner.

Violators of these safety rules will be asked to leave.

NOTE ON SWITCHBLADES AND DAGGERS: In Oregon it is legal to make, sell, buy, or own switchblade knives. However, it is **ILLEGAL** to carry a switchblade knife, a gravity knife, a dagger, or a dirk concealed on one's person, or for a convicted felon to possess a switchblade or gravity knife. Most other states have banned switchblade knives. Under federal law, it is **ILLEGAL** to mail, carry, or ship a switchblade or gravity knife across state lines.

The Oregon Knife Collectors Association is not responsible for force majeure.

SHOW SCHEDULE

Friday, April 08, 2011.

10am - 7pm set-up; open ONLY to table-holders and members of OKCA.

Saturday, April 09, 2011.

7am-8am set-up. 8am-5pm open to public.

Sunday, April 10, 2011.

8am-9am set-up. 9am-3pm open to public.

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

EXHIBITOR CONTRACT: PLEASE ENCLOSE FULL PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM. Full refund granted if reservation canceled by February 15, 2011. **DON'T GET LEFT OUT!!! MAIL THIS PAGE AND YOUR CHECK TODAY. A signature is required.**

Type of knives on your tables _____

Name for second badge _____ (two badges per table holder)

Qty _____ **Club Dues (Total from above)**..... \$ _____

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

Qty _____ **Collector Display table(s) free with sale table:**

Qty _____ **Saturday Nite Social @ \$5.00 ea**..... \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED (make check payable to O.K.C.A.) \$ _____

I have read and agree to abide by the OKCA show rules as set forth in this contract, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane Events Center harmless for any accident, damage, loss, theft, or injury. **Signature and date required.**

Signature _____ Date _____

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

www.oregonknifeclub.org

An Interesting Western Martin Drivdahl



History of the origin and growth of Western States Cutlery Company involving the joining of two prominent knifemaking families by the marriage in 1891 of Debbie Case to Harvey Nixon (H.N.) Platts is certainly a fascinating story of courage, faith and perseverance. Had H.N. not developed "grinders consumption" and not decided for health reasons to move his family west to Boulder, Colorado, history would have been differently written and the WESTERN STATES and WESTERN brand would never have come into existence.

As a kid growing up on a small cattle and sheep range near Big Timber, Montana, I knew nothing of this history or of the family makers of Western knives. I always knew my

Dad carried a three blade WESTERN stockman's knife in his pocket, and it was well used for many tasks. The spey blade was saved for the sole purpose of castrating calves and docking lambs. I guess the spark was set early-on in my youth, and ever since I've always perked up when my eyes see the WESTERN STATES or WESTERN stamp on sheath or folding knives.

At a gun show in Helena last spring, I came across a very unusual looking sheath knife. Everything about it, from my first glance to



closer examination, accelerated my heart rate; and I knew I had to have it.

I will digress here for a bit to mention that thanks to my free ad in this OKCA publication earlier last spring, I fortunately obtained a copy of *The Knife Makers Who Went West* published in 1978 by Harvey Platts (grandson of H.N. Platts). I got it just in time to bone up and put to memory at least some of what Harvey Platts wrote about the history of his company's sheath knives. When my eyes lit on the words imprinted on the leather sheath of one particular knife at a dealer's table, I just

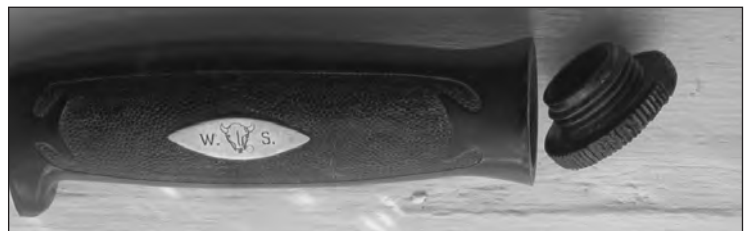


couldn't resist. Printed on the beautiful, polished leather sheath were the stamped words "WESTERN STATES CUT. & MFG. CO." arranged in a complete 180 degree arch over the stamped image of a bronc rider atop a bucking horse. Beneath the bucking horse, in a less pronounced upward cupped arc, were the stamped words "BOULDER, COLO."

Description of knife: Current blade length - 4-1/4"
Aluminum half guard: Overall knife length - 8-1/2"
Ricasso stamping WESTERN STATES in an arc over CUT CO. BOULDER, COLO. (see photo)
Black Bakelite decorative handle with a football shaped nickel silver shield engraved with W. (buffalo skull) S. (see photo)
Removable screw-on butt cap with a 5/8" dia. x 2-1/4" deep match safe. Blade has very prominent swedges both sides form tip of blade extending back for 2-3/4".

Based on the information in Chapter 5 of Harvey Platts' book, I will make the following observations and comments:

1. An interesting quote on p.78 of the Platts' book, "When the company began the manufacture of sheath knives in 1928, they stamped 'Western'. In 1931, when the double-tang knives went into production, the words 'Pat. Pend.', 'Patented' or 'Pat. No 1,967,479'



were added." I noted my find defies both of these two sentences and is definitely not constructed using double tang construction.

2. I did find the following clarification on page 79, "There are Western States sheath knives in existence marked with the curved pocket knife stamp."

3. The catalog page reprints in Harvey Platts' book for 1932 (Catalog No. 40) show the first of Western States sheath knives but does not include the knife I found nor is it shown on any other of the catalog page reprints contained in this book.

This knife seems very unique, having a shield on the handle (first I've ever seen on any sheath knife) and a built-in match safe or storage space, also a rare feature. The shield would almost seem to be a carry over from the folding knives made by the company, and the buffalo skull image is consistent with its use as an etch on the blades of early WESTERN STATES folding knives (started in about 1928). I believe the knife to perhaps be one of the very earliest (1928-1931) sheath knives produced by Western States Cutlery Company. I treasure it for its graceful appearance and unique features. If any of you readers have a similar knife, knowledge, or only printed information to shed more light, please contact me. (406)442-2783



The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

The November 17 meeting was held at the Sizzler Restaurant, Gateway, Eugene OR. There were 32 present.

The negotiations are complete for the 2011 Club knife. Thank you **Roy Humenick**. It will be a knife from Great Eastern Cutlery, a sunfish pattern with jugged bone handles, (special) beaver inset, etched with our OKCA logo and numbered. Cost is \$145. We should have a sample for the December show. A representative from Great Western will hand out the knives at the April Show.

The December show will be held December 11 in the Wheeler Pavilion, Lane Events Center, Eugene OR. Times are set up 7:00AM, public entry (no admission fee) 8:00AM. Will close at 4:00PM. We will have 80 tables set up. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Toys for Tots program.

Membership is January 1 to December 31. If your *Knewsletter* label reads 2010, mail your payment for membership (\$20/single; \$23/family). The 2011 membership cards will be available for pick up at the December show (thank you **Larry Criteser and John Priest**). We will mail those not picked up when we mail the table confirmations at the end of December.

The deadline for first right on your 2010 table for 2011 is December 15. The December show will be a good opportunity to pay for your

table. Your table confirmations will be mailed the last of December.

We are still in negotiations with Kay and Jerry Whitmore for the cost of 2011 Club T-shirts. We should have that ironed out by the January meeting.

The 2010 grinding competition knives will be completed by the following individuals:

Marcus Clinco - Venice CA
Jeff Crowner - Cottage Grove OR
Jose Diaz - Ellensburg WA
Ray Ennis - Ogden UT
Tedd Harris - Hillsboro OR
Geoff Keyes - Duvall WA
Gene Martin - Williams OR
Lynn Moore - Fall Creek OR
Joel Purkerson - Eugene OR
Ray Richard - Gresham OR
David Rider - Eugene OR
Butch Vallotton - Oakland OR

These will be presented as display awards at the 2011 Show. **Excalibur Cutlery**, Eugene OR, will display all the award knives until the April 2011 Show.

See you at the show December 11, Wheeler Pavilion, Lane Events Center, Eugene OR. 7:00AM to 4:00PM.

We will have a meeting Wednesday, December 15, at the Sizzler Restaurant, Gateway, Eugene OR.



Remember the Maine ibdennis

In the last issue we ran a story by Mike Silvey on the Smith Bros. Navy Knife, and a reference was made to the ship the USS Maine. I received an email from Hank Hansen from Indiana about this subject. Hank has an Ulster take-apart knife fork and spoon that has an etch on the main blade "Remember the Maine."

The USS Maine was the United States Navy's second commissioned pre-dreadnought battleship. She is best known for her catastrophic loss in Havana harbor. The USS Maine had been sent to Havana, Cuba, to protect U.S. interests during the Cuban revolt against Spain. On the evening of 15 February 1898, she suddenly exploded and swiftly sank, killing nearly three quarters of her crew. Though then, as now, the cause and responsibility for her sinking were unclear; popular opinion in the U.S. blamed Spain, and the sinking (popularized in the phrase Remember the Maine, to Hell with Spain!) was one of the precipitating events of the Spanish-American War.

The photo Hank sent gives you a glimpse of the etch and reminds us of the fact this knife goes back more than 100 years. Hank graciously rejected my offer to buy this treasure and suggested that it might be cheaper to purchase a new Mercedes Benz. I knew that would happen. What a treasure.





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 chicken lips) 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: Item #1 WWII Case v 44 all original WWII. Blade is full and has some sharpening on the edge but lightly. Has lots of original polish, no rust stains or darkening. It comes with the original WWII leather sheath. No stains, still lite in color, lite tan, cross guard has nice dark brass color not polished, its black handle is exc., no chips, a very nice set. \$ 475.00 post pd.&ins.
Item #2 WWII M 8 scabbard for U S M3 has short belt loop & no hanger hook has its original leather tie down lace. Over all very good plus condition \$100.00. M Ferris P O Box 250 Clayton CA 94517 (925) 672 4382 - email md1ferris@aol.com

KNIFE SHEATHS..... Many, many different sizes and styles. If you need a new sheath for that favorite knife of yours, bring it to the Mini Show and find one at our table. If we don't have what you want, we can make it for you. Ray Simonson Wild Boar Blades P.O. Box 328 Toutle, WA 98649 (360)601-1927 www.wildboarblades.com - info@wildboarblades.com

Wanted - Ammo bullet knives as pictured in the October *Knewsletter*. ibdennis@oregonknifeclub.org

Wanted- PW Ostwald pocketknife for one of my good customers. Terry Davis, (541)894-2307, davistacm@gmail.com

Wanted-Any information available relative to a soldier/sailor who scratched the following info onto his Kingston military issue pocket knife "D. N. Hubbard OCT 3, 1945 -Lipa, Luzon -Phillipine Islands" I would like to locate this serviceman or his family and present this knife to them as a memorial to his service. Please respond by email to rabonpville@yahoo.com or by snail mail to Ray Roe, 1007 Pine Creek Dr., Pflugerville TX 78660. Call at (512)251-0805.

Wanted -Knives and also ephemera and information about Bruckmann knives. Bob Patrick 816 Peace Portal Dr., Blaine WA 98230 (604)538-6214 bob@knivesonnet.com

Wanted -Knives made by Stan Shaw. Ephemera also wanted in the form of pictures, articles, parts, business cards etc. Bob Patrick 816 Peace Portal Dr., Blaine WA 98230. (604)538-6214 bob@knivesonnet.com

Spyderco C20BGMPS, Sprint run of 600, Burgundy/brown Micarta handles, key chain sized knife with a blade length of 2 1/8". This is #14 on the model list of the Wayne Goddard Spyderco designs. \$65 post paid when mentioning OKCA. Check or money order to Goddard's, 473 Durham Ave, Eugene OR 97404 (541)689-8098 e-mail wgoddard44@comcast.net

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*. Goddard's, 473 Durham Ave. Eugene OR 97404 (541)689-8098 e-mail wgoddard44@comcast.net

Spyderco/Goddard Model C16PSBRG, \$65.00, free shipping when you mention OKCA. Goddard's 473 Durham Ave Eugene OR 97404 (541)689-8098 e-mail wgoddard44@comcast.net

For Sale- Duplicates from my collection of wood handle Coke knives, small size (3-1/2"/+/-), large size (5-1/4"/+/-) or trade for ones I do not have. Only wood handle knives, please. Ron Edwards, email me @ ronjoyceedwards@comcast.net

Mosaic pins and lanyard tubes by Sally. See at www.customknife.com, email at sally@customknife.com. Phone (541)846-6755.

Blades and knifemaker supplies. All blades are ground by Gene Martin. I also do custom grinding. See at www.customknife.com, contact Gene at bladesmith@customknife.com, or call (541)846-6755.

USEFUL REFERENCE BOOKS ON BLADES- Collectible knives, custom knives and knife making,

military knives, swords, tools, and anything else that has an edge. E-mail for a list. As our name implies, if we don't consider a book to be useful and a good value we will not sell it. **QUALITY BLADE BOOKS**, C/O Rick Wagner, P.O. Box 41854, Eugene OR 97404 (541) 688-6899 – wagner_r@pacinfo.com

Wanted - Knives made by Barr Brothers. ibdennis@oregonknifeclub.org.

Wanted - Table-holders for the April 2011 Oregon Knife Collectors Knife Show.

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)915-6241

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

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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The Knewsletter

Oregon Knife Collectors Association
PO Box 2091
Eugene, OR 97402

Cutlery Events Calendar

December 2010

Dec 11-11 - OKCA December Show - Eugene Oregon
Dec 09-11 - Parkers' Greatest -Sevierville TN (KW-B-KI)

January 2011

Jan 08-08 - Scandinavian Knifemakers - Helsinki Finland (B)
Jan 14-16 - Las Vegas Invitational Custom - NV (KW-B)
Jan 22-23 - Gateway Area Cutlery Fair -St Louis MO (KW-B)
Jan 28-30 - Gator Cutlery - Lakeland FL (KW-B-KI)

February 2011

Feb 05-06 - Wolverine Knife Show -Novi MI (KW-B)
Feb 12-13 - Arkansas Custom Knife -Little Rock AR (KW-B-KI)
Feb 12-13 - Western Reserve Cutlery - Dover OH (KW)

March 2011

Mar 04-06 - Southern California Blades - Pasadena CA (KW-B)
Mar 04-06 - East Coast Custom - Jersey City NJ (B)
Mar 11-13 - NKCA - Dalton GA (KI)
Mar 19-20 - Bunker Hill Knife Club - Bethalto IL (KW)
Mar 25-27 - Badger Knife Show - Janesville WI (KW-B)

April 2011

Apr 01-02 - Shenandoah Valley Show -Harrisonburg VA (KW-B)
Apr 02-03 - Texas Annual Show - Round Rock TX (KW-B)

Apr 09-10 - Oregon Knife Collectors -Eugene Oregon

Apr 15-17 - NKCA - Greater Cincinnati (KI)
Apr 29-30 - West Coast Custom Knife - Santa Barbara CA (KW-B)
Apr 30-01 - Northeast Cutlery Collectors -Mystic CT (KW)

June 2011

Jun 02-04 - Parker's Greatest - Sevierville TN (B)
Jun 10-12 - Blade Show - Atlanta GA (B)

DINNER MEETING



Wednesday Evening

December 15, 2010
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

