



## NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ My New Old Knife
- ✓ Bowie Knives
- ✓ Speaking for Many
- ✓ Ten Knives
- ✓ Huntsville Prison Knife
- ✓ Show Application

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

September 2013

### My New Old Knife

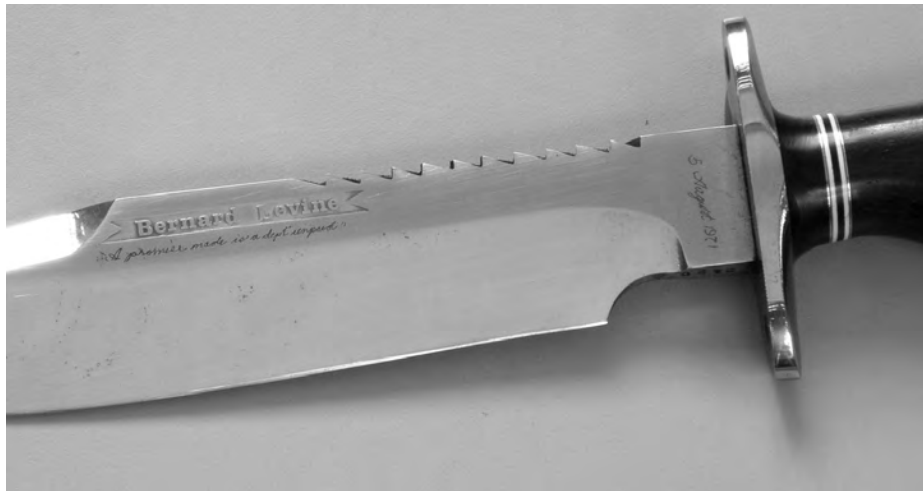
Bernard Levine

In 1996 I was preparing the 20th century knifemaker list for *Levine's Guide 4th Edition*, to be published early in 1997. I sent out a few thousand information forms and got more than half of them back. For knifemakers whose stories were complicated, or of particular interest, I telephoned them to flesh out details, or at least to confirm the basic data of places, dates and markings. Most of the makers I called I already knew, or had met at shows, or at least had seen a few of their knives, in person or in pictures.



One maker who'd had a long career, but whom I'd never met, nor seen any of his knives, was Richard G. Batson of Virginia. He'd been making knives since 1958, both while he was in the Army and after he'd retired from active duty in 1970.

one of his knives? He thought about this, then said that he was planning to retire soon -- and when he did, he would give me the last knife he made. I figured he must be joking, as how could he know which was last? But I went along and allowed as how that would be just fine.



The world was a relatively peaceful place in 1996. Demand for combat knives was slow. Did Mr. Batson really retire then, as he'd planned? I don't know. But if he did, it was not for very long. The world stopped being peaceful in September 2001. The Army Rangers expanded quickly, to deploy around the world. And "their" knifemaker came forward again to equip them.

I still recalled Mr. Batson's good-natured promise; but I knew that it would be a long time before he made his last knife, and it seemed ever less likely with each passing year that he would recall our phone conversation.

So I called him, and we talked. Or mostly he talked, told me all sorts of stories about his knives, his customers, his own travels. He made it clear he had no interest in advertising or self-promotion, or even in selling any of his knives to civilians. He made knives for military men on active duty, mainly Army Rangers.

But... The first week in May of this year, 2013, arrived at the post office a curious prism-shaped package, return address: Rixeyville, Virginia. Was this possible? Could it be? It was. And is. It is a special knife in many ways, starting with the etched inscriptions: my name and the line "a promise made is a debt unpaid."

And I asked him, was there some way, some day, I could buy

*Continued on page 4*

# For the Good of the Organization

The OKCA 2014 Show  
Bowie Knife Challenge  
B. K. Brooks

## But first a short History

The fighting Bowie was the American choice from the early 1830s on through the Civil War years. Half sword and half knife, it was the backup weapon to the firearm, which proved unreliable at times due to its early design problems, the delay time in reloading or even susceptibility to weather conditions. The invention of the revolver, multiple shot rifles and the cartridge had an inverse effect on the Bowie knife's length in the latter half of the 1800s; as firearms became more effective and reliable, the blade of the Bowie decreased in length and even width.



The Bowie was the "assault rifle" of yesterday's media, who dragged it through the mud in numerous articles of the day. To the media, those who carried a Bowie were considered craven no-goods, yet the same article might suggest that



you should carry one when entering the South or Wild West. Under the radar was the dagger, which collectors of 19th century weaponry know probably got stuck into more people on the sly than the glamorous, publicly documented and often fabricated Bowie knife fights. Short bladed knives were easier to carry and conceal. Some had their guards cut off to prevent the knife from catching on clothes when drawn in haste.

Short bladed knives were also less clumsy out in the field. Skinning, preparing hides and campsite chores were not conducive to a half sword, half knife; so as the side knife of the frontier got smaller, it became more manageable to the tasks confronting the backwoodsman. While the blade shrank, it kept its Bowie style for many years. It slowly transformed into the hunting knife more common to today's outdoorsman, but most collectors dismissively refer to these transitional knives as "Cowboy Knives" or "Bowie Hunters." But they are part of the "Bowie Heritage."

## The demise of the Bowie's popularity

As time passed, the industrial revolution changed the lay of the economic landscape. More people left the farm for the factory, food came in cans, subsistence hunting began to ebb and new markets began to appear. One of those mar-

kets was found with those who enjoyed hunting or fishing for sport. Sport hunting, once the sole purview of the rich, became popular with the rising middle class. They liked to fancy themselves as gentleman hunters and needed appropriate gear to separate themselves from the riff raff. These were not cowboys; and for many, a bowie-style knife, no matter how short the blade, just would not do.

Most collectors think that the next step in the transformation of the "bowie hunter" knife into the hunting or sporting knife of today came in the shedding of the large guards and the stag or jugged bone handles, moving quickly into the stacked leather handle, shorter bladed, minimal guard hunting knife, with the Thistle Tops and Marble's knife designs providing perhaps the best example.

## OKCA Knife Show Bowie Knife Challenge

Over many Shows I have seen many Bowie knives come and go. Many were

marked for sale and many marked NFS or not for sale. I have talked to many a Club member, vendor, or hard core collector who have regaled me with stories of their Bowie Collection back in the safe. Well, for the good of the organization, I ask that you open your safes and bring your best out to the 2014 Show. You all seem to really care about our Club; and if we can get enough commitment from you, we can even advertise the Show as having Rarely Seen Bowie Knife Collections! This may not only bring interest from the locals but gather interest from out of state collectors.

Do you have to have a big display worked up? Well, yes, I would prefer it; but even if you commit to bringing a few of your finer examples to show at your dealer table that would be fine too. For a large display we would need to know the highlights of what you plan to show.

If you plan a small display at your table, we would need to know exactly what you plan to bring and your table number. All displays whether large or small must be shown until the end of the Show on Sunday.

Well, I am not asking much. It is for the good of the Oregon Knife Collectors Show. You can make a small effort or a big lavish production. We will work out awards for Best Display and Best Historical Bowie. I have seen many cool short Bowies, so don't be shy about what you are displaying. We will keep track of who is committing to show and let you know how we are doing in future *Knewsletters*. Those who commit to displaying do not have to immediately provide a final work up of what they plan to show until we get closer to the end of 2013.

This is your Organization, do it some good and show us your best Bowie Knife in 2014!





It was a wonderful summer for Elayne and me. The rest from organizational duties was appreciated, and I think we are prepared to venture forth for the Oregon Knife Collectors Association. In May we closed the virtual door to organization activities; but, no matter how tight the door, there is always knocking to get in. Oh, sigh. But now the door is open, and we welcome the interaction and involvement. A steel, bank vault door is scheduled for next year.

Thanks to **B.K. Brooks** for his suggestion of a Bowie theme for the April 2014 OKCA Show. B.K. told me to organize this theme, and I pushed back and told him to do it as this organization is everyone. So he did, and his thoughts and ideas are appreciated. The idea of new and old Bowie appeals, and this will give the present day knifemaker a chance to be a part of this theme. B.K. has a series of articles for the *Knewslettter* that will deal with the Bowie convention.

I anticipate a colossal 2014 Show, and Elayne and I are preparing to beat the drum louder than we ever have. The drum could get louder with member support, and we welcome that. With a "theme," we think that there will be more displays at the Show. Therefore we need to encourage early table requests and would like members to broadcast this event and encourage table purchases and membership involvement.

We have noted in the last few years that "Knife Shows" have lost strength in attendance across the country. There has even been a loss of shows that are knife related. We vow that this will not happen to the OKCA, but we need your support to insure our vow can be accomplished. Our Show is touted as one of the best, not only in the West, but best in the nation. Get a table and beat the drum so this continues to work.

### The Mini - Winter - December Show...

There was a debate as to whether there

would be a Show this year. It was mainly based on support, participation and of course finances. That door we mentioned above had numerous notes slipped under it that wanted to know if it would happen. After much debate, the Board voted "Yes;" however the key to this is participation and finances. In years past we took funds from the April Show to finance the December Show. As rates raised and a slight fall off of tables occurred, we saw that we could not continue to do that; however we will be having a one day Show in December and need to charge \$40 per table to offset the costs so that it can indeed happen. So the date is Saturday, December 07. Soooooo... Send money and reserve your tables. And you do know what the significance of that date is, don't you?

### Articles herein....

I want to thank **B.K. Brooks, Martin Drivdahl, Bernard Levine, Jim Pitblado and Mike Silvey** for their words in this issue. More words are needed and I know that they are out there. Please share your knowledge as this *Knewslettter* is a perfect media for contributions from our membership. The *Knewslettter* is what floats the boat, so to speak.

### Our friends(?) at the Post Office

We were faced with a new edict from the Post Office that PO'd me. It was a requirement to use a heavier grade of paper which would limit and reduce the number of pages in the *Knewslettter*. Their poor machines couldn't handle the lighter paper that allowed us to publish our average of ten pages. After exercising a restrained level of dissatisfaction, we got someone to delve deeper into this situation. It appears now that we can have ten pages without added expense. So we can now return to our normal size of a *Knewslettter* which means we now must beg and cajole members to write articles to make this publication as good as it has been and should be.

### 2014 Club Knife

**Roy Humenick** has volunteered to handle the Club knife for next year. Roy and I met in Reno in August and discussed at great length some ideas that he had, and I heartily approved his pursuing several lines of knives. Roy is a collector of knives and



also a first class knifemaker, so I have faith that he will bring a great knife idea to the table. He has done it in the past, so no worries about good for the future.

### Free ads....

As a member you can have an ad placed in our *Knewslettter* for free. Reports over the years have suggested that these ads seem to get results. The ads this issue are left over from last March as we have not received any recently.

### It ain't too early to...

Make lodging reservations for the April Show. The Valley River Inn, which is our partner in lodging for the Show, had a complete remodel; and, from the reports heard, it is one awesome place to stay. Get your reservations in early.

### Other Shows in the West

The **Willamette Valley Arms Collectors** of Eugene brought up the issue at the 2013 Show that we were not honoring reciprocal entry to them. It was true because several years ago they declined to do this for our members. Enter a new Board in their organization and a different tune. We can now say we will each honor entry into the other's Shows. So at future WVACA events, show your current OKCA membership card; and it will get you into the door. And of course likewise for them to our events. The WVACA Show is November 23-24, 2013 at the Lane Events Center.

Do not forget to mark your calendar for the **NorthWest Knife Collectors Show** October 05-06 in Kelso Washington. Also be reminded that knife shows around the country can be found on our website. 🐾

# My New Old Knife

*Continued from page 1*

Is it really the last knife he made? Perhaps one of the last he finished -- he is 82 and serious about retiring -- but it is actually the first he made of this large Ranger model, the sample he kept in his shop all the years since 5 August 1971, the date inscribed on the blade. Which just happens to be one month before I began in the knife business.

The blade is forged, carbon steel; and he didn't remove all the fine pits it acquired from 42 years in his shop. The edge is slightly convex ground, the best for both cutting and durability in my experience, and evidently in his as well. The saw on the back is triple cut, and so sharp that when I held it up to a tree branch, the branch began to tremble and just fell off of its own accord.

The handle is a dark tropical hardwood, rosewood I think, with black white and metal spacers. Guard and pommel are stainless, nicely relieved and contoured all around.

The scabbard is a work of art in itself. Made to fit the knife by Greg Gutcher, Sr., owner of Sullivan's Holster Shop in Tampa (he makes most Randall sheaths). It is reinforced with two-part copper harness repair rivets -- perhaps not elegant, but extremely strong.

Wrapped around the knife and scabbard was a letter in Mr. Batson's impeccable penmanship. It reads...

1 May 2013

Mr Levine,

*My time is getting short, and I am trying to get my house in order. My records indicate that I promised you a Ranger knife several years ago and I hope this one will do. This was my sample of large Ranger knife. I cleaned it up and put your name on it. I hope it will serve you well.*

*You may have never seen one of my knives. I haven't participated in any show or exhibit, only at military unit invitations. Most are kept by the owners as their names are etched on the blades.*

*Very few were made for civilians. All are hand signed by me, and the entire knife is made by me and marked Fort Myer, Va, Fort Monmouth, N.J., Tampa, Fla., Arlington, Va., or Rixeyville, Va.*

*If you have any questions please write or call. Please send one dollar or a signed book.*

Richard G. Batson

\* \* \*

I sent him a signed book, with a dollar bill as bookmark.

Then I began showing off the knife to anyone I thought might appreciate it (alas a relatively short list of people in these parlous times). I brought it to the May OKCA dinner meeting. I photographed it and made a web page, sent it first to Frank Trzaska, [usmilitaryknives.com](http://usmilitaryknives.com), a frequent contributor to these pages. Here is our email exchange...

To: Frank Trzaska

Subject: My new old knife from Richard G. Batson <http://svalbardrepublic.org/ebay/richard-batson-ranger0513.htm>

Hi Frank

*Do you know this maker?*

*I never met him, or even saw one of his knives before now.*

*But in 1996 I interviewed him for his listing in Levine's Guide 4.*

*We talked then for a long time, and he said then -- joking I assumed -- that he would give me the last knife he made.*

*He was planning to retire then, but with various wars coming along, he went back to making knives for soldiers.*

*But now he is 82, and planning to retire (again).*

*He remembered his promise -- and so did I, so when the package arrived unannounced...*

*I wondered -- could this be the knife he promised?*

*It is.*

BRL...

From: Frank Trzaska

To: Bernard Levine

Subject: Re: My new old knife from Richard G. Batson

Hello Bernard,

*I know the name well. I have never met him either. He is known as the Knife Maker to the US Army Rangers. His work was by word of mouth and passed around among the Ranger Battalions as the guy to go to for a good knife. Many years ago Larry Thomas showed me one he obtained from Richard and since then he has obtained several more, they are on display in his [American Military Edged Weaponry] museum. Sounds like he is a nice guy and to remember the promise is outstanding! Very cool.*

All the best

Frank Trzaska

KNIFE - Richard G. Batson, Sample large Ranger knife, blade dated 5 August 1971, No242D Refinished and custom etched April-May 2013. Batson Knives, Rixeyville VA

SHEATH - Greg Gutcher, Sr. Sullivans Holster Shop, Tampa FL

MAKER - RICHARD G. BATSON (1931-) Batson Knives. Mainly combat knives for active duty military personnel.

Worked part time while in Army 1958-1970. Mark: Signature, often owner's name.

Long Branch NJ

Worked 1958-1960

Mark: Signature, Bat.

Tampa FL

Worked 1969-1970

Mark: Signature, Bat, date.

Arlington VA

Worked 1970-1993

Mark: Spread-wing Bat, R in circle, Signature, often owner's name.

Rixeyville VA

Worked 1993-1996

Mark: same; Retired late 1996. Unretired 1997.

Rixeyville VA

Worked 1997-2013

Mark: same; Planning to retire again.





# OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. 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/\$25 family) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 39<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 12-13, 2014

360 — 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 2013 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2014, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2013. 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 12/15/2013.

**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 FUTURE RESERVATIONS AND WILL BE DENIED TABLES AT FUTURE OREGON KNIFE SHOWS.**

**DISPLAY TABLES** will be around the perimeter of the room. Displays are eligible for display awards, which are hand-made 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 hand-made 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.

**EXHIBITOR CONTRACT:** PLEASE ENCLOSE FULL PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM. Full refund granted if reservation canceled by February 15, 2014. **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) @ \$120 each (members only).....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Collector Display table(s) free with sale table:.....# \_\_\_\_\_

Qty \_\_\_\_\_ Collector Display table(s) w/o trade table @ \$100 each.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### SHOW SCHEDULE

**Friday, April 11, 2014.**

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

**Saturday, April 12, 2014.**

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

**Sunday, April 13, 2014.**

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

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

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

www.oregonknifeclub.org



# Ten Knives - 7 Brands - 1 Maker

Martin Drivdahl

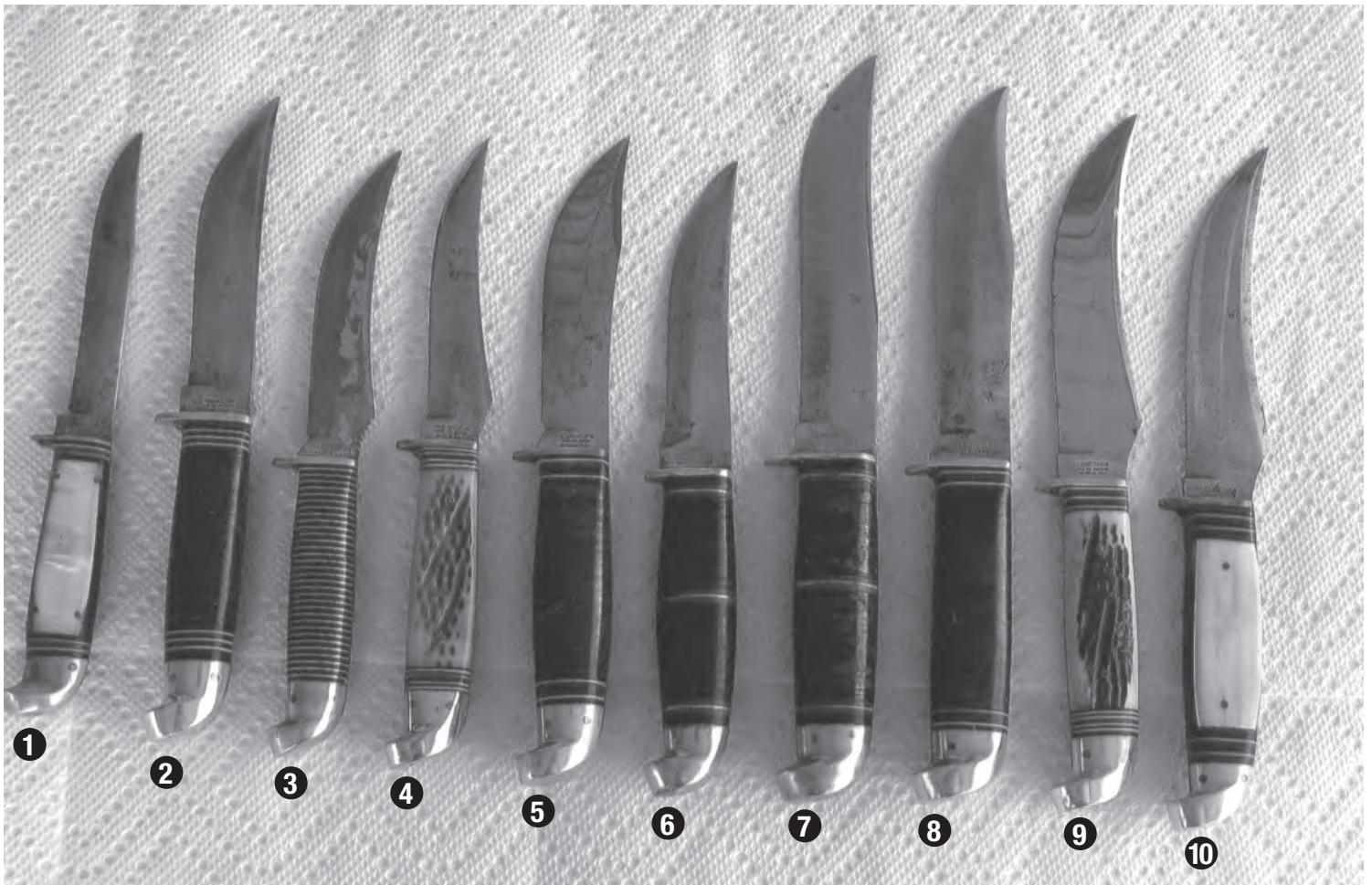
According to information contained in *The Knife Makers Who Went West* published by Harvey Platts in 1978, the first sheath knife produced by Western States Cutlery & Mfg. Co. was in 1928 with their pattern No. 63. This knife was very simply made with a full tang, bone handle slabs, no guard and no end knob. Followed by this was the No. 45 pattern which had a guard but no end-knob. These first sheath knives were simply stamped "WESTERN" in a straight line script. Harlow Platts invented a double-tang design for sheath knives which were first produced in 1931. These were stamped WESTERN with PAT. APPLIED FOR, followed, from about 1932 through 1934, with PAT. PENDING. Sometime in 1934 the double-tang patent #1,967,479 was issued, and Western's blades were stamped with that patent number from 1935 until about 1950.

Western's sturdy double-tang sheath knives became quite popular, and production of these knives during the Depression of the 1930s helped to keep the company in business. Eventually, over two dozen basic sheath knife patterns were produced with

two or more handle materials available for many. Most cutlery products made by Western were stamped with one of their own trade brands and were marketed by their own company. However, Western did manufacture and stamp sheath knives for other customers, including sporting goods stores and suppliers, hardware outlets and mail order companies.

Apparently few records of such contracts were preserved by Western Cutlery Co., and little is offered in Harvey Platt's book.

Over the past several years, in ongoing efforts to build a diversified collection of Western sheath knives, I've acquired ten knives made by Western but marked with brand stamps of seven other companies. The following table shows the various brand stamps which apply to the ten knives seen in the photo (numbered left to right). The table shows the handle material, blade length and corresponding Western number that was identified on each knife. ↴



Blade Stamp	Handle Material	Western's Number	Blade Length
1) SHAPLEIGHS ST. LOUIS, U.S.A. PAT. NO. 1,967,479 S04	PearlComposition	248-A	4-1/2"
2) WESTERN FIELD PAT. NO. 1,967,479 MADE IN U.S.A.	Leather	L44-4 1/2"	4-1/2"
3) HAWTHORNE MADE IN U.S.A.	Black Beauty	F-40	4-3/8"
4) COAST CUTLERY CO. PORTLAND, OR. MADE IN U.S.A.	Bone	640	4-3/8"
5) THE COAST CUTLERY CO. PORTLAND, OR. PAT'D. MADE IN U.S.A.	Leather	L66	4-1/2"
6) WARD MASTER QUALITY LICENSED UNDER PAT. NO. 1,967,479	Leather	L44-4 1/2"	4-1/2"
7) WARD MASTER QUALITY LICENSED UNDER PAT. NO. 1,967,479	Leather	L44-5 1/2"	5-1/2"
8) CRAFTSMAN PAT. NO. 1,967,479 MADE IN U.S.A.	Leather	L36	5-1/2"
9) CRAFTSMAN PAT. NO. 1,967,479 MADE IN U.S.A.	Stag	539	5"
10) J. C. Higgens OUR OWN TRADEMARK PAT. NO. 1,967,479	Pearl Composition	239	5"

## THE HUNTSVILLE PRISON KNIFE

Mike Silvey

The knife shown in figure 1 is a knife that I have seen many times over the years. It has a spear point blade made from 1/4 inch thick high carbon steel. The blade is about 7-5/16 inches long and has a sharpened false edge. The handle, made from walnut and held with two steel rivets, hides a full tang. The blade is nearly flat ground with just a bit of convexness to it. The well-made leather scabbard is heavy duty and typical of those World War II sheaths used by our forces. The knife is a simple, yet high quality piece. This year at the OKCA Show in Eugene I came across this knife. I have seen many of these, but this was in such nice condition I couldn't resist buying it. I was interested in finding out more about who made these knives and why, despite their numbers, they have not been identified. A similar knife is shown on page 177 of Bill and Debbie Wright's great book, *Theater Made Military Knives of World War II*; and this is the only published picture of this knife of which I'm aware.

Then serendipity arrived on Saturday when a gentleman came to my table and pulled a knife out of his bag while explaining that it belonged to his father who obtained it while in the military. Wow!



I explained that I had just purchased the same knife the day before and was interested myself in learning more about it. He said that his father had told him that it was made in the prison machine shop in Huntsville, Texas. I imagine that the inmates, under supervision, made these knives as a way to support the war effort. I was unable to add anything to his story at the time, so when I got back to my computer I looked up Huntsville Texas Prison. It is a State Penitentiary, and it has a museum. I contacted the manager of the museum, but he was unaware of any prisoner support operations for War and didn't know anyone at the prison who went back that far that might actually know. Perhaps there is somebody reading this who can fill in the holes in this story. 🐢



# The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

Hope you have had very full and peaceful summer months. Now it is time for the work to begin.

During the summer months we met for informal dinners and show-and-tell at the Sizzler Restaurant. The dinners were well attended and were fun events.

The Summer has passed; and with this *Knewsletter*, we start the promotion for the 2014 Oregon Knife Show. There is even an article in this *Knewsletter* regarding the Bowie Challenge for the 2014 Show. Don't need to have a whole collection to participate, even one Bowie will get you on the list. Several years ago we invited the Bowie Collectors Society to our annual Show, and it was quite a success. We are hopeful this will generate the same amount of interest as before. Be very sure to reserve your 2014 table soon, the deadline is December 15. You will not want to miss this special Oregon Show. An application is included in this *Knewsletter*.

We have decided (after much prompting) to host a (one day) December show. It will be held in the Wheeler Pavilion, Lane Events Center, Eugene OR. The date is Saturday, December 7, 2013. Set up: 7:00AM Saturday, Public hours: 8:00AM-3:00PM. The fee will be \$40.00 per table, and you must be a 2013 or 2014 member to purchase a table. There is no admission fee for the public or members to visit. There is no reservation form in this *Knewsletter* so just send your payment with an explanation.. We are expecting 85-90 tables. We have

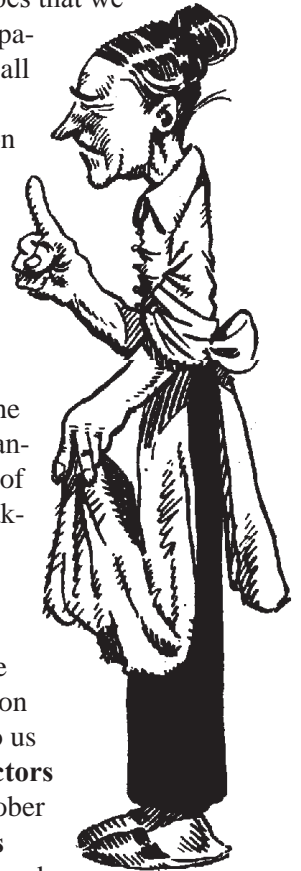
also printed flyers for this event in hopes that we will be able to encourage more participation by the members and the public. Call and we will mail you a packet or two. Advertise on behalf of our organization and participate if you are able.

Be sure to check the date on your address label. If the date shown is 2013, you will need to renew by December 32, 2013, to enjoy free/early admission to the 2014 Show.

We will have a 2014 Club knife, but the final decisions have not been made: handle material, price, etc. Reserve some of your pocket money for this money making OKCA project.

We no longer have the space or the necessary time to compile the list of knife shows around the country for the *Knewsletter*, but the shows are listed on our website. But of especial interest to us would be the **Northwest Knife Collectors Show** which will be in Kelso WA October 5-6, and the **Willamette Valley Arms Show** November 23-24. Support our local groups in our joint endeavors to further our interests in knives.

Best wishes. See you at the next knife gathering on September 18, 2013 at the Sizzler. 🐾



## I Speak For Many

I am sure that I speak for the OKCA Club members, the 2013 table-holders and the 2013 OKCA Knife Show attendees when I say a big thank you to Elayne, Dennis, the volunteers and support staff for giving us a most wonderful knife show to attend and view great knives and visit with or meet new friends.

The opening and closing ceremony was great with the bagpipes. The crowds of attendees had money and were generous in parting with it. The displays again were world class and beautifully done. The custom knives submitted for judging, as well as those made to present to display winners, were the best ever.

We who participate in the knife world in the Northwest are blessed to have



the OKCA, its staff and Elayne and Dennis to make The Show the best and something we look forward to attending and carry away great memories after its ending.

The various demonstrations were again

well received, and it was nice to be reminded at the seller tables that we had an early Sunday nondenominational church service. Attendance was up again for this event. 🐾

Jim Pitblado





## 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 bamboo leaves) 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.

**Wanted:** Japanese Samurai Swords: Collector Buying Collections, Estates, & Individual Swords. Appraisals. Matthew Brice (715)557-1688

**For Sale:** Randall Knives - A Reference Book. .8-/2x11 hardcover format. 22 chapters with 252 pages, 250 full color photos. \$54.95 including domestic shipping, payable to Blue Star Knives P O Box 841 Bigfork MT 59911

**Spyderco/Goddard Model C16POD** \$85.00; free shipping when you mention OKCA. Goddards 473 Durham Ave Eugene OR 97404 (541)689-8098 email: wgod-dard44@comcast.net.

**Hot off the press** - 2ND edition The Wonder of Knifemaking by Wayne Goddard, revised and in color! \$30. shipped by priority mail. Get your autographed copy now by calling Wayne at (541)689-8098

**For Sale:** older knives. Please visit HH-knives at [www.allaboutpocketknives.com](http://www.allaboutpocketknives.com). Thanks for looking.

**Knife Sheaths:** Many, many different sizes and styles. 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.wildboarleather.com](http://www.wildboarleather.com) - ray@wildboarleather.com

**Mosaic pins** and lanyard tubes by Sally. See at [www.customknife.com](http://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](http://www.customknife.com), contact Gene at [bladesmith@customknife.com](mailto:bladesmith@customknife.com), or call (541)846-6755.

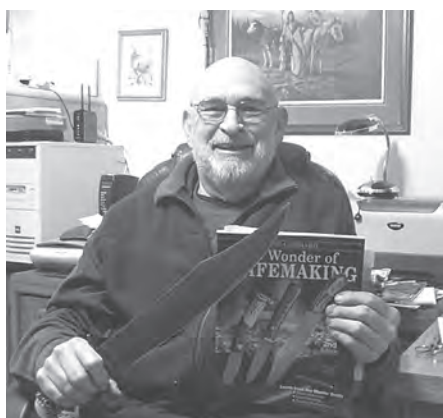
**Useful reference books on blades** - Collectible knives, custom knives and knifemaking, military knives, swords, tools, and anything else that has an edge. E-mail for a list. QUALITY BLADE BOOKS, C/O Rick Wagner, P.O. Box 41854, Eugene OR 97404 (541) 688-6899 or [wagner\\_r@pacinfo.com](mailto:wagner_r@pacinfo.com)

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

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

**For Sale:** Complete set of OKCA Club knives (minus Oregon special) \$6,900.00. Call Fred Coleman (541)915-6241.

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## The Knewslettter

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## Smile Knives

This month features three smile knives that you do not see every day. You will get a bang out of the one from **Jack Birky**. These knives were popular in the 1980s, give or take a few decades. The middle knife is from **ibdennis** and is

made from an 8 mm Lebel cartridge. The emblem on the side is maybe English, and there is little doubt that right after WWI this was a popular souvenir knife that might have served as a letter opener. The third smile knife is a knife with a lot of soul and belongs to **Larry Criteser**. This knife might well be a product of the

turn of the century 1900s. It could have been an advertising give-away item. Keep those smile knives a comin'.

September dinner at the Sizzler in Springfield starting at 5PM; the meeting takes place at 7PM. September 18 - Wednesday. Bring a knife for Show-N-Tell. 