



KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



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

Regrets, I've Had A Few

Owen McCullen

Remember the old Sinatra song that begins, "Regrets, I've had a few?" The song goes on "but, then again, too few to mention." I have my own regrets, and mine are not too few to mention.

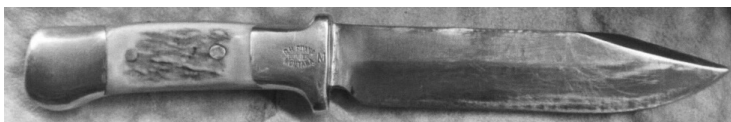
First, I owned a custom fixed blade knife especially made for me by Wayne Goddard. He made it for me in about 1975. It even had my name etched into the blade. It was a fixed blade



made of D-2 steel, with about a four inch blade in the classic Wayne Goddard "suitable for all purposes" style and with exotic antler scales. In a word, it was beautiful. Definitely one of a kind, as far as I know. Even though I never used it, I just know it was the best knife I ever owned. For working purposes, I had (and have) a Steve Goddard with a shorter blade, good shape for utility and excellent quality. Used it for years on deer, elk and moose.

Wayne made my custom knife in payment for my establishing the Oregon corporation named and styled "Oregon Knife Collectors Association" and getting its tax free status approved on both the state and federal levels. My regret? We sold our house and had to liquidate our possessions in order to move into a motor home and become full time RV'ers. I sold the knife back to Wayne Goddard. Our situation changed; and when I tried to buy the knife back from Wayne, he too had moved on and wanted to keep the knife for his family. Regret selling it? You bet. If I had it back, would I ever sell it again? No way. That was my greatest mistake involving a knife. However, it was not my only regret in which a knife played a part.

Second, I owned a Rudy Ruana knife. It too was a fixed blade, multipurpose, modified clip point style and was another



incomparable knife. It took an incredibly long time to lose its edge, and I could never get it sharp again. However the sheath

was not much so I made my own vastly superior sheath (in my opinion). It may not be stainless, but it sure stayed sharp a long time.

I acquired it from a fellow who had just returned from Vietnam and was badly in need of money. Something to do with a new baby and soon to be wife or should that have been vice versa? I loaned him \$35.00 on the knife, having no idea what it was worth, and fully expected him to pay me back pretty soon. In 1966, \$35.00 was the equivalent of a whole lot more money than it is today. You could buy any knife in the Navy Exchange for less than \$20.00, including the finest Buck. The knife was obviously high quality, but at the time no one I knew had ever heard of Ruana knives. Besides, we were departing for a ten month Med Cruise together on the USS Saratoga. I knew where he was going to be for at least ten months. I was pretty sure he would pay me back sometime during the ten month cruise. Wrong, once again; but that is not my regret.

When we pulled back into Mayport on the Saratoga some ten months later, I reminded my friend of the loan and felt he would want his very fine knife back. It had lain unused in my safe in our at sea cabin for the entire length of the cruise. He told me to keep it. He had moved on and acquired a new custom made Buck knife and had no need for the Ruana. Since he had been stationed at North Island, he knew all about Buck Knives in El Cajon. Yes, Buck did make a few custom knives, particularly for decorated Navy pilots who had served in Vietnam; or so I was told. Was my regret not having my loan repaid? Hardly. My regret in that case was selling the knife at an April Show several years ago. I made more than 20 times my money on the knife and now wish I had it back. Rumor has it; since Rudy Ruana is gone he is not going to make any more knives. Of course, his son-in-law and other relatives are carrying on; but, in my mind, regardless of the name, the modern made knives are just not "Ruanas." Is that the end of the story? No, not quite, but we are making progress.

My third regret started when I thought I was headed for Vietnam. After completing a Med cruise, I did my annual "dream sheet" which told the Navy, not where I wanted to go, but where I wished to go. I always wrote "any NAS West Coast" because that is where career Navy Officers had to go. Going to Vietnam was required for advancement, and Navy Air was all

Continued on page 4

Bowie Knife Challenge Part 3

B. K. Brooks

But Yes some more Bowie Facts first!

Wikipedia has some interesting takes on our beloved Bowie Knife. It notes that it refers to any large knife that has a clip point. But as Wikipedia delves into the Bowie knife's history, it admits that the first Bowie knife may have not had a clipped blade at all and that witnesses described it as a large butcher knife. They note that the Bowie Knife used by Jim Bowie at the Sandbar fight was later transformed into a series of improved knives over a period of several years.



Wikipedia notes that OKCA's own Bernard Levine reported that the first known Bowie knife showed a strong Mediterranean influence. It repeats a yarn about that in an 1828 account of the capture of a pirate schooner carrying a mixed group of Spanish and South American pirates, who carried knives similar to the early Bowie knife. Wikipedia also states that after the Vidalia Sandbar fight Bowie became a famous man, and the Bowie brothers received many requests for knives of the same design. Bowie and his brothers would later commission more ornate custom blades from various knifemakers, including Daniel Searles and John Constable. Wikipedia finally mentions blacksmith James Black, who had the Bowie's false edge fully sharpened in order to allow someone trained in European techniques of saber fencing



to execute the maneuver called the "back cut" or "back slash." A brass quillion, usually cast in a mold, was attached to protect the hand. Take a look at the Wikipedia account; and the nice thing is, if you disagree, you can always add your version of the facts to their editors.

The OKCA April Show:

Once more please note, you don't have to have a big display worked up; but, yes, we would prefer it. But even if you commit to bringing a few of your finer examples to show at your table, that would be fine too; and you would still be eligible for an award. 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. These will be listed in the April 2014 *Knewsletter* so people can come over and visit your table specifically. Wow, that's all you need is more possible customers coming to your table. All displays, whether large or small, must be shown until the end of the Show on Sunday.

Other Bowie Knives

Bowie Knives are becoming a big draw event. A really big Bowie knife exhibit

will be held at the Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock from Dec 13 to June 22. This exhibition promises to be a strictly first class affair with the sort of knives most people have never seen before. "This exhibit is the largest and most important ever done on America's



iconic contribution to the world of blades," said Historic Arkansas Museum Director Bill Worthen. "A Sure Defense: The Bowie Knife in America" will trace the history of this country's most famous knife from just before its birth in a rough melee on a sandbar above Natchez, Mississippi, in 1827 to the skilled craftsmen who keep the classic blade alive to this day in the form of hand crafted reproductions and modernized versions.

This is a big season for Bowie Knives, so let's get involved in our own Bowie Knife Challenge by getting on the OKCA Knife Show Bandwagon.

Please commit soon, as the more commitments the more we can advertise that this will be a special

Oregon Knife Show in 2014. If you want to see our Club prosper, please open up your safes and let your Bowie Knives out for a little Oregon vacation!



OKCA Knews & Musings

ibdennis

Articles.....

I have two articles this issue that I think are fantastic. They are a result of my begging, pleading and cajoling. While in **Bob's Donuts**, the forbidden land of donuts (gosh they are really good though) I teased with **Bob Cook** about doing an article for the *Knewsletter*. I even suggested that he could write it down on anything, even a napkin, as the thought crossed my mind while wiping the custard of the Bismark from my chin. So indeed he did. And on a napkin. I am impressed. **Owen McCullen's** article is one of those, been there and done that, about knives; and it is the true spirit of what we do and don't do with things that go cut. These two articles are exactly what makes up our *Knewsletter* and cultivates our interest in knives. We are also featuring wood articles by **Larry Davis**. I want more. Ya all hear?

Mini Winter December Show....

We are getting reservations for December 07; and we are filling up, but not like the goal needed to make it financially successful. It is early, but the encouragement is good. Many times we relate our Shows to being a dealer or maker to sell things. To support the organization, get a table and do a show-n-tell or attract others to your specialties. You do not have to sell things to have a table. With that said, think about supporting the organization and get a table for the December Show and, for that matter, the April Show. Most of us can rustle up a table sitter to help with a table and still not impede the ability to peruse the Show. We have paid for the building, so the Show must go on. Tables are \$40.00 each (get two!). The hours are 7AM (8AM to the public) until 4PM on Saturday. December 07 - "A date which will live in infamy."

Last year sponsorships...

In 2013 we had several people who wanted to do the Show but were financially hard



pressed to fund a table. We had five tables that were funded, and it really was great. I will leave it to the membership if they would like to do this for 2014. It has started with **Phil Rodenberg** who has offered a free table to anyone who would assist him to set up his Gerber display and his regular table. Phil's back complains about the set up, but he would like to participate. If you have a strong back and want a free table for labor, please contact us at the OKCA for further information.

Bowies galore

Thanks to **B.K. Brooks** for his suggestion of a Bowie theme for the April 2014 OKCA Show. It is one of the few times in the history of the OKCA where we have had a theme. I would like to stress that the Bowie word sometimes fixes on old cutlery but not for our diversity of "anything that goes cut." In other words, if it relates to what each of us thinks about Bowies, then it works. Miniatures, custom, custom recent and custom of years ago or basically as said "Bowies that go cut." Now the person that brings in a buoy will be asked to return it 50 miles west of Florence, Oregon.

Display award knives...

One of the distinctions of the Oregon Knife Organization is the diversity of the "cut. We have collectors and makers, and the support for each is evident when the collectors display their museum class collections at our April Show and the makers handcraft knives that will be used as awards for the displays. Each year a blade blank is selected and given to those who want to contribute to this cause. This year the blank is a 6-1/2" clip point with a stick tang, in O-1. Could be a Bowie knife theme here. We have told the makers that their donation will be judged so there is a degree of competition here. **Gene Martin** is the coordinator for this event and the participants are: **Bill Amoureux, Don Bell, John "Slim" Coleman, Wayne Goddard, Gary Griffin, Greg Haile, Cameron House, David Kurt, Gene Martin, Brett Matthews, Lynn Moore, Dietrich Podmajersky, Peter Pruyn and Sterling Radda**. We would like to encourage the makers to get their knives in before the December Show so that we can

put them on display and also feature them in our *Knewsletter* and on our website.

Articles herein....

I want to thank **B.K. Brooks, Bob Cook, Larry Davis, Owen McCullen, Mike Silvey and Mark Zalesky** for their words in this issue. More words are needed, and I know that they are out there. Please share your knowledge as this *Knewsletter* is a perfect medium for contributions from our membership. The *Knewsletter* is what floats the boat; so to speak, and marks where the buoys are. I would like to see articles from our members about fillet knives, specialty knives, knives you like, the history of cut, custom knives, how to do knives, collectable knives, advertising knives or experiences you have had with knives or things that go cut. Come on out and be linguistic about it.

The Sizzler...

Don't forget our monthly meeting at the Sizzler restaurant. It is the third Wednesday of the month which makes it November 20. I always look forward to this gathering so mark your calendar and come be with us.


Free ads....

As a member you can have an ad placed in our *Knewsletter* for free. Reports over the years have suggested that these ads seem to get results. Email or snail mail, and we will add your ad to the *Knewsletter*.

Show application...

Use the application herein to apply for and reserve a table for the April Show or just use it to up your membership.

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. Mention the Show when you register, as we are offered a special rate for the Oregon Knife Collectors. (541)687-0123. 



Continued from page 1

about leadership in combat and has been ever since WWII. The Navy chose to ignore my request and left me yet again at NAS (Naval Air Station) Cecil Field just outside Jacksonville, Florida.

The air war in Vietnam was exhausting the supply of Navy pilots on the West Coast, so it was decided by the powers that be that one half of the East Coast attack squadrons would be sent to some West Coast squadrons and vice versa. Further, some entire East Coast squadrons were being sent to the West to deploy on West Coast carriers. Everyone in my squadron, VA-34, was scheduled to load aboard the USS Oriskany for service on Yankee Station off North Vietnam in about four months. We were being transferred en masse to Air Wing Sixteen from Air Wing Three.

I decided I needed a good survival knife and my own survival pistol. The pre-WWII Smith and Wesson survival .38 special revolvers the Navy was issuing were way beyond tired and old. Then we also had those ugly Navy issue survival knives of generally poor steel. Soft, just too soft. Perhaps the most useful feature of that knife was the carborundum stone carried in a pocket on the leather sheath, and it was a small stone not worth much.

I acquired a new .357 Combat Magnum made by Smith and Wesson with a four inch barrel, Goncalo Alves grips and a custom holster that could be laced onto a torso harness to survive ejection forces. That torso harness also held a survival knife, survival kit, flotation device, pencil flare gun, attachments for a parachute and other accouterments. I could load the firearm with three rounds of .38 tracer for signaling and three rounds of 158 grain lead semi-wadcutters for more serious purposes. Then all I needed was the knife. I wanted my own high quality knife; and, being stationed in Florida, there was only one knife to consider.

Bo Randall lived outside of Lakeland, Florida and, even by 1966, had already acquired a reputation as a custom knifemaker for those headed to combat. Rumor had it he was making knives for the still fairly new Special Forces. I took the time to visit the old man (of course in those days Bo was not such an old man) at his shop. We discussed a knife for me, and I benefitted greatly from his suggestions – more like do it my way or go somewhere else. Bo knew more about what I might need than I did. At least I had the good sense to listen.

Some three months later I got a call to come pick up my knife. It was what is now thought of as a pretty classic Randall, now called Model One. Five inch blade, stacked leather washers on



the handle, hilt or cross guard of brass and end cap of aluminum. Classic ranger blade style so well known today. I HAD A REAL RANDALL! You can't imagine how excited I was at

the time. I had never owned a custom knife before. Besides, there was a pretty good chance I might need it and fairly soon.

Everyone I knew in Naval Air, who had been to "Nam," referred to the Randall as their "I been there" knife, just like their Seiko watch, their Nikon F-1 camera and three piece silk suit made in Hong Kong. The story went around that the first carrier to visit Hong Kong traded spools of Coats and Clark thread for complete suits. The English thread generally used was inferior, and our U.S. made thread was of higher quality. It was amazing to have a Chinese-made silk suit - measured today, finished tomorrow, all hand stitched and precisely fitted. Suits of the highest quality of the finest materials with vest and two pair of pants - and they cost nearly \$30.00. I bought some spools of thread to take with me, along with my S&W .357 and my Randall.

However, I was pulled out of my squadron at the last minute before deployment west and transferred to the training command, because "I was more valuable to the Navy for training others than going off to combat in Vietnam." I was disappointed because I thought I was "career Navy;" and everyone knew promotion was based upon serving successfully in a combat theater. I volunteered for deployment but was denied - twice. I used to have a picture of a change of command ceremony taken just before our deployment with my squadron on review. You can easily identify 22 of my squadron mates, and I know to a certainty that 21 of them are now gone. All but one died in the Vietnam controversy. It is only an accident of "needs of the Navy" that I am not among them. Life's twists and turns are interesting to contemplate. What I viewed at the time as the death knell for a career turned out to be a life save after the fact.

So what is regret number three? Well, although that Randall was an integral part of my life for a period of time and it was my first (custom knife, of course), I suppose it goes without saying, I sold it. You never forget your first, now do you?

But, I do not miss any of them as much as the knife Wayne made.

My last regret involves the Club. I told Dennis Ellingsen after the last meeting that I was going to Florida in January; and if I could deliver any information about the April Show to the Randall Museum in Orlando, Florida, to let me know. We spoke about my connection to Florida and my having owned a Randall made knife during my Navy days. Dennis said I should write an article for the *Knewsletter*. Must have been drunk on iced tea, because I said yes.

Now you know my regrets and have read my whine. Yes, I am a pitiful case; and a prime example of a person who makes the same mistake over and over. What was it Einstein said about the definition of stupidity? Some people never learn. Maybe I will run for political office. I think I have the prime qualification. 🐉



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) \$ _____

39TH 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

Irons in the Fire

Mark Zalesky

(The following was in the October issue of Knife World Publication, and I thought this to be applicable to the OKCA Show)



A lot has changed in the knife world over the last twenty years or so, but perhaps nothing has affected us more than the continuing evolution of the internet.

Even those of us who began collecting a long time before somebody thought up eBay and we started feeding computers our credit card numbers understand that times have changed; and there's no going back to the way it used to be. Collecting has become much easier and more convenient; there's no longer a need to get up before the crack of dawn and drive hundreds of miles to be the first one in the door at the knife show – not if you don't want to. Heck, these days knife collecting might be

something you do in the glow of a computer monitor before you nod off to sleep at night, on your lunch break, or after the cat pounces on your head at 4am – a pastime to fill in the moments that you're not doing something else. You could even search the latest dealer websites from your smartphone while stuck in traffic. And you don't even have to leave the house anymore, just pay the credit card bill and get your knives from the mailbox.

But, you know, even though the way it used to be was a lot more involved, it was still pretty darn good – particularly the shows. It used to be that the shows weren't just the best place to find good knives; they were almost the only place. And as a result, these shows were real events. Dealers and makers built up their inventories in anticipation of them, collectors similarly saved up their money; and when the doors opened, the party began. Sometimes, it hardly slowed down until everyone had left the building.

But it was about more than the simple acts of making sales and purchases. It was about meeting new friends and seeing old ones again, about gazing in awe at the finest displayed collections and the opportunity to

handle and learn about all the knives you cared to see – getting that hands-on experience for which no substitute has yet been developed.

While much of the “business” in the knife business is done on the internet these days, knife shows are far from dead. It's taken a while; but the number of active shows has readjusted from a crowded field to something more realistic, and even the internet-based knife communities have come to appreciate the joys of gathering together for a weekend with your fellow knife-nuts. And the shows are changing too, finding new ways to appeal to all the different factions of collectors that fall under the knife category.

Maybe I'm just old fashioned; but, for me, internet-based collecting is mainly a way to stay active between knife shows. I wish that every single knife enthusiast who spends most of their knife-time gazing at a computer monitor could find their way to enough shows to understand what they're really missing: the camaraderie, the friendly interaction, the support and helpfulness and that priceless hands-on time in a room crammed full of knives. There's just no substitute for the real thing. 🐾

THE TALMAN KNIFE-CIA PALM DAGGER

Mike Silvey

While I believe there has never been a CIA issue knife on the scale of the OSS Stiletto of World War II, there have been purchases of small quantities of tools and knives by CIA in order to equip their employees, as required, in particular areas of operations. Most of these items are fairly ordinary. There are a few knives, however, that spark the imagination as they relate to international intrigue.

One of these is the small and very rare spy craft tool called the lock pick knife.

Another is a push dagger that was made in some quantity, most likely in Japan in the late 1950s or early 1960s. This knife, known as the Talman Knife (after the designer), is reminiscent of the Orde knife of the Chindits during

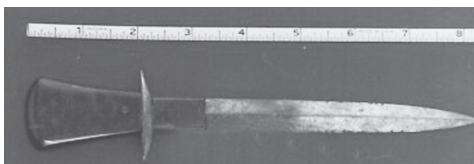


Figure 1

World War II. Figure 1 shows the CIA palm dagger.

This one belongs to Ben Baker who obtained it in the 1960s while he was Deputy Director of the Counter Insurgency

Support Office in Southeast Asia.

This knife was given to Mr. Baker by a member of SOG who advised it was taken from a deceased NVA officer. Baker was also told it was CIA issue. Figures 2 and 3 show a knife that came out of the Tulsa Gun Show late on a Sunday morning several years ago.

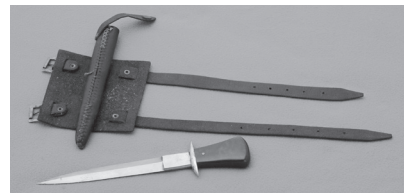


Figure 2

A friend bought it and said that it had lain there the entire weekend, a testament to its rarity; since it was unrecognized by a slew of serious military knife collectors. The knife has a 5.5” bright unmarked blade and is 8” overall. The brass guard is 1.75”, and the grip is 1.375” at its widest and .75” at its narrowest. The dark brown composition handle is held in place with a single steel pin. The unique arm scabbard shown

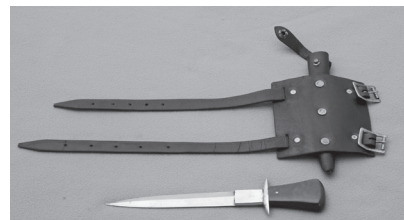


Figure 3

was issued with the knife. My thanks to Garry Zalesky and Gary Boyd for much of this information. 🐾



NEWS For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:
Ellen Korenblat, Communications Director
(501) 324-9351 Main
(501) 324-9304 Direct

**The Largest and Most Important Bowie Knife Exhibit
Ever Assembled to Open**

More than 200 knives will be displayed December 13 to June 22

LITTLE ROCK (Sept. 9, 2013) – Historic Arkansas Museum is proud to present A Sure Defense: The Bowie Knife in America in the Horace C. Cabe Gallery, December 13, 2013, through June 22, 2014. There will be a free opening reception on December 13, 5 – 8 p.m., in conjunction with downtown Little Rock's 2nd Friday Art Night and the museum's eggnog competition, the 9th Ever Nog-off. There will be live music; and a surprise guest of bowie knife fame is planned. As part of 2nd Friday Art Night, a free shuttle is available to transport visitors to other Art Night venues. Shuttle service ends at 8:30 p.m. Admission to the gallery is free.

"This exhibit is the largest and most important ever done on America's iconic contribution to the world of blades," said Historic Arkansas Museum Director Bill Worthen. A Sure Defense: The Bowie Knife in America will trace the history of this country's most famous knife from just before its birth in a rough melee on a sandbar above Natchez, Mississippi in 1827, to the skilled craftsmen who keep the classic blade alive to this day in the form of hand crafted reproductions and modernized versions.

Visitors to the public exhibit will have the opportunity to see knife designs associated with Alamo martyr James Bowie and his less famous brother Rezin, and to examine bowie knives once owned by such historic figures as Davy Crockett, Theodore Roosevelt, General Winfield Scott and John Fox "Bowie Knife" Potter. The role of the bowie knife in the Antebellum era is explored along

with the Civil War and the opening of the west, and there's a special focus on the role bowie knives played in the events surrounding the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Among the 19th century knives featured will be those attributed to Arkansas's own James Black, known knifemakers to the Bowie brothers Henry Schively and Daniel Searles, master silversmith of Texas and Tennessee Samuel Bell, and the highly skilled makers of the California school including Michael Price and Will & Finck. Fine English Bowies are also well represented with knives by such makers as Samuel Wragg, W. & S. Butcher, J. Walters and Charles Congreve; as are some of the finest known Northern and Southern blades from the Civil War. Visitors can also expect to see a superb group of folding bowie knives, and a variety of other knives that served as backup weapons during the Bowie knife era, such as push daggers and dirk knives.

In total, more than 200 knives are included in the exhibit. A full color catalog documenting this historic exhibit is planned, and will be available from the museum's gift shop and online store.

Historic Arkansas Museum is open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 1 - 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission to the galleries and parking are free; tours of historic grounds are \$2.50 for adults, \$1 for children under 18, \$1.50 for senior citizens. The Historic Arkansas Museum Store is open 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 1 - 4 p.m. on Sunday.

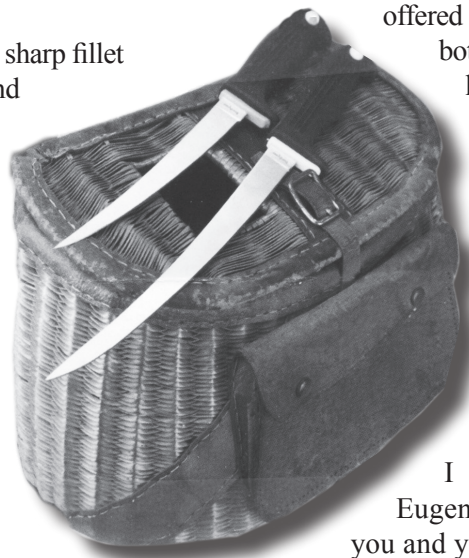
Historic Arkansas Museum is an agency of the Department of Arkansas Heritage, which was created in 1975 to preserve and enhance the heritage of the state of Arkansas. Other agencies of the department are Delta Cultural Center in Helena, Arkansas Arts Council, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center and Old State House Museum.

Editors: Digital images are available to accompany coverage this exhibit. Please call Ellen Korenblat at (501) 324-9304 or email ellen@arkansasheritage.org

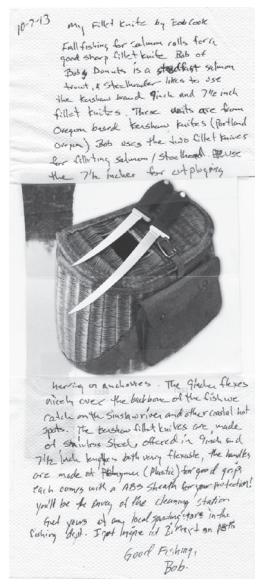
My Fillet Knives

Bob Cook

Fall fishing for salmon calls for a good, sharp fillet knife. I am the Bob of Bob's Donuts; and I am a steadfast salmon, trout and steelheader who uses the Kershaw brand 7-1/2" and 9" fillet knives. These are from Oregon based Kershaw Knives, Portland OR. I use the two fillet knives for filleting salmon/steelhead. The 9" flexes nicely over the backbone of the fish I catch on the Siuslaw River and other Oregon coastal hot spots. I use the 7-1/2" for cutting herring or anchovies. The Kershaw fillet knives



are made of stainless steel and are offered in 7-1/2" and 9" lengths, both are very flexible. The handles are made of polymer (plastic) for good grip, each comes with an ABS sheath for your protection! You'll be the envy of the cleaning station if you invest into these knives. Get yours at any local sporting goods store in the fishing department. I got mine at BiMart in Eugene OR. Good fishing to you and yours.



Article was submitted on a napkin

The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

The meeting October 16, 2013 was attended by 32. Discussions of the December/Winter/Mini Show, the Bowie Challenge, *Knewsletter* articles and sponsoring a table for another.

The December Show table reservations are very slow. I was able to pick up a number of payments at the Northwest Knife Collectors Kelso Show as well as some at the meeting in October. We only have reservations for 41 tables for December. We have a number of individuals who have not paid. Payment must be received by December 1 for a table at the December Show. We will only set up as many tables as we have paid reservations. We are hoping for a total of 85 tables for the Show to cover our expenses for the rental. We have had 120 tables in the Wheeler Pavilion in years past. Please promote this December event. We printed flyers for the Show (front side is December Show flyer and reverse side is April Show flyer). Hopefully this will increase interest in this event.

Bryan Christensen will coordinate our Toys for Tots drive. Please bring a new, unwrapped gift for a boy or girl. They will be picked up at the Show Saturday. A very worthy cause.

Remember that membership is an annual payment. If your label reads 2013, your membership will expire December 31, 2013. We will mail a January *Knewsletter* to all 2013 members, but they will not receive a February issue. Please check your label. We will have membership cards available for pick up at the December Show. Thank you, **Larry Criteser**. He has laminated them for us. It is a very time consuming task.

The following have volunteered to provide display award knives for the 2014 Show:

Bill Amoureux, Don Bell, John Coleman, Wayne Goddard, Gary Griffin, Greg Haile, Cameron House, David Kurt, Gene Martin, Brett Matthews, Lynn Moore, Dietrich Podmajersky, Peter Pruyn, Sterling Radda. Thank you for your generous contribution to our April 2014 Show. **Gene Martin** is coordinating this event. As each knife is received, it will be photographed. A write up and photo will appear on our website and in the *Knewsletter*.

If you are interested to be a part of the 2014 Bowie Knife Challenge, please contact OKCA. We will start compiling a list of the participants.

I am hopeful the December Show will generate 2014 April table reservation payments. December 15 is approaching. That is the last date for first right of refusal for your 2013 table. We will assign tables to the individuals on the waiting list after the December 15 deadline.

Please remember you are only allowed two table-holder badges per reservation, not per table. A membership card also allows free entry during the special hours of the Show. The membership fee is \$20.00/single and \$25.00/family. If you have need for additional badges (more than two), purchase a family membership and cards will be made for the other individuals.

Roy Humenick is negotiating for our 2014 Club Knife. As soon as more information is available we will make you aware. Please reserve a few dollars to support our organization's fund raising event.

See you at the next knife gathering on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, at the Sizzler Gateway, Springfield OR. 6:00PM dinner, 7:00PM meeting and then Show-N-Tell (the real reason we all attend). 🗑️



AMBOYNA BURL...or is it?

By Larry Davis

Amboyna burl, *Pterocarpus species*, is the rarest and most expensive burl available. Color ranges from yellow-orange to dark wine red with the darker colors being more dense and heavy. The burls are small but commonly high quality and free of defects. Amboyna is the trade name for burl wood of the Burmese or Andaman Padauk tree, so why call it Amboyna? Thought you'd never ask!!! Originally the burl was obtained from Ambon Island, an Indonesian island formerly known as Amboyna or Amboina and was referred to as "Ambon wood" in world trade.



"Amboyna" burl is now the accepted trade name for all burl wood harvested from the Indonesian and Asian Padauk trees, regardless of origin country and is imported from Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, also.

Amboyna Burl is one of knife and sword maker Scott Slobodian's favorite handle and sheath woods. He says it belt sands nicely and can be brought to a high polish. His favorite finish over Amboyna burl is super glue (about 50 coats) which penetrates 1/8" into the wood and seals the piece off. Amboyna burl can be stabilized with good results and is available in that form, as well as natural form, from most handle material suppliers. 🗑️



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 bingo markers) 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: I am interested to purchase Wayne Goddard knives.
ibdennis@ibdennis.com

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: wgoddard44@comcast.net.

For Sale: Duplicates of my old "WOOD HANDLE" Coke knives, \$100.00 each..
email: ronjoyceedwards@comcast.net

For Sale: older knives. Please visit HH-knives at 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 -
ray@wildboarleather.com

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

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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

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www.knife-expert.com.

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Membership Information

If the label on this *Knewsletter* reads 2013, your dues will expire on December 32, 2013. You want it to read 2014 or, like many have done, read up to 2020. The Mini Show is December 7. Free admission. Set up at 7AM, closing at 4PM. No early departure for table-holders please. The deadline for the same April Show table in 2014 as you had in 2013 is December 15. We will assign tables to individuals on the waiting list after December 15. You can use the application form in this issue for tables and/or membership. You can also get forms from our website: www.oregonknifeclub.org

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Sunset? Sunshine? Smile

ibdennis

At the recent Kelso Knife Show, I purchased a Kutmaster pocketknife that had the shield marked "Sunshine Route." I knew exactly what it meant, so I purchased it. Well, I thought I did. Dummy award number 303. So much for memory. Many years ago I purchased a knife that had "Sunset Route" on its handles. It took a bunch of research (pre Internet) to discover that the "Sunset Route" was a train trip from Washington DC to San Francisco. I had estimated the time of the knife to be in the 1920s, and a train schedule that I found put the route at 1915.

So what was the "Sunshine Route" all about? Now we have the Internet which, being overly helpful, tosses so much information that it becomes difficult to sort. My gut reaction is the knife is a 1930s vintage. It is a stockman pattern which could be a clue to its reference. The term "Sunshine Route" can be found in use by Panama Pacific Ships and by American Airlines which fits the time period; however, I wanted the answer to be the trail up the northern side of Mt. Hood which is called the "Sunshine Route." The knife, with multiple



blades, might be just the ticket for the mountaineer or climber who would make use of each of the blades, much like a stockman would. Besides that, if the climb was successful, the knife would be a great memento. Dunno fo' sure, but that quizzical smile still exists. See you at the Sizzler on Wednesday, November 20. 🐾