



KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ What's your membership status?
- ✓ A Visit to Victorinox
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- ✓ It's called a....
- ✓ Sharp Conversations
- ✓ Is your membership up to date

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

January 2016

A Visit to Victorinox

Robert N. Miller

The Victorinox museum and shop in Brunnen and the factory in Ibach lie in Switzerland's "Knife Valley," along the shore of Lake Lucerne. The museum and shop are just around the corner from the docks where the tour boats board.

At the museum visitors can assemble their own Spartan model Swiss Army knife and engrave the handle. You have to book early if you want to do this -- space is limited. We both wanted to do it; but there was only one slot available for the day of our visit, so Sheree, the serious Victorinox enthusiast, got to have the experience. It turned out to be just as well. We had envisioned a room full of work spaces, but the space is only set up for one person at a time to work. There are folding chairs around the work area that allow those waiting their turn, as well as other visitors, to observe the process. After watching Sheree, as well as the person before her, assemble their knives, I didn't feel left out for not having the experience myself. Besides, the Spartan, despite its distinction of being the oldest Swiss Army knife still in production, is not our favorite.



Karina (left) supervises as Sheree assembles her Victorinox Spartan. Small parts are in trays at the front of the bench. The press is clearly visible in front of Sheree.

The Spartan knife assembly expert was a cheerful woman who introduced herself as Karina. Assembly is accomplished at two workstations: the first for assembly of the knife itself, the second for attaching and engraving the scales. Actual assembly at the first workstation is done on a press specifically designed for the Spartan model. The static bottom part of the press has three brass pins that stick up from the table. These three pins are matched exactly to holes in the frame, blades and partitions of the knife; so all the parts align precisely. The upper part of the press is made of heavy metal, flat on the bottom with three holes that match the three pins. When the operator pushes a foot pedal, the upper part of the press descends and pushes the assembly together with even pressure.

Look at a Swiss Army knife; and you'll see that it comes in layers, one or more blades in each layer. The layers are separated by steel partitions. In the assembly process, you place the bottom of the frame on the press so the pins extend exactly through holes in the frame. Then you fit the first layer of blades. Then you place the partition and push the pedal to actuate the press. It's something of an art. Sometimes you press gently. Sometimes you stomp on the pedal. Karina knows. The process takes about fifteen minutes. Karina did not seem the least bit bored, despite the fact that she supervised exactly the same fifteen minute process, with few breaks, for most of the working day.



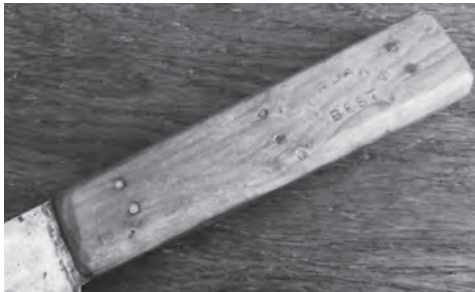
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Trade Knives

B K Brooks

Trade Knives being the theme of the 2016 OKCA Show, I decided to pinpoint one company that specialized in such trade. The A. J. Jordan Sheffield and St. Louis Company was one of the major players. Owner Andrew J. Morgan started an import business in St. Louis, Missouri. The year was 1878, and St. Louis was still the stepping off area into the Wild West where plenty of Indians still abounded!

Now a quick search on eBay shows many types of cutlery items imported by A. J. Jordan and branded with his company's name. Razors, fruit knives, jack knives, farrier's knives, silverware, even carving sets made up his stock. The company imported mainly from England and to a lesser extent Germany according to *GOINS' Encyclopedia of Cutlery Markings*.



Levine's Guide To Knives and their Values states in 1885 American entrepreneur Andrew J. Jordan actually opened a factory in Sheffield "first at Bakers Hill then at the India Works on Furnvial street." Jordan would only make and import high quality handmade kitchen knives, not machine made ones. Jordan had a special double shear steel process. Levine opined that Andrew Jackson Jordan from St. Louis made the best kitchen knives saying it is "the best brand of all."

According to *GOINS' Encyclopedia of Cutlery Markings*, most of the early business of the A. J. Jordan Sheffield and St. Louis Company was done with the Indian tribes such as the GrosVentre, Blood, Blackfeet and River Crow. These trade knives, well-made and durable, were the desired product for these tribes and were most likely the



kitchen, skinning and butcher knives the company produced.



The GrosVentre migrated into the Montana area in the Eighteenth Century. They called themselves *A'ani*, *A'aninin* and *Haaninin*; these terms mean "White Clay People" or "Lime People." The Piegan Blackfoot, enemies of the GrosVentre throughout most of history, called the *A'aninin*, "*Piik-siik-sii-naa*," which translates as "snakes."



The Piegan Blackfoot were the largest of three Blackfoot-speaking groups that made up the Blackfoot Confederacy; the Siksika and the Kainai were the others. The Piegan dominated much of the northern plains during the Nineteenth Century. The Piegan are closely related

to the Kainai Nation which is also known as the "Blood Tribe."

The Crow, in historical times, lived in the Yellowstone valley, which extends from present-day Wyoming through Montana and into North Dakota, where it joins the Missouri River. Today, they are enrolled in the federally recognized Crow Tribe of Montana.

From this overview of the tribes, it can be concluded that most of A. J. Jordan Sheffield and St. Louis Company's trade knife business was up the Missouri river; but his clientele was nationwide.. The typical trade knife, during the infancy of this company, was a wood handled knife, with six small pins holding the finished Persian boxwood handles onto the full tang knife. The knives generally ran up to 12" long, with a 14" cooks knife offered.

Early models were thought to be marked A. J. Jordan Sheffield and St. Louis Company; but by 1886 (with the creation of his own Sheffield manufacturing plant) the company blade trademark about mid blade on these trade knives was AAA1/A.J. Jordan/Sheffield. Knives, after 1890 will have a fourth line with England on the blade as required by American protective tariffs for imports. Some wood handles were stamped with a curved JORDANS over the word BEST. Jordan also had the trademarks which included: "A(smaller capital A)A1," Old Faithful, The River, Cowboys knife and 20th Century.

In 1911 his son Clay acquired Platts Brothers Cutlery in Andover New York, renaming the company Clay Cutlery Company. His father A. J. Jordan acted as the selling agent for his son. ↙

This is the issue.....

when you need to look at the label on the *Knewsletter* to see whether your membership is paid up or not. The “not” is a date like 2014 or 2015. We certainly do not want to lose you as a member and a supporter of the Oregon Knife Collectors. If your date is 2016 or better.... thank you.

All table reservation confirmations have been mailed as well as the membership cards. Table-holder badges are picked up at the Show in April. Membership cards are ones that fit in a wallet, and table-holder badges are those that hang around your neck. There seems to always be a confusion issue here.

Other than supporting our organization with membership, your card will get you into the April Show (April 8-10, 2016) free during setup hours. Do not plan on a show-date sign up; we only take membership renewals after 2pm on Friday.

The April Show.....

At this time tables are 96% sold. That equates to but a scant few still available. If you were thinking about getting a table or know someone who is teetering on the edge, better act fast. The number of tables at this point suggest a great Show is in store for all.

The Mini Show...

It was good. It was great. It was fantabulous; and with those comments, we will tell you that next December 10, 2016, we will be doing it again. The pictures herein tell it all.

Photos....

George Filgate is a professional photographer who has become our organization's official photographer. Almost all the pictures in this issue were taken by George. George also took photos of the custom competition knives at the April Show and took photos of knives submitted by our membership. It really is great to have someone who can offer services and also document our event.

Display Award Knives

The theme of the award knives for the April Display Award is “Trade Knives.” Knifemakers have taken the blanks of 1095 steel and will enhance them with their interpretation of the theme. A reminder for the makers to get started on their knife is the knife received from **Gene Martin** at the Mini Show. A few days ago we received the knife made by **José Diaz**. It is pictured here. I was really impressed with the work done by Jose' and equally impressed, as this was an “outside the box” endeavor by Jose'. He loved the challenge. See the finished knives on our web page in colour.



Micarta Competition

The article in the *November Knewsletter* about Micarta could be of special interest to knifemakers. The Micarta blocks I have collected will be given to anyone who will make a knife using this Micarta. At the April Show these knives will be judged based only on the work of the handle itself. An award will be issued. Only these blocks can be used. A commitment to use the Micarta for this competition is all that is required. And besides that you will get the notoriety that you have a knife and might be able to sell it at the April Show. That is, after it has been judged.

Those thus far those who have a chunk of the Micarta are **Zac Buchanan, Cliff Christen, Blair Goodman, Walter Hardcastle, Steve Huey, Mike Johnston, Jim Jordan, David Kurt, Eric Land, Gene Martin, Lynn Moore, Craig Morgan, Dave Rider and Bryan Wages**. Be careful... Be wise... Be creative... Be safe... Use protective devices and cover the mouth and nose and eyes. But you should know that if you are a maker of knives.

Articles herein....

I want to thank **B.K. Brooks, Robert Miller, Merle Spencer and Clay Stephens** 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. It is what makes our organization unique.

Club Knife...

Herein find the proposed 2016 Club knife to be made by Great Eastern. Pricing to follow soon. Might check the web page from time to time.

Election of Officers for 2016...

The January 20 meeting at the Sizzler is election of officers. The present board is ready to roll again if you want us.

OKCA Facebook Group

Lisa Wages has taken the lead on our Facebook page. She writes: The OKCA now has its own Facebook Group! You'll be able to socialize with other members on FB, stay up-to-date on OKCA events, share show-and-tell photos from your collection, or post a blade for sale. This closed group began accepting members following our November meeting. We hope you'll join our new FB community and help us build a positive online network of area knife enthusiasts.

The Sizzler...

Don't forget our monthly meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant. It is the third Wednesday of the month which makes it January 20, 2016. I always look forward to this gathering, so mark your calendar and come be with us. Come smile with us with your latest purchase. It is always nice to see my fellow knife enthusiasts.

It ain't too early to...

Make lodging reservations for the April Show. The Valley River Inn - (541)687-0123 - 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. The rooms fill up fast. Mention the Show when you register, as we are offered a special rate for the Oregon Knife Collectors. You might also note the Courtesy Inn - (541)345-3391 - the closest motel to the Knife Show. A Budget motel that has worked well with us over the years.



The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

The December meeting was December 16, 2015 at the Sizzler Restaurant, Eugene/Springfield OR. We had 27 present which was a pleasant surprise considering Christmas was so near.

The December Mini Show report stated that all went well. We were pleased with the results. All seemed to have a fun time, and there was good attendance. We were able to raise \$2,300 to offset the costs of the rental, advertising, coffee and donuts totaling \$2,550 (loss \$250). The coffee and donuts went over very well. We do not charge for entry to this event; it is an end-of-year get together to provide an opportunity to introduce ourselves to others, renew dues and pay for tables before the December 15 deadline. We were paid for 23 tables for the 2016 Show and renewals for 57 memberships (23 were single/35 were family). It was a success by any measure. Toys-4-Tots was coordinated by **Bryan Christensen**; and the tables were full of gifts for



Christmas.

I emailed December 8 to all 2015 table-holders who had not renewed their tables at that time. Many thanked me for the reminder, and money started to trickle in as the deadline neared.

There are still some from whom I have not heard. If you want your table for 2016, speak now (write me).

On January 1, 2016, we stuffed and mailed the 2016 table confirmations and 2016 membership cards which had not been picked up at the December Show (thank you **Larry Criteser**, **Grace Mikolyski** and **Raymond Ellingsen** for your help). Therefore if you have not received your 2016 membership cards or your table confirmation, please contact me (snail mail, email, or phone); I will mail another set, if necessary. Please check to be sure the cards included are correct and none are missing.

January is the election of officers. All of the current slate have agreed to volunteer for another year, if it is the wish of the organization.

We are approaching a decision re the 2016 Club Knife (thank you **Roy Humenick**), but no cost has

been advised. A photo of the proposed knife is included in this *Knewsletter*.

Lisa Wages has volunteered to establish a Facebook page for the OKCA. It will be open to members of our organization. An individual will be able to post photographs of their wares in their adverts as well as interact with members of the knife community. We have a link on our website.

This *Knewsletter* will be mailed to 2014, 2015, 2016 and greater memberships. Please note the date on the address of your *Knewsletter*. If it is not correct, please contact me. We are hoping to attract some lapsed members by mailing to 2014 members.

See you at the meeting, January 20, 2016, at the Sizzler Restaurant, Gateway Blvd, Eugene/Springfield OR. 🐾



A Visit to Victorinox continued from page 1

The museum has cleverly designed exhibits illustrating the history of Victorinox, and of knives in general. The folding knife was hardly invented by Carl Elsener, the founder. There is in the museum collection a Roman folding knife from the first century. Besides the history, there are accounts of incidents in which Swiss Army knives played an important part in crucial situations, such as the time an astronaut used his Swiss Army knife to open a hatch that was stuck and thus gain entry to the Russian space station.

The whole thing started when the Swiss army decided to issue pocketknives to all soldiers; and, in 1881, Carl Elsener

and a few partners organized a firm to manufacture knives for the army. I don't think they were the only supplier -- the museum exhibit doesn't mention competitors -- but Elsener marketed his knives to the public with military designations. The best seller was the "Officer's Model," which was never issued to any Swiss soldier. Early in the twentieth century stainless steel was developed, and by the 1920s the Swiss Army knife had taken the form we recognize today. Elsener named his company "Victorinox," a combination of Victoria, his mother's name, and "inox," the European designation for stainless steel. One might wonder why he named his company for his mother rather than his wife, who died barely into her thirties

in the process of giving birth to their eighth child.

In 2001 Victorinox introduced a line of sportswear, and at least half of the floor space in the shop in Brunnen is devoted to T shirts and such. The small shop at the factory in Ibach is open for restricted hours and carries only knives. It took 120 years for Victorinox to become a seller of casual clothing, seemingly the end state of all retail business. Harley Davidson, for example, underwent this transition much earlier in its corporate life. You can now buy Victorinox T shirts, luggage, watches and even perfume. To sample the perfume, you spray a little bit on a piece of stiff paper in the shape of a Victorinox classic knife. A nice touch, I think. 🐾



Sharp Conversations

Clay Stephens

If you're ever sitting around with your knife buddies and the conversation is getting a little stale, just pull out your favorite pocketknife and start to sharpen it. Within a few moments one of your friends won't be able to stand it anymore. He'll burst out with, "You're doing it wrong; you'll never get an edge; you'll ruin the blade!"

The trick is to just nod and keep on sharpening. Pretty soon he'll try to elicit a consensus from the others, but they'll probably disagree with the both of you. Soon there will be a group discussion about sharpening that rivals a Ford vs. Chevy debate.

So, where did you learn to first sharpen a knife? Most of us learned from our grandpa, a shop teacher, or just by trial and error. We've worked really hard at perfecting our skill, and it's become something we're successful at. So when we see a different technique, we tend to automatically oppose it and correct it.

But for me, a successful edge comes from knowing a variety of techniques.

Some of the best sharpening challenges I've had have been under less than perfect conditions (usually involving someone else's knife and really cold hands).

I'm reminded of an old tale of an Inuit Indian who had shot a caribou at dusk, and then discovered he'd lost his knife sometime during the hunt. Needing to dress the animal and get back to camp, he came up with a simple yet ingenious solution. He took the empty brass casing and pounded it flat with the rifle butt. He then sharpened the disk using a stone and used it to dress out the animal. How many of us would have thought of that solution is hard to



say, but it's clear this hunter didn't rely on one method.

Take a moment to watch a sharpening style that differs from your own. It's ok to explore other techniques, and it's ok to introduce your technique as one of many. Remember the old saying, "There's more than one way to skin a cat." 🐾



OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

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

email: okca@oregonknifeclub.org

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

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

____ Start/ ____ Renew my/our OKCA membership (\$20 individual/\$25 family) \$ _____

41ST ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 9-10, 2016
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

Mini Show December 2015



**PHOTOS BY
GEORGE FILGATE**





It's Called a?

Merle Spencer

Knife... shiv, cutter, sticker, weed whacker, stabber, ice pick, snee, cuchillo, Bowie, trimmer, shaver, lopper... knife.

I have heard knives called by many names, but I'm sure there are many more that have never become part of my vocabulary.

From research, the word knife in our language comes from late Old English knif, from Old Norse knifr, of Germanic origin.



Once a friend was telling me about a basketball game his town team was playing in a penitentiary against the inmates' team. He said the game was getting a little rough, and he was giving one player shoulder for shoulder in the tight spots.

Another of their players went by him and said, "Watch out for that guy. He's got a shiv."

So, he said he decided to back off a little. Good thinking.

No matter what you call it, a knife is that thing that feels so good in your hand when you're taking a splinter out of your finger, dressing out fish or game, shaving down a wooden peg to tighten up that old wooden rocker that is so comfortable to your back and the many other tasks that crop up that can be quickly taken care of with that handy tool that's always right there in the pocket. I use mine (one of several) often to keep my fingernails smooth and shaped for playing finger-style guitar.

In my earlier years, my boss and I were inspecting a movie projector that wasn't working.

"Do you have a knife?" he asked. I handed him my knife, and he began to take the screws out of the side of the projector. I was horrified. These days the answer to his question might be, "Here, use my Leatherman."

I got my first knife when I was little more than five years old. It came in a leather snap pocket on a pair of lace boots from a mail order catalog. Seems it was taken away from me for a while, because I did something with it that was not in keeping with the proper use of a knife. After that I learned what was right and what was not

right in having a knife. Since then I have always liked to have one in my pocket.

I said "knife," didn't I? Yup, that's what I call it. Always have; I guess most people do.

Of the knives I own, I carry just one – a Victorinox Classic. It has a pen blade, a fingernail file, a toothpick and a pair of tweezers. That will get me through most any ordinary day. At home in a handy place, I have a Victorinox Executive with a larger blade and some other

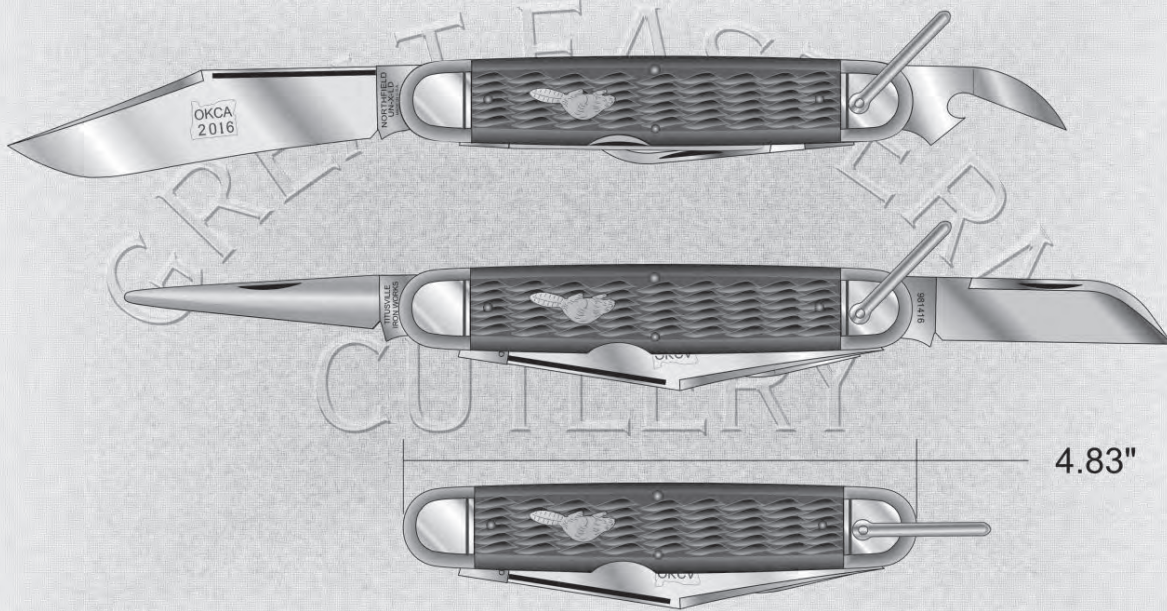


handy tools. My desk has a place for a knife I put together years ago on a small Brusletto blade with a handle made from a tine of an antler of a big buck I got in 1958 down off Look Back Point in the Blue Mountains of Eastern Oregon. It's primarily a letter opener, but it will serve for other desk-top activities.

In my car, I keep a Leatherman Micro – a very handy tool. I have other knives of course, since I'm a collector; and I construct a few.

I just call them all knives. 

PROPOSED OKCA 2016 CLUB KNIFE



#981416 TEXAS CAMP KNIFE





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 Tinsel stripes) 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.

Eugene 5160 Club: A Club for knifemakers of all stripes, meeting monthly. Check out our newsletter archive to get a feel for the group: elementalforge.com/5160Club. Sign up for newsletter & meeting reminders by finding us on Facebook at "5160 Club" and click the "Newsletter Signup" tab. Non Facebook users can still find us at: facebook.com/5160Club.

For Sale - Small collection of USA/German bayonets. Call Bob at (541)344-0067

Wanted : WW2 OSS Stiletto with "Pancake Flapper" sheath. Prefer mint to excellent condition. Contact Fred - fedde1963@outlook.com (206)718-1747.

For sale - 2" x 72" belt sander with an 8" wheel and hollow grind attachment. It was made by Dan Westlind. It is set up for 110 volts. \$1200. Ray Simonson (360)601-1927 ray@wildboarblades.com

Wanted - 8"x5/8" grinding wheels. Contact Robert Edmiston (541)726-2990.

For Sale - 1) Wilton #4130 square wheel belt grinder machine, belt 2"x72" 1hp single phase motor. Retail price \$2,500.00. Sell price \$1,595.00.. 2) Burr King Model #526 1"x42" three wheel belt grinder. 3/4hp motor. Retail \$1,785.00. Sell price \$1,185.00. Both grinders are used and came out of a private residence where they had hobby use only (according to the owner who is 86 years old). If interested call evening Kevin Bethel (541)570-1717 or send email kbethel77@gmail.com

Best Pocket Knife Today - Matt Davidson - <http://bestpocketknifetoday.com>

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For Sale - Oregon yearly Club knives, 1979 to 2012. Selling singly, 10% off current pricing. Call Fred (541)285-1894.

Looking for 1902 US Saber marked "1st. Lt. Robert M. Porter". Please contact Don Hanham at dwhanham@gmail.com.

SOG Knife Collector is a new book by Michael W. Silvey in the military knife series. It covers a narrow area of collecting and helps the collector identify honest specimens and distinguish them from fakes. The format is 8.5 inches by 11 inches and is all in color. The soft cover book is less than 50 pages but includes all the known variations of SOG knives. The information covered by this book will be valuable to both the new and advanced collector. The printing is limited to 2,000 copies. \$20 plus shipping. Mike at (530) 644-4590 or m.silvey@comcast.net.

WANTED : Western Wildlife Series knives produced from about 1978 to 1982 (letters B, C, D, E, F). I'm missing the knives with blade etches of eagle, elk, cougar, hunting dog, antelope and bear. Call Martin at (406)422-7490.

KNIVES FOR SALE: Antique, custom & factory, pocketknives, folders, fixed blades, dirks, daggers, bowies, military, Indian, frontier, primitive & ethnic. Other collectibles also. Current colored catalog - FREE, Northwest Knives & Collectibles (503)362-9045 anytime.

SPYDERCO KNIVES wanted. Entire collections. River Valley Knives (715)557-1688

AL MAR, BENCHMADE, PACIFIC CUTLERY wanted. Entire collections. River Valley Knives (715)557-1688.

Wanted: 2012 Case XX USA medium stockman #6318 PU CV jugged bone w/punch w/signature of Skip Lawrie. Ralph Nuno Sacramento (916)682-9305.

For Sale: Buck knives. Large consignment. List available from Larry Oden. Typically have Buck standard production, limited edition, BCCI, Buck Custom and Yellowhorse models. Email loden@dka-online.com or call (765) 244-0614 8AM-8PM EST.

Spyderco/Goddard Model C16POD \$85.00; free shipping when you mention OKCA. Call Steve (541)870-6811 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 HHknives at www.allaboutpocketknives.com. Thanks for looking.

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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. Email 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.

Knife Laws on-line. Federal, state, local. Bernard Levine (541)484-0294 www.knife-expert.com.

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What constitutes a Smile knife?

