



- ✓ Kukri Article
- ✓ The Congress Pattern
- ✓ Dual Advertising Knife
- ✓ Kitchen Knives
- ✓ Great Eastern OKCA Whittler
- ✓ The WWII Collins

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

February 2017

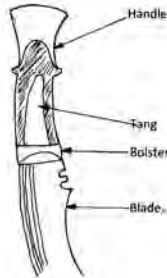
Kukri Note Book Section 1

Ted Fitzwater

This is my first section of The *Kukri* Notebook, with section one we will go over some of the various parts of the *kukri*. We will start with *kukri* tang types.

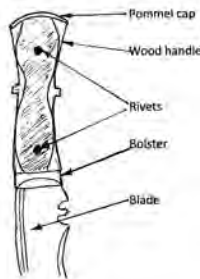
1) The Tang - Generally the section of the blade that goes into the handle and blade to handle is secured depending on the type of tang. There are three types that I know of.

A) Half tang: The oldest of tang styles and it is still in use today but has somewhat fallen out of favor. A hole is drilled into the handle to fit the tang of the blade. The *kami* or knifemaker makes a form epoxy and uses it to secure the handle to the blade tang. The homemade epoxy is made from various types of local tree sap.



B) Rat-Tail or Stick: The tang passes through the handle and secured by a keeper, washer, or in some cases a threaded nut.

C) Flat Tang: This style appeared in small numbers before or around 1900. The Military Mk.2 and Mk.3 use this style of tang.



The wood handles were secured by two rivets. Most had pommel caps.

2) Tang Buttons or keeper - These are what secure the pommel cap and handle to the blade of a rat-tail tang. The tang button may be decorative or very plain in appearance and made of a variety of materials.

Picture, 1: #2 has a very nice sun style keeper, #3 has two sun burst keepers

Picture 2: #4 and #5 both have a diamond style keeper. The diamond keeper is one of the most common styles.

3) Pommel Cap (butt cap) is found on full tang and half tang *kukris*, and the purpose on both styles is to protect the handle. If it is dropped, the handle will not be damaged. The butt cap may be made of bone, horn, or various metals. It may be pinned, secured by a keeper or woodscrews.

Picture 1 and 2: Show five with various types of butt caps. Note all are rat-tail tangs.

Picture 1 Item #1: The butt cap has the tang lightly mushroomed over and pinned at two points to secure the butt cap to the handle. It dates to World War I or earlier.

Item #2: The butt cap is highly engraved and inlaid with silver. Note the butt cap may be a part of the handle. It dates to the 1920s.

Item #3: This butt cap may have at one time been a silver coin that was hammered and shaped into the cap. It has two copper keepers which is unusual for a rat-tail tang. It dates to late 1930s.

Picture 2 Item #4: The butt cap is green horn and secured with a diamond keeper. When I first got this *kukri*, the wood pommel was damaged; and I could see light through the pommel cap. This told me at once it was not metal. Dated to the 1950s.

Item #5: The butt cap covers the top of the pommel as well as an inch down the handle pommel. Dates to mid-1950s.

4) The Kukri Handle - The *kukri* handle is normally wood; but as you will see, there are a number of variations in materials:

A) Wood such as walnut, chandsen, rosewood, breece, and sisal.

B) Metal such as white metal which can be about anything, Brass and cast iron sometimes highly worked.

C) Horn such as water buffalo, yak, giraffe, rhino, ivory, both elephant and marine.

Picture 3 Item #1: This has a traditional half tang of an unknown wood and has no butt cap.

Item #2: A very fine cast iron engraved and silver inlaid handle of a traditional design.

Item #3: A very nice rosewood traditional design handle with a sterling silver butt cap and bolster. There are ivory dots around the pommel and just above the bolster.

Item #4: This is a non-traditional design as is #8. The handle is possibly a Indian black buck horn.

Item #5: This is one of the oldest styles of the collection.

Continued on page 7

One Man's Opinion or Fact?

B.K. Brooks

So was the World War II Collins #18 Bowie knife really a machete and is it being a machete "just ones man's opinion" (referring most likely to D. E. Henry, not myself)? This question was posed to me by an irate friend about what he called the Collins #18 Carlson's Raiders "Gung Ho" Bowie knife V-44.



V44

First let's look at the Collins Company. Besides axes they produced in a large profusion, machetes; but let's ask did they make knives? Looking through *The Collins Company One Hundred Years* with its machetes, axes, shovels and even a plow, you do see a knife. It is a Louisiana cane knife and another simply cane knife, both not looking like a knife at all but a machete with a squared off tip (page 60). Closest thing to a Bowie knife is on page 59 which is called the #18 elephant handle machete. This same #18 elephant handle machete is pictured in the *Connecticut Tercentenary: The Collins Company* on page 29.



Collins #18

The #18 model appears many times and in many styles and blade lengths in *Collins Machetes and Bowies 1845 - 1965* by Daniel Edward Henry whose title one says lends proof that Collins produced Bowie knives! So was the #18 that was bought prior to World War II by the Army Air Corp a "Bowie Knife" or a machete? It looks like a Bowie knife, it definitely looks more like a knife than a machete, and any good lawyer would quote: "a rose by any other name is still a rose?"

Looking through *Collins Machetes and Bowies 1845-1965* by Daniel Edward Henry, Collins & Company definitely made knives. Looking at Collins sample boards you come up with knives like #444 butcher knife or #490, 11" knife point curved down. There is even a #1255 bamboo knife which looks like

a 13" machete with a squared point. But the sample board has #18 model that looks more like a knife, and it's even more knife like #17 model; and my goodness, both are described as a "bowie" in Henry's book. So that settles that, some might say.

So the #18 is a Bowie! Well there are various styles of the model #18 with various handles, one with even a bronze handle, different blade lengths; but we are pinpointing the model #18 used and bought prior to World War II by the Army Air Force. For one thing these older longer #18 Bowies do not have the green horn or the later phenolic (plastic) handles that the World War II model has.

There are pictures in Henry's book with Carlson Raiders brandishing what Henry describes as their "Bowie knives" (page 166). But Henry claims that these #18 Bowies were renamed by Collins Company as machetes in 1926. Henry notes that he was unable to find purchase orders when they were adopted by the AAF in 1934, but in October First 1945 the newly created Air Force purchase called them Machete 9 in blade approx in leather sheath---AF stock No. 7900-486870.

Henry notes some discrepancies in Cole's description of Collins #18 noting, "Cole was not aware Collins had renamed these machetes in 1926." *Connecticut Tercentenary: The Collins Company* booklet printed in 1935 has the #18 described as a machete, but it is the elephant handle model. So are there other opinions than Henry's?

"Another Man's Opinion" is in *Military Knives: A Reference Book* with an article by Frank Trzaska V-44, or is it? Frank Trzaska in his first paragraph notes:

"One of the first knives to be issued to our fighting forces during World War Two was really not even a knife. The piece of cutlery pressed into service as a fighting knife was none other than the Collins #18 Machete."

Trzaska, when referring to the Collins #18 in the article, uses the word knife in quotation marks ("knife"). When discussing the #18, he notes it was chosen because, needing to pack light, the #18 could be used as a knife, machete and entrenching tool. Trzaska notes that other companies copied the #18, but all were meant to be survival kit machetes.

Still another man's opinion is Mike Silvey who in his book *Knives of the United States Military World War II* notes on page 111, "The Collins #18 machete...." Silvey does not call it a knife.

The Collins Company may have had good reason to call the #18 a machete versus a Bowie in 1926. One is Collins made mainly machetes marketed to South America and other parts of the world, who would say "Who is this Jim Bowie?" But in North America the bad

reputation of the Bowie knife would also lead to legal complications for the sellers of said cutlery. *The Bowie Knife: Unsheathing of an American Legend* by Norm Flayderman notes in Chapter 8 "A Bowie... Is a Bowie. Or is it an Arkansas Toothpick," (or in my case a machete) notes counties in Mississippi would tax such Bowie knives with copies of tax receipts. Many states made laws against the Bowie knife, such as Tennessee's wordy description on page 270. Some of these laws were overturned just prior to the Civil War in the South (page 266). generally the laws were maintained against the sale and ownership of Bowie knives. Bypassing these laws and taxes could be as simple as changing the name from Bowie to machete for the Collins Company.

What about sales of a Bowie to the military? One would assume that the South would be buying and handing out Bowie knives by the thousands. Well on page 206 in *The Bowie Knife: Unsheathing of an American Legend* it notes: Official Confederate Army Regulations not only did not recognize the Bowie knife, but never mentioned it either. Flayderman confirms that companies of men possessed knives that could only be described as Bowies; the Confederate Army just ignored these personal weapons. Bowies on both sides were considered personal side arms which a blind eye was turned to and not officially recognized by either army.

The U. S. Navy was not so particular and had weapons such as the Eligin Bowie Knife pistol and Dahlgren Bowie bayonet. The aversion to calling anything a Bowie knife by the U. S. Army is apparent in their purchase orders and stock lists. *The Bowie Knife: Unsheathing of an American Legend* notes on page 174 the words "Bowie Knife" were "abhorrent words," not to appear in or used in any official correspondence.. Flayderman notes on page 178, "Both generals and the accompanying Army and Navy Journal editorial all stayed clear of mentioning Bowie Knife." On page 179 what is collected today as the "Bowie Bayonet" for the model 1898 Springfield Krag rifle is called by the military "Combination Intrenching Knife-Bayonet" despite its Bowie knife look and failure in digging rifle pits.

So much like the collector named "Krag Bowie Bayonet" the World War II Collins #18 "Bowie Knife" was never recognized as such by the Army in military purchase orders. It was officially a Collins #18 machete despite its looks and true use. That's the way it was bought by the Army Air Force and later "found on AAF planes" by Carlson's marines. The Case made V-44 fixed blade machete for survival kits that somehow got added to the misnaming of the Collins #18 machete. They don't even look alike.



Kukri Article

Ted Fitzwater has done an outstanding job on his two articles on *kukri* knives. This is perfect timing, as we will have a *kukri* blank for the DISPLAY Award KNIFE for our 2018 Show. The *kukri* has undergone numerous modifications, revisions and changes over its long history; therefore it has been difficult to trace its history. So use this article as your primer when you spot a *kukri*.

Two tables at the Gun Show

On March 18 - 19 the Willamette Valley Arms will hold its annual Gun Show at the Lane County Events Center. It will be located in the Performance Hall which is the room north of the room in which the OKCA Show is held. It is a new and bigger venue for them and to show our support the OKCA will have two tables. Your OKCA membership will get you in at no charge, and their will be no cost to an OKCA member to use part of the tables. Please contact us if you are interested to sell or display on the tables. So come sell or show or promote our Organization. I would like to see as many of our members show up to support this two day Show. We will have display cases in which you can place items if you like.

The Congress Whittler

Our 2017 offering of a Great Eastern Congress Pattern Whittler will be another one-of-a kind offering by the OKCA. I thought it was just another neat whittler, but closer inspection proved me wrong. This is one neat knife offered as per the specs of **Roy Humenick**. The knife will be 3.71" closed, with a split back spring and will have laser engraved artwork on the bone scale. But the thing that caught my attention was the congress pattern. How many whittlers have you seen with a congress pattern? Well it isn't the six blade congress pattern that Lincoln had in his pocket while at the theater, but this knife will do perfectly in my

accumulation of really neat knives. An application form is in this *Knewsletter*.

Getting my attention

I am really pleased with the efforts of members of the OKCA. Unsolicited donations for our Silent Auction are arriving to help raise funds for our event from those who are unable to be here in person on a day to day basis. It really tickles me when a table-holder cancels his table, but requests no refund and offers it to a budding knife person who would not be able to afford one. And then there was the display award knife sent in with the comment, "It is an honor to be able to help the OKCA." And I will not forget those who step up to help make the Show happen. These are a few things that fill our tanks to keep the fires going.

Custom Competition at the Show

One of the hallmarks of our April Show is the Custom Knife Competition. We have had standard categories forever and have always encouraged other categories for judging. The requirement is that we need to have at least three entries for that category to be eligible for an award offering. Last year we tried scrimshaw and miniature, and both categories failed to reach the required submissions. So this year we will try once again and encourage more entries in these two areas. I am getting the feeling the scrimshaw might make it. In fact one of the proposed scrimshaw entries was a shocker for me. More later in another *Knewsletter*.

The paring knifemakers...

A custom made paring knife will be awarded to the displays that have been judged Best Of Show. The makers who have volunteered to finish these blade blanks are: **John Coleman** - Citrus Heights CA - **Jose Diaz** - Ellensburg WA - **Theo Eichorn** - Grants Pass OR - **Gary Griffin** - Bend OR - **Cameron House** - Salem OR - **Jim Jordan** - Junction City OR - **David Kurt** - Molalla OR - **Gene Martin** - Williams OR - **Jeff Murrison** - North Plains OR - **Bernard Ortiz** - Brookings OR - **Sterling Radda** - Grants Pass OR - **Jeremy Spake** - Portland OR - **Blair Todd** - Gresham OR - **Bryan**

Wages - Eugene OR

Articles this month....

are from **B.K. Brooks, Martin Drivdahl, Ted Fitzwater, Auggie Schmirtz, Ray Simonson and Little Orphan Annie**. There is some great reading this month that is truly educational. I must remind our membership that all our *Knewsletters* are available on line and that the Google bots pick up on these articles. That makes these words available worldwide. So it isn't just this *Knewsletter*, but issues going back to April 2001 are available for research and education.

Todo's....

Get ready for the April Show - Get your membership updated to 2017 (see code on mailing label) - Attend the OKCA Wednesday meeting if near by - Get your paring knife blank completed - Knifemakers get that custom knife started for the competition at the 2017 Show - Make a paring knife - Make a chef knife.

Lodging for the Show

I would say that for at least 25 years we have had a partnership agreement with the Valley River Inn, referring our visitors to "being the place to stay." It was really a great partnership. If there was a problem, we had a line of communication available for the problem to be resolved; and there was a break in the price to our visitors. There was also a block of rooms reserved for us to make sure there were rooms available. Just mention the Oregon Knife Club and all was smooth. Last year the Valley River Inn had a change in ownership; and with that there are always changes. Some of the amenities were changed, and some of our guests took exception to this.

Our working relationship was strained with one person's excessive complaints for their 2016 visit. If you have complaints, please advise an OKCA Officer; and they will be addressed.

Continued on page 4



The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

The January meeting was held at the Sizzler Restaurant on January 18, 2017. There were 23 present. President **Craig Morgan** was absent. Meeting was conducted by Vice-President **John Priest**.

We are mailing this *Knewslettter* to 2016 (as well as the 2017 members) to encourage renewal of your membership for 2017. Please note the date located above your address. Only 2017 members will be allowed to enter on set-up and members-only day, Friday, April 7, 2017. All the membership cards and table confirmations for the 2017 members and table-holders have been mailed. If you have not received your confirmation or cards, please contact me.

Table-holders–You will pick up table-holder badges (two per table-holder) in the lobby (west entrance) of the Lane Events Center on Friday, after 10:00AM. If you are not sure of the name you have assigned to the second badge, please contact me to confirm the correct name.

We have decided on the 2018 display award knife - a *kukri*. **Gene Martin** will coordinate the purchase of the blade blanks and distribute them at the 2017 Show. If you are interested to complete a display award knife, please contact him at the Show in April.

As of this meeting, we have 14 tables available for the 2017 Show. We have five Wayne Goddard tribute knives available, and we are accepting payment for the

2017 OKCA Great Eastern Whittler Club knife. There is an order form in this *Knewslettter* for the Great Eastern whittler. (As of this *Knewslettter* we have only four tables available and have two Wayne Goddard knives available.) If you have requested a Wayne Goddard knife but we have not received payment for it, please pay now. The guy with the money will bump the guy with no payment.

We have ordered the 2018 Show flyers and table application forms. (As of this *Knewslettter* we have them in hand.)

We have two tables at the Willamette Valley Arms Collectors Show in March. If you are interested to sell items on the tables, please contact us. It will be a first-come first-serve reservation. We will also have information regarding the OKCA as well as membership applications. Please promote this Show on our behalf. Show dates are March 18-19, 2017.

We have received three of the display award knives from the custom knifemakers. Please view our website to see the photo and description of these very special donations. When you ship your knife to us, please ship it to the OKCA - 3003 W 11 PMB 172- EUGENE OR 97402. The address for memberships, table reservations and correspondence is OKCA - P O BOX 2091 - EUGENE OR 97402 Phone (541)484-5564.

Thank you for the contributions by our members to our *Knewslettter*. If you are not able to type or email your articles, write it in longhand or print it; I will type the article for you. No problem. We want to encourage all of our members to contribute with an article. The sharing of our collective knowledge is the purpose

for which the Oregon Knife Collectors was founded..Also a thank you to **Lisa Wages** for her contribution to our Facebook page. If you are a Facebook member, check out our page. One of the easiest methods to reach our page is through the link on our website. Also thank you to **Bernard Levine** for his emails to our local members to remind them of the meeting date. His emails are always entertaining and informative.

January is the election of officers. All of the current slate of officers have agreed to serve another term. A motion to re-elect the current slate of officers for another term was made (**Larry Criteser**) and seconded. By unanimous consent we were elected for another term. Thank you for your vote of confidence. The Board works diligently to act in the best interests of the organization, and your vote confirms you are pleased with our actions.

President - Craig Morgan


Vice President - John Priest

Secretary/Treasurer - Elayne Ellingsen

Master at Arms - Joshua Hill

Show Chairman - Dennis Ellingsen

We are trying to contact the individuals who have conducted seminars in the past years to confirm they will be available for 2017. We also are requesting that any individuals with displays forward a display description.

See you at the Sizzler Restaurant, February 15, 2017 for our dinner meeting. Bring a show-and-tell item (but only one, please). 



OKCA Knews & Musings continued from page 3


We have been trying to patch it up, but damage control has been difficult. Recently a member made a reservation, and as a surprise to us received a special rate and space after the mention of the Oregon Knife Collectors. Further conversations with the VRI got us reconciliation, and an understanding that all would be as before with the exception of some of the previous amenities, such

as the concierge room. We will now again recommend the Valley River Inn for your stay while here. Mention the Oregon Knife Club, and you should get the adjusted rate. If not let Elayne or me know. Call (541)743-1000 or (800)543-8266 to make your reservation.

The Sizzler...

Don't forget our monthly meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant. It is the third

Wednesday of the month which makes it **February 15, 2017**. 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 that are a cut above.

Looking for a place to stay while in town for the Show. Try airbnb. 



A Dual Advertising Knife

Martin Drivdahl

Featured herein is a small all metal pen knife with the names of two companies, one stamped into each metal side scale of the knife. On the mark side appears the name DISSTON before which is the date 1840 and after which is the date 1940. This would indicate the little folder to be a 100 year commemorative for Henry Disston and the company he founded. Below the DISSTON name is an outline of a keystone, which is the company logo, and on the larger blade tang is stamped FRESNO AGRICULTURAL WORKS FRESNO. CAL. The little knife appears to be of very high quality with precisely fitted blades and a very strong back spring, giving each blade a crisp snap, both on fully opening and on closing.

I'm always curious about the history of old American companies, especially where cutlery is in any way involved. It turns out each of the two companies was started by a European immigrant who came to America in the mid to later part of the 19TH Century. Both individuals started with little but their knowledge and skills and grew their fledgling companies into giant sized businesses with worldwide sales.

Two of my knife books make reference to Henry Disston and Sons as a saw maker, so I proceeded to scour the garage and shop building where, over time, I've accumulated a number of hand saws, plus numerous other old tools, knife parts and various junk and stuff.

To my surprise, I came up with two old handsaws made by Henry Disston and Sons. They are shown in the



accompanying photo criss-crossed with each other. The top saw is a cross-cut saw and the bottom saw is a rip-saw. Both saws have quite ornately fashioned wooden handles which are riveted to the blades. One rivet head on each saw is cast as a brass button marked H. DISSTON & SONS PHILADA. With a keystone logo inside of which is shown, in very fine detail, a balance scale (such as you'd see in a gold scale). The name T. W. Fisher is very neatly stamped into the wooden handle of the rip-saw and on its blade is etched HENRY DISSTON & SONS KEYSTONE (logo) SAW WORKS PHILADELPHIA CAST STEEL 7 WARRENTED PATENT GROUND. (See included photo of saw handle.) The grinding was evidently a patented process, perhaps to obtain a precise blade thickness.

By being nice to my dear wife and humbly requesting her to search on line to obtain more history on the two companies in question, I was able to obtain more information on both. I will endeavor to present herein a summary of each of these very interesting histories.

Henry Disston was born in 1819 in England and immigrated to Philadelphia in 1833. He started out making saws and framing squares in 1840 and in 1850 founded the Keystone Saw Works, which would become the largest saw maker in the world. Henry's son Hamilton



served in the Civil War and, upon discharge in 1865, joined his father in the saw business; and the company name was changed to Henry Disston & Son. Henry Disston and his sons set the standards for American saw makers, both in quality and innovative manufacturing methods. The company name was later changed again to Henry Disston & Sons, Inc. This firm is credited (according to this article) with casting in 1906 the first crucible steel in the U.S.A. using an electric furnace. The firm went on to manufacture the first "Knuckle Duster" trench knife for



Continued on page 6

WWI and made a large volume of steel armor plate for tanks during WWII.

Henry Disston passed away in 1878 at the rather young age of 59. The family owned company survived until 1955 when it was bought out by H.K Porter Co. Of Pittsburgh. Porter's Disston Division was sold in 1978 to become the Henry Disston Division of Sanvik Saw of Sweden.

A brief history of Fresno Agriculture Works follows: James Porteous, a 29 year old blacksmith and Scottish immigrant, settled in Fresno CA in 1876. He found work there in a blacksmith shop located at Mariposa and J (now Fulton) Streets. He soon took over the shop engaged in making heavy wagons and buggies. As his business thrived, he bought more lots and built additional shop space, naming his business Fresno Agricultural Works. During those years when the need for constructing

ditches and canals to irrigate the dry San Joquin Valley was rapidly developing, the incentive to create a mechanized way to move dirt was also being aggressively explored. Porteous, with his inventive mind, along with other blacksmiths and several farmers, began working on a u-shaped iron bucket scraper pulled by horses (and later tractors). This implement was designed to scoop soil into its "bowl" allowing the operator to fill it and empty it using a pair of wooden handles.

An early scraper design was done in 1872 by the farmers Frank Dusy and Abijah McCall and received a patent in 1885. Porteous bought the patent rights, improved the design and turned it into the famous "Fresno Scraper." The demand for the scrapers grew rapidly resulting first in

filling all local demands and later in them being shipped by the thousands worldwide for decades.

Porteous didn't stop with the Fresno Scraper and is credited with 46 inventions and held some 200 patent rights on all sorts of specialized agricultural machines and other mechanized equipment. However, the Fresno Scraper is recognized as one of the most vital of civil engineering and agricultural tools ever made and was listed in 1991 by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers as an International Historical Engineering Landmark. 🐾



In the Kitchen Knives

Ray Simonson

In the January issue there was an article called "Most Used Kitchen Knives."

We have two knives that get a lot of use in our kitchen.



One is a paring knife that I just bought the blade for. I have put about 30 of these together, none to sell, but they make nice gifts. Mother, mother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, daughters and daughter-in-law. You get the drift anyway, it's a nice little knife to give away. I never had anybody refuse them. The blades are around \$4.00, so as to not break you. I think all the major knife suppliers stock and sell them. They are offered as small filet blades. I have some small pieces of Curly Koa that I used on the handles with nickel silver pins.

The other kitchen item is an Ulu. It works great for making salads. I acquired a pile of 15N20, bandsaw blades, that are 5/32" thick. I think I made up four of them; but they didn't sell, so again mother, mother-in-law, etc., got them. The blades hold a good edge, it's been a couple years now and still no sharpening. Of course, though cutting salad on a board can't be too



tough on a blade. The blade has acquired a patina after a couple of years. I also used Curly Koa on this one too, I guess it is one of my favorite woods, as long as I have some around. 🐾

NEW POLICY:

This Knewsletter is being sent as a courtesy to 2016 members who have not updated their membership to the current year, 2017. We felt many may not have learned of this new policy change.

We will not accept any membership payments for new or renewal on Friday, April 07, the members only and table-holder set up day. No exceptions will be made. Please be sure WE have RECEIVED your renewal membership by WEDNESDAY, April 5. If we receive your membership payment prior to WEDNESDAY, you will be able to pick up your new 2017 card in the table-holder line in the lobby of the building. Please confirm I have your renewal card available PRIOR to WEDNESDAY so your entry will not be impeded. For those with membership up to date ---- Thank you.

Kukri Note Book Section 1
continued from page 1

Its handle is possibly rosewood and is called a hand and a half style. It dates to the early 1800s.

Picture 4 - Item #6: A traditional design with a green horn pommel, then rosewood and finally white metal.

Item #7: This is a solid white metal of a traditional design.

Item #8: Another non-traditional design, it has a light green jade pommel, with mother of pearl, red coral between each section of mother of pearl, and some gold wire between each section of mother of pearl. Needless to say this took a great deal of skill.

Item #9: Traditional design with a bone handle and water buffalo butt cap.

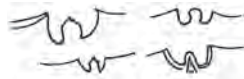
5) Carved Handle Rings - The traditional *kukri* usually has a single exterior ring which serves to hold the *kukri* firmly in the hand, so it will not slip. There are also most often found a number of interior carved rings, I have seen any where from three to six. What do they mean? More than likely they have religious overtones, but it is not known for sure.

Picture 5 You can see how the handle fits in my hand, the large exterior ring fits well between my fingers. Note there are carved rings of unknown meaning in front of the large ring. As stated before, they may have at one time had religious meaning; but it is currently unknown.



Picture 1

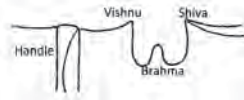
6) Kukri Cho or Kauri/kaura (Notch) - Just about every Oregon Show where I have had my display at least six people will look at it and then come over to my table and ask what the notch is for. There has been a lot of speculation on it, it was thought to be for catching an attacking enemy's blade and twisting it out of his hand, to keep blood off your hand after hack on an opponent, and to sight when you are going to throw. Well, none are even close. The notch is a religious symbol that is supposed to bring the owner good luck. The notch or *cho* come in an endless variety and configuration.



1) Cows hoof, Shiva's temple or the holy trinity, most of the native people in Nepal are of the Hindu faith, and the cow is sacred and the *cho's* shown above are of the most common.

Sheva is the Hindu god who is the destroyer or transformer and is among the holy trinity.

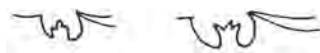
A) Holy trinity in the cow's hoof



B) This Cho design may represent the Red Fort of Agra.



C) Lord Buddhist Symbols.



D) Sita's Temple note Sita is the wife of Vishnu, she is known for her dedication self-sacrifice, courage and purity.



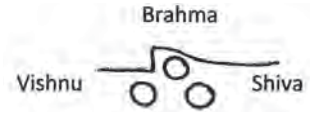
E) Peacock it is a religious symbol for both Hindu and Buddhist. Now there has been some speculation by some that this open winged falcon but for now it is only speculation. One other point this was a popular symbol for Christians because it appears to also symbolize a cross.



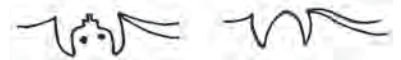
F) These have been called Buddha's eye or the eye of a dove.



G) This is a odd one I have only seen one or two similar, but I think it could stand for the Holy Hindu trinity.



H) These two I think are Buddhist temples and are on Mk1 military kukris. The one on the right has two dots which may stand for the eyes of Buddha.



Picture 6 shows three kukris and the location of the *cho*. Item #1 has a Lord Buddha as does Item #2, and Item #3 is a Military Mk. 1 made in 1914 with the large Buddhist temple *cho*.



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6

The Congress Pattern Knife

Roy Humenick

The first thing that caught my attention about the congress pattern knife is that swayback feature of the frame. Nearly any slip joint knife pattern with the swayback feature and equal ends could be called a congress pattern. Some have squared ends, and others have rounded ends; however, all seem to have at least one large sheep foot blade. Once I investigated further, I found that the pattern was host to quite a variety of features.

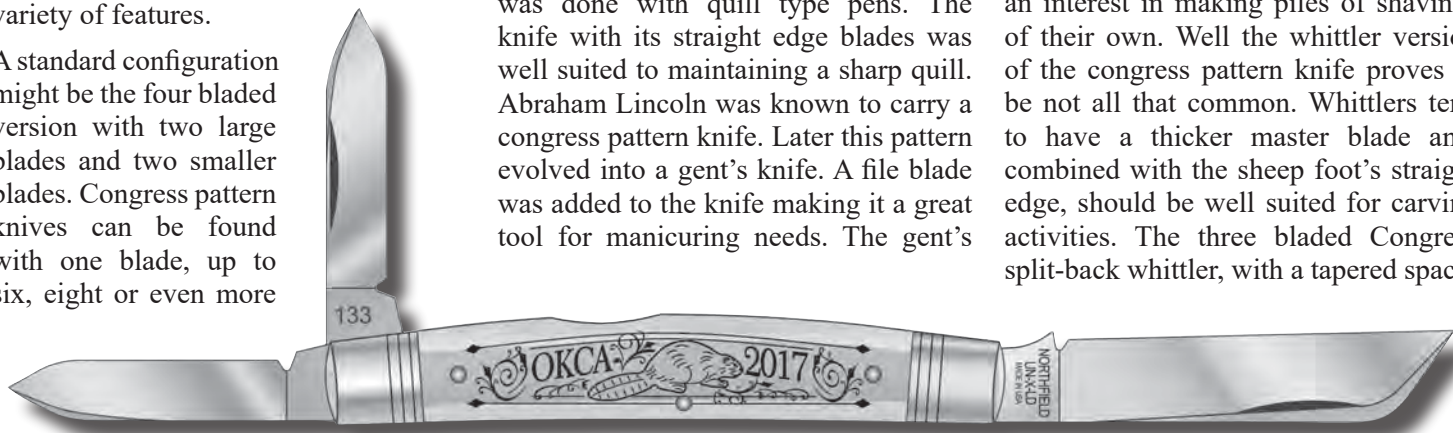
A standard configuration might be the four bladed version with two large blades and two smaller blades. Congress pattern knives can be found with one blade, up to six, eight or even more

American market at that time. It must have been a popular pattern, as other cutlery manufacturers soon followed with their versions. The sheer volume of knives produced, along with a little competition, is probably how all of the variations came to be. It is easy to see why cutlery firms started to emerge in the United States as demand for knives in general was big.

Politicians in the United States might have been the original target for the congress pattern knife. Hence how it got its name. There certainly was a need at that time, given that all of their writing was done with quill type pens. The knife with its straight edge blades was well suited to maintaining a sharp quill. Abraham Lincoln was known to carry a congress pattern knife. Later this pattern evolved into a gent's knife. A file blade was added to the knife making it a great tool for manicuring needs. The gent's

congress no doubt found use in many other ways.

My first impressions of the congress pattern knife was how well suited it might be for whittling. I had imagined a small group of gents waiting to be picked as jurors at the courthouse outside benches, gathering for some banter and whittling. Something to do on their retirements, if not just to make a small pile of shavings while you caught up on the latest gossip. No internet, television or even radio was available at the time. So, getting "caught up" meant you had to do it face to face with others. Others who shared an interest in making piles of shavings of their own. Well the whittler version of the congress pattern knife proves to be not all that common. Whittlers tend to have a thicker master blade and, combined with the sheep foot's straight edge, should be well suited for carving activities. The three bladed Congress split-back whittler, with a tapered spacer



blades. The platform also allows for some rather fancy bolsters. Some are long, some short, some have rat tails, some are lined and others are pinched. Most have a nice symmetrical shield on one side that compliments the equal end nature of the pattern. All of this variety makes for some interesting collecting activities.

In the early 1800s, the name "Congress" for the knife seems to have originated from cutlery firms in Sheffield, England. It was a "Made for America" pattern hoping to capitalize on the large

knife tended to be on the small side, say about 3-1/2" or under in closed length.

Also during the 1800s the United States was well known for its exports of tobacco. The congress pattern knife found favor among those involved in the production and use of tobacco. The demand for the knife in the Southern states was big. Probably a majority of congress pattern knives made were sold in the South. The knives used in the tobacco world tended to be larger. Versions 4" long (closed) and larger were made and used, say, to cut off a "chaw" of tobacco. The large

between the two back springs, has earned a spot close to my heart. Finding one is another matter.

The congress pattern knife stands out and is easy to notice. It has a place in American history. It is one of the few knife patterns that was made for the American market. They were important tools used by our pioneers in their daily tasks. Finding an older congress pattern knife in mint condition is no easy task. Any find is a prize. Each has its own story to tell. 🐾



Split back tapered spacer



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 mauve ping pong balls) 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 accepted, 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.

Wanted: Remington scout/ utility knife with pioneer boys or highlander boys shield or heroism shield. Email jpitt306@earthlink.net or phone Jim (562)716-9857

Shelton Pacific – Some of some of the finest curly koa in the world outside of Hawaii. We will be in our usual place at table S06. There are also the ever popular "Shokwood" (hybrid) knife handle blocks and scales. Please come by to see us at the April Show.

For Sale - WHK (William Henry Knives) 2004-2009 including several auto. OKCA knives 2005-2009 and misc production and custom. See Glenda Brown at the April Show Table M01.

For Sale - Hardcore grinder 1.5 hp variable speed 8" wheel \$1800.00. Black G10 1/4"x4' x 3' sheet \$480.00 Gary (253)307-8388

For Sale - prices negotiable. :-BADER BIII knifemaker set up, flat platters & wheels. Some belts. - C&M Topline Tumbler, Vibratory stone wash. TLV-25 with fluid system. Electro-Etch for logos. -HiTorque Mini Mill, Solid Column with Air Spring - knives@threesistersforge.com Three Sisters Forge, llc, Bend OR.

For Sale - I am retiring from knifemaking and have a lot of tools for sale. Bader Belt Sander w/10" contact wheel 3/4HP 230V w/dust collector + 2-72" belts - \$500.00. Gas fired salt pot heat treat furnace w/electric draw furnace w/temp control + 2 salt pots and 100# salt on wheeled cart \$200.00. 14" JCT metal cutting band saw w/blade welder - like new - \$1000.00. WSS double end end mills 3/8 diameter shank 1/16 - 3/16 - 1/4 - 3/8 dia mills \$5.00 ea. H. H. Frank Newport OR (541)265-8683.

Buying Club knives for personal collections. 1998 Wayne Goddard wood beaver handle and 2010 Lonewolf Paul defender. Contact Jordan Lake (310)386-4928.

For Sale - Recon, turquoise, lapiz and coral. I will trade for knives, Damascus or parts. This material is used by D-alton Holder, Randy Lee, David Yellowhorse and many other famous makers. Perfect for scales, full handles, jewelry and wood inlay.- Elliott Glasser - Hiltary Industries - Scottsdale AZ (602)620-3999

Randall Made Knives. Buy, Sell, Trade. Also a good selection of Case knives, and many custom knives for sale or trade. Jim Schick www.nifeboy.com (209)295-5568.

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.

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.

For Sale: older knives. Please visit HHknives at www.allaboutpocketknives.com. Thanks for looking.

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

Hot off the press - 2ND edition The Wonder of Knifemaking by Wayne Goddard, revised and in color! \$30.00 shipped by priority mail. Get your autographed copy now by calling Steve at (541)870-6811.

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

Useful reference books on blades. Collectible knives, custom knives and 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.

The views and opinions implied or expressed herein by authors and advertisers are not necessarily those of the Oregon Knife Collectors Association, its editors, or its officers; and no responsibility for such views will be assumed. The OKCA, its officers and its editors assume no responsibility for claims of advertisers for the quality of goods and services the advertiser provides. The act of mailing or delivering a manuscript or advertisement shall constitute an express warranty on the part of the contributor that the material is original and in no way an infringement upon the rights of others. The act of mailing or delivering a letter or question to the editor shall constitute permission to publish the letter or portion thereof unless the Oregon Knife Collectors Association is informed otherwise in that letter. This Knewsletter is devoted to the general interest of the knife community and does not include personal information such as births, deaths and illness. We also strive to use only material that is directed to the world of cut. Our charter mandates that our mailing list of the membership cannot be sold or used by other than the Oregon Knife Collectors Association.

OKCA Club Whot-zits & Whos Zits

Craig Morgan
President (541)345-0152

John Priest
Vice President (541)517-2029

Elayne Ellingsen
Sec/Tres. (541)484-5564

Joshua Hill
Master at Arms (503)580-8998

Dennis Ellingsen
Show Chairman (541)484-5564

Knewsletter by elayne & dennis

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

Club email --- okca@oregonknifeclub.org

Letters to.....
OKCA P O Box 2091 Eugene OR 97402

Packages to.....
OKCA 3003 W 11 Ave PMB 172 Eugene OR 97402

Copyright (C) 2017 Oregon Knife Collectors Association. No part of this Knewsletter may be reproduced without permission of the OKCA.

Layout and printing by instaprint -
1208 W. 6th - Eugene, OR 97402 -
Phone (541)686-8591



The Knewsletter

Oregon Knife Collectors Association
PO Box 2091
Eugene, OR 97402

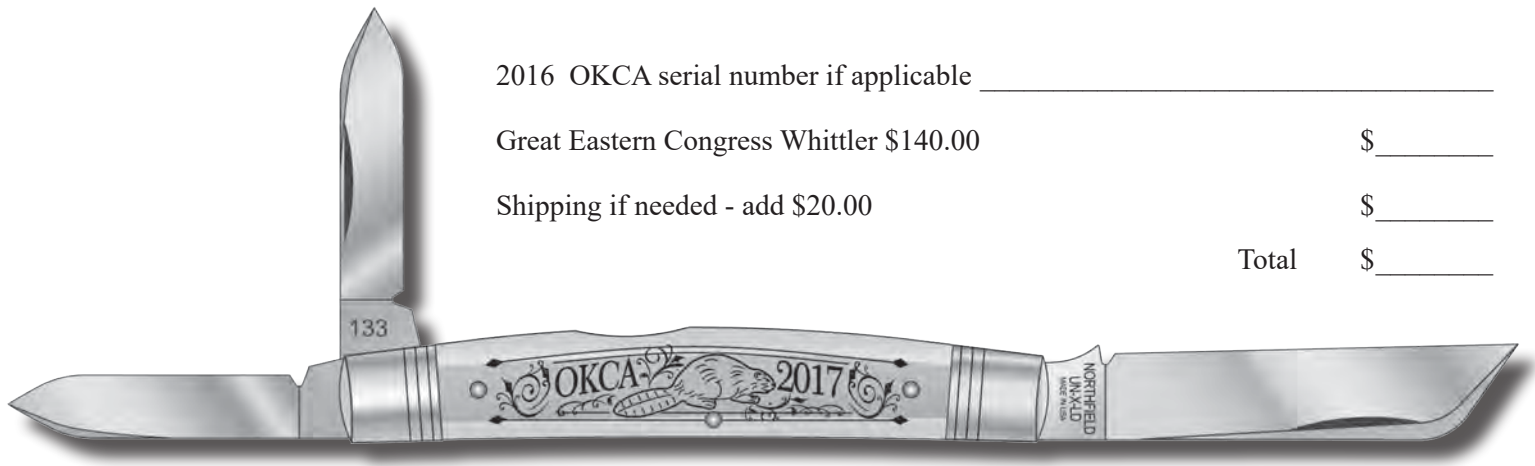
2017 OKCA Knife Order Form

2016 OKCA serial number if applicable _____

Great Eastern Congress Whittler \$140.00 \$ _____

Shipping if needed - add \$20.00 \$ _____

Total \$ _____



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment in full must accompany order to reserve your knife

Available only to OKCA members - Delivery at the Show on April 08, 2017

OKCA - PO Box 2091 - Eugene OR 97402

