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

December 2017

Handles With Care – part 2, Stag & Antler

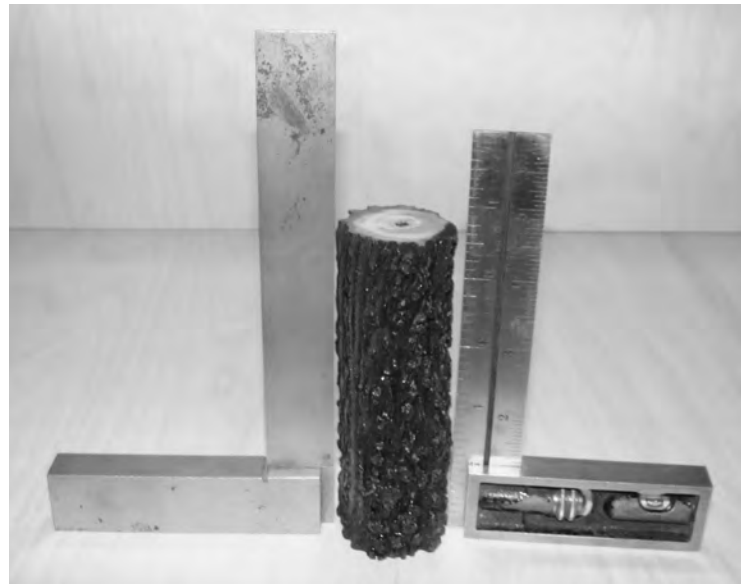
Dan Westlind

As I mentioned in my previous article, one of my favorite knife handle materials is antler or stag, preferably Sambar stag. The reason I and many others like Sambar stag is the rich, deep color, the texture, and lack of marrow or pith compared to other types of antler. We are familiar with the fact that most of the Sambar we see comes from India. There are seven subspecies of Sambar and what we are seeing is mostly Rusa deer antler, actually Rusa Uicolor, the species most prolific in India. I rarely hear the name Rusa used, but once in a while it does come up. Some of the other antler mixed in with the Sambar can be Sika and Roe deer, but these are in smaller quantities. The more prized pieces of stag have a rough texture, and some have a pebble type texture referred to as "popcorn." When one looks at all the older knives made with stag handles, especially the early Bowie style knives, older pocketknives, and all of the early European knives, we see that stag has been a favorite for many years.



When the antlers are collected, not all of them are dark brown like what we see at the knife shows. Many have been out in the weather and have bleached out and lost that nice, natural color. The color can and, in a

lot of cases, has been restored artificially by dye. Potassium permanganate is the chemical used to dye the antler. Potassium permanganate is used in many applications, and one of them was in water purifiers. I still have some I used to get from Culligan, who sold water purifier systems. It is still used to kill bacteria in koi fish ponds and larger aquariums. If you are not familiar with potassium, it is a deep purple crystal that makes a deep purple colored liquid when mixed with water. After the antler is soaked in the solution, it turns dark brown to black when it is removed from the solution and the potassium oxidizes in the air. Be very careful when working



with potassium permanganate. Wear rubber gloves and eye protection. If you get any on you, it will stain your skin for days. I have had extensive experience with the dye procedure from years back when an associate of mine purchased a boat load of Sambar stag in India consisting of over one million pieces. Yes, over one million pieces. Most was naturally dark, but not all. We set up a large livestock watering tank filled with the dye to soak the antler in. After a few days, the antler was removed, dried, cut into the desired sizes and polished in rotary tumblers to give it the shine.

The color does not permeate very deep, it is only on the surface; so when you sand on it, the antler turns white. The contrast between the dark outside and the whiter interior can be desirable, but in other times it is not. It is rather difficult to recolor the lighter areas of the antler handle after sanding and forming the handle. One of the ways I do it is to burn it. I have studied many old stag knife handles and found this was a common way to darken handles. One has to be careful when burning stag because it has a tendency to crack or split. The trick I use is one of those refillable butane lighters. The smaller palm size one that gives off a hot flame, hot enough to solder with. I carefully hold it close to the stag; and, when I get the desired color, I slowly move the lighter back and forth around the area I want darkened. Only do a small area at a time and let the antler cool before doing more. This is something you

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Kukri Notebook 4th Installment

Ted Fitzwater

With the fourth installment of the *kukri* notebook, we will look at *kukri* sheaths style, construction and tools in the *kukri* kit. (Picture 1) Please note there are always exceptions with the *kukri*, but I am trying to provide the reader with the most current and most usable information available. If any additional information becomes available, I will try and provide it in the future.



Picture 1

Contents of a *kukri* kit: *kukri*, sheath made of interior wood with a leather cover, tinder pouch (lower right), *chakmak* sharpening tool to the left of the tinder pouch and the *karda* sharpened utility knife below the *chakmak*.

I will not be going into military *kukri* sheaths with this paper, for the most part they are almost the same; but there are some differences. I hope to do a paper in the fall of 2018 covering standardized military *kukris*, unit and contract made *kukris*, *kukri* sheaths, *kukri* utility items and frogs.

Sheath Types

The most common type of *kukri* sheath consists of a wood interior with a leather cover. (Picture 2) The wood interior has two wood halves held in place by the leather cover. (Picture 3) The wood is soft for ease of carving; the cover is stretched over the wood interior and hand stitched in the back of the sheath. The leather sheath cover is most often water buffalo, but other types of leather are used, such as yak, giraffe, elephant and snake skin. (Picture 4)



Picture 2

Two standard *kukris* with the most common type of sheath, both are wood interior core with leather covers. The leather on both could be water buffalo, but the author does not know for sure.



Picture 3

The wooden interior core of the standard *kukri* sheath. The middle of the picture shows how the *kukri* fits into the sheath. Carving these sheaths is not a skill gotten over night.



Picture 4

This *kukri* has a snake skin sheath cover, it may be hard to see; but if I were to guess, I would say it is cobra skin. I would also guess this is not the *kukri*'s first sheath; there is no place for utility tools and the blue material is to keep the *kukri* from dropping through the owner's sash, as this is where the *kukri* is carried.



Picture 5

The attached pouches on a *kukri*. The front pouch is for the tinder pouch, the larger two pouches are for the utility knives, the *karda* and *chakmak*. The smaller pouch in the center, I am not sure what it is for, or it could be for tweezers, a straw to assist in fire starting or a sharp probe. I just can't tell you for sure; but when I find out, I will let you know.

Generally the *kukri* sheath, at minimum, has three pouches attached on the back side in a large pouch that contains the tinder pouch and two smaller pouches that act as sheaths for two utility knives (which we cover later). (Picture 5) The pouches are generally held in place by stitching, and a strap that goes around the exterior of the sheath. (Picture 6) As I have mentioned before, there are always exceptions.



Picture 6

The strap that assists in holding the pouches in place. It also helps to keep the *kukri* sheath from falling through the owner's sash.

Kukri Wooden Box Scabbards

The wood box sheath scabbards are the second most common scabbard types. They normally consist of two wooden halves secured together with bamboo strips or metal bands of brass, silver, tin or aluminum. (Picture 7) The wooden sheath may have a plain exterior or carved. The well-carved sheath may, in many instances, almost fall into the category of fine

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December Show

We have had many requests for tables for the December 9 Winter/Mini Show. We would like to encourage an abundance of registrations. So get your \$40.00 mailed in as soon as possible and declare, "I will be there as a participant." We want to show our support for the worthwhile "Toys-4-Tots" program, so you are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy to the Mini Show. **Bryan Christensen** is spearheading this event once again. Table-holders, members and visitors can bring toys.



The December Mini Show is slated for December 09, 2017. Hours are 7:00 to 8:00AM set up and do things that go cut until 4:00PM. Tables are not assigned so claim the one you want when you come in. This event is a placebo for the big, big Show in April. It has always been an appreciated event. The cost is but a mere \$40.00 just to help defray the room cost. There is no application form necessary; just send in your request with the \$40.00 to have a table. You can include it with your table application form (included in this issue) for the 2018 April Show or include it with your membership for 2018. Remember that our membership is calendar year.

Down turn in Shows....

We have noted a decreased attendance (table-holders and visitors) at gun and knife shows countrywide. We do not want this to happen to our Show. With that in mind, help to promote the April Show and make it the grand event that

it has been for years. We have flyers for the December Mini/ Winter Show as well as the April Show. Please help distribute flyers in your local area. Call or email and they will be there.

Micarta

I am still receiving industrial micarta from a local sawmill. They throw it away when it becomes too worn for their use. This is high quality micarta, and I have become the depository for this material. It is not for sale, but I will give it to those who would like to make a knife and donate it to the OKCA. You can get extra for your own use if you commit to the donation. I will also see to it that a special award will be available to the best judged donation of a micarta handled knife. We gave out micarta for the 2016 competition and we had several makers who made knives and they were exceptional. The material is beyond beautiful when finished. I will have a supply of micarta at the December 9 Winter/Mini Show, so ask and you shall receive. Those who want to participate but are far away can let me know, and I will send the micarta.

Shipping Knives to the April Show

We have for years used the Barons Den Shooting range as a depository for those who ship their knives to the April Show. The Barons Den closed their doors, so an alternate plan is in the works. That plan has been put into concrete. The **GunRunner** is located seven miles north of the airport and an easy find. The store has a security system and will receive and send your packages. More information to follow.

Articles this month....

are from **Ted Fitzwater, Bernard Levine, Dan Westind, Roger Worley, Little Orphan Annie, and Auggie Schmirtz**. There is some great reading this month which is truly educational. I must remind our membership that all our *Knewsletters* are available on line, and the Google bots pick up on these articles. That makes these words available worldwide. You are an expert on your specific collecting interests, be they antique or custom, so let us hear



from you and do an article for us.

Custom Knife Awards for 2018

Gene Martin designed the blank for the *kukri* knife that will be customized and completed by knifemakers who volunteered to do this project. The following have accepted the 1095 steel blank: **Chuck Cook, Gary Griffin, Cameron House, Jim Jordan, David Kurt, Gene Martin, Craig Morgan, Lynn Moore, Jeff Murrison, Bernard Ortiz, Sterling Radda, Blair Todd and Bryan Wages**. Thank you for your participation in our event. These knives will be awarded to the display table-holders for their displays at the the 2018 Show.

2018 Club Knife...

Plans are already in the works for a 2018 OKCA Club Knife. **Roy Humenick** has moved forward on a unique design working with Great Eastern Knives. This special knife will be announced in future *Knewsletters*. All of the Great Eastern knives have been a success, and all knives were sold prior to the Show in April. We have been fortunate to have Roy and Great Eastern partner with us on this project.

The Sizzler...

Don't forget our monthly meeting at the Sizzler Restaurant. It is the third Wednesday of the month, which makes it **December 20, 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 from the December Winter/Mini Show. It is always nice to see my fellow knife enthusiasts that are a cut above. 🐔

The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

Prior to the November meeting a short Board of Directors meeting.

We have been advised by Great Eastern Cutlery we must order 100 OKCA 2018 Club Knives for our special order. This will be a challenge for our group.

It was decided we would have 50 of the knives serial numbered, the other 50 would be etched OKCA but no serial number. All of the 100 would have the same handles as per GEC. We will not have a prototype of the knife. We are asking all members to step up and help us promote our Club Knives. Those who have had serial numbered knives will be able to request the same number for 2018. They may also order a non-serial numbered knife. Delivery will be at the April Show.

We also viewed the Ira's Surprise which will be available for the table-holders at the 2018 Show.

Adjourned to start the November meeting.

The November meeting was held November 15 at the Sizzler Restaurant. There were 30 present.

It was a very busy time. Payments for December Winter/Mini Show tables, memberships and April tables. Thank you for the payments.

Our new contact at the Lane Events Center has been a reminder of all the specials we had taken for granted over the years. The need for set up on Friday, the reminder for heat late Friday for the Saturday open, the pop machine, the ATM machine, the coffee service, the sound system, the early entry for ibd and elayne on Saturday. All of these just happened in the years past, since we had been served by the same individuals for so many years. It is very humbling to be reminded that we may have been special but must now work to become special again and receive our special treatment.



The OKCA 2018 Club knife is still in the negotiating stage for pricing. **Roy Humenick** deserves especial thanks for his efforts and frustrations on this project. As is noted in the Board of Directors' meeting notes, we will purchase 100 OKCA 2018 Club Knives. Please, please assist us in the sale of these items. Now is your opportunity to have a carry knife as well

as a knife with a serial number for display. When we have been advised of the cost of these knives, we will advise and include an order form for them on our website and in our *Knewsletter*. All will have the same handle material, and all will be etched with the OKCA logo. Only 50 will be serial numbered.

The December Winter/Mini Show will be here on December 9, 2017. Lane Events Center, Wheeler Pavilion (round building north end of the parking lot). We have been receiving requests for tables but still have openings. If you want a table, please contact us so we can be sure we have sufficient tables for our event. We only purchase and set up for the number of tables that have been requested. We pay for every table that is set up. Doors will open at 7:00AM for table-holders and members. The general public will be invited to enter at 8:00AM. There will be no charge for entry. Closing will be 4:00PM. No predicting the weather for our event. We have had rain, more rain, cold, snow, ice and even water in the room. Dress warmly just in case. At the time of our December Mini/Winter Show, there will be the Holiday Market (normally referred to as the Saturday Market and Farmers Market) in the building in which we have our April Show. There is food and merchandise for sale. There will also be an Authors and Artists Fair happening.

Remember we will have tables set aside for Toys-4-Tots. Please bring an unwrapped, new toy for a boy or girl. These will be donated to children for a Christmas gift. **Bryan Christensen** is coordinating this event. Please donate to this worthy cause.

Ana Cooper has delivered the laminated 2018 membership cards which will be available for pick up at the December Winter/Mini Show. If you are unable to pick up your cards, they will be mailed to you at the time at which we mail the table confirmations. (Late December, early January.) Thank you, Ana, the work you have done is very much appreciated.

Remember your membership is a calendar year. You will need to be a 2018 member to enter the April Show during member hours. There are no membership renewals or new memberships available on Friday, April 6, 2018. The last *Knewsletter* you will receive will be January 2018.

You will receive an April 2018 *Knewsletter* which is mailed to all members, old and new, as a promotion for our April Show.

December 15, 2017 is the last day for reservation of your April 2017 table for the 2018 April Show. The December Winter/Mini Show is an excellent opportunity to renew your membership and table reservation. If you want your table for 2018, speak up now. We will be assigning tables to the individuals on our waiting list after the December 15 deadline. We have been distributing flyers about our December Winter/Mini Show at the shows which we (the members) have attended and at various sporting good stores. Hopefully, our attendance by non-members will increase with this added effort.

We have flyers for our April Show available upon request. We will mail to you to help in the promotion of our event. Advertise our event and encourage participation by your friends. Many of the knife shows across the country have been experiencing low attendance (table-holders and audience); we do not want ours to suffer this malady. The best advertising is word of mouth. Most of us are very vocal and this is a good excuse to tell many of your interests.



I thank all of the individuals who contribute to our *Knewsletter*. It is in keeping with our purpose to unite persons who have like interests and to further the general knowledge of the knife field by educating our members and the general public.

We have not received any of the display award knives which are being enhanced by our knifemaker members. This year we have provided a *kukri* blank for enhancing. It is a challenge to our makers; we do appreciate their work to make our April Display Competition a reward to those who display.

We wrote in the November *Knewsletter* the categories and information regarding the handmade knife competition. If you are unable to locate your copy, we have the issue posted on our website.

Many of our table-holders at the April Show have been challenged with arranging for shipment of their knives to Shows. Do not ship any items to the Lane Events Center. The facility does not have provisions for shipments from attendees at their events. We have arranged with a local firm (which has a safe and is very close to the airport) to secure your shipments until you arrive for our Show. They also will be able to return ship your merchandise. If you are interested in additional information, please contact us.

If you call us at (541) 484-5564 and reach the answering machine, pretty please leave a message. Cross my heart your call will be returned in a timely manner.

Our Facebook page is constantly receiving requests for inclusion by individuals interested in our "world of cut." Please note that only persons who are current members can advertise on our Facebook page or be linked to our website. Check out our page. Go to the OKCA website, and you will find the link. Thank you, **Lisa Wages**, who answers the many requests to join our group.

If you ship an item to us, please use our shipping address: OKCA 3003 W 11 PMB 172 EUGENE OR 97402. The mailing address for memberships, renewals or new memberships and knife orders is OKCA BOX 2091 EUGENE OR 97402.

See you at the December Winter/Mini Show at the Lane Events Center.

See you at the meeting, December 20, 2017, at the Sizzler Restaurant, Gateway Blvd, Eugene/Springfield OR.





Picture 7

Three kukris with wooden box scabbards. The top kukri's sheath is ver nicely carved with decorative figures going up the center of the scabbard. (Note the top one is missing.) The two halves are held together by bamboo cord. The center kukri is a World War II bring-back and the two halves are held together by aluminum bands. The bottom kukri is an old-timer, very nicely carved with a great deal of use.



Picture 8

An exception to the rule, and this is the only box scabbard I have seen like this. On the back side you have two sliding doors. The one on the left, I think, is for tinder; and the one on the right, I believe, is for coins, but this is just speculation on my part.



Picture 9

A nice native kukri wooden box scabbard carried in a very unusual location. It is very nicely carved and of medium size.

art. (Picture 8) Most box sheaths have a carved out place for two utility knives, and they are located in the same place as in the standard kukri sheath. Normally there are no tinder pouches, but there are always exceptions. (Picture 9)

Kothimora Kukri Sheath

The *Kothimora* sheath is generally the top of the kukri sheaths. It may have a wood interior with a cloth, leather and metal cover. Note that wooden box scabbard *Kothimora* sheaths can be found mounted with silver and may have gold inlay with gold panels. The workmanship can be found to be outstanding to fair. (Picture 11) They may be given to people for specific important tasks performed or to military personnel who are retiring from service. Gurka military band members will wear them to show status and position. The kukri itself may be of high quality, but I have seen regular village kukris with great *Kothimora* sheaths.



Picture 10

The nicest *Kothimora* sheath I have in the collection; the quality of workmanship is outstanding with very fine detail work. The metal work is all coin silver with a leather under the silver. The middle kukri dates to the 1930s and may have some silver in the metal work but not near the quality of the top sheath. The bottom sheath is the lowest quality of the three, and I don't think there is any silver at all.



Picture 11

The top end and the OK of the three *Kothimora* sheaths. Note the workmanship on the left which I am sure is all done by hand. I am sure much, if not all, of the decoration on the *Kothimora* sheath on the right is production done. The left *Kothimora* sheath has a village kukri, and I am sure that this was a way the owner had to say, "Boys, I have finally made it into the big time."

To be continued in a future *Knewsletter*. 🐦

What is missing in this paragraph?

Q. What's wrong with this paragraph? It looks so ordinary that you'd think nothing was wrong with it at all, and in fact, nothing is. But it is unusual. Why? If you study it and think about it you may find out, but you must do it without coaching. If you work at it long, its curiosity in it will dawn on you. 🐦



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!

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

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

43RD ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 06-08, 2018 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 2017 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2018, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2017. 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 12/15/2017.

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 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, 2018. **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 06, 2018.

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

Saturday, April 07, 2018.

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

Sunday, April 08, 2018.

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

Squire Boone of Indiana

Roger Worley


For a number of years, we have displayed our "Knives in American History" exhibit as a means of educating the public about our love of knife collecting. We are always delighted to be able to add historical items to it. Such a find came in 1992, when I was able to purchase four John Primble India Steel Works pocketknives from my friend Donald Stone of Clearwater, Florida. There was nothing exceptional about these knives, they were in what would be graded as excellent condition, used pocketknives. The key detail that stirred my interest was that Donald had purchased these knives in 1978 at an estate sale in Corydon, Indiana. The estate was that of Horace Ray Boone. When Ray, as he was called, was a young man, he had been a traveling salesman for Belknap Hardware of Louisville, Kentucky.

What made the knives and the story more compelling was, at the time of his passing, Ray was the oldest living relative of Squire Boone, Daniel's younger brother. I was completely unfamiliar with this Boone named Squire. Of course, the history of the exploits of Daniel Boone are well known; but I could not find much information about brother Squire until I made a call to the Historical Society in Corydon, Indiana, which was most rewarding. I learned that Squire Boone, Jr. was the tenth child in a family of eleven born to Squire Boone, Sr. and Sarah Morgan Boone. He was born in 1744, ten years after Daniel. During the early years of frontier exploration, Daniel and Squire often traveled together through what they knew then as a wilderness area. Once when Squire was being chased by Indians, he discovered a huge network of caverns and

eluded his pursuers by hiding in there. From then on, this area held a special place in his heart. When Daniel later settled in Kentucky, Squire settled his family and built his home and a grist mill near Corydon, Indiana. Squire became a respected settler and a prominent citizen of the area. A very religious man, he built the old Goshen Church in Harrison County in 1813, the first Baptist Church in Indiana. Squire died in 1815 at the age of 71. At his request, his sons placed his remains far back in those caverns that had saved him long before, in a walnut coffin he had prepared himself.

When Marjorie and I attended the Louisville NKCA knife show in April, 1991, we rented a car and drove the 28 miles to Corydon. There we visited the historical visitor center where we found abundant information about the Boone clan. We visited the Goshen, where many of the Boones, including Ray, are buried. We continued on to Boone Caverns that features guided tours back into the caverns. Nearby, still standing today, is the restored grist mill of Squire Boone. There we learned that two of the tour guides, while exploring

the caverns, discovered the remains of Squire Boone which were later carried out for reburial. On the wall was a photo that was captioned, "Ray Boone, oldest living relative of Squire Boone, views the bones of his cousin." I felt like I was reliving history as I looked at a picture of Ray Boone, the retired Belknap salesman, looking into the coffin of his ancestor.

When Ray passed away in 1978, Don Sloan purchased these four knives, as well as other items that I then acquired from him in 1991. These were the personal carry knives of Ray Boone. All four are John Primble marked, two are hefty jack knives while the other two are small "Sunday knives," one pearl handle and one all metal. Also I received a folding coat hanger and a little shoe shine pouch. I tried to find more information about Ray Boone's Belknap Hardware days but was not very successful, because all the old timers from those days were no longer around. These four knives, in their own right, would have modest value; but the history behind them gives them special meaning to me. 




History of The Steak Knife:

Bernard Levine

One of the best things about ordering a steak when we're dining out is the moment when the waiter replaces our table knife with a sharp steak knife; it evokes in us an almost Pavlovian response, subtly announcing that a big slab of beef is on its way. It turns out that this purpose-made piece of tableware is a relatively recent innovation in this country. Until a century or so ago in America, the steak knife was the tool of butchers alone; the name meant a long curved knife used to cut meat into thick uniform slices -- steaks. It wasn't until the early part of the 20th century that a slim-bladed, steak-specific piece of cutlery began to appear on the tables of the wealthy, where a profusion of specialized utensils was considered a sign of status. Around 1911, a catalogue from the Connecticut-based company Landers, Frary & Clark first showed a steak knife for the table.

By mid-century, other cutlery makers had begun selling steak knives in sets, marketing

them as indispensable to any well-laid American table. In 1947, the Oregon-based knifemaker Gerber started offering boxed sets of Miming steak knives, matching their "Legendary" carvers, featured at upscale jewelry shops as wedding and anniversary presents. In 1954, salesmen from the Cutco company of Olean, New York, began including steak knives in the cutlery sets they peddled door to door. Also in the 1950s, department stores began selling streamlined steak knife sets from W. R. Case & Sons and Queen Cutlery Company, both of Pennsylvania, and other well known American cutlery firms. Indeed, a set of quality steak knives was deemed an essential component of the atomic-age American home.

New designs and styles proliferated; in the 1950s and '60s, for example, imported German steak knives, complete with rustic stag-antler handles, were all the rage. The introduction of stainless steel, which in the 1920s had begun to replace carbon steel in the manufacture of knives, meant that blades gleamed brighter but became dull faster. That in turn led to the popularity of the serrated edge, now common on mass-market steak knives. 

492 DUNHAM, CARRIGAN & HAYDEN CO. 545

CleanCut
Butcher Knives
CLEAN CUT
Made of finest high grade carbon butcher knifely steel, carefully tempered ground and sharpened. Fully Warranted
Steel through Tang, Booby Handle with three Saw Nut Brass Rivets



No. 100-Butcher Knives Length Blade, inches..... 6 7 8 10 12 14
Per Doz..... \$ 4.00 5.00 6.00 8.00 12.00 15.00
Weight per Doz., lbs. 3 1/2 4 4 1/2 6 8 10



No. 100-Steak Knives Length Blade, inches..... 10 12 14
Per Doz..... \$ 9.00 12.00 15.00
Wt. per Doz., lbs. 6 8 10

Steak Cimeter Blade
Knives 001



No. 210-Ebony Handle, Riveted, Polished Swaged Steel Blade..... 5 1/2 in. 1 1/2 in. Per Doz. \$ 3.00
215-Stag Handle, otherwise identical to No. 210..... 5 1/2 in. 1 1/2 in. Per Doz. \$ 3.00



No. 210-Ebony Handle, Riveted, Polished Swaged Steel Blade and Bolster..... 5 1/2 in. 1 1/2 in. Per Doz. \$ 7.00
215-Stag Handle, otherwise identical to No. 210..... 5 1/2 in. 1 1/2 in. Per Doz. \$ 8.00

INDIVIDUAL STEAK KNIVES



No. V712 Individual Steak Knives, 3 1/2 in. Grained Ivory or Ivory Handles, Forged Bolsters, 5 1/2 in. Forged Polished Crucible Steel Blades. Per doz. \$13.50



No. 212 Individual Steak Knives, Cocobolo Handles, Fancy Metal Bolsters, 5 1/2 in. Polished Crucible Steel Blades. Per doz. \$1.50

One dozen in a box. Weight 2 lbs.

Handles With Care – part 2 continued from page 1


might want to practice before trying it on that special piece of stag. The small, pinpoint flame of the lighter only heats a small area at a time, so there is less chance of cracking the handle. After you get the color you want, simply buff and you get a beautiful shine. You can lightly sand before buffing if you get it too dark.

When I make a knife with an antler handle and stick tang, I usually drill, shape, sand, buff and have the handle almost 100% finished before I glue it on. I like using those brad point wood drill bits to drill the hole in the antler, as they have less of a tendency to 'walk' compared to other drill bits. I also like to remove as much of the pith in the antler as possible. Some elk antler has lots of pith and removing all of it can leave a rather large hole, so sometimes I tape off one end of the handle so the glue does not run out. Then stand the handle up, with taped end down, and fill with super

glue. I let the glue set up before I drill the hole for the tang. This hardens the pithy area up, so the tang cannot loosen up over time. To drill an oblong hole for the tang, I drill two holes (vertically in the handle) and work out the web between the holes with the drill bit.

This gives me an oblong hole to match the width of the tang.

One of the most difficult problems in dealing with stag and antler handles is getting the ends of the handle square, especially on a tapered handle; so the handle fits on the knife straight and not off to one side or the other. I use a couple different ways of squaring the ends up, and these methods work for most handles regardless of material. You will need a small 5 or 6" square. Every knifemaker should have a 5 or 6" machinist square. You do not need a high dollar one, and the discount tool stores sell them for less than \$20.00. Keeping the guards and handles square and parallel on all knives is essential. You will also need a good,

flat area to work on. For method one, I put masking tape around both ends of the handle about 1/8" from the end. I then 'eyeball' the middle of the handle as it would fit on the knife and mark a line on the tape on both ends of the handle. Stand the handle on a flat surface, set the square up to the handle, and the center lines you drew on the tape should line up with the square. If they are not, you can remove some material off the end of the handle to get the handle to tilt in the direction it needs to go to be square. The other way I use is almost the same as the previous method but without the tape. I stand the handle on end, hold the square up to the side of the handle and check the distance between the blade of the square and each side of the handle, making sure that the difference is the same on both sides. The same goes for the other end of the handle also. See the illustrations for a better understanding. I hope these methods help with your handle installation. 





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I buy and sell knives. I buy and sell classic and vintage US knives: Marbles, Camillus, Ka-bar, Cattaraugus, Schrade, Gerber, Buck, Western and more. I love all years but especially the WW II knives and the classic designs of the 70's-80's. Details: www.fitzwillies.com or e-mail to: sdirgo@hotmail.com

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For Sale: Model 4500 Sherline bench top lathe \$450.00. Call or text Zac & Sara Buchanan (541)815-2078

Loveless Style Sheaths: made to order. Call or text Zac & Sara Buchana (541)815-2078

Niagra Knife Steels: email zacbuchananknives@gmail.com for a quote.

For Sale: Dan Osterman custom Bowie knife. ATS 34 blade, ivory handles, gold pins and fittings. Sheath made from silver. Display stand. Show quality. Paid \$2,500.00 will sell for \$2,000.00, firm. Call Steve Huey evenings (541)234-2664.

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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

For Sale - WHK 2004-2009 (William Henry Knives). OKCA knives 2008 Humenick and 2009 Swauger, misc production and custom. See Glenda at the December Show.

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. 20" Sherline bench lathe w/collets and 3 and 4 jaw chucks, plus handtools \$350.00. NC gas fired vertical melting furnace \$100.00. Commercial metal cutting vertical bandsaw w/blade welder, made by JET, like new \$750.00. H. H. Frank, Newport OR (541)265-8683.

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Wanted: 2016 Great Eastern Oregon Camp knife. Call (541)285-1894.

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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.

Wanted: 2012 Case XX USA medium stockman #6318 PU CV jugged bone w/punch w/signature of Skip Lawrie. 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.

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.

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