



NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



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

May 2022

Reflections on Knifemaking

by Gene Martin

I've always had an interest in knives. My Dad was a carpenter and always had a Barlow knife in his pocket. I bought my first knife at about age ten at Knott's Berry Farm, when it was a real berry farm. It was a very small Bowie with a compass in the handle.

Over the years I've owned and used a variety of knives, whether in the Boy Scouts, as a Marine, working on sport and commercial fishing boats, in a fish market while going to college, or as a Game Warden. Never did I think anything about knifemaking.

As a Game Warden I became increasingly dissatisfied trying to find a "one knife does all" solution. So I carried two or three. I usually had a big folder on my belt, a Swiss Army Knife in a pocket (usually a Tinker), and who knows what in another. Forgot to mention the Gerber Mark 1 in my right boot. Can't be too careful.

I worked land/marine for nine years, then started running patrol boats offshore. Since I now had the ability to carry fewer knives and usage was changed quite a bit, I broke down and bought a Cold Steel tanto and put it in my belt right behind my pistol. Still carried the Tinker and Mark 1. But the tanto was always handy. It even saved my fingers once. The tanto was also my entry into the world of knifemaking.

One patrol trip, which at that point those lasted anywhere from 3 to 21 days, I had a long-time friend and game warden named Tom Lipp aboard as part of my crew. He saw my tanto and told me he had a catalog where I could buy knives a lot cheaper. When he got home he sent the catalog to me. I won't mention the company but there was a reason why the knives were so much cheaper. They were made in Pakistan.

However, there were some kit knives. I promptly bought one with a finished blade, two madrone slabs and a couple of brass pins, all for \$14.95 plus shipping and handling. When I finished, I sat back to admire my handiwork. My first thought was "Wow, I can do a better job than that." The bug was nibbling at me.

I found a knife magazine and ordered \$22.00 worth of catalogs. That's when I discovered Blades N Stuff in Glendale CA. Since that was across the LA Basin from Long Beach where I

was based, I started hanging out there when I could and bought blades, sandpaper and everything else I could think of and started turning out knives. Blades N Stuff was owned by Bob and Stevie Engnath.

Bob and Stevie, his wife, were really helpful and taught me a lot. Bob taught me to flat grind and became my first mentor. Bob mentored a lot of budding makers. And by this time the knifemaking bug was no longer nibbling but was now taking large bites. This all started in 1990.

Through Bob I met Ralph Freer and Bill Herndon. Both became mentors. I also met another mentor, Jim Ferguson of Twisted Nickel Damascus fame. Ralph Freer was about 15 minutes from Alamitos Bay where the patrol boat was stationed. I spent lots of time at Ralph's shop. He taught me to hollow grind. When he moved to Seal Beach, he was five minutes away. Lots of time in his shop. I bought my first Burr King grinder and my buffer from Ralph.

An aside here, probably one of many, is this. When a well-established maker gives a new maker a Pro Tip, especially as regards safety, PAY ATTENTION. Jim Ferguson told me that when working on a knife and not working on the blade itself, use a piece of split hose or something over the blade. The purpose is twofold. First, it protects the blade from getting scratched or dinged. Second, and most important, it keeps the maker from getting stabbed.

So, 30 days after receiving this Pro Tip from Jim Ferguson, I was working on a dagger, my first. I had it in a vise, point up and unprotected. I reached over it for a file and stuck 2 inches of it into my forearm, right where those three big, beautiful



This is the display award knife awarded to Barb Kyle along with the miniature she commissioned. The mini is 2" oal. Good thing I had a binocular microscope to do the scrim on the miniature with. That total "canvas" is 5/8" long.

Continued on page 4

The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

The April meeting was held April 20, 2022. The attendance was 23. The number is increasing and we are hopeful it will return to the 30+ it had been on a regular basis prior to the shutdowns and cancellations of the Shows. As can be expected, there is no Show report other than the hope (springs eternal) that we will have a April 2023 Show.

All of the Club Knives have been mailed. We have tracking information on all of the shipments but have not needed to track any of them as of yet. I am pleased to write it went much more smoothly this year. We did restrict sales to persons who were 2022 members and who had previously purchased a knife/knives. We wanted to recognize the support those members have given our Club during these very challenging

times. We have had a number of members email receipt of the knife/knives as well as written very positive comments on our Facebook page regarding the Great Eastern Knives. Thank you for your words. Everyone of us must issue a special thank you to **Roy Humenick** who coordinated with Great Eastern for the production of the 2022 OKCA Club Knife.

Your support, by sharing your knowledge and interest in knives, has helped us to continue to publish the *Knewsletter* during the off season (we normally do not publish June, July and August). Please acknowledge the following who have contributed articles for this May publication: **Gary DeKorte, Gene Martin, Clyde Shoe and Clay Stephens.**

We encourage all members to share their knowledge and enjoyment of “anything that goes cut” and forward articles for publication. You can write it on paper with pen or pencil, and I will type it for entry into the *Knewsletter*.

You will be surprised to learn of the others who have your same interests and questions.

Please be sure to thank **Lisa Wages** for her monitoring of the OKCA Facebook page. It is a never ending, arduous task which has become a job.

Also thank you to **Bernard Levine** for the emails to remind the members of the Club meeting dates.

If you call and get the answering machine, please leave a message. It has become necessary to ignore the ringing phone due to the volume of spam calls we receive.

See you at the Sizzler May 18, 2022. It will be an uplift to your humdrum day. Bring something for Show-N-Tell.



Do you write in cursive?

Back in the one room log cabin school where I received my education, cursive writing was the norm. Now I know that there are a few knife people that abhor computers that are knife literate. I am suggesting that you grab a sheet of paper, your favorite fountain pen and write us an article in cursive. Now if you are pre-log cabin educated, then get yourself a feather, sharpen it with your pen knife and spill your thoughts and knowledge, being careful not to spill the inkwell.

OKCA 2022 GEC Club Knife

Everyone who ordered and paid for the 2022 GEC Knife has received this special knife. In fact we have reason to believe that one individual might have received an extra knife which they did not order. Knock knock! Every year the order taking for the Club Knife is a challenge. The shipping of these knives is also an arduous task. We thank **Roy Humenick** for his persistence and also his creativity which make this project a success.

OKCA 2023 Event

We had a Club meeting and everyone was on the plus side of having an April 2023 OKCA Show. I think we did make the right decision to hold off. Full steam ahead now. Applications will start in the next few months.

Clarification

I have received repeated solutions for a knife show in lieu of the OKCA April Show. It has been suggested to change the venue and relocate the Show to a different city. It was also suggested that we had fallen out of favor with the Lane Events Center. Not remotely true. After explaining in detail why no Show, the suggestions have been put aside. But now there is another scheme to hold a summer all knife show which would be a for-profit show in Oregon. That is a good thing except we (the OKCA) are unable to endorse or promote an event that is

for-profit or one that is not sponsored by us. We can advertise the event if the information is submitted by a member, but this would not be a sponsored OKCA event. This is an OKCA Board decision. It also needs to be remembered the OKCA mailing list is NOT available to anyone. Ever! Nor will we do a mailing for anyone. Ever!

Those who are!

To those table-holders who have supported the OKCA by renewal of their membership for 2022: You are guaranteed your 2019 table location for the 2023 Show. We have marked the 2023 table plan with those who are current members for this year, 2022. The response has been encouraging to me and also tends to reflect the growth of our Show rather than a presumed degradation or failure.

December

The Winter/Holiday/December/before Christmas Show is on for December 10. Information about this event will start in September.

Words

This month we see articles by **Gary DeKorte, Gene Martin, Clyde Shoe, and Clay Stephens**. We will continue to publish the *Knewslettter* on a monthly basis with the support of the word makers. We will continue to foster the idea that this pandemic/disaster will go away.

Words

Sometimes we wonder if the articles are being read in our publication. Feedback sometimes is a bit sparse from members. I was talking to an out of state member the other day and an "oh by the way occurred." Apparently he was so mystified by the article on the Swedish barrel knife, that he had to go out and find one for himself. We also had a member request information on the writer of bronze knives, as he had more to add to this article. We know we are read and we do know we are appreciated as a publication. We know that because the domestic associates of primary members are overwhelming with their compliments.



My favorite picture

There are many photographs of soldiers during the Civil War holding rifles, pistols and knives. The most endearing is the one where the soldier is holding his best - the knife, fork and spoon eating utensil.

Ads R Us

Don't forget about the free ads in our *Knewslettter*! Just pop an email to us with your for sale or wants to us, and they will be added to the adverts page. The results have been quite successful. You can also add space to our Facebook page. Remember you must be a current member of the OKCA (2022 or greater) to advertise in our *Knewslettter* or on our Facebook page or be on our links page.

Club Meeting

We will meet at the Sizzler on May 18. See you. 🐾

veins are. Well, nine stitches later I had learned. I buy vinyl electrical tape from Harbor Freight, ten rolls for about \$6.00, and use lots of it.

There's a funny story about being treated for a stab wound. But we'll save that for another time. Back to knifemaking.



This is a Damascus hunter commissioned to the customer's design. It has elk teeth he provided inlaid in the handle. Elk have two ivory teeth. African blackwood bolsters, stabilized spalted tamarind handles; and since he's an archery hunter, double arrow mosaic pins by Sally Martin.

I was retired in 1995 due to on-the-job orthopedic injuries. Now I could really go to work. I told the rehab counselor I wanted to rehab as a knifemaker. We made it happen, and I got to spend six weeks at the ABS school in Arkansas, two different sessions with Wayne Goddard learning Damascus and folders, and three days with Bob Engnath learning scrimshaw. It was wonderful.

As a stock removal maker, we are constrained by the size of the billet and our imagination. Forging changes that to our imagination and the volume of the piece of steel. We create the shape. By now the knifemaking bug had burrowed deep and infected my brain.

The truly wonderful thing about knifemaking is that, as makers, we can pull out and use creativity that we never knew we had. It's a fantastic feeling to take a piece of steel and create something both beautiful and useful. Most of us start with a sketch pad drawing knives, whether small EDC's or some fantasy work of art. After several years we sketch less and just make it. We may have sketches as to scale. Mostly we've developed our eyes to proportion and shape. Really, the more intricate the

design the more likely we will sketch. And over the years we acquire the tools we need to do the job far more easily than when we started.

When I was in Arkansas I made a wish list of shop equipment that I wanted. I found that wish list in an old sketch book seven years later. I had all of it and more. It just took time and patience. And money, of course.

Another Pro Tip, but more of a warning. Once the knifemaking bug sinks its fangs into you, the maker will become a tool junkie. It almost seems like it would be cheaper to be a drug addict. Unlike a drug addict, we will have works of art or useful tools rather than punctured veins or other problems along with an arrest record.

Now it's over 30 years since this voyage began, and I'm more excited than I was all those years back. I enjoy learning and this voyage requires lots of it. There is always something new to learn. As a simple example, I spent three years of frustration putting 1/8" pins in 1/8" holes. I had split handles and lots of hair pulling, finally someone explained lettered and numbered drill bits.

It's very difficult to put a 1/8" (.125 inch) pin into a 1/8" (.125 inch) hole. They are the same size, and something has to give. Using a #30 drill bit, which measures .127 inches, solves that problem. For reference, a human hair is around .003 inches diameter. Problem solved. It also allows room for epoxy to grab the pin and handle material without leaving a ring around the pin. Most people can't see a .001 space all the way around the pin. Wish I had learned that three years earlier. Call that another Pro Tip for new makers.


Part of the excitement in all these years is the creativity that has grown and blossomed. I have far more ideas now than I did even ten years ago. When I learned mosaic Damascus from Steve Schwarzer in 1995, we had to lay everything up with various size pieces and tack weld the dickens out of it so it didn't all fall apart. Then came canister, or canned, Damascus. The patterns could be even pictorial using powdered

steel. That technology just took another leap with 3D printers making the patterns. I don't have a 3D printer but know someone who does. It's all about learning.



Nothing beats a wedding set. Handles are stabilized curly maple.

If you're a new maker, don't bemoan a lack of equipment. Use what you have and get creative. Think outside the box. I recently saw a "Forged in Fire" winner who used a charcoal forge in a small BBQ with a blow drier for a fan. It wasn't big enough to do the Viking axe, so he set it in a trash can lid. He lost some time due to a visit from the fire department, but still won. His \$10K will go a ways in making a better tool inventory. It's like the Marine Corps teaching "improvise, adapt and overcome."

And to you new makers out there, bring your work by our tables at the Club Show. We're at Q10-Q13. I'll be happy, when time allows, to give you an honest but positive critique on how you might improve your work. It will be positive. Heck, I may ask you to teach me; and we both may leave with some new ideas. We can't learn from those who want to put our work down. We should teach, not crush. 

The Three Rules of Knife Safety

Gary DeKorte

As an NRA Firearms Instructor I have often been asked at what age should a child be trained in safety. At my sale table during OKCA Shows, I have been asked at what age should a parent or grandparent teach knife safety to a child.

Before I answer this question, I would like to make a small introduction to all of my new friends that I have not yet met. I finished a 30-year career in law enforcement in 2012 and graduated to become a civilian. My mentor in knifemaking is Thad Buchanan who was gracious enough to take me into his shop and share his expertise. I worked for Jeff Cooper at Gunsite Ranch in the 1980s and cherish the times that we had for one-on-one conversations. Jeff gets credit for taking the dozens of rules of firearms safety and condensing them down to the four basic rules.

Getting back to our question, at what age should we teach a child knife safety? The answer is that there is no set age, we have to make a judgement based on maturity level. My teaching technique is that the child must be able to learn, understand and demonstrate the three basic rules of knife safety before they can earn the privilege of carrying a knife. So, moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, here we go.

Rule 1: RESPONSIBILITY. As an adult it is my responsibility to teach my child or grandchild responsibility, that a knife is a tool and not a toy. I want to teach the knowledge needed to gain safe experience. Children will have innate curiosity about knives, just as they do with firearms. When we take the time to teach safety, we tend to remove the curiosity.

Rule 2: SELF-AWARENESS. As an adult it is my responsibility to teach my child or grandchild that they must look around when using a knife. Knife safety applies to self-safety and to the safety of others around us. Injury caused to yourself or anyone else around you



through lack of awareness in unacceptable! Young people can easily get caught up in the moment and not be aware of others nearby.

Rule 3: ACCOUNTABILITY.

As an adult it is my responsibility to teach my child or grandchild accountability, which means to safely put the knife away before moving, or when not actually using the knife. If we are using a fixed blade knife and are finished with the cutting task, the knife goes back into the sheath. If we are using a folding knife, then I teach a simple method to safely close the folder. Hold the blade at the spine which is opposite the cutting edge, then fold the handle over the blade.

Since we can't always be around our loved ones, if we teach basic safety, they will take those habits with them wherever they go.

I mentioned to Dennis in an email that I appreciated the articles in



the *Knewsletter*, and each who had written them. His reply was “do you have some words on the tip of your pen?” Not having a topic is more intimidating to me than producing words, so I just went with something that is important to me. 📝

Billhooks

Clyde Shoe

This article is based on Jack Wilson's article and illustrations in The Countryman, a British periodical.

How about a tool that cut, cleaved, chopped, shaved, sheared, slashed, sliced, split, shaped, pruned and pounded its way through two thousand years of history, evolving into dozens of different forms - all this on one island off the coast of Europe. It is the classic form-follows-function tool, the versatile English billhook. Americans have scarcely heard of it, let alone used it.

The billhook is an ideal tool, used with one hand, leaving the other free to handle whatever is to be worked or cut. The hook is known as the bill or beak for cleaving; the middle of the blade is called the throat for dressing and pointing; the heel next to the handle for following through the split. When it has a short handle, it is called a handbill; when the handle is long, a hedgebill.



This map shows the strong pattern associated with locality. Each of these many shapes, developed in a specific locality of England or Scotland, were made by village blacksmiths to satisfy local needs and persisted well into the Industrial Age. Whether made in Stowmarket village or Sheffield city, the patterns stayed true into the 20th Century.

We have Jack Wilson to thank for all this rich detail. Wilson wrote and illustrated his billhook piece years ago. He is now out of *The Countryman* editor's reach and therefore out of mine.

Jack Wilson wrote that the "the billhook is a very ancient tool, made and used by the iron age people...It is very much a British tool, kept alive by our coppicing and hedging."



BILLHOOKS and HEDGING

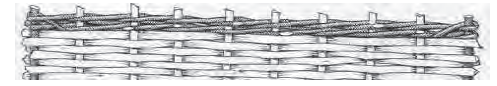
English hedgerows have a dark history. Country people occupied landlord-owned cottages for centuries. They were allotted dwellings, small farming plots, common pasturing, hunting rights and meager pay in exchange for their labor. With the General Enclosures Act of 1801, and other oppressive maneuvering before and after, landlords displaced tenant farmers and used the land to serve more profitable agricultural pursuits, usually livestock. This reduced large numbers of country people to begging and extreme poverty and forced them into the expanding urban mills and factories. Enclosure was key to the transition from feudal subsistence agriculture to modern commercial agriculture, but at a terrible price in human suffering.

Hedgerows were the physical barrier that created the enclosure, keeping sheep in and peasants out. The billhook was the primary tool for tending thousands of miles of hedgerows. To be stock-proof, the thorn or field maple trunks that made up the framework of the hedgerows were bent over, slashed nearly through, then staked until the hedge could support itself; all done with the versatile billhook. A laid hedge could securely enclose any livestock. Even hedgehogs had to pick their way through.

Established hedges are much taller than a man's head and too dense to see through, making them a first-rate refuge for wildlife. The abundant small game is doubtless one reason shotgun shell extractors are often found on old English

horsemen's knives.

I have swung a heavy billhook for a few hours, cutting vine maple, followed by a sore arm for a few days. What tree trunk-like arms those old-time English hedgerow tenders must have had, swinging a heavy billhook for perhaps 60 hours a week. They would have been incredulous of the modern practice of paying to exercise at a health club.



BILLHOOKS, WATTLES and COPPICING

The English used billhooks to make hazel wattle hurdles: small, hingeless, portable and gate-like, tied one to the other to form pens. Wattle hurdles were used to fold in sheep on a crop the sheep would eat, such as turnips. When the fenced turnips were completely eaten by the sheep, the wattle hurdles were moved and again set up in a new part of the turnip field for sheep feeding.

I make wattle hurdles, not for sheep, but for screening garden areas, such as where pots are stored. Our home is favored with nearby abundant native hazel. I use the billhook to bark and point the upright hazel stakes and cut the long, flexible stems. Some stems are left whole for strength (in the round); others are split lengthwise (riven) for flexibility. There is a notch in the heel of my billhook blade - just right for inserting a finger to steady the tool when riving - and the hook is useful for picking up material without too much bending.

Old English wattle craftsmen used the flat of the blade to skillfully tamp the hazel stems tightly together. If a sheep can see through the wattle, it will leap over. If a sheep can't see through, it won't. I don't have the skill to make tight wattles. Sheep, if I had any, would doubtless leap my wattles. Come to think of it, most of my woodworking is about half a bubble off plumb, but good enough to screen pots.

Some shrubs and trees can coppice, or resprout, freely from the stump.

Continued on page 7

Billhooks continued from page 6

Coppiced plants grow fast; since they start from established roots, a kind of jump-start thanks to Mother Nature. Hazel can coppice, and the best tool for cutting back a hazel thicket for coppicing is a billhook. Hazel craftsmen who need a steady, renewable supply of straight hazel shoots cut back thickets to the stump, then sit back and watch their hazel sprout factory grow. I do the same; it's satisfying. I wish more satisfactions in life were so easily achieved.

"It is well to find your employment and amusement in simple and homely things. These wear best and yield most." *Henry Thoreau's Journal*, October 5, 1856

AMERICAN BILLHOOKS ?

Jack Birky from Eugene, Oregon, a fellow OKCA member and a long-time tool collector, has a billhook. It has no markings. Jack doesn't know where it was made. The pattern is English; but, when you think about it, how could it not be. The English have been making billhooks for two thousand years and have laid hold of just about all possible patterns. Finding a billhook design different from existing English ones would be like finding a bureaucrat who doesn't dream up paperwork. There may not be such a thing. The fact that Jack's billhook is an English pattern proves nothing about where it was made.

Our English Jack, Jack Wilson, wrote that, "It does not appear to have crossed the seas to America with the Pilgrim fathers. The billhook was exported to the West Indies, Barbados, Peru and Brazil for use in plantation work." Why not to America? We had plantations. Or why didn't we make our own billhooks? We made everything else.

Our American Jack, Jack Birky, has searched his extensive tool library--lots of English billhooks, but no American. Jack has never for certain seen an American-made billhook. Neither have I. It is such a versatile tool we think there ought to be some around, but where are they? Since at this writing we cannot say for sure there are or are

not American-made billhooks, their existence remains, as the police say, an open case.

I have a facsimile reprint of a 1897 Sears, Roebuck catalogue, several pounds of fascination, the original published just one year after Rural Free Delivery was established in our nation. I was sure I could find billhooks in this weighty tome, I thought I could find anything there. In 1897 Sears told the world:



"Don't say it isn't in the catalogue... nearly everything in merchandise can be found in this book. Look carefully through the index. If you don't find it in the index, look carefully through the entire catalogue."

Whew! A big assignment, but I know you expect thorough research. I decided to spend the evening in my easy chair, catalogue in lap. Pages 45 through 86 show hundreds of hand tools, this is where it will be. I found corn and hay knives, broad axes, butchers' cleavers, bush hooks, froe-- but no billhooks. I see I'm here for the long haul.

I make my way slowly through the pages, then even slower when I get to page 109, Pocket Cutlery: Wardlow's fine English steel. I pick a Wharncliffe whittler, stag, \$0.90. Farther along there is a big hunting knife with a turned up clip point which Sears calls a club knife. I try hard to see it as a hook, but I can't.

The sun is down and I am getting glassy eyed and beginning to stray. I am on page 306 and into ladies' corsets: Dr. Warner's heavily boned corsets, making them absolutely unbreakable. The hip

is extra stayed with clock spring side steels, colors: drab or black. I pick black and look for a clock spring key. Still no billhooks, but I haven't missed anything.

Bedtime. At page 770, I am on the home stretch but stuck in dog skin horse robes: fawn, black dyed Chinese, gray Siberian, Galloway (a Scottish dog?) and prairie wolf. I pass.

Later I dream of bargain antique pocketknives, ladies' windup corsets, skinned dog cadavers and the phantom American billhook. All this abundance of Gay 90s merchandise, but no billhook. Could the West have been settled without it? If a billhook isn't in this monument to American utility, does that mean it wasn't in America?

Jack Birky, my cohort and diligent tool researcher, has uncovered two 19th century American billhook makers:

1. Underhill operated the business George Washington Underhill & Co, 1839-1852 in Nashua NH. In 1852 he was a founder of the Underhill Edge Tool Co.
2. Blood operated the business Isiah Blood & Co, Ballston NY from 1860, continued after his death by his son-in-law until 1895, when it became part of the American Axe and Hoe Co.

Editors note

When I took down from the wall my one and only billhook, lo and behold, I discovered it was made in USA. It is marked S. Mariani - S. Francisco Calif. Recently I found a picture of the store dated 1891. And the search goes on. 🗨️



Peachy Keen

Clay Stephens

Having a conversation about sharpening a knife can be tricky business. I can get lost in translation very quickly, "Wait, whet!" Yes, there's more, edge, grind, hone, sharpen, keen, stone, strop, trenchant and steeling.

It can be frustrating when I'm trying to define a word during a conversation. Depending on where you're from, and who taught you to sharpen, those words can mean different things to different people. I checked with my buddy Webster and was surprised at how universal the definitions were. It wasn't until I looked at online tutorials and the science of sharpening did those words have a different meaning. I guess there is a difference between an academic definition and a cultural definition. So when you find yourself on the receiving end of "hone this," or "steel that," just take it in stride. It's all part of our knife world. P.S. Don't neglect your swarf. 🗑️

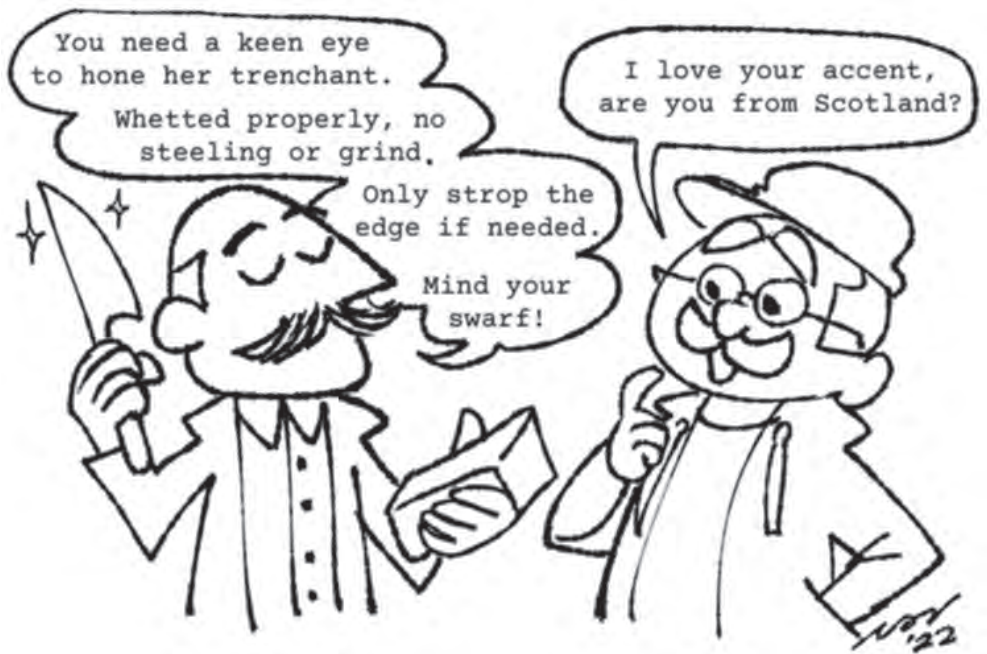


Illustration: By Pearl Stephens

Try Steeling

Clay Stephens

Steeling is defined as sharpening a knife using steel rods. In recent years the term has come to include ceramic, diamond and any other type of abrasive in stick form. For the sake of this article, I'll discuss the steel rods.

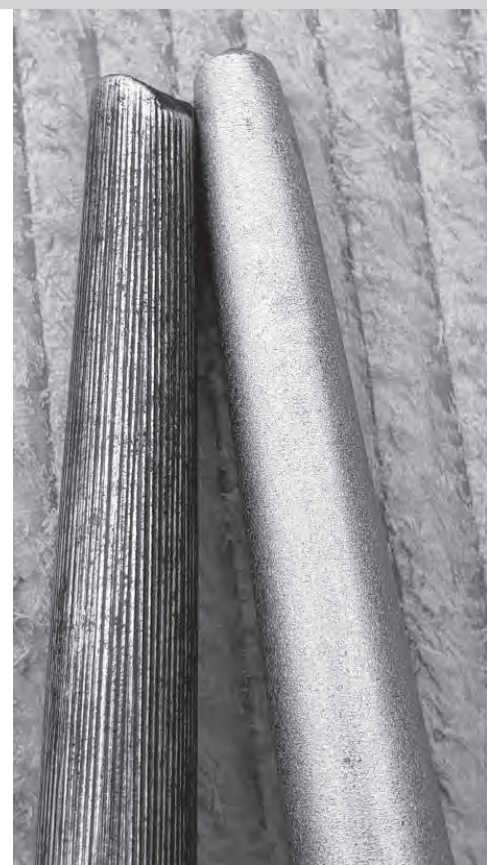


Unusual sharpening rod made with half striations and half smooth. By Flint, England

There are two types of steel rods. Those with striations, and those without. Striations run the length of the rod and act in cutting or scraping tiny amounts of steel off the bevel of the knife. The smooth rod treats the blade differently. As you draw the bevel of the knife across the rod, the action will re-form the edge. The edge of a blade is very thin material.

Cutting meat, wood or textiles causes that thin edge to become misshapen. The pressure you apply as you draw the bevel across a smooth steel rod will return the edge to its original form.

It's taken me a long time to come around to steeling. I guess I had to try all those new gizmos. All the clamp down, angle measuring, twelve piece sets. I thought about those industries that cut all day long, such as butchers and chefs. They use steels. They are using what works. I also like that a steel is a one piece sharpener that doesn't break if you drop it. Steel sharpeners are often overlooked at garage sales and can be picked up cheaply. Steels also come in an oval shape which offers more surface contact during your stroke. A smooth oval steel made by F. Dick seems to be highly prized. And finally, there's information out there that says steels are outdated and won't sharpen newer (harder than carbon) steel. If you look at the current kitchen cutlery sets made by Henckel, Wusthof and Case, they all come with a sharpening steel. 🗑️



Steel sharpening rods with and without striations.



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 pizza pans) 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.

You are invited to attend the IKA 8th Annual Knife Show. Location Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 1789 South Eagle Rd, Meridian, ID. Contact Gary DeKorte (360)808-9498. Total of 41 tables, Information: ika.idahoknife.com -Dates are August 12 -13.

Wanted: high grade minty pre 1940 three blade stock knives 3-1/2" to 4-1.2" closed, in unusual and rare brands. Call Jerry (360)253-0366 (PST).

Ernst Bruckmann knives wanted. Not the run-of-the-mill Bruckmann knives, please. What I'm after are the larger knives, multi-blade knives and unusual knives in all their various handle materials. Call Bob (604)538-6214 or email crescentknifeworks@gmail.com

Randall Made Knives: Buy, sell or trade. Also many custom knives for sale or trade. Visit www.nifeboy.com or email jim@nifeboy.com or (209)295-5568.

For Sale - OKCA 2009 Bill Ruple Trapper #19. Only 25 made. Sale price \$1,000.00. Also the following Ltd. Ed. William Henry: Sunset #B05 - 11/21/2007 #42/50; GenTac #G30 I - 10/17/2007; Attache #B10-CTD - 9/7/2006. All new, in original cases w/ certificates. Interested? Contact Glenda gbgigi@comcast.net.

For Sale - Mint Randall 50 year commemorative #257 - Call Jim (562)716-9857 or email jpitt306@earthlink.net.

Custom Leather for 43 years. Horsehide and brass nailed knife sheaths. (951)303-4666. Visit website mountainmikecustomleather.com.

Wanted: Sequine knives that are unusual, such as custom orders, gut hooks, or any other unusual models. Please email jh5jh@aol.com with a picture attached or call (805)431-2222 and ask for Jack.

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

Buying OKCA Club Knives for my personal collection. I am also interested in Wayne Goddard, Ron Lake, Lonewolf (Pre Benchmade), and Spyderco Kopa knives. Call or email Jordan (310)386-4928 - jgl321@aol.com

Wanted : Western Wildlife Series etched knives as follows: 532 bear, 532 eagle, 521 eagle, 534 antelope. Will pay fair price for any. Call Martin (406)442-2783 leave message.

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 jiggled 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 Yellow horse models. Email loden402@gmail.com or call (765)244-0614 8AM-8PM EST.

Mosaic pins and lanyard tubes by Sally. See at www.customknife.com, email at sally@customknife.com. (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.

Want to Learn to Make a Knife? The \$50 Knife Shop by Wayne Goddard is back in print and available from Steve Goddard. Also has copies of the **Wonder of Knifemaking**. Books are \$25.00 plus shipping. Call Steve (541)870-6811 or send an email to sg2goddard@comcast.net

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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The Knewsletter

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Not So Right Knives

This reminds me of a trip taken to Knoxville for a knife show. It was many years ago, but the memory of the event still lingers. There was a case full of knives which caught my eye. Being a specialist of certain patterns, I commented to the table-holder that there were a few of the numerous, not marked, display knives that might be suspect as not being right.

He then informed me that every single knife in the case was not correct, and they all were phonies. He collected "not right knives." Sometimes you have to pay big bucks to get the really wrong knife to add to your collection. 