



## KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ Handmade Knife Competition
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Our international membership is happily involved with "Anything that goes 'cut'!"

February 2023

## Western's Bowie Knife History

Martin R. Drivdahl

To introduce this article, let me start with the item shown in Photo No 1. You see a Western belt buckle laid across a red bandana with "Western Knives" and other decorations printed in black and white. The belt buckle and bandana each include similar images of a Bowie knife. Cast into the metal on the back of the buckle are the boldly printed words WESTERN CUTLERY WORLD'S FAMOUS BOWIE LIMITED PRODUCTION 1995 (in four lines, all caps). At this late date, Western was owned by Camillus Cutlery Co., and all things stamped Western Cutlery were manufactured by Camillus. The manufacture of all such items stamped Western ended in February 2007 when Camillus Cutlery closed its doors.

Let's get back to the beginning of the manufacture of Bowie knives by this company (then owned by the Platts Family) going by WESTERN STATES CUTLERY COMPANY. The only thing resembling a Bowie knife in the company's catalog sheets, prior to WWII, were the X245 and 245R models that appeared in the 1931 catalog sheets. Both models had short 5" sabre ground blades, a full cross guard, pearl or assorted



Photo No. 1

composition handles and a typical Bowie knife blade shape. These models were not made for military or defense purposes, but rather as "outing" or "hunting" knives.

With the advent of WWII in the 1940s, WESTERN STATES joined several other cutlery companies in the manufacture of the V-44 SURVIVAL KNIFE. Western produced two variants of this large Bowie which was described in their WWII folder as the BUSHMAN No. BX54. Both variants have a 9-1/4" blade, large steel cross guards, similar looking handles and are 14-1/2" overall length. Photo No. 2 is an image of one of the variants with a drawing of the same knife by M. H.; Cole from his book *The Best of U.S. Military Knives*. This variant has the word WESTERN stamped parallel to the back of the blade. The other Western variant of the V-44, as shown in Photo No. 3, as pictured in the 1945 catalog sheet in Harvey Platts' book *The Knifemakers Who Went West*. This variant has the word WESTERN stamped on the tang at right angles to the back of the blade (parallel to the guard). I've seen this variant only once - at a gun show in Kingman, Arizona. It seemed to have a rougher textured handle than that of the knife shown in Photo No. 3. I doubt that many of these WWII Western made V-44 Bowies are currently showing at knife or gun shows.

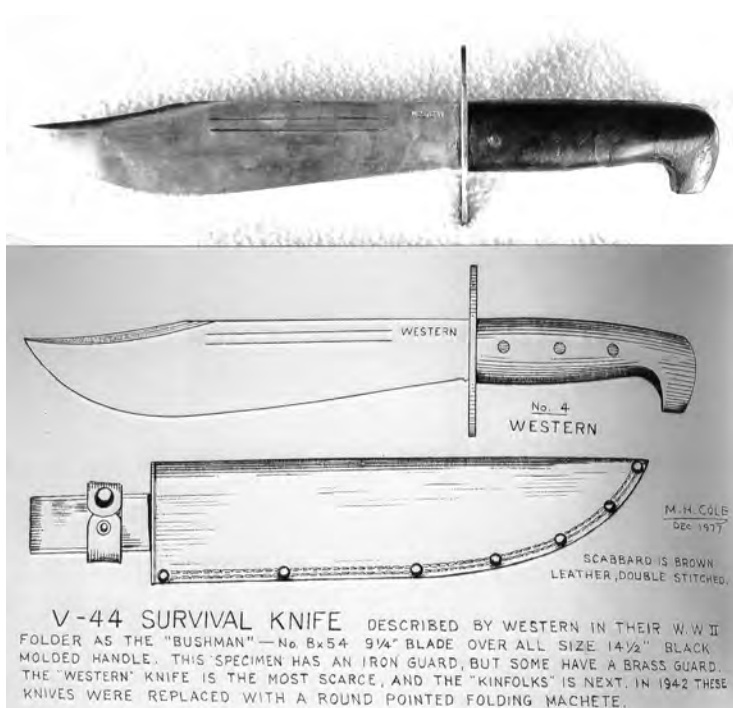


Photo No. 2

In examining Harvey Platt's book, I found no large sized Bowie knives offered until their appearance in the 1968 catalog sheets. At that time, two models were offered. One was catalogued as the No. W49, the other is No. S-649. Both models have a 9-1/2" blade, a curved brass guard and are 14-3/4" in overall length.

Continued on page 6

# About The Handmade Knife Judging

John Priest

The following rules are in effect for the 2023 Oregon Knife Show Handmade Knife Competition.



The categories for the custom knife competition are: **ART KNIFE - BOWIE KNIFE - DAMASCUS - FIGHTING KNIFE - FOLDING KNIFE - HAND FORGED - HUNTER/UTILITY - KITCHEN KNIFE - MINIATURE - NEW MAKER**

1) Knives can be submitted and accepted only from table-holders at the 2023 OKCA Show. The exception is the New Maker category. A "New Maker" is one who has never entered any competition, anywhere, ever.

2) The maker must personally submit the knife and identify himself as the maker of the submitted knife.

3) The Oregon Knife Collectors shall not be held liable in any way for the submitted knife after it has been turned over to the Oregon Knife Collectors Association.

4) If there is a question by the judges as to the class/division/category into which the knife is submitted for judging, that knife may be ineligible for that class/division/category. The judges, at their discretion, may change that knife to a more suitable category.

5) The submitted knife must have been made after April 15, 2022, and never previously received an award to be eligible for competition, .

6) Knives submitted will have their marks covered and will be numbered. Cover material will be provided if you do not have any. **You will be asked to cover your mark on your own knife. This must be done before you submit it for judging.**

7) Awards will be announced Friday afternoon about 5:00PM. Winner's knives will be kept for display until 6:00PM. All other knives will be returned after judging

is completed. The winners will also be announced at the Saturday Nite Awards Presentation.

8) The submitted knives must be 88% made by the knifemaker who submits the knife for judging. Disclosure of the other 12% must be noted.

9) Damascus knives can be placed in any category, except hand forged. Hand forged knives can be placed in any category, except Damascus. A knife can only be entered into one category.

10) There must be at least three knives, or submittals, in a category before that category will be eligible for an award.

11) Knives for the **Custom Knife Competition** will be accepted in **Meeting Room #3** during the hours of **1:00PM to 2:00PM Friday - April 14, 2023**. The cut off time will be **2:00** sharp, if you get the point.

Any violation of these rules will make the knife and the maker ineligible for awards. Any infraction identified after the awarding will result in forfeiture of the award. It will be the responsibility of the knifemaker to abide by these rules. The Show Chairman shall be the absolute decision maker on any conflicts or questions should it become necessary.



## FAQ

**Why do I have to cover my logo?** (Answer) To keep the judging fair and not distract the judges and also to have somewhere to put the contest number. We realize that some makers have a very distinctive style, but this is the most equitable way we have found.

**How many knives can I enter?** (Answer) One per category.



**Who are the judges?** (Answer) We aren't telling. It's hard enough to get people to leave their table for an hour or so on Friday without making them justify their decisions. I will say that we have three judges: one local, one a maker and one a collector. They are all highly qualified, and we couldn't have the contest without them.

**What time do I enter?** (Answer) 1:00PM - 2:00PM on Friday, April 14, 2023.

**What time do I get my knife back?** (Answer) After the judging is completed, there will be an announcement. We ask that you pick them up as soon as possible. The only exception: If you win, then we will keep them long enough to take pictures and display them.

**I'm undecided about which category to enter.** (Answer) The judges can change the knife to another category if, in their opinion, it's better suited to a different category.

**What about disclosure?** (Answer) We are judging knives that were carried from concept through finished product by one person. We realize that this isn't always possible, but we also expect you to tell us what you did not do to the knife. We do not want a knife made by committee.

**What about cheating?** (Answer) We work on the honor system. If you cheat, your fellow makers will know; and you will know.

In the event of a question not answered, the Show Chairman will be the last word. 🐉

## Phone service....not

Around late December and early January, our phone service did not function. Numerous tech requests were cancelled with no visit or calls from the company, so for five weeks we could not receive calls. Emails flourished advising we were dead in the water. We reached a global service number where English with an accent was spoken but English was not understood. When phone service was resumed (squirrel bites), we cancelled it and found a phone service that was more reliable and was a ton of money less.

## Tables for April

We still have some tables available for the April Show. We were surprised by the quantity of renewals which has been very encouraging. Those who did not renew were in poor health, no health, moved away, were looking for a job or had maturity issues with ouch and hurt. We anticipated a few blank tables, and have kept the same table locations as they were in 2019. Those who renewed wanted to be at the same table location as they had previously. If you know someone who is waffling on the edge to get a table, give them a poke with a sharp knife.

## RV Parking

We have always had RV parking at the Lane Events. I usually advised those interested to contact the Center for rates and rules. I have posted a form on our OKCA website on the site map page that will answer all questions if you want to camp at the Show. <http://www.oregonknifeclub.org/>. If this is too much to type in: do a Google search for OKCA.

## Scouting Around the Show

We have partnered with **All-Med Medical Supply** to get mobile devices for attendees at the Show. With my recent limp, this might be an option for me also. Information to contact and reserve can

be found in our advertisement section of this *Knewsletter* (page 9).

## Knewsletters

Now that things have started to return to normal (as normal as we can have after such an upset), we will go back to our summer hiatus, during which there will not be a *Knewsletter* June thru August. We believed that we needed to maintain a fluid continuity with the Club and continued with monthly issues. We will go back to the summer hiatus for these three months.



## About the Show

We have all forgot a little bit about the organization of the Show. April 15-16 are the public hours, all tables are active and uncovered. Hours are 8:00AM to 5:00PM Saturday and 9:00AM- 3PM Sunday with a church service on Sunday before the Show opens. Friday is a **members only day** from 10:00AM until 5:00PM. Just because you may have signed up on our FaceBook page does not make you a member.

## Who be here?

We are not a commercial Show. Never have been. There are a few manufacturers that have been true to us by their presence as well as several suppliers that have knife supplies. To name a few: Gallery Hardwoods, Great Eastern, Knife Magazine, Oregon Leather, Spyderco and Tru-Grit.

## 2023 Club Knives

Big surprise? The Great Eastern 2023 Club Knife is sold out. We will have a few left for the Silent Auction that are prototypes for the last few years.

## Display Theme 2023

Before the pandemic put its strangle hold on us, our display theme was to be military knives.



This does not mean that you cannot have a display that is outside this theme. Any display along the walls, on any subject, is eligible for a display award irregardless of the topic. The award this year is the Broken Back Seax knife which was to be the award for the Pandemic Shut Down Show. Check our web page ([http://www.oregonknifeclub.org/site\\_map.html](http://www.oregonknifeclub.org/site_map.html)) for pictures of these stupendous knives. Click on "Display Award Knives" on the site map page. Or do a google search on "OKCA" to get there.


## Lodging while here

We have partnered with the Valley River Inn for many years. Elegant surroundings along the river along with shopping and eating within walking distance. We have negotiated for a cost effective group rate which blocks many rooms for our event. We are in direct communication should there be bumps along the way. This is the only property we do this with. You cannot get the group rate if you call national booking. You must call this property at either (800)543-8266 or (541)743-1000 to take advantage of our group special rates. Mention the Oregon Knife Collectors event in April.

## Words

This month we see articles by **Gary DeKorte, Larry Davis, Martin Drivdahl, John Priest and Jim Taylor**. We will continue to publish the *Knewsletter* on a monthly basis with the support of the word makers. Remember all of us have interests and information to be shared. No problem if you cannot type or email. Just write it (cursive, printed or typed) on paper and forward to us. Our Seek-Re-Tary will type it for publication.

## Club Meeting

We will meet at the Sizzler on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. See you there. 

# The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

The January 18, 2023 meeting had 31 present. The results of the December/Holiday/Winter/Mini Show were discussed. I believed it had been very successful. Especially with consideration for the absence of Shows for the years 2020, 2021 and April 2022.



January is the election of officers for the coming Show year. A motion to elect the current officers for the 2023 Show year was seconded and passed unanimously. Thank you to all who continue to support the officers with this vote of confidence. It has been a very difficult three years.

The 2023 OKCA GEC Club Knife has been announced, and we have been receiving payments. It has been a very fast close out.

All the table confirmations and 2023 membership cards have been mailed to all who we believe have paid for 2023 tables and are current 2023 members. If you have not received a table confirmation or your membership card(s) and believe you should, please contact me. If you call, please leave a message. I will research and return the call.

Remember you must be a 2023 member to attend Friday of the April Show. We must have received a 2023 membership

renewal prior to April 10, 2023 to be eligible to enter on Friday, April 14. There is no membership renewal on Friday. Please check the mailing label on your *Knewsletter* to determine if you need to renew for 2023.

We have made arrangements with the Valley River Inn for reduced rates for the Show. Please call (800)543-8266 or (541)743-1000. These numbers are for the Eugene location. On our website we have included information regarding overnite parking of RV's in the Lane Events Lot. We have also made arrangements with All-Med Supplies for mobility scooters. Their information is on the adverts page of this *Knewsletter*.

You must be a current 2023 member to advertise on our FaceBook page or in our *Knewsletter*.

Please advise me if your mailing address, phone number or email address change.

My thank you to all who have contributed articles to the *Knewsletter*.

This issue has articles by **Gary DeKorte, Larry Davis, Martin Drivdahl, John Priest and Jim Taylor**. With the help of you, the members who have contributed articles, we have been able to publish a quality *Knewsletter*.



Please remember to thank **Bernard Levine** for notifying our members of the Club dinner meetings and our Shows.

Please remember to thank **Lisa Wages** for her monitoring of the FaceBook page. It is an unending job and deserves recognition.

If you call (541)484-5564, please leave a message. It will be returned.

See you at the meeting February 15, 2023 at the Sizzler Restaurant, Eugene/Springfield OR 🐾



# The Next Super Steel

Gary DeKorte

Crucible Particle Metal has brought out a new knife steel in 2021, CPM MagnaCut. Blade HQ is calling this the next big breakthrough in knife steel. MagnaCut has high toughness, high wear resistance and high corrosion resistance. I wrote last about knife engineering, and we mentioned that high wear resistance gives excellent edge retention.

MagnaCut is a powdered metal stainless tool steel that yields a fine microstructure after heat treatment. In discussion of knife engineering, we mentioned that the buyer's choice in knife steel should be dictated by their intended use. For those of us who prefer stainless steel, MagnaCut makes an all-around user knife that fits multiple roles.

In my previous column we introduced Dr. Larrin Thomas who authored the excellent reference book entitled *Knife Engineering*. Larrin Thomas is the son of Damascus maker Devin Thomas. Larrin had a concept to create a stainless powder metallurgy steel with the properties of high performance, similar to non-stainless steels like CPM-CruWear and CPM-4V.

OK, now let us stop and think for a moment. If you had a concept for a new formula for a new knife steel, and you approached a major steel manufacturing

company with your idea; how receptive do you think that they would be? New designs almost always come from internal metallurgists employed by the company. Larrin had never heard of an independent metallurgist offering a new steel design to a company, but he was successful in doing just this.

Dr. Thomas first contacted Crucible Industries who are partners with Niagara Specialty Metals which does the hot rolling and distribution of knife steels for Crucible. Years ago, Crucible could do pilot-sized heats of steel to test designs, but now the new company must make a full heat of several thousand pounds which is very costly. Larrin knew that it would be difficult to bring his new idea forward; and if CPM was interested, that he likely would have only one chance to get this right.

Larrin first talked with Bob Shabala of Niagara Specialty Metals who was excited about the idea. Dr. Thomas then was able to talk with Crucible and present his idea, but they seemed reserved. The key question that Larrin answered was that the steel would be sold as a normal Crucible product, and he was not interested in selling steel. The lead metallurgist for Crucible had knowledge testing questions for Dr. Thomas, and he convinced them of his knowledge.

It took just over a year for the first melt of steel to be "atomized" to powder. The first melt of the steel was "mushy," so Crucible asked Larrin if they could add more carbon; but that would increase the amount of chromium carbide which



is undesirable. Dr. Thomas asked that they add the other elements of silicon, nitrogen and chromium first. When these elements were added, the melt became liquid again; and the emergency was averted. It took another six months for the steel to be given the initial forging and delivered to Niagara for hot rolling.

Dr. Thomas was challenged in balancing the carbon and chromium for needed hardness and corrosion resistance while also dissolving the chromium carbide at a reasonable heat-treating temperature. The carbide structure of MagnaCut is much finer than the common powder metallurgy stainless steels such as S35VN. MagnaCut is designed to have no chromium carbides after final heat treatment. Many stainless steels that have much higher chromium in formulation can have less corrosion resistance, due to excessive growth of chromium carbides after heat treatment.

MagnaCut can reach 64+ RC if needed. Dr. Thomas recommends the hardening temperature of 2050 F and tempering (2x) at 350 F to reach an RC of 61.5-62. So, there is the short version of the story of the creation of CPM MagnaCut.

I plan on bringing four hunter/utility knives with full tang MagnaCut blades to the 2023 OKCA Show in April. Please stop by table Q-3 and let's talk knives.





Photo No. 3

The No. W49 has a high carbon chrome vanadium steel blade, and this knife was originally equipped with rosewood grips. The No. S-649 has a stainless steel blade and dark composition grips made to look like jiggled bone. An example of an early model No. W49 is shown in Photo No. 4 with its sheath. It is tang



Photo No. 4

stamped WESTERN Boulder, Colo. U.S.A. on the mark side (2 lines) and BOWIE on the file side. This early production W49 Bowie doesn't bear the model number marking. Later versions of the same basic Bowie were given the model number marking. Photo No. 5 shows this marking with the letter D, indicating it was manufactured in 1980.



Photo No. 5

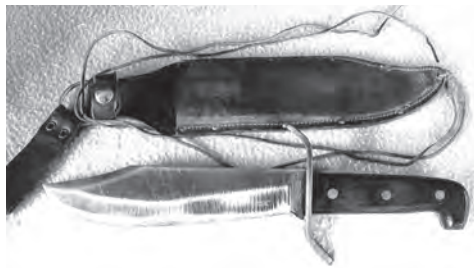


Photo No. 6

Photo No. 6 shows the entire knife, including its molded cowhide sheath, D-ring belt attachment and lace-leather leg thong. Its blade length and styling are identical to the Bowie in Photo No. 4 with the only difference being its grips are of stained, laminated wood rather than rosewood.

In 1996 when Western Cutlery Co. was owned and the cutlery manufactured by

Camillus, a fancy 100th anniversary Bowie of the same length and styling was introduced and sold in a specially decorated red velveteen lined box. The year 1996 represents 100 years from the 1896 date that Charles Platts was joined by his five sons in forming the C. Platts & Sons Cutlery Company in Gowanda, New York. Photo No. 7 shows this beautifully decorated knife in its custom fitted display box and the art work shown on the display box cover. The mountain scene with the golden imagery of the rising sun, Western logo, and the 100th anniversary artistry is indeed quite impressive and pleasing to the eye. To my knowledge, this W49 was probably one of the last Bowie knives that carried the Western stamping.



Photo No. 7



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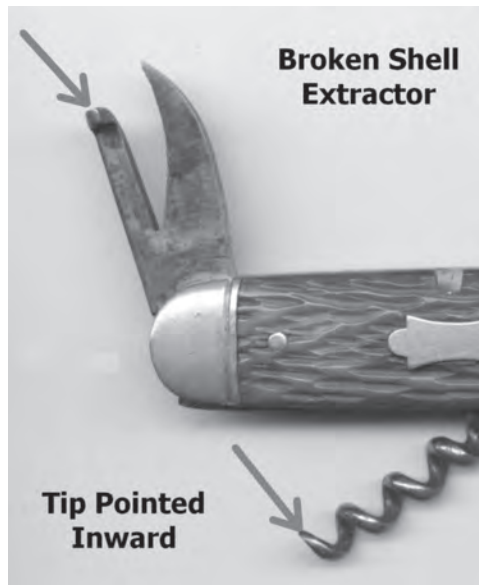


# Signatures of quality

ibdennis

We collect scout/utility knives made in the USA. A hundred bazillion of these knives were made from the early 1900s up to today. Some were made to be cost effective (cheap), and others were aimed at the person with an eye for quality (not cheap). I want to step back to the pre-1930 days when a pocketknife was a real tool to be used in everyday life. A utility knife had to have a main cutting blade, a screw driver, a crown cap lifter, a can opener and a leather punch. Basic tools to handle any situation in a pinch.

It seems almost every company made a utility knife. And then again, some companies made a utility knife that was not only functional but was high quality. I recently wrote an article about a Jim Corrado knife in which I referred to the quality and attention to details in the knife. A recent procured utility knife had me doing the same look-up-close observation. Funny how much you can see when you look closely at the details of the piece.



Schrade Cutlery started business in 1904. The knife I have was made in the 1920s. The 1920s were prosperous years, and a cutlery manufacturer could easily target the market of the affluent. I have based my year of manufacture on one blade of this knife. It is the can opener blade which also serves as a broken-shell extractor. In the days prior to 1930, shotgun shells

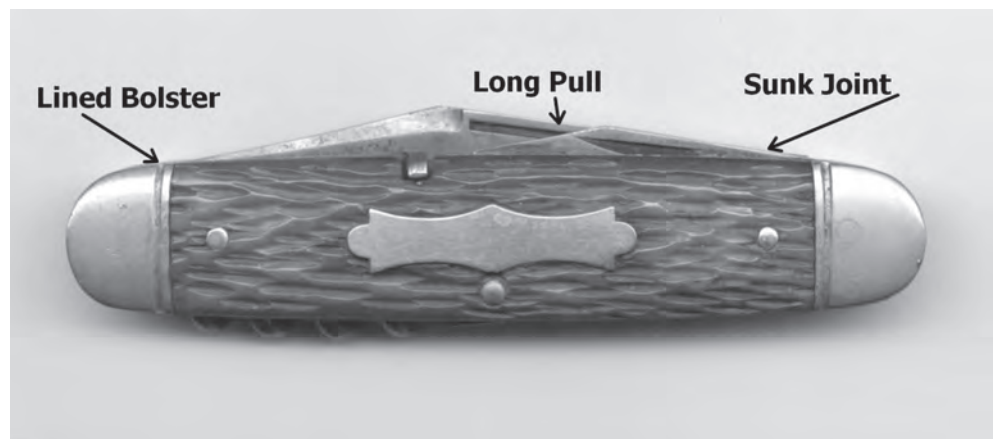


were made of paper. If the paper became wet, there was a chance the brass head of the shell would pull off, leaving the paper stuck in the chamber. But note that the lifter on the can opener blade is sharp which allows it to enter the chamber and grip the stuck paper case and extract it.

Lined bolsters were a signature of a quality knife. Plain bolsters were easy to make, whereas the groove line on the bolster took a tad bit more attention. This and the long pull on the main clip blade were also signatures of a quality knife. The shield on this knife is larger than usual. Shields were made plain, and the owner could have a name engraved on the plate to show ownership. This shield is plain and large. Schrade knives rarely had a corkscrew on them, and this adds to the quality and uniqueness of the knife.

The real quality of a pocketknife lies in the sunk joint. The common made knife does not utilize the sunk joint, as more engineering is needed for this feature. A sunk joint (sunken joint - counter sunk joint - low pivot joint) is described as the corner tang on the pocketknife that does not protrude above the liner. In other words, if the tang sticks up above the liner, it could tear fabric like the inside of a pocket. This knife by Schrade has all the signs of a first quality piece.

The handles of this knife are peach seed, jigged bone which is a signature of the Schrade old time pocketknives. The nickle silver liners also shout quality. Looking at a painting or looking at a quality made pocketknife can be the same. 🐉



# Old Sheffield Tales

Jim Taylor

To this day, certain cutlery trade happenings are still chuckled over in the nooks and crannies of old Sheffield pubs. Some are actually recorded in the old literature. Others, (perhaps not fit to print?) are, understandably, chuckled over the more so, if only because of that fact!

When considering “colorful” anecdotes, my mind turns immediately to the famous “Buffer Lasses.” The reputation that this redoubtable crowd “enjoyed” for strong language, as well as for the tricks they played on any young males that dared to enter their buffing shops, is part of Sheffield folklore. I can assure the reader that such reputation was fully earned.



*Typical workshops in Sheffield*

As late as the 1960s, buffer lasses could be observed doing a little lunchtime shopping on The Moor, in Sheffield. Shiny black faces, dirty black overalls and legs wrapped in brown paper that was secured with string. Headwear was always a red head scarf. A common enough sight, and one that nobody thought twice about.

This “uniform,” for such is what it was, had been observed in Sheffield for many generations. The brown paper leggings were used as a protection against the filthy working conditions that prevailed in the gloomy workshops, as they polished spoons and forks using a mixture of sand and oil.

Old films still exist, depicting the simply dreadful working conditions of the times. The spoon-fed workers of today would be amazed if they could witness what these lasses considered to

be quite normal! I am always astonished by the sheer blazing speed that these workers needed to operate at, if they were to have a half-decent wage packet to take home. One hand full of spoons and the other full of sand/oil mixture are almost a blur as the lasses hunched over their buffing wheels. Needless to say, the end product was always a work of art.



*Buffer Girls: Mappin & Webb - c.1914*

It was always said of the buffer lasses, that they were so valuable to the Masters, they became known as; “Diamond’s in Brown Paper.” The veracity of this statement is born out by the fact that both a book and short film were produced, bearing this very title.

Back to my theme; When interviewed, one group of lasses related a time when they noticed that one of the lads in the next shop, always, “came to work mucky.” This unfortunate lad was grabbed by a group of these lasses and stripped. The lasses washed him down in the “cooling tub.” They then washed his clothing and made him standby the fire until they were dry. The lasses even ironed his tie with a hot file! This group of lasses then pronounced, whilst roaring with laughter, “He never came mucky again.”

Alice Dyson, who started her working life as an errand lass, with Mappin & Webb in 1912, recorded one incident that occurred when she toiled as an advanced buffer, amongst a small group



that only worked on expensive sterling silver.

The King of Afghanistan, (Mohammed Zahir Shah, who was later overthrown in a coup) and his Queen, had ordered a large canteen of cutlery from Mappin & Webb; and whilst on a visit to the U.K. they visited the works. Alice had been told to demonstrate her polishing skills to the King on one of the fish eaters, in order to show the difference between before and after buffing. After finishing the piece, she threw it down into the sand. Before she could stop him, the King picked it up. Silver, of course, gets very hot when buffed—which is the reason that the buffer girls all wore finger rags—and the King of Afghanistan burnt his fingers! Alice related that the Queen considered this to be highly entertaining and couldn’t stop laughing. Later, as the King drove away, he waved to the staff with his bandaged fingers, and the Queen was still laughing.

Little Mester, Stan Shaw, regaled me with a tale that happened to him around 40 years earlier, when he worked at George Ibberson’s. Stan was polishing the blades on a nearly finished knife, using a rag dolly. Without warning -- although Stan does admit to carelessness, here -- the dolly “grabbed” the knife out of his hands and threw it! It wasn’t until around ten years later that the knife was found sticking into one of the rafters in the roof. Stan still shudders when he tells the story. No wonder. ↘





## 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 Pretzel labels) 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.

**For Rental - ALL-MED Medical Supplies** - Mobile assistance vehicles and chairs for use at the Oregon April Knife Show. Email susan@allmedoregon.com or call Susan @ (541)485-3411

**RV Parking at the Show** there is a form posted on our OKCA website on the site map page that will answer all questions if you want to camp at the Show. <http://www.oregonknifeclub.org/>.

**Custom Handmade Knives** Made to your request! Repairs, Sharpening & Restoration - professional services using top quality and exotic materials; 714-872-2141 <http://www.KellyLaneKnives.com>

**For Sale:** Knives from the forge of Wayne Goddard and Goddard and Son. Also Gentleman folders by Jim Martin of Oxnard CA. Also, miniatures by Jim Whitehead and many other artists. Email for available descriptions and photos: scottpritchard@gmail.com

**Knives For Sale:** Authorized dealer for Microtech Protech, Anza, L.T. Wright, Chris Reeve and Hogue. Custom fixed blade knives, custom folding knives, production knives and military knives. Lee Beene (480)225-6897. [www.leescutlery.com](http://www.leescutlery.com)

**For Sale:** Collection of Bronze Knives. Eight (8) pieces that include five (5) bronze daggers, a bronze Roman spear point, a Roman bronze friction folder and a bronze war axe head. These were featured in the April 2022 issue of the Knewslettter. I will throw in a bronze bracelet and some bronze Roman coins. \$2,500.00 for all. I also have a meteorite blade from Indonesia and a very early steel sword blade from England. Contact Dan @ Westlind@wwestsky.net

**WANTED** to buy: American made Bowie and dirk knives from the Civil War and earlier, plus fancy California knives and push daggers. Mark Zalesky (865)310-0576 (leave msg) or email [knifepub@gmail.com](mailto:knifepub@gmail.com)

**For Sale** - Vintage and other knives for sale on eBay under MAYERI BOUTIQUE. Carbon steel, German and Japanese knives and more. Becky Pierce.

**Randall Made™ Knives, A Timeline** 'The Quick Reference Guide – 4th Edition. Created to provide collectors and enthusiasts of Randall knives with a handy lightweight guide, useful around the house or for taking to gun and knife shows. A quick reference guide covering notable characteristics of both the knives and sheaths. Printed on waterproof synthetic paper. Six panel double-sided 12-1/2" x 25" accordion folded chart style format. \$30.00 Check or M.O. payable to Blue Star Knives. PO Box 862, Bigfork MT 59911

**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](mailto:crescentknifeworks@gmail.com)

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

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

**Custom Leather** for 43 years. Horsehide and brass nailed knife sheaths. (951)303-4666. Visit website [mountainmikecustomleather.com](http://mountainmikecustomleather.com).

**Wanted:** Sequine knives that are unusual, such as custom orders, gut hooks, or any other unusual models. Please email [jh5jh@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 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 Yellow horse models. Email [loden402@gmail.com](mailto:loden402@gmail.com) or call (765)244-0614 8AM-8PM EST.

**Mosaic pins** and lanyard tubes by Sally. See at [www.customknife.com](http://www.customknife.com), email at [sally@customknife.com](mailto: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](http://www.customknife.com), contact Gene at [bladesmith@customknife.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:wagner_r@pacinfo.com).

**Knife Laws on-line.** Federal, state, local. Bernard Levine (541)484-0294 [www.knife-expert.com](http://www.knife-expert.com).

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## The Knewsletter

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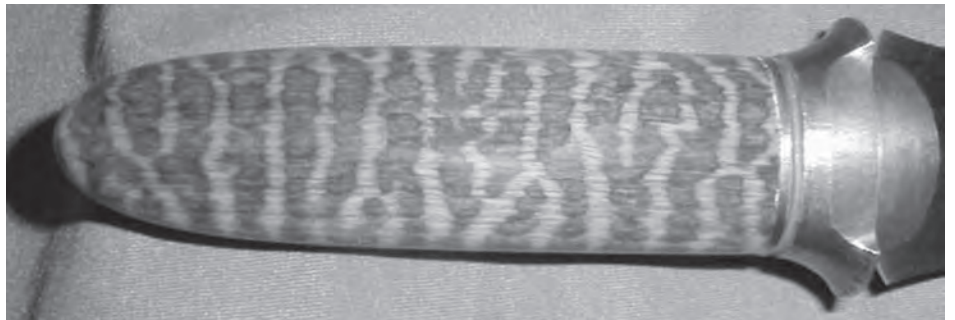
## SNAKEWOOD: Friend or Foe?

Larry Davis

Snakewood, *Piratinera guianensis*, is also known as Letterwood (which alphabet is arguable), leopard wood, when dotted and speckled wood, when speckled.

Origin is Central and South America, with the primary source from Surinam and Northern Brazil. Trees are not large (8" diameter average), and only the dark heartwood is marketed. Most stock is imported and sold as half or quarter logs or pieces of logs. Lumber is very rare; and a large board is 3" wide, with most in the 2" range. The timber is very dense and heavy at 81 lb per cubic foot and 1.30 specific gravity. That's heavier than *Lignum Vitae*!!!!

Most working problems originate with using green material. Snakewood is so dense, that it takes years to dry a small piece carefully without degradation of the material. When a maker uses this partially-dried material, it is a disaster waiting. Invariably, the handle will split and crack; and the maker will swear to never use Snakewood again. I swore to never stock Snakewood again for this reason but got very lucky and found some 50 year old dry lumber in Brazil.



Snakewood is not easy to work with sharpened tools because of its hardness and density; although these characteristics make it a beautiful wood with high polishing capabilities. Anders Hogstrom recommends grinding and shaping with a new 50 grit sandpaper belt, followed with a used 50 grit paper for smoothing the shape. Care must be used to not overheat the wood, causing a burn or heat fracture. Always check with the supplier regarding moisture content before purchasing Snakewood to avoid major trouble. ↩

