



NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✂ Western Knife Ads
- ✂ Al Mar knives
- ✂ Obsidian
- ✂ Broken Knives
- ✂ Harness Jacks

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

March 2023

Western Sportsknife Ads

Martin Drivdahl

It's fun to browse through the pages of old sportsmen's magazines to see what there is in the way of ads by some of the notable American cutlery companies. One of my main focuses has been to collect as many models of sheath knives as possible made by Western States and Western Cutlery Co. In my efforts to locate ads for sportsmen's knives by Western, I've come up with three.

The earliest ad I found was in the September 1945 issue of *Sports Afield*. A photo of the cover of this magazine (Insert No. 1) shows the head of a bird-hunting dog, presumably an Irish Setter. The ad found in this magazine (Insert No. 2) shows a Western knife having a narrow saber ground blade with a deep blood-groove that is identified only as a FINNISH-TYPE KNIFE. Instead of a finger guard, it's shown with a metal bolster and is advertised to be available with molded tenite (plastic) handles in the colors of orange,



Colorful, SHARP AND SERVICEABLE FINNISH-TYPE KNIFE

• Orange, yellow and green molded tenite handles. Fine quality embossed sheath with inside wooden lining to prevent cutting. Tough, sharp blade of high carbon, electric furnace chrome steel. Deep blood grooves. Blades 3 1/4", 4 3/4", 5 1/4" and 5 5/8". One of many Western knives—a fine example of the QUALITY you get in EVERY Western knife. It's backed by generations of skill and experience, plus new treatments of high carbon steel developed to produce the very finest knives for our armed forces.

• Merchandise available for civilians as soon as present military requirements are filled.



**POCKET KNIVES,
HUNTING KNIVES,
KITCHEN KNIVES,
FISHING KNIVES,
SCISSORS.**

Western

Make a note of the Western name. It means FINE cutlery. Soon, we hope, these knives will again be available for civilian use. When that time comes you'll have 200 or more beautiful, durable styles to choose from.

WESTERN STATES CUTLERY CO.
1605 BROADWAY BOULDER, COLO.

Photo No. 2

yellow and green with blade lengths of 3-1/8", 4-3/8", 5-1/4", or 5-5/8". By looking at Western's 1941 catalog sheets, I was able to identify the knife shown as a stock No. 58 BG (5-1/4" blade) or No. 68 BG (5-5/8"). The stock number for a similar knife with a 4-3/8" blade was the No. 48 BG, but it was pictured with no metal bolster or guard.



Photo No. 1

It's worthy to note that publication of the September 1945 magazine issue coincided with the ending of WWII (September 02, 1945). Western had curtailed much of its civilian cutlery production during WWII. The ad states that merchandise will again be available for civilians as soon as present military requirements are filled. It lists the new civilian products to be pocketknives, hunting knives, kitchen knives, fishing knives and scissors. I feel that few of the Finish-type knives shown in the ad were ever produced or sold, as I've found them to be scarce as hen's teeth. Only one of this type have I found in the many years I've searched for Western knives.

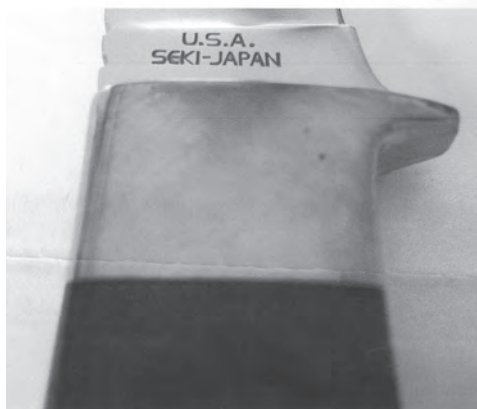
The second Western knife ad to be discussed came from the October 1947 issue of *Outdoor Life*. a photo (Insert No. 3) of which is included herein. This magazine cover shows the face of another hunting dog peering out through the ground cover (most likely an English Springer Spaniel). To take a break from more serious thinking, it occurred to me that either of the two hunting dogs shown on the above described magazine covers would have had the natural talents and desire to be avid collectors of knives handled with such things as bone, stag or leather in the devious way described by Dennis Ellingsen in his article titled "Dawg Gone" (see June 2022 *Knewslettter*). The Western knife ad published in the Spaniel covered issue of *Outdoor Life* shows a bird

Continued on page 6

Al Mar Knives

Herb Malone

The owner of a knife sharpening service in Phoenix, Oregon, died unexpectedly; and it was discovered he had about \$500,000.00 worth of knives. The heirs decided to have an auction, and it required three such actions to dispense all the knives. At the time I was not very interested in knives; but two of my co-workers at the County were interested so I came along with them.



I came across some differently designed knives. They were very well made, so I bid on three of them and won! Thus started my love affair with Al Mar knives.



Alfred "Al" Mar was born in the U.S., the son of Chinese immigrants. Al joined the Green Berets, and in the late 1950s volunteered to serve in Vietnam. Upon returning to civilian life, he earned a Masters Degree in industrial design. Al first worked at Gerber Legendary Blades from 1968 to 1979.

In 1979 Al Mar started his own knife company and chose to have them made in Seki, Japan, famous for making Samurai blades for 1,000 years. He had "Seki Japan" put on the tang; and above it, he put "USA." When it was time to import the knives, customs did not like having the USA on them and did not let him import them. They eventually worked out an agreement. Customs would let him import the existing knives as long as he left the "USA" off all future knives.

Al Mar designed many new knives over the years. He would produce 200 knives to see how they sold. If sales were good, he would continue production; and if bad, he would stop production.

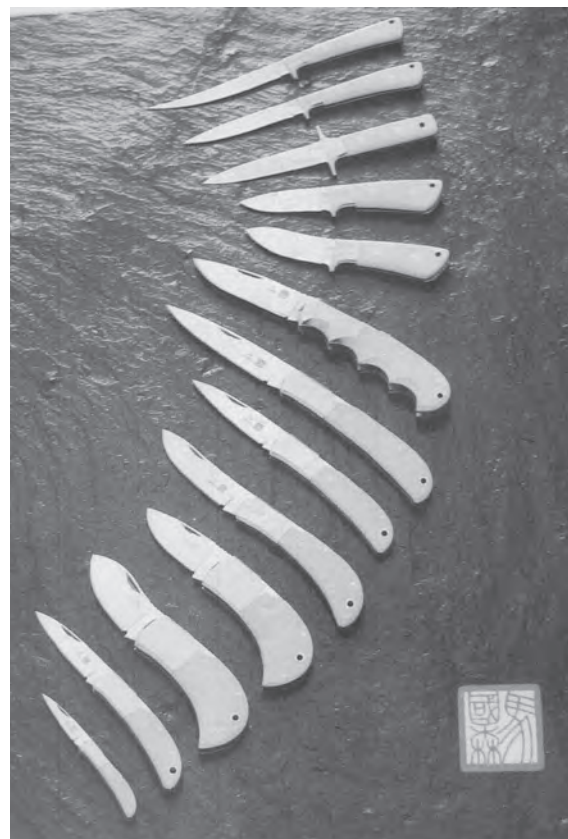
Al Mar died in 1992, and the company was taken over by Gary Fadden, a friend of Al. Gary bought controlling interest from Al's wife, Ann. He ran the company until 2019, when it was sold to Edge Technologies. The knives are now made in China with Chinese steel. As with many knives, collector enthusiasm for the new knives wanes when this occurs.

I don't know if Al was a marketing genius; but today an Al Mar knife with the "USA" over the Seki Japan and the 200 pre-production knives all command a premium price because they are known to be the earliest of each model.

Over the years, my collection has grown; and I continue to look for some of those earlier models. If you come to the April Show this year, you might see an old man walking around each table asking, "Do you have any Al Mar knives?"



AL MAR



Membership card

April 14, Friday, is a OKCA Membership Day Only. A current membership card must be openly displayed on your person. There will not be renewal or new memberships on this day. Best be looking now where that current 2023 membership card is lurking.

Do You Have?

A confirmed table confirmation for the 2023 Show? With “No Shows” for the last several years, there has been confusion by a few about their fees for tables. Without exception, “All” monies were refunded. So if you thought your 2023 table was covered by an earlier payment—it was not. No confirmation paper...no table for 2023. Best be looking to make sure.

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.



Al Mar

It was a pleasure to see this Al Mar article by Herb Malone. It brought up many pleasant memories that I had spent with my friend Al Mar. In the 1980s Al Mar was a good friend to the OKCA. He was a frequent demonstrator of Kendo during our April Shows. He was also the reason we had a 1987 Club Knife—an Al Mar designed tanto knife. My first face-to-face meeting was in the early 1980s when we scheduled to meet at a Portland Gun Show. We saw each other in an aisle and without pause,

raced to each other for that handshake of friendship. The next thing I remember was being on my knees, and Al was apologizing for his powerful hand grip. When walking through life you meet some great people. Al Mar was one of those people.



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 sitemap 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. Contact them to make reservations and arrange payment. 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 be no *Knewsletter* June thru August. During the last several years, we believed that we needed to maintain a continuous reminder of the Club and Show and continued with monthly issues. We will go back to the summer hiatus for these three months.

About the Show

We have all forgotten 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. You must

display your membership card or table-holder badge to gain entry to the Showroom.

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 must have a display with 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) for pictures of these stupendous knives. Click on “Display Award Knives” on the sitemap page. Or do a google search on “OKCA” to get there.

Knifemaking

Competition rules are printed in the February OKCA edition. They can also be found on our web site.

Words

This month we see articles by **Eric Bergland, Charlie Campagna, Larry Davis, Martin Drivdahl, Kelly Lane and Herb Malone.** 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, March 15, 2023. See you there. 🐾



The Seek-Re-Tary Report

elayne

The February meeting was held February 15, 2023. There were 19 present. Not a very large number. Elayne Ellingsen, Secretary/Treasurer, conducted the meeting in the absence of the President and Vice President. The meeting was turned over to the Vice President, John Priest, after his arrival.



All of the OKCA 2023 Club knives have sold. Thank you for your support of our organization with your purchase. The knives will be available for pick up at the April Show after the representatives from Great Eastern have an opportunity to set up their tables at the Show. An announcement will be made at that time to pick up your knife/knives.

We have been very successful with the sale of tables for the April Show, especially when you consider we had no Shows for 2020, 2021 and 2022. It was a slow start, but we are closing on the finish line. There are a few tables which have not been claimed. Members have aged or become less mobile as the years have passed. If you believe you have paid for a table and not received a table confirmation, please contact me. I will research the matter and advise you. Phone (541)484-5564 or email okca@oregonknifeclub.org

We are one of the very few Shows that offer free entry to members (not only life members, but all members) on the set up day. It has been suggested that it makes it a bit of a challenge for the table-holders when we pester them before they have an opportunity

to set up. Please consider a delay of your entry until a few hours after the doors open on Friday to allow them to set up their tables. It is a needed courtesy. A shame it must be requested.

If you are unsure of the names you have requested for table-holder badges (two per table-holder not per table), please contact me. I have typed the badges to be printed by the printer, and any changes **MUST** be here by April 10 to be ready for Showtime. No badges are made at the Show.

Please locate your current 2023 membership card prior to the day of the Show. If you wish to enter the Showroom on Friday, you will need that membership card. No renewal of membership or new memberships will be available on Friday. We must receive your payment for membership prior to **April 10** in order to process your card for pick up at the Show door.

Thank you to the writers who have given us the opportunity to supply a quality *Knewslettter* during these very trying times. This issue thank **Eric Bergland, Charlie Campagna, Larry Davis, Martin Drivdahl, Kelly Lane and Herb Malone**. Please acknowledge their contribution to our goal of education and enjoyment of "things that go cut."

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.

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. If you have any difficulties, please contact us and we will intervene. 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. Contact them for reservations and to arrange payment. Their information is on the adverts page of this *Knewslettter*.

If you change your mailing address, email address and/or phone number, please contact me. I will update the records.

See you at the meeting March 15, 2023 at the Sizzler Eugene/Springfield OR.



In Defence Of The Humble Harness Jack

Charlie Campagna

In searching for a single knife pattern to collect, I had two goals to achieve. One was to not break my bank account, and the other was to experience the thrill of the chase and the pleasure of discovery. With this in mind, I decided on the harness jack, sometimes called a punch jack or teamster's knife. I refer to it as humble, because it is the simplest and least expensive knife that provides a cutting blade and a punch or awl blade. The punch blade is intended for leather harness repairs and adjustments and for cutting and reaming holes in moderately resistant materials.

There is a certain elegance in simple effective designs, and the harness jack (HJ) has it in spades. This knife has separate single-end backsprings that are anchored solidly at the non-working end, making the knife durable. It also usually has a hand-filling swell end jack pattern, making the knife functional. Half stops, which are pauses when opening



a blade, are found on the better working knives as a safety feature. The majority of these knives are found with utilitarian wood handles, mostly ebony or other dark dense wood, resulting in low cost reliability. There are fancier ones with jiggled bone handles, decorated bolsters and elaborate shields; and I have seen Christmas tree and candy striped celluloid handles. All things considered, a harness jack knife can be a very desirable tool.

As my search for decent specimens of Harness Jacks progressed, I found that they are much rarer than most other patterns; and they tend to be well used. You can search eBay for instance and not see a single one at auction for days on end, whereas there are always dozens of trappers, whittlers and Barlows. I recently watched an auction unfold that had a Warwick brand HJ with a large chip out of the blade. It sold for \$88.00, which seems too high for a knife with a bad blade. The handles and the punch blade were in respectable condition. On the other hand both the brand and the pattern are rare!

As a help in my search, I started to acquire older knife and hardware catalogs, reprints

and some generously donated copies by fellow knife collectors. I found that most companies stopped offering Harness Jack knives in the late 1930s. I am assuming that the pattern fell out of favor as automobiles and trucks supplanted horses as a way of transporting people and goods. The earlier 1900 to 1920 catalogs appear to list several two blade punch knives, and some of them were nice looking knives. One I would mortgage the farm for is a sleeve board pattern HJ with worm-grooved jiggled bone handles and a long pull large spear blade. This appeared in a 1911 Schatt & Morgan catalog. This of course makes the hunt for the knives all the more exciting, and the success all the more gratifying! (Please see pics of some of my favorites.)

As rare as they are, one can occasionally come up with a gem. For instance there was a near mint Case Tested HJ found on eBay some months ago, and in particular a great Schatt & Morgan (S&M). Oh yes, and there is the great equal end Robeson I bought from a guy in England! Hmm, can't forget the swell center Keen Kutter from Oregon!! I better stop there!

Typical of the rarity, some Harness Jacks are the only ones I have seen of their type; since I started collecting several years ago. The earlier hardware catalogs from the 1900s tend to have two to six HJ patterns listed. There is enough variety in this pattern to keep anyone who enjoys the search interested for a long time. Take the punch blades for instance; with the help of wonderful people in the knife community, I have discovered that the style of punch can attribute authenticity to a Harness Jack knife or can warn of alteration or forgery. The punches alone are a unique topic of discussion. Several patents were issued near the turn of the last century, adding to the evidence that punches were an important part of life when the automobile industry was still in its early years and horses still lived and worked in society.

After buying several different knives, I started to find that a lot of them have similarities which suggest they were contract knives. This led to a comparison to find the probable originating cutlery company. This contracting out of certain models was quite prevalent over the last century and continues to this day. Queen Cutlery is still in operation at its historical location in Pennsylvania. Queen has been responsible for several



contract-branded knives; and they made most of the Case Classics in the early 1990s, as well as recent Winchester and current Robesons.

The question arises "is this knife pattern relevant today?" Of course, you can adjust your belt by adding a hole or two. I have seen a few people who still smoke a pipe using the punch blade to clean out the bowl, but more relevant is the recent surge in people owning and riding horses, including my granddaughters! A pocketknife with a punch is handy when the tools are all at the bench in the stable, and you need a quick repair in the field. The punch can assist the main blade when whittling soft wood, especially when clearing wood from tight spaces. I am currently making a leather pouch completely, with a pocketknife with a punch on it as a test for Queen's modern version of the folding punch. It is a pleasure to watch the curling cut spiral out of a hole! A caution to the reader, don't back up your cut with your hand!!

To further answer the relevancy question of a Harness Jack knife, I have decided that I would carry one for a while, as well as doing my leather project, and see if it will replace my usual whittler or Barlow or my Sunday pen knife. But the question arises if I should risk the dwindling supply of HJs in the world?! Should I carry a minty Remington around with my quarters and dimes? 🐾

Western Sportsknife continued from page 1 and fish knife with a 4-3/8" blade that is identified as a No. 48BGG (Insert No. 4). This ad states that the knife was available in handle colors of brilliant orange, bright green, rich ivory and sunset red. The knife depicted has a thin blood-grooved sabre ground blade with a prominent metal guard. The same knife is shown in Western's 1950 catalog sheets, but the optional handle color green is omitted. By the mid 1950s the stock number of this knife was changed to P48A, and it was

stamped on the knife tang.

The third Western knife ad was found in the December, 1949 issue of *Outdoor Life* (Insert No. 5). This cover scene is vivid and quite detailed and portrays a hunter dismounting his horse with five dogs below a treed mountain lion. The Western ad found in this magazine (Insert No. 6) shows two sheath knife models - an L48 and a No. 677. The L48 has the same basic 4-3/8" blade as other model 48's but has a less prominent blood-groove

than the P48A. It is equipped with a decorated leather handle and tooled leather sheath that looks identical to the sheath shown for the 48BGG. The No. 677 shows a 5" blood-grooved blade, curved full guard and a bone stag handle. The tooled leather sheath for this knife is of a Finnish styling.

In conclusion, I wish you all happy hunting, and don't forget to thumb through old sports magazines to add ads to your cutlery memorabilia. 🐾

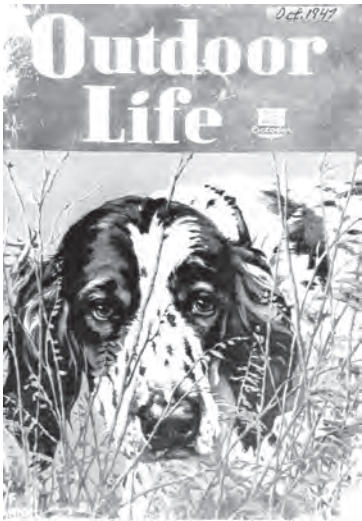


Photo 3

Western
Sportsmen's Knives
It's a Pleasure TO CUT WITH A Western
in Brilliant Colors Brilliant orange, bright green, rich ivory, or sunset red handles of beautiful long-lasting plastic distinguish these new WESTERN sportsmen's knives. Now you can have beautiful, flashy COLOR added to the well-established QUALITY of this fine line of cutlery. Illustrated is No. 48BGG, with 4 3/8" blood groove blade. 8" overall. Also made with shorter sabre blades without blood grooves. Handsome tooled leather sheath with each knife. If your dealer can't supply you, a folder showing this and other styles will be sent on request.

WESTERN STATES CUTLERY COMPANY
 1607 BROADWAY • BOULDER, COLORADO

Photo 4

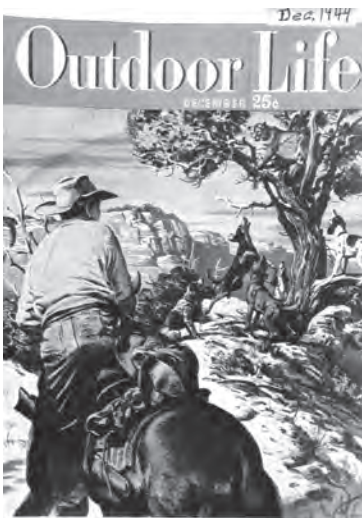


Photo No. 5

IT'S A PLEASURE TO CUT WITH...
Western
 QUALITY CUTLERY

No. L48
 4 3/8" sabre or blood groove blade—overall 8"

No. 677
 5" blood groove blade—overall 9 1/8"

Sharp, hand-ground blades with carefully set edges. Finest high carbon electric furnace chrome vanadium cutlery steel. No. L48 features decorated leather handle. No. 677 has bone stag handle, and Finnish-type sheath with inside liner of tough wood for extra protection. Patented "double-tang" construction locks handle and end knob in place forever. See these and many other patterns of WESTERN knives at your dealer.

WESTERN STATES CUTLERY CO.
 1607 BROADWAY, BOULDER, COLORADO
Fine cutlery for 3 generations

Photo 6



Obsidian Knives In The Oregon Cascades

Eric Bergland

Many of you have probably hunted in the Cascade Range and its eastern and western foothills for deer or elk. If you've bagged a big one in one of those brushy canyons on the west side or miles from your rig on the east side, you can certainly appreciate the skill, determination and fortitude of our prehistoric Indian predecessors! After all, they camped and hunted in those same areas for thousands of years, on foot, without the benefit of pickup trucks, campers, Forest Service or BLM road systems, or even horses and muzzle loaders...much less durable steel hunting knives.

My interest in obsidian knives began in about 1980, when I worked for the Forest Service on the Diamond Lake Ranger District, Umpqua National Forest. My colleagues and I located and documented prehistoric archeological sites. There were obsidian chips (the debris from tool making), simple flake tools, broken drills, choppers and obsidian bifaces (most broken, but a few complete).

At that time, we routinely interpreted small bifaces as "arrowheads," "projectile points," or "dart points." However, I was often dissatisfied with those interpretations. The complete "points" were often blunt and ridiculously thick in cross-section; were these really the products of skilled Indian flint knappers? Why would they have bothered finishing something that couldn't be effectively hafted as an arrowhead or dart point? As a flint knapper myself, I knew that it was fairly difficult to chip artifacts which were so short and thick.

Since those early years of reconnaissance, I've documented and researched numerous upland Cascade sites, both as a government archeologist and contract archeologist. I've come to the conclusion that many complete and fragmentary obsidian bifaces were probably the discarded blades of hafted knives, rather than arrowheads or projectile points.

Obsidian is volcanic glass, it chips readily and is composed mostly of silica, which makes it outstanding chipped stone tool stock. Its main drawback is its brittleness; this quality has probably caused lots of outraged cussing and instilled "philosophical

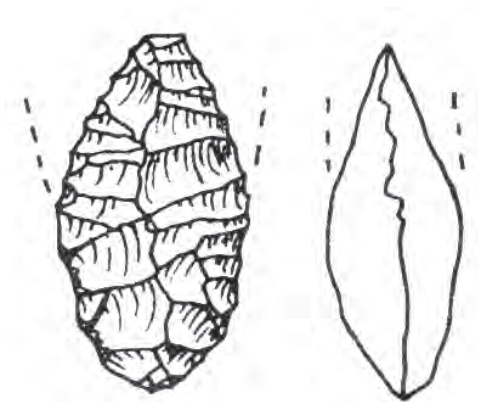
attitudes" among us flint knappers (if my own experience is any measure). And can you imagine how irked you'd have been if you were cutting the back-strap off a big Blacktail buck and your obsidian knife blade snapped in two?

No doubt, though, after a few hot words you'd have re-chipped the broken blade still in the handle, finished your task and waited until you were back in camp before you'd retool the knife handle. Or, the resharpened blade remnant might have been long enough; and you'd continue using, dulling and resharpening it for months or even years.

You also might have retrieved the snapped blade tip and chipped it down into a replacement knife blade, dart point or arrowhead, depending on your needs. Many of the small obsidian chipping scatters in the Cascades are found in ideal camping locales; and I think that knife handle retooling best accounts for the presence of some of the short, stubby blades. Also, there's good evidence that older artifact fragments were picked up by subsequent hunter/gatherers, resharpened, reused and then discarded again.

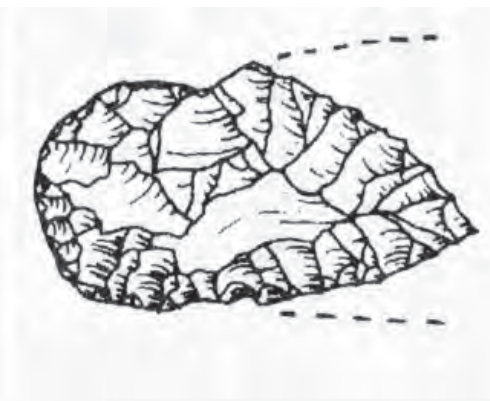
At a past year's Show, one of the special knives I sold was a reproduction, based on a fragment in a collection I recently analyzed for the Willamette National Forest. I call it the "Monument Peak" Pattern. The original fragment was the base of a finely-chipped blade; it had probably snapped off near where the blade emerged from a slotted handle - the edges were carefully ground, no doubt to avoid cutting the handle/blade lashing material. I am proud to revive such a fine, ancient pattern and like to think that the prehistoric Native American knifemakers would have approved.

Dashed lines on all illustrations show the probable original blade outline.

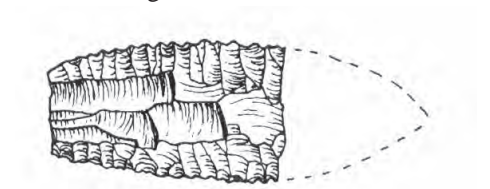


1. Stubby, resharpened blade from a site in the Calapooya Mountains, western Cascade foothills. Discarded at the end of its effective

"use-life." Extreme thickness suggests this was probably a stern or tang for mounting into a socketed handle. Size 1.5x.8x.5in



2. The asymmetrical, short blade on this artifact (from Crater Lake National Park) contrasts with the carefully abraded, rounded base. The abrading plus width of the base indicates it was once fitted into a slotted handle; perhaps repeatedly resharpened until it was no longer usable. Size 2x1.1x.4in



3. Reworked "fluted point." This distinctive form is normally found in sites 11,000 - 11,500 years old, yet it was discovered with other obsidian artifacts on the surface of a thick layer of Mt. Maxima ash-fall (6,700 years old). It was picked up at least 4,500 years after its original discard and resharpened to a serrated edge - there are no indications it had a handle. Size 2.3x1.3x.35in From a lake shore site near the Cascade crest.



4. "Monument Peak" blade base from a site near Sweethome, Oregon. The width of the blade and careful edge-grinding indicate it was fitted with a slotted handle. Dashed outline shows my version of the original blade's shape. I mounted the replica blade (Serial #SK-5) on a slotted handle of Central Oregon mule deer antler. A lashing groove on the handle and projecting "ears" on the knife blade made for secure binding with waxed linen string. Size of original fragment: .5x1.25x.3in

Broken Knives But Not Broken Dreams

Kelly Lane

Knifemaking is both an Art and a Science. To create a knife is to produce a tool that is required for daily life today - just as it has been for more than 2.5 Million years! The 'ARTISTIC' component of knifemaking varies from maker to maker - and from time to time. Some make beautiful 'Art Knives,' and some make very functional and maybe sometimes 'ugly' knives. I make both myself but tend to prefer the more artistic path. The 'SCIENCE' is pretty much the same in both cases - create a sharp, durable, long-lasting knife out of modern man's favorite blade material: steel and sometimes stone!

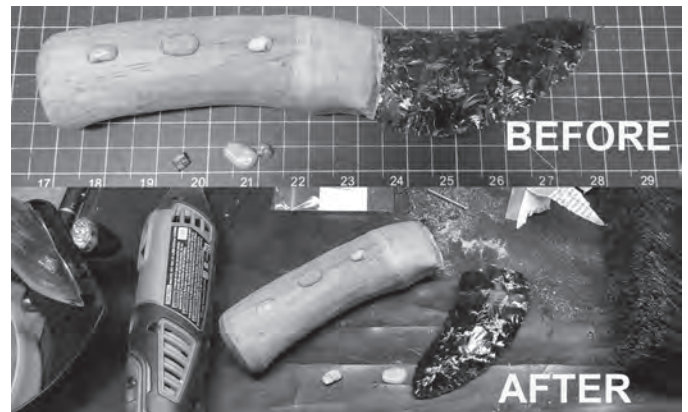
There are about a million different processes and techniques to 'make' a knife. AND sometimes a process can go very wrong. The feeling that touches your heart that instant of a moment you break or screw up a knife that you are making is not pleasant. I have a collection of "Failed Knives" stacking up in my shop that grows in relation to my time in the knifemaking business. (Early years there are more failures, later years still some failures, but less.) I feel anger, confusion, sometimes rage and then...a sad grief. A wise man will study his failed attempts. A very wise knifemaker will learn from his mistakes to improve his future endeavors. A lesser man will give up - women knifemakers are the same.

A broken blade's steel end grain structure is important to look at closely. It can provide good information to a sharp maker. Steel type, forging temperature, hardness, quenching medium, ambient temperature, steel quality, grain structure, heat treatment, physical stress, structural

stress, faulty equipment, "operator error" and just plain Bad Luck can all cause a knifemaking failure.

Included are some photos of some of my 'dark moments' in knifemaking - the ruins of knives that did not turn out as I had intended. When I bring broken shards of steel to show my knife friend and mentor Mike - handfuls of steel pieces that I had spent lots of time, blood, sweat and now tears to make - he somehow easily quips to me, "If you break it, learn from your mistake and go make another." Broken knives can teach many lessons - #1 - how NOT to break another in the same manner. Learn from your mistake and 'go make another' he encourages me.

That just sounds so easy to say and do; but for me, it takes some time to heal the wounds to my pride (and sometimes hands!) and to say goodbye to a friend (made in steel or stone) that I spent many days and hours with. But, in another one goes - relegated to the "Failed & Scrapped Knife Pile." My latest failure came last week when inlaying some



turquoise into the handle of an obsidian knife, sigh...But I move forward and start the next project.

Don't get me wrong - I get mad as heck (@&#%!) when I mess-up a knife!! But as time goes by, each time a knife fails, I get a little less upset; and I even begin to look forward to 'determining' the reason for failure, and I learn.

www.KellyLaneKnives.com. See Kelly at table H03 at the April Show 🐾





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 Ping Pong balls) and email or snail mail to the OKCA PO Box 2091 Eugene OR 97402. The number and size of ads submitted by a single member will be accepted, or 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@almedoregon.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/>.

Downsizing two shops. Tools, leg vises, goodies of all kinds, some blanked blades. Some steampunk stuff. Gene Martin, Table Q15. bladesmith@customknife.com

After Covid, Sally has come up with some new and unique mosaic pin designs. That includes 1/4", 3/16" and 1/8" stars. See these new and exciting pins at Q12. sally@customknife.com

I have the only documented Thomas Hill anvil in North America, per Richard Postman. It's ugly, but sound, about 115#. I'll be happy to trade it for a good 125# anvil with a good face and fairly sharp corners. I also have a pump handle forge I want to part with. If interested, contact me at bladesmith@customknife.com. I can bring them to the Show, but don't want to haul them around unnecessarily.

Commemorative Bi-centennial knife, etched both sides of 6" blade. Man holding rifle side one - back side 2 bison. Wood handle 4-1/2". Presentation box. \$175.00 includes shipping. Or best offer. Meredith (503)970-7629 or mjenriquez@hotmail.com

Three piece Beretta USA folding knife set 2-1/2", 3-1/4", 4" folded. Stamped with Beretta logo, engraved script P. Beretta stamped #233. \$200.00 inc shipping. Or best offer. Meredith (503)970-7629 or mjenriquez@hotmail.com

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 others. 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

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 Knewsletter. 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

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

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

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@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 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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Knewsletter by elayne & dennis

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Briar...One Smokin' Handle Wood!!

Larry Davis

When I get stumped to fill a unique wood knife handle request, it's usually Briar burl. Not because we don't have Briar in the shop, but because a high quality "perfect" piece suitable for this purpose is so rare. The super tight "eyes" and fine reddish colorings make it awesome for handles and scales. Briar is unpredictable with cracks, soft spots and awkward grain. The risk of cutting a large piece of Briar handle size is too great when a smaller block can be cut for a pipe bowl blank.

Briar burl, the "holy Grail" of smoking pipe wood, gets its name from the French word "bruyere" which means heath root. Heath (*Erica arborea*) grows all around the Mediterranean at elevations of 500 to 1000 meters. The best burls are found on remote rocky slopes. On fertile soil, it does not survive long in competition with other vegetation and is used for firewood if readily accessible. The heath survives on rocky slopes, because the shallow soil does not allow tap roots to form; and the heath survives by forming a ball, or burl, between the roots and trunk. This ball-shaped mass sends out a root system which anchors it and feeds water and nutrients. Another marvelous example of Mother Nature's survival and adaptation process.

Arid conditions and infertile soil create very slow growth of the Briar burl, and it takes 30 years to produce a burl weighing 5-10 pounds---large enough for perhaps a half-dozen pipes. "Back in the day," a century ago, burls of 2-3 feet in diameter and 350 years old were not uncommon.

So what makes Briar so valuable as a pipe wood? First, it's tough enough to withstand temps of 700 + degrees F from the heat of burning tobacco. The best burl in this regard is one that has died, and the burl has aged



for years in the ground. This is called "dead-root" and is highly prized. Second, the grain structure allows it to absorb moisture contained in the tobacco and vaporized during combustion; but that starts condensing as soon as it's drawn away from the combustion zone into cooler areas of tobacco, the stem and the mouthpiece. Third, wood must not impart a bad taste to the smoke. Briar is one of the best woods in this regard; but saps, resins, tannin and other extractives of the wood must be removed or neutralized to make a pipe truly fit to smoke. After the burl is dug up, it may be stored under moist earth or straw for a few months before being cut into ebauchon, or blocks. The ebauchon are then boiled in water for 12 to 24 hours, dried for a few months, and then aged for a few years before they are fit for pipes.

So to smoke it? or sheath it?...you decide.

See Larry at table D09 at the April Show 

