



## NEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



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- ✓ An Old Knife Story

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

November 2003

### EVER LOSE A KNIFE?

By ibdennis

Well, I did. Only once though. What a heartache it was. I have misplaced and displaced knives for years, but I have always found them sooner or later. I have also put knives in "always know where they are places" and forgot. But eventually the ole floppy disk in the brain comes around, and I discover where that special place was. But the one knife I really lost has bugged me for years.

In July, 1993 I purchased a small single blade knife from Jim Corrado from Glide, Oregon. I had a love affair for that knife and it was my constant companion every day. The knife was a reject from an order Jim had completed. The ivory handles had a check (or as dear elayne calls it - A crack) at one of the rivets. There was also a discoloration of the ivory on the back handle. I had no problem with these personality features and the knife became a one of a kind best friend.

On August 5, 1993 we took a trip via airplane to San Diego. (It was a nightmare trip and nothing had gone well in the planning.) This was during the days when one could carry a pocket knife on airplanes. My Corrado knife was a gentlemen's knife and I wanted to walk proud with it in my pocket. Into the airport we went and when I went through airport security I placed it and my pocket "stuff" in the basket so I wouldn't set off the metal detector. And from there we went to wait for the airplane. During this wait I reached for the Corrado knife and it wasn't there. I raced back to the security people and they gave me this dumb but suspicious look like "I dunno nothing." I was not convinced but I had to go along with it rather than raise a stink. A "stink" would have bought me a no plane ride. Elayne even made me back track to the car. No knife.

I was sick and broken hearted. When I returned from the trip, I confronted the security people at the airport again, but no luck. I went back to Jim Corrado, and he offered me another knife in the same pattern but with a cocobolo handle. He also had a damascus ivory handled knife in the same pattern so I purchased it too. But it wasn't the plain blade ivory handled knife like the original. I went back to Jim Corrado and begged and pleaded for him to make a knife just like the knife I lost. He made it from pieces and parts that he had left over (complete with a check in the ivory) and I was pleased. But the lost knife bugged me for years.

On September 27, 2003 Elayne and I went to the Great Northwest Knife Show in Salem, Oregon. It was a small show so Elayne and I split up with the thought that we could always find each other in a moment. Within a few hours Elayne grabbed me and wanted to show me a knife. Elayne always wants to show me a knife so I followed her once again to where she wanted me to be. Inside a case was a knife and her question was, "Does that knife look familiar?" I replied that it looked like a Corrado and had features like the lost knife. The knife belonged to David and Mary Ann Schultz from Beaverton Oregon. In fact David had been carrying the knife in his pocket and within the last ten minutes of Elayne discovering it he had placed it on the table with a price on it.



I really didn't believe, as Elayne did, that it was the "lost" knife but what the heck. We asked to see and touch the knife; and when I rolled it over to look at the back handle, my heart stopped. The always remembered check was at the rivet and the discolored ivory was where it should have been. Our long lost knife. We told the story to David Schultz and in a curiosity vein we tried to track the previous owners hoping to find how it had traveled. David got it from Bill Claussen from Salem, Oregon.

Bill got it from Ted Dzialo from Portland, Oregon. Ted got it from a knife friend of his..... stop I said. Enough as it didn't appear that the original source would be found. It wasn't important any more.

So with my story unfolding I purchased the knife one more time. David was a prince and made me a very special price although I said he could name whatever price he wanted. Once purchased Elayne took possession of it claiming that I would not be losing "her" knife ever again.

So it was ten years and one month before our beloved ivory knife came back to us. I guess I could say that I never really lost it and just allowed several people to be guardians of it over the years. All the previous owners did as I had done and carried it on a daily basis. And carried it with pride too as it's condition was as I remembered when it was new. So now I can end this by saying I have never ever lost a knife..... Well..... 

# Knotes on United States Military Edged Cutlery

by Frank Trzaska

## Milpar Knives

Columbus Milpar and Manufacturing Co. Inc. Columbus Ohio. I admit to know very little about this company and it's background. I do know they received a contract in 1963 for 21,000 Jet Pilot Knives and completed them all in the same contract year. This is for the blade marked leather handled versions. I have never seen any official documentation on the aluminum handled versions but that does not surprise me as finding any documentation is rough. Lack of evidence is not evidence in itself as to make it not true. Does that make sense?? Just because I can't find it doesn't mean it doesn't exist. Anyway they received further contracts but now they were for bayonets. Milpar never made aommel marked Jet Pilot knife so that assures us they made all the knives prior to 1967 when the marking location was moved from the blade to theommel. Bayonet contracts have been found for years stretching from 1964 to 1967 according to Mr. Gary Cunningham in his excellent book, American Military Bayonets of the 20th Century. Mipar made M5A1, M6 and M7 bayonets for the government during the buildup in the Vietnam War years. Sometime after that the company assets were sold off to a large surplus dealer, Golden State Arms Co. of Pasadena, Ca., who assembled all the remaining parts for the surplus trade. That is the general thought as to where those M5, M6, & M7 fighting knives without the bayonet attaching butt plate mechanisms came from. If I knew of a good archive to search back issues of the Shotgun News or Gun List I am sure we could find an ad with these items. Nothing more was seen or heard about from them after those dates. Can you tell me anything more about Milpar? If so we can share it with the world. Thanks to Gary Cunningham for relating that story about the surplus dealer to us.

## Gerber Mk II Serial Numbers:

Below is a list of the serial numbers on Gerber Mark II knives and the corresponding year in which they were made.

1,001 to 5,000	1967
5,001 to 9,900	1968
9,901 to 14,350	1969
14,351 to 19,300	1970
19,301 to 23,750	1971
23,751 to 28,000	1972
28,001 to 32,900	1973
32,901 to 39,000	1974
39,001 to 44,015	1975
44,016 to 54,434	1976

54,435 to 63,648	1977
63,649 to 76,001	1978
76,002 to 85,000	1979
85,001 to 100,810	1980
100,811 to 112,000	1981



The above information is from **Bernard Levine's Guide to Knives and Their Values IV**. It is also partially printed in **Mike Silvey's book United States Military Knives 1941 to 1991** but that book is long out of print and very expensive when you do

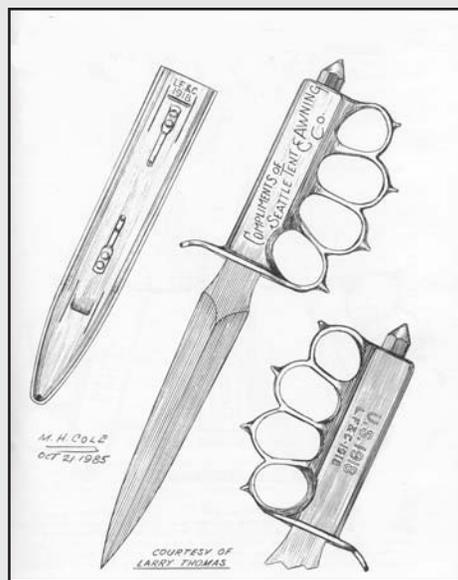
find one for sale. So we re-printed it here to help beginning collectors. Be careful of the knives that have an "XX" in the serial number or a "CS" as these are reproduction and commemorative knives. They are true Gerber products but the prices should be adjusted accordingly on them as they were not made in the above serial number years.

## Randall Sheaths

Seeing newer Randall knives on several auction sights recently being offered with a "rare" sheath. These are models stitched with brown stitching, not the normal white thread used on previous sheaths from Randall. So we go to the source to find out what is really going on here. Sullivan's Holster Shop makes the sheaths for Randall Made knives and according to Greg Gutcher of Sullivan's the brown stitching was used from the very beginning of 1998 to mid way through 1999. To bring this into perspective that equates to about 10,000 to 15,000 sheaths with the brown stitching on them. Not so rare anymore are they? It does give us an excellent source to date the scabbards with, and the knives, if they are original to the sheath as most newer Randalls found are. Greg also stated that they will make any sheath you want with brown stitching today but they will be double marked to show that they are a custom made scabbard and not original to a knife. That is a wonderful way of doing business to help protect collectors. The bottom line is don't pay more for that "rare" sheath. Oh and by the way a Star marked Randall sheath is one made by Sullivan's that a customer did not send in a knife to have fitted. Be very careful of the knife you find in a Star marked sheath. It may be very well perfect or at worst it may be a complete fraud. An ounce of prevention.....

## M1918 Mk1 Presentation Knife

One of the great things about the Internet is seeing items from places you would normally not even know about. Prior to this experience the only way we would know about certain knives, or any other collectibles, would be by actual sight or in a book. Well I have seen at least 6 presentation M1918 Mk1 knives so far. The latest one was for sale on eBay. **Howard Cole** has one shown in Book IV on page 29. Prior to that, one was published by the **American Blade in an article by Adrian Van Dyk** many years ago. Some of these knives are spectacular in the work put into them. Engraving, comparable to a high dollar shotgun, on the handles takes on different styles on each knife I have seen, no two were alike. What a great platform the M1918 Mk1 makes for a presentation piece, with that brass handle and stiletto type blade it is perfect. I have even observed gold plated handles on such pieces. As seen in **Coles Book IV page 30 is the Henry Rosenthal** marked knife which had the gold plated handle, although this was a commercial offering. One knife was attributed to a certain WWII Ordnance unit and made to this particular configuration of presentation for Lt. Col. Wm. M. Crofton who was the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion of the 302nd Ordnance Regiment. Finding named presentation pieces from World War Two is extremely rare, a presentation knife is almost unheard of. This is also a common link to the one written about by Van Dyk, made for an Ordnance officer. I have written before about the M1918 Mk1 made up during the



Vietnam War era for trade purposes or actual use. Here we have one made during WW II for presentation. That old M1918 Mk1 just won't die, commercial copies are being made to this date, albeit rather crude but I guess that is a good thing.

Frank Trzaska [trz@mcsystems.net]

# OKCA Knews and Musings

*ibdennis*

## **The Club Knife for 2004.....**

Last year's sold out **Butch Vallotton** knife was well received and a great fund raiser for our organization. The comment I heard numerous times was that most would have liked to have a larger knife like this so they could carry and use it. I passed these comments to Butch Vallotton and half kidding asked him if he would be interested in doing the 2004 knife, using some of these suggestions. Without hesitation Butch said yes (and I fell over ever so gently.) What an honor for this craftsman to say yes when everyone in the past who did this project said never again, or worse yet the masses who said they would never tackle such a project ever.

See the application form for size and specs. Note that the pattern is similar, the handles are bone, the handle will have a shield this time and there will be a pocket clip. Those who purchased the 2003 knife can request the same serial number. All remaining serial numbers will be drawn from the hat. Requests for your serial number must be in before January 01, 2004 or they will be placed in the hat.

We are again offering the Oregon Special companion knife to OKCA members who are a resident. The first knife must be purchased in order to get the second knife. These knives must be claimed at the Show in April as we will not ship this particular knife.

## **Help us Promote the Show.....**

*Over the years we have worked to develop an advertising method that was simple and cost effective. I call them Show Flyers and our printer calls them notepads. Or you can call them hand bills or hand outs or.....*

*So help us promote our Show by email or writing or calling and request a number of these so you can be on our advertising team. I would be glad to have **elayne** send you as many as you can use. Let's make our Show bigger for 2004. Encourage a knifer to come to Eugene in April 2004.*

So that was my plea to have help in making the Show bigger and better. And was I overwhelmed with requests? Did I have to go to the printer and ask for more flyers? Did members flock to the gate and demand these hand bills? Well, Ray Tipton from Salem did. And he stands absolutely alone in the shower of applause. Thank you, Ray. The Club needs you to kick in and help promote. Not a tough jawb so let's hear from you all.

## **The Secret Code and Hand Shake.....**

If you look on the label that is affixed to this Knewsletter, there is a four digit code in the upper right hand corner. That code should best read 2004 pretty soon. And you know how to make it read that way, don't you?

Paid for your table yet? Dunno? The clue might be in your label. If the code sez 2003, the odds are that not only is your membership getting due, but your tables more than likely aren't paid for either. I looked in my crystal ball the other night (actually it was Elayne's. She was out flying on her broom so I sneaked a peek) and I saw that we are gonna have another sold out Show with our 470 tables. Not to forget to get your tables paid for or U B Solly.

## **The flow of applications.....**

for tables and membership is moving right along. Save us the deluge of applications that occur mid December and send your applications in early. It helps us out to stay above the work load.

There is a waiting list for tables for the April Show. Just a reminder that the deadline for claiming your last year's table is December 15<sup>th</sup>. At this time the unclaimed tables are issued to the people on the waiting list. For those that comment that they can never seem to get a table at this Show.... Send your money to get on the list. Early is the secret.

## **The December Show....**

**Mike Kyle** has spelled out all you need to know about the December 13<sup>th</sup> Mini Winter Show. Mike has issued a warning in a light vein. I will issue a warning in a heavy handed maximum enforcement manner. Table holders that leave early can say goodbye to our group.... forever. If you can't abide with this request then do



not get a table. That of course goes for the April Show too. I have not checked for empty tables in the past and have discovered AWOL's by accident or someone bringing it to my attention. This year I will be having a table cop take names. Help us by being there and make this a signature event. Four o'clock isn't that long to be with friends.

## **I was talking with Terry Davis.....**

the other night and Terry has volunteered to make us another special knife for the silent auction. This event has really grown to become a great fund drive for the Oregon Knife Club. Terry.. we thank you for your help. Anyone else out there who would like to help in this manner? It can be your way of helping to make this a great event and one that keeps going.

## **Sew U know.....**

The opening ceremonies for the April Show are set. The surprises that go in the Show envelopes for table holders have been ordered. The hang tag badge holders for table holders have arrived. Membership cards are now in awaiting **John Priest** to use his master pen to make your name look good. All the display award knives are in the hands of the makers being beautified and enhanced. **Wayne Morrison** is still holding out for early returns of these knives. **Craig Morgan** is already started on the custom boxes for these knives.

And here you thought we started getting the Show together a few weeks before the event.... I wish.

# The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

We met at G. Willickers, October 9, 2003 with only 20 present. The end of vacations? Conflict of schedule? Hopefully more will be able to attend the November 13 meeting.

We sent letters to lapsed members in September in the hopes we would get some to rejoin. We have offered current membership for 2003 and also membership for 2004 with the dues payment. It is too early to gauge the response but we are hopeful it will be productive. Some have already expressed thanks for the reminder and the easy

renewal form included with the letter. We hoped to capture some of the members who otherwise renew at the April Show which would be a great savings for us.

**Wayne Morrison** has forwarded the knives for the display awards to the competitors of the 2003 Blade Grinding Competition. They have volunteered to finish the blades for presentation at the 2004 Show. Thank you, **Bruce Bump, Bill Burke, Matt Cook, Scott Cook, Ray Ennis, Tedd Harris, Gene Martin, Rick Chandon, Wendell Fox, Ford Swauger and Nick Wheeler.**

**Michael Kyle** reported the December show is on schedule. He has 33 reservations for tables for the show that will be held in the Wheeler Pavilion, December 13, 2003. If you wish to make a reservation, please contact him at (541)998-5729 or email a-doxie22@att.net. Please contact **Barbara Kyle** for the potluck which will

follow. Also remember to bring a toy for Toys For Tots. A member from the local Marine Corp will pick them up at the show.

The 2004 Club knife will be a **Butch Vallotton**. It will be similar to the 2003 knife with several differences. There will be an order form in the November Newslettter with the description and price.

There are currently 1474 members. We will have a decrease come December, 2003 and another increase in April, 2004. Meeting adjourned for Show and Tell.

See you at the meeting at G. Willickers, November 13.



## A NEW DISCOVERY?

by Mike Wiedemann

I'm always a bit excited when I find a new knife to add to my collection and more so when it looks like something I can't remember seeing before. I recently found a three bladed U.S. military pocketknife made by Imperial that seemed to be both a nice addition to my collection and possibly a previously

Then I took a closer look at the knife and the shield. First, the shield wasn't centered on the scale and it was a bit crooked; but War Time is War Time, and the shield being off center wouldn't make the knife not work so it wasn't really bothersome. I then took a close look at the inner liner for evidence that the shield was riveted on and was disappointed to find that there were no rivets visible. A look at the shield and its mounting with a 10X glass

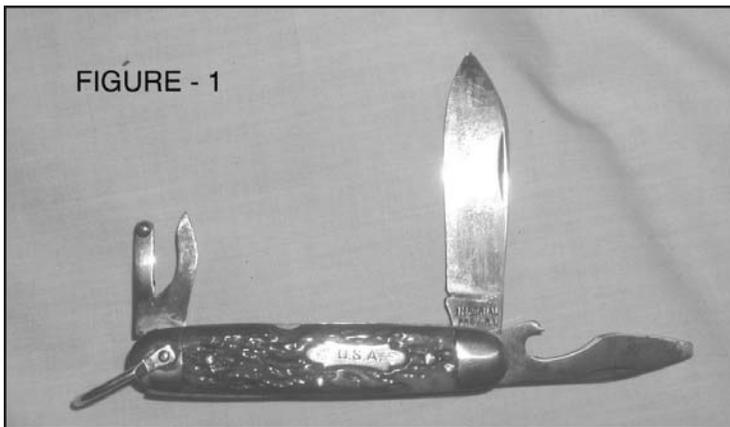


FIGURE - 1

undiscovered variety. The knife is shown in figure 1. The basic description is that of a three bladed utility knife. Overall length is 3-3/4 inches with a spear master blade, screwdriver/cap lifter and old style can opener, iron liners and bolsters and a bowtie "U.S.A." shield set in jugged bone scales. In short, a typical WWII military issue pocketknife. A short search in Cole's *U. S. Military Knives, Bayonets & Machetes* found the same knife by Camillus with the U.S.N. on the shield on page 132 and in Silvey's *Pocket Knives of the United States Military*, I found a similar knife by Imperial on page 61 but without the "U.S.A." shield. So it was looking like I had a new discovery, a three bladed utility knife by Imperial with a U.S.A. shield.

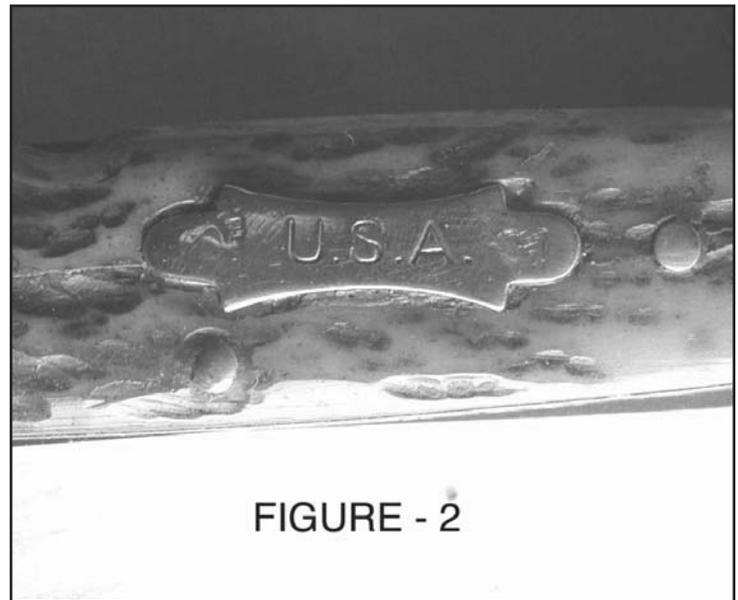


FIGURE - 2

showed a poor fit of the shield in the scale, and evidence of some kind of epoxy or other glue around the edges of the shield. (Figure-2) This confirmed that my discovery was just a fake. Closer examination showed that the shield was a Camillus type and further research showed that Imperial didn't put shields on any of its military knives except the round U.S.M.C. shield used on some of their four bladed knives.

Continued on page 9



# OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND SHOW TABLE CONTRACT

**\*PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE or a photocopy. DO NOT CUT IT UP!\***

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Eve ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Day ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Collector \_\_\_\_\_ Knifemaker \_\_\_\_\_ Dealer \_\_\_\_\_ Mfr./Distrib. \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

OKCA membership includes newsletter, dinner/swap meetings, free admission to OKCA shows, free OKCA Winter show tables, right to buy OKCA club knife.

\_\_\_ Start/ \_\_\_ Renew my/our OKCA membership (\$20 individual/\$23 family) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 2004 29TH ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 17-18, 2004 470 — 8'x30" TABLES

Exhibit Hall, Lane County Convention Center and Fairgrounds, 796 West 13th Ave., Eugene, Oregon.  
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT SHOW CHAIRMAN: DENNIS ELLINGSEN, (541) 484-5564

**AUTOMATIC RESERVATIONS:** If you had a table at the 2003 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2004, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2003. You may still apply for a table after this date, but we cannot guarantee a table after December 15. NO RESERVATIONS HONORED OR APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT! Note to NEW exhibitors: your table(s) will be assigned after 12/15/03.

**ALL TABLE HOLDERS AND VISITORS** agree to abide by the OKCA show rules, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane County Fair Board harmless for any accident, loss, damage, theft, or injury.

**ANY QUESTION OR DISPUTE** arising during the show shall be resolved by the Show Chairman, whose decision shall be final.

**THIS IS A KNIFE SHOW.** All tables must be predominantly knives or knife related items (e.g. swords, axes, edged tools, edged weapons, knife books, knifemaking supplies). If in doubt, check with the Show Chairman ahead of time. The OKCA reserves the right to bar any item from display or sale. No firearms made after 1898 may be sold or shown at this show.

**ALL EXHIBITORS are required to keep their tables set up throughout the public hours of the Show: 9 AM Saturday to 3 PM Sunday. ANY EXHIBITOR WHO LEAVES BEFORE 3 PM SUNDAY FORFEITS HIS FUTURE RESERVATIONS AND WILL BE DENIED TABLES AT FUTURE OREGON KNIFE SHOWS.**

**DISPLAY TABLES** will be around the perimeter of the room. All displays are eligible for display awards, which are handmade knives donated by members and supporters of OKCA. Display judging will be by rules established by OKCA. Special category awards may also be offered. **NOTHING MAY BE SOLD FROM DISPLAY TABLES.**

**SALE/TRADE TABLES** Sharing of tables will not be allowed. Exhibitors must comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. Oregon has NO SALES TAX.

**BADGES:** Each table holder is entitled to one additional show badge.

**KNIFEMAKERS** who are present and are table holders at this show may enter knives in the knifemaking award competition.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on categories and judging criteria in the display and handmade knife competitions, contact the Show Chairman.

**SECURITY** will be provided by OKCA from 10AM Friday

until 4 PM Sunday. However, exhibitors are responsible for watching their own tables. Neither the OKCA nor the Lane County Fair Board will be responsible for any loss, theft, damage, or injury of any kind.

**CITY AND COUNTY REGULATIONS** require that there be:

- No Smoking within the Exhibit Hall at any time;
- No alcoholic beverages consumed within the Exhibit Hall during the public hours of the show;
- No loaded firearms worn or displayed at the show;
- No swords or knives brandished or displayed in a provocative manner.

Violators of these safety rules will be asked to leave.

**NOTE ON SWITCHBLADES AND DAGGERS:** In Oregon it is legal to make, sell, buy, or own switchblade knives. However, it is **ILLEGAL** to carry a switchblade knife, a gravity knife, a dagger, or a dirk concealed on one's person, or for a convicted felon to possess a switchblade or gravity knife. Most other states have banned switchblade knives. Under federal law, it is **ILLEGAL** to mail, carry, or ship a switchblade or gravity knife across state lines.

## SHOW SCHEDULE

**Friday, April 16, 2004. 10am - 8pm** set-up; open **ONLY** to table-holders and members of OKCA.

**Saturday, April 17, 2004. 7am-9am** set-up. **9am-6pm** open to public.

**Sunday, April 18, 2004 8am-9am** set-up. **9am-3pm** open to public.

**Tables that are cancelled will revert back to the OKCA. Subcontracting tables is not permitted.**

**EXHIBITOR CONTRACT:** PLEASE ENCLOSE FULL PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM. Full refund granted if reservation canceled by February 15, 2004; for later cancellation, refund will be granted only if your table is rented to someone else. **DON'T GET LEFT OUT!!! MAIL THIS PAGE AND YOUR CHECK TODAY.** A signature is required.

Type of knives on your tables \_\_\_\_\_

Name for second badge \_\_\_\_\_ (two badges per table holder)

\_\_\_ Club Dues (Total from above) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Sale/Trade table(s) @ \$95 each (members only) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Collector Display table(s) free with sale table: ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED (make check payable to O.K.C.A.) ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and agree to abide by the OKCA show rules as set forth in this contract, and to hold the OKCA, its officers, and the Lane County Fair Board harmless for any accident, damage, loss, theft, or injury.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\* PLEASE RETURN THIS ENTIRE PAGE or a photocopy. DO NOT CUT IT UP!\***

www.oregonknifeclub.org

VALLOTTON CUSTOM KNIVES



Oregon Knife Collectors Club Knife 2004

J.P. MANGRUM PHOTO

### Oregon Knife Collectors 2004 Club Knife

This year we are offering a Butch Vallotton folding pocket knife for the members of the OKCA. This knife will be a companion knife to the 2003 knife. The differences will be the increased size, the pocket clip and some slight variances. This is an original design and it will have red coloured bone handles; a hollow ground blade made from 440C; titanium liners (anodized) and thumb stud; the handle is 4" (10.2 cm), the blade is 3-1/4" (8.3 cm) and overall is 7-1/4" (14.4 cm). The knives will be serial numbered and will have the OKCA logo on the knife. Only 50 knives will be made for sale to Club members. The price for this knife is \$210.

The "Oregon Special Vallotton knife" can only be had by purchase with the regular knife and will only be offered to Oregon OKCA residence members. A quantity of 25 will be made of this knife. The price will be \$340.

Requests for the same serial numbers by the people who purchased the 2003 Vallotton knife will be honored up until January 01, 2004.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Regular knife \_\_\_\_\_

Oregon Special \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Your 2003 last year's serial number was \_\_\_\_\_

Please add \$8 for shipping if you are not able to pick this knife up at the Show on April 17-18, 2004.

## OKCA Club Whot-zits & Whos Zits

### Darrold (Ole) Olson

President (541) 914-7238

### Loy Moss

Vice President (541) 747-7600

### Elayne Ellingsen

Sec/Tres. (541) 484-5564

### Michael Kyle

Master at Arms (541) 998-5729

### Dennis Ellingsen

Show Coordinator (541) 484-5564

**Knnewslettter** by elayne & dennis

**Cut-toons** by Judy & Lonnie Williams

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

**Club e-mail** [okca@oregonknifeclub.org](mailto:okca@oregonknifeclub.org)

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(541) 484-5564

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### A NEW KNIFE STORE IN VANCOUVER WASHINGTON

Located just a few blocks west of I-5 in Vancouver, Washington is Ray Simonson's new KNIFE STORE, Wild Boar Blades.

Just a small shop it is, but packed with KNIVES from Poland, Germany, and South Africa, as well as a few custom and primitive KNIVES.

Also available are KNIFE parts, blades, and handle material.

You might want to check out the other collectibles, religious icons, wildlife bronzes, hand blown glass, amber jewelry, and a complete line of custom kitchen cutlery all from Poland.

If you are traveling through Vancouver on I-5, be sure to stop and have a cup of coffee with Ray.

The address is 317 E. 39th street. Take exit 2 on I-5, go west to Main Street. It's on the corner of 39th and Main St. The hours are 10am-6pm Monday through Friday and 9am-2pm Saturday.

For more information call  
(888) 735-8483 or (360) 735-0570.



# THE CUTLER AND HIS TOOLS

By Jim Taylor

It became obvious to me many years ago, that the little mesters of Sheffield, along with top craftsmen everywhere else for that matter, develop a love and affection for the tools of their trade. These instruments of their livelihood single them out from the rest of the population almost as clearly as do physical characteristics. It has long been my opinion that the very words "Cutler's Shop," carry with them an almost spiritual overtone. For me, it is almost impossible to imagine a bad man being a craftsman cutler and, to date such impressions have proven to be singularly correct.

Cutlers, I suggest, work with a quiet gentleness that suggests devotion, rather than commercial gain? The ones that tolerated my presence for long hours at a time all worked with a mystical appreciation of the materials as well as the tools that assisted their labor. Even today, they speak in reverence of fine quality woods, of horn, shells, antlers and teeth --elephant's teeth that have served their owners well amongst the African bush for generations, --yes, ivory! Ivory itself partakes of that sanctity, having as it were an authority of its own, a virtue that we do not attribute to iron and not even to gold.

Is it, I wonder, a fact, that the more a person works alone, the more reminiscent of that person, do his or her tools become? They seem to take on a personality too, shaped by the daily contact with that skilled hand—shaped and rubbed and worn down to the utmost point of efficiency for the job at hand. It is not an exaggeration to believe that the cutler knows these tools as individuals. On more than one occasion I have heard them addressed as such. The very tools themselves adopt an air of belonging and seem to have a knowing reverence for the skill of their owner.

Skill! The master touch of long experience grafted upon native talent: That is the secret of these relationships. The amateur can never be blessed with such an aura, probably because the task he works on is not the fundamental bread and butter responsibility that dominates the professional. Watch, if you can, any master of his craft and become immediately



*Tools? How about these hammers that were used in the 19th century? The ash wood handles show wear, in some specimens, of sixty years' continual use. Notice that a hammer used by a left-handed forger was so grooved from finger wear that it could not have been used by a right-handed worker. (specimens from the collections of the Sheffield Trades Historical Society and Mr. J.B. Himsworth)*

aware of how he has been set apart within the dignity of his work.

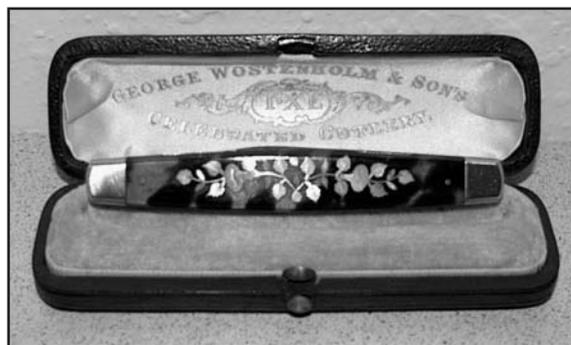
The craftsman, like the medieval knight, earns his spurs. The cutler, however, bereft of armor and sword, makes valiant use of his pearl hammer, burnish, parser and vise, in the endless battle for perfection. Such tools are no less symbolic of his honor and self-dedication.

We can learn a lot about the quality of human nature if we watch one of these craftsmen after his work is done, when he is setting his tools away or oiling and sharpening them in his workshop. This can become almost a religious ceremony. They are jealous of any dirt or impurity besmirching their darlings. I once watched a cabinetmaker at day's end. One by one, extensions of the master's hand, his tools were laid away in velvet pouches, each one swaddled in oily rags. Not, I assure you, a ritual of seldom occurrence; dear me no, this he had done every day of his working life. The packed-up tools were then driven home on the front passenger seat of his car. The thought of relegating his tools to the trunk of the car had never occurred to my friend.

The aforementioned reverence for good honest tools is readily seen in the early trade catalogs. The ebony brace and bit – so beloved by today's tool collectors – is but one example of the visible affection afforded to such a basic object. Wood planes and spirit levels inlaid with ivory and pearl, became the norm for quite a while. Surely, it is not difficult to imagine the tender loving care that the craftsmen lavished upon such beautiful artifacts?

Today the tools are much more mundane in appearance, but the respect that they deserve is still accorded them by the true craftsmen, the aficionados, the professionals of this world, just as it was by the little mesters for centuries. My good friend, Stan Shaw – of whom I have recently written – will tell anyone that asks, that he would have to retire tomorrow if he lost his pearl hammer! This announcement, whilst possibly not exactly true, gives the reader a real appreciation of the loving relationship that builds up between the professional craftsmen and their "family of tools."

Being totally ham-fisted, I can readily appreciate just how deft and adroit a true artist can be. The long hours that I spent watching an assorted jumble of blades, liners, dividers, bolsters, springs and scales being converted into, say, a four blade congress knife, are therefore well rewarded. The hammers, the files, the click, the snap, the gentle stroke with an old rag, all take on a kind of symmetrical pattern, everything has to be "just so" – and of course, it is. Every time!



*Craftsmanship? Whom do you know today, that could replicate the exceptional work on the handle of this crown pen? The tortoise shell handle is inlaid with silver wire, mother-of-pearl and abalone chips. The presentation box itself, is yet another example. (Taylor photo. Author's inventory.)*

Perhaps if I have an indulgence, it is for a favorite pen. Apart from that, my preoccupation with tools is nil. Having done a little writing in my time, however, I can testify that a good pen is one of life's pleasures in my eyes. The matter of a man and his tools, though, is as mysterious a relationship as any other, which depends upon love, reverence and an acknowledgment of the necessary discipline. ✍️

## Mike & Barb's Corner

The time is fast approaching for the Oregon Knife Collectors Mini Show, December 13, 2003. As of today, October 28, we have about 44 tables reserved for this show. This year's Christmas show is going to be in a different building than the last couple of years. The building is the Wheeler building at the Lane County Fair Grounds. The Wheeler building is located straight across the parking lot from the building where the show has been held for the last couple of years. It is a round building and the tables might be set up a little different than you are used too. It will be fun; after all that's what its all about.

Time for set up 7AM. Show open to public at 8AM and closes at 4PM.

Potluck for Club members and family is 5PM in the same building. Also food can be stored this year in a room off the front entrance. See Barb Kyle for this at a table just off to the left of the front entrance. Bring a small extension cord if possible for a cooking pot if that is what you have. We will be able to keep food warm in a separate room during the day at any time you would like. I just got a call from **Roy Robinson**, a knife maker, who wanted a table at the Christmas Show for the first time. Roy has a company called Hand Held Steel. He said he was looking forward to setting up at this show. He mentioned that he has been to the April Show many times before but wanted to try the Christmas show.

This show is going to have all kinds of knife people, like knife makers, knife collectors and people who just like knives in general. This December 13 Knife Show is really just a get together for Christmas, to have fun and maybe even pay your Club dues. You could just fill out the application and mail it in and save your time. **Dennis and Elayne** will have two tables set up at the front on the right side of the entrance to the show to answer Club questions.

Christmas Knife Show December 13, 2003 Saturday set up 7AM. Show from 8 to 4PM.

Pot Luck in the same building, eat at 5PM, bring something to go with meat, the Club will furnish ham, smoked turkey and a surprise says **Barb Kyle**. Drinks will be pop, water and coffee. Bring a dessert dish or a salad dish. Call Barb Kyle at 541-998-5729 with what you want to bring.

Table holders and any members, please bring a gift for Toys for Tots; and they will be turned over to the Marines who will pick them up at the show. Bring a new gift (unwrapped) for up to age 13 years old. The past few years the support the Oregon Knife Club has given on this has been great. Let's keep it up for the kids who need it. We will all have a very merry Christmas. So will the kids who get the toys you bring. O.K .

Jerry Whitmore will also have a table at this show, and he will be engraving and taking orders for engraving. Frank Jacobs will also have a table and will be

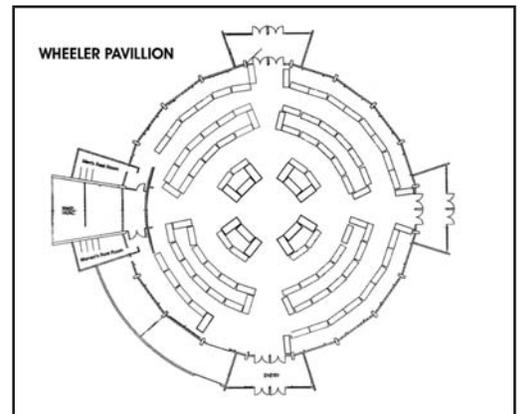
selling handle material for you knife makers. Barb Kyle and I will be all around the show, if you need anything just get in touch.

One last thing, please if you get a table stay until 4PM when the show is over. It just does not look good to see people leaving early. The Club does advertise for this show.

The Fair Grounds will have snack food in the building during the show. Also coffee, pop and water.

See you at the 2003 Oregon Knife Collectors Christmas Show, December 13, Saturday. This show should be around 90 tables again this year. Take care: Mike & Barb Kyle

PS: I hope some of you read this!! Every person who mentions our article at the show gets a piece of candy. Thanks



## AN OLD KNIFE STORY

as told by old Rod

Several years ago, a neighbor woman was closing out her house and going into a rest home -"assisted living" now. Among her kitchen cutlery was a ham slicer, about a 16" blade and not more than 3/4 inch wide at the bolster. She had a 50 cent price on it. I picked it up and was looking at it. She said, "If

you can use that old thing in your restaurant, you can have it." She went on to tell me that one of her first jobs was a cook's helper at a logging camp up in the Sultan Basin - (Snohomish County, Washington). During the Great Depression, the logging company went bust, and she was allowed to keep the knife when they closed down the camp. I told her the knife was certainly worth 50 cents and the story was too. I gave her \$1.00. (generous me!) I brought it home, cleaned the grime off and there were no marks at all. However, a forged bolster, tapered tang, long tapered blade and ebony scales with brass pins had quality written all over it. The question arises, was this an ordinary knife which could be picked up anyplace during the early 30's, or the Best of Sear's Good, Better and Best?

I took it to several shows to use as a "table stopper" --Stop at my table and look at this! --A couple of years ago, I'm afraid it was Eugene, a fellow stopped, picked it up, heard the story and asked it if was for sale. I said, "No" and he said, "The knife and the story are worth \$20.00 to me and dropped the bill on the table. My first name is Roderick, Scottish, you know, so the knife is gone but the story lingers on.

Some of the local older "timber beasts" have told me a good cook was a "jewel" and you did your best to keep her. The finest equipment was never too good for her. Saw filers and blacksmiths were held in the same esteem. If the "Bull of the Woods" was a mean SOB, you could put up with him if the other three were in camp! ←

Rod Smith



## 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 dandy dowdy dingley dangles) and 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.

**Wanted** - Wood handle "Coke" style knives - Both large and small sizes. Ron Edwards (253) 922.3963 email ronjoyceedwards@comcast.com N

**NEW KNIFE STORE** - Wild Boar Blades is open 10am-6pm Monday through Friday and 9am-2pm Saturdays. KNIVES, KNIFE parts, and other collectibles from Poland, Germany and South Africa. 317 E. 39th St. (corner of 39th and Main St.) Take exit 2 on I-5 in Vancouver. (888) 735-8483 or (360) 735-0570 N

**Wanted** - Blackjack Knives. Also Lile knives. Contact George. Gib222@hotmail.com N

**For Sale** - New book, *KEEN KUTTER POCKET KNIVES* by Alvin Sellens. Soft bound, 239 pages, this book is full of useful information on markings, descriptions of the knives, period offered, and a price guide. Illustrations all seem to be taken from Keen Kutter catalogs. \$19.95 plus \$2 shipping. Quality Blade Books, P.O. Box 41854, Eugene, OR 97404 or <http://www.qualitybladebooks.com> O

**Wanted** - Seguire Knives. Call Jack (805)489-8702 or email jh5jh@aol.com O

**Wanted** - Robeson whittler pattern #633499 in brown bone. Should say Pocket Eze on the shield. Consideration given to one close to this pattern. ibdennis (541)484-5564 or [ibdennis@oregonknifeclub.org](mailto:ibdennis@oregonknifeclub.org) O



**For Sale** - Collection of 700 plus American-made pocketknives, mostly pre1940. Highlights: full set of 12 original (1920s-30s) Remington bullets, over 200 pre 1940 Case knives (some super-rare models), plus numerous other Remington, Winchester, Cattaraugus, Queen, NYK, etc knives. Email or call for more information and/or to arrange personal viewing. Dan Walters (916)786-6530. [dwalters@surewest.net](mailto:dwalters@surewest.net) S

**For Sale** - Peirce-Arrow and vanishing point throwing knives as well as the new M-2 thrower. See [www.knivesonnet.com](http://www.knivesonnet.com)

**Wayne Goddard's two-hour**, knifemaking-adventure video is now available on DVD. "The Wire Damascus Hunting Knife, How To Do It", \$25.00 plus \$5.00, still available on VHS \$45.00 plus \$5.00 shipping. "THE WONDER OF KNIFEMAKING" by Wayne Goddard, \$20. plus \$5.00 shipping. "WAYNE GODDARD'S \$50 DOLLAR KNIFE SHOP" \$20. Plus \$5. Shipping Buy any two together and save \$5 on shipping. Contact: Goddard's, 473 Durham Ave, Eugene, Oregon, 97404 541-689-8098 e-mail [wgoddard44@earthlink.net](mailto:wgoddard44@earthlink.net)

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**Your Knife Questions ANSWERED ON-LINE**. Bernard Levine, author of Levine's Guide to Knives and Their Values, will answer your knife questions on the Internet. Is that knife on eBay real or fake? Is the knife you're thinking of buying authentic? What kind of knife do you have, and what is it worth? What is the value of your collection, for insurance or tax purposes? Instant payment by Visa, MasterCard, or PayPal. Go to: <http://pweb.netcom.com/~brlevine/appr-k.htm> or [www.knife-expert.com](http://www.knife-expert.com)

**"Randall Fighting Knives In Wartime"** by Robert E. Hunt. A colorful and interesting guide to Randall knives spanning the three major conflicts (WWII-Korean-Vietnam). Call (270)443-0121 Visa/MC (800)788-3350

**"Knife Talk"** by Ed Fowler. 60 past *Blade Magazine* articles combined w/the author's updates and 200 photos. Take a trip with the father of "Multiple Quench" \$14.95 plus \$3.20 S&H - Ed Fowler - Willow Bow Ranch P O Box 1519 Riverton WY 82501 - (307)856-9815

**For Sale** - Randall Knives 'Quick Reference Guide', a laminated full-color document for identifying most common RMK characteristics over the last 66 years, including sheath makers, sheath snaps, sharpening stones, handle materials, spacer stock, and blade stamps. Included are approximate years of introduction and general usage dates, along with clarifying text on the reverse side for each section mentioned. \$20 per copy, payable to Sheldon Wickersham, P.O. Box #178962, San Diego, CA. 92177, or via paypal to [swicker1@san.rr.com](mailto:swicker1@san.rr.com)

**Wanted** - Randall Knives, the older the better. Buy, Sell, Trade. Contact Sheldon Wickersham at P.O. Box # 178962, San Diego, CA. 92177, or via email at [swicker1@san.rr.com](mailto:swicker1@san.rr.com)

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### DISCOVERY *Continued from page 4*

I'll keep this one around as a reminder to take a close look at any knives that look like new varieties and discoveries. Once again "too good to be true" was. This one turned out to be a knife that someone prettied up to make it look more military than it already was. 





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## Events Calendar November 2003

Nov 14-15 - Greater Ohio Valley -Cambridge OH (KW-B)  
 Nov 15-16 - Arizona Knife Collectors -Mesa AZ (KW-B)  
 Nov 22-23 - Rocky Mountain Show - Denver CO (KW-B)  
 ----- **December 2003** -----  
 Dec 04-06 - Parkers Greatest - Pigeon Forge TN (KW-B)  
 Dec 13-13 - **Oregon Knife Mini Winter Show - Eugene**  
 ----- **January 2004** -----  
 Jan 16-18 - Las Vegas Classic - Nevada (B)  
 Jan 23-25 - American Bladesmith Expo - Reno NV (B)  
 Jan 23-25 - Wolverine Knife Show - Novi MI (KW-B)  
 Jan 24-25 - Gateway Knife Show -St Louis MO (KW-B)  
 Jan 30-01 - Gator Cutlery Show - Lakeland FL (KW-B)  
 ----- **February 2004** -----  
 Feb 07-08 - Arkansas Custom - Little Rock AR (KW-B)  
 Feb 20-22 - Knife Expo 04 - Buena Park CA (KW)  
 Feb 21-22 - Flint River Show - Atlanta GA (KW-B)  
 ----- **March 2004** -----  
 Mar 05-07 - NW Georgia Show - Dalton GA (KW)  
 Mar 05-07 - East Coast Custom -Manhattan NY (KW)  
 Mar 13-14 - Bunker Hill - Bethalto IL (KW-B)  
 Mar 26-27 - Badger Knife Show - Janesville WI (KW-B)  
 Mar 26-28 - Paul Basch Custom Knife - Scottsdale AZ (KW)

----- **April 2004** -----  
 Apr 17-18 - **Oregon Knife Show - Eugene OR**  
 Apr 17-18 - Canadian Guild -Mississauga Ontario (B)  
 ----- **June 2004** -----  
 Jun 04-06 - Blade Show - Atlanta GA (B)  
 ----- **July 2004** -----  
 Jul 30-01 - Montana Knifemakers -Missoula MT  
 ----- **August 2004** -----  
 ----- **September 2004** -----



## DINNER MEETING

**Thursday Evening**  
 November 13, 2003

**G Willickers**

**440 Coburg Road**  
**Eugene, Oregon**

**6:00 PM Dinner**  
**7:00 PM Meeting**

**Come Knife with us!**  
**Show-N-Tell - Bring a**  
**special knife!**

Contact Dennis or Elayne (541) 484-5564 for additional information on OKCA events. For non-OKCA events, contact the sponsoring organization. Additional info = (B)lade Mag. -(KW) Knife World - (KI) Knives Illustrated

