



KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



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- ✓ Miller Knives
- ✓ Rope Knives
- ✓ Golden Catalogs
- ✓ Shipping Knives to the Show
- ✓ Silver Medallion Offer
- ✓ Paul Club Knife

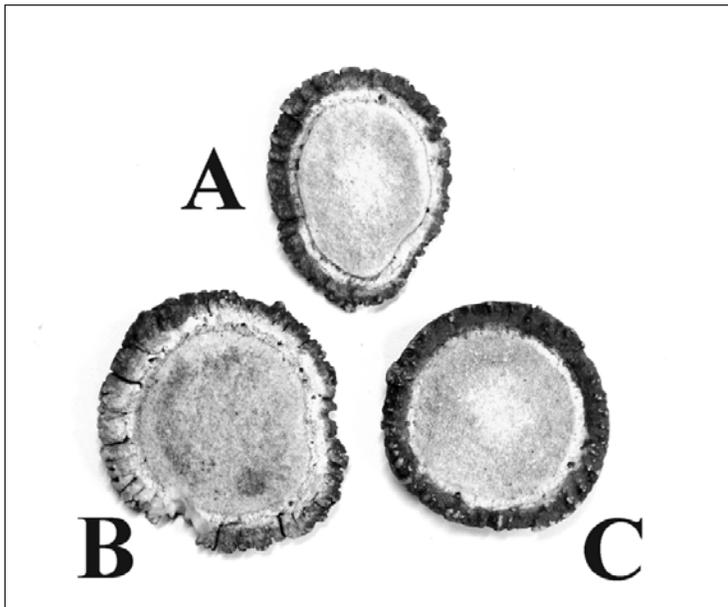
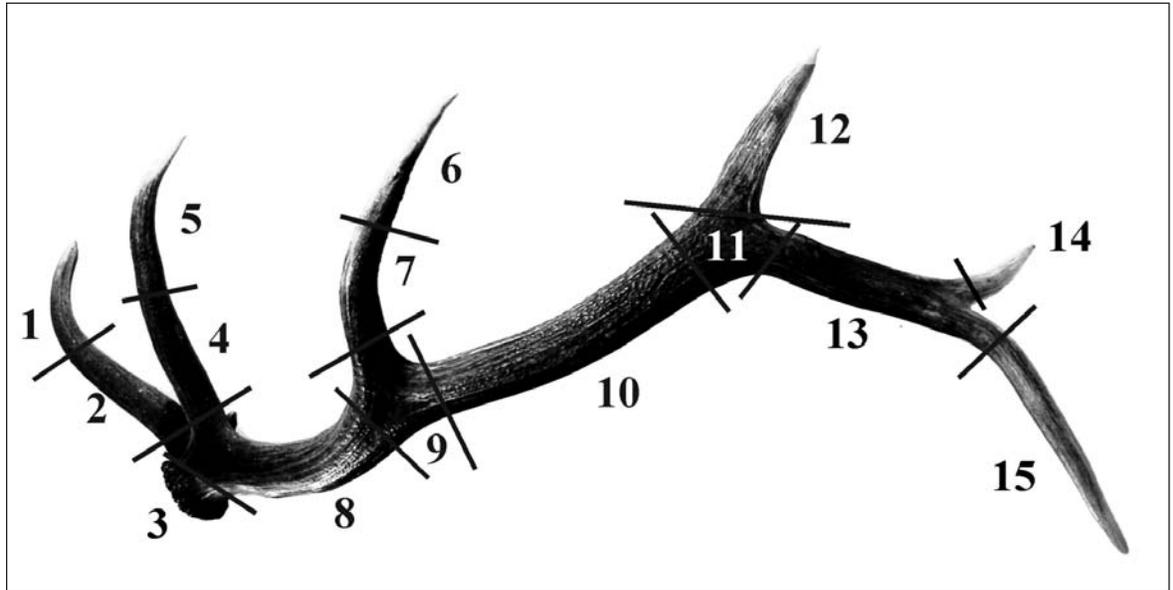
Our *international* membership is happily involved with "Anything that goes 'cut'!"

February 2006

Elk and Deer Antler Knife Handles, Part II By Wayne Goddard

By now all the good folks out in knifemaking land, at least the Oregon part, have purchased the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Hide/Antler Dealer License. It is now possible for them to legally purchase deer and elk antlers to cut up for use in handcrafting items. The applicable law and the procedure for obtaining a license were explained in part #1, which was in last month's Knewsletter.

You have just purchased your first antler, which was one side of a large elk antler. This was a shed antler and



was so listed by size and type in the record book that is required to be kept by those with a license to purchase and use antler. This was a Roosevelt elk antler, which was determined by the shape of the button or crown. Roosevelt elk have a button that is fairly round; the Rocky Mountain Elk button is somewhat of a slight teardrop shape. In the photo, (A) is from a small Rocky Mountain Elk, (B) is from a Roosevelt Elk and (C) is from a Sambar Stag. The Roosevelt

Elk are usually found in the Cascade Mountains and west to the coast. I figure they prefer the wet conditions. The Rocky Mountain Elk is found in the dry, eastern part of our state, and on east throughout the Rocky Mountains. Sambar Stag, if you found a complete antler in Oregon, would be exempt from the law because it is not an Oregon game animal. Living Sambar stags are usually found in India, Australia and New Zealand. In my research I found a guided hunt in New Zealand for Sambar Stag. With a price tag of \$8,000.00 I decided not to hunt for Sambar handle material. I'll just keep paying the going price from the knifemaker supply companies.

Can you legally sell antler-handled knives in California? Only if it is from a shed antler, according to a conversation I had with an official of the California Department of Fish and Game. Furthermore, I was told that my knives made with parts of legally purchased antlers from Oregon game animals would be subject to the same law if they were being offered for sale in California. If you think not, you haven't heard about the knives confiscated at the Great Western Show some time back.

See the photo of the elk antler. This was a medium sized antler that was heavy enough to indicate a thick wall. The same sized antler might weigh half what this one does and have material that was too thin to make anything other than small folder slabs or be used for miniatures.

The photo shows the lines that mark where I would make the first cuts. Use a lead pencil only on stag or antler. Do not use the ink-

Continued on page 4.

Knotes on United States Military Edged Cutlery

by Frank Trzaska

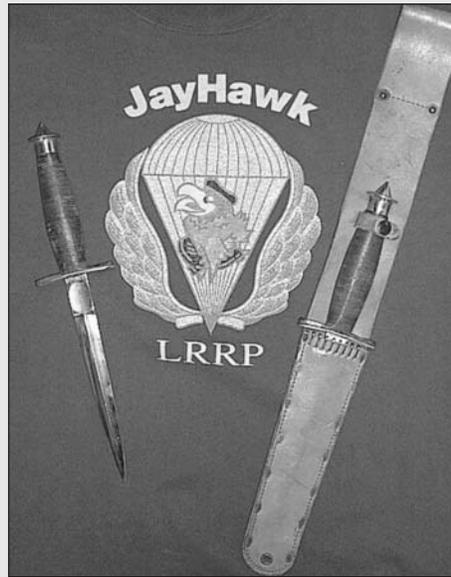
The V-42 Rides Again

In a recent exchange of e-mails with several VII Corps LRRP Co. (ABN) members, I learned of a continued service life of the V-42. As we all know the V-42 is the knife made famous by the First Special Service Force, better known as the "Devil's Brigade." The first commanding officer of "The Force", Colonel Robert Frederick, was the driving force behind the elite group and the selection of the V-42 as the sole knife of that "special" group. No need to go on here about the famous exploits of the FSSF but suffice it to say they made history. The group was officially disbanded after fighting in Southern France on January 6, 1945. The remainder of the FSSF men and the Ranger survivors became the 474th Infantry. Upon the shutdown of the FSSF, and the resulting transfer of men and equipment, much of the FSSF gear went into storage. According to Col Orval J. Baldwin, World War II era FSSF Group S-4, as many as 350 V-42's were placed into storage at the draw-down and transfer ceremonies. Where these knives went



from there is a mystery, as they have not shown up in any photos or written text until now... that's right, they were found, in 1962! Let's not get ahead of ourselves here, a little background is needed to fill out the story.

In the 1950's the world was a quickly changing place. The United States was involved with Communist China in a little place called Korea. While that was



happening the face of Europe was also being influenced by the Communist threat. Although a "hot" war was not being fought on the European continent, the "cold" war was freezing fast. The US and NATO feared the possible outbreak of war with the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pack allies. In the event such a situation arose, the US would need a unit capable of providing it with information on the situation deep in the enemy's area. This information would be critical in any future conflict arising in Europe.

Allied Units stationed in Germany had units capable of providing them with this type of information, the U.S. did not. With this in mind a new type of force was needed, men to go behind undrawn battle lines to feed back intelligence to the generals planning the fight. Much like the British Long Range Desert Group, working behind lines, but in a completely military organization. In 1958 the first LRRP units were formed by 7th Army and assigned to V and VII Corps. Unlike the OSS or the CIA, the group would be uniformed military men, not spies. The name selected was "LRRP" or Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol.

Not really a new concept, but a new name to go with a newly formed group to the U.S. Army.

Initial volunteers were selected from throughout 7th Army but were primarily drawn from airborne units of the 8th Infantry Division. Each unit consisted of a small HQ, a communications platoon, and two patrol platoons. The patrol platoons consisted of eight, four man patrols. Both

units were capable of conducting airborne operations; surviving for long periods of time, with little or no outside support; and were highly skilled in long range communications skills. What was generally unknown at the time was that unit members were also secretly trained in deploying Special Atomic Demolition Munitions (SADMs). These highly trained men going into "harm's way" were of the elite group; and, with the advanced training they received, they knew it.

The distinctive head gear then worn by the LRRP's was the Maroon Beret of the Airborne. At that time the elite-only beret head gear was earned, not just issued, as it is today. The men noticed the French Foreign Legion wearing the distinctive Lizard pattern camouflage utility uniforms. Not having the available funds to purchase uniforms, the men resorted to the same tactic used by Armies for centuries, barter. If they could come up with something the French wanted, they could trade.

But what did the US Army have that the French wanted? They were already using just about every item in the US inventory due to the Lend Lease arrangements and the Marshall Plan of re-arming the French. The search began of warehouses throughout Germany. Many of the crates and cases had not been touched since World War Two, just sitting in a damp, dusty warehouse, storage until the next war. In the ensuing search of every warehouse in Germany for trading material, a case of knives was found by "Pappy Thomas" and his "detail" on a scrounging trip.

The location was somewhere near Ludwigsburg, is all that can be remembered today. It seems they had "volunteered" to help clean up the warehouse in the hopes of finding some



V-42 Biliato
First Special Service Force WWII
VII Corps LRRP (ABN)
Personal Collection
Jim Handlin

Continued on page 7.

OKCA Knews and Musings

ibdennis

www.oregonknifeclub.org

The web site has been totally revamped and is up-to-date shape. It is designed to be an excellent resource for cutlery and things that "go cut." Knife Shows, articles, Club news and anything about our Show can be found there.

Sunday morning worship....

We had a Sunday morning chapel service last Show, and it worked out quite well. Those who are far from home and cannot attend church found this to be a great happening. **Howard Hoskins**, a chaplain from Culdesac ID has offered to do this again at the April Show with some interesting music. Our local musicians will be back, and I am told that **Thurston Johnson** will be there with a special musical offering. The service will start at 8 am Sunday morning and will be over in time for the start of the Show

New additional mail site....

All regular mail goes to the PO Box as always. However any contributions or larger items can go to our **additional** new mail site. You can ship UPS or Fed Ex or truck or whatever. Companies that send catalogs for handout or other items can send to this location. You may also forward your knives to this address, and we will take them to the Baron's Den vault for you to pick up when you arrive. Please advise us that this is happening and make your instructions clear to us. The neat part is that you can take your items on Monday to this location, and they will ship them back for you. By any carrier that you like. Sure beats the airline hassles.

Oregon Knife Collectors Association

3003 West 11th PMB 107
Eugene OR 97402

Opening Ceremonies.....

Maybe, and that is a firm maybe. Something is in the works; and if it gels, it will be unlike anything we have ever done before. For those that are new to this, there could be an opening ceremony on Saturday at 8:30 available to members and tableholders only. A spectacular happening in year's past. Here is hoping.

Eateries in this area.....

We have listed places to eat while you are at the Show. Eugene has some great "eating holes" so to speak. There are many, but a few are special for Elayne and me. For many years we enjoyed and recommended the **Hillside Grill in Coburg** which is just outside Eugene. Back ribs and more to enjoy and rave about. Then a few years ago the restaurant was sold, and we were disappointed at the change. But wait!!!! The original owner took it back recently, and it again rates high on our favorite places to enjoy a delightful meal. Try it now. And while on this subject, we will also mention that **Sweet Waters at the Valley River Inn** has made mention that they will treat our attendees with special attention. And then there is

Jung's Mongolian Grill that needs no mention if you have been there once. A favorite eatery of mine for sure. All these restaurants and more can be found on our website with maps to show where.

Thursday Night Social.....

or meet friends just before the Show. I have wanted to have a social gathering just before the Show, but expenses and timing never seemed to work out. I spoke with the **Valley River Inn** about this again, and it looks like we can do it. I wrote numerous people that attend our Show, and they think it is a great idea and will be there. So the idea, yet to be fully firmed up, is this: Meet in a conference room at the **Valley River Inn** and enjoy finger foods like "whore de devers." There will be a no host bar and no reservations. Just come. The hours will be from like 5 until 8 on Thursday evening on April 6th. Daylight savings time will have kicked in so leisurely enjoy a scenic river view or walk the bike path before or after the Social. In other words enjoy. More details will be available in our next Knewsletter, along with names that you will want to rub elbows with. This might be the time now to consider staying at the **Valley River Inn** or making your reservation if you haven't already.

Metallurgy Seminar on Friday Morning....

Last year we had a seminar that preceded the Show on Friday. It went from 9 am until done. **Dick Barber** was the speaker at this event. This event was so well received that we had to do it again on Sunday. So here it is for this next Show in April. **Dick Barber and Ed Severson** will present seminars on metallurgy at two times. One at 9 am on Friday, April 07, and one at 10 am on Sunday, April 09. Some intended subjects will be basics concepts on steelmaking, metallurgy and heat treating. This is designed as an educational happening so the subject matter can be inspired from group interest at the time.

Please don't clean my knife

When I hand you my knife to look at, please enjoy the experience. But please not to clean it, as no matter what way you do, it will be wrong. I understand that you are trying to be courteous to me in trying to erase your fingerprints, but I can assure you that I am not in law enforcement trying to get the goods on you. Anyway you clean it will be wrong. And actually I don't expect you to clean it. That is my jawb, as it has to be done my way.

I have seen it all as to people handing a knife back to me. The handkerchief clean (is it really clean ah-choo); the wipe it on your shirt sleeve clean (shaves hair even through the shirt sleeve doesn't it?); and the just above the belt shirt clean. All are the worst but let me explain about the shirt clean. First of all that area of the body perspires (sweats) and deposits salt on the material which of course transfers as salt to the knife. Then I fret whether the "cleaner" will cut their shirt with my sharp knife. Let us also not to forget the shirt itself may have hidden dirt particles imbedded in the material which can

minutely scratch a knife. That is only in addition to the material itself which by its very nature is an abrasive. We can also envision the person that has built a shed over their work shop and can't even see the bottom of their shirt. Now that is working in the dark in all senses of the word.

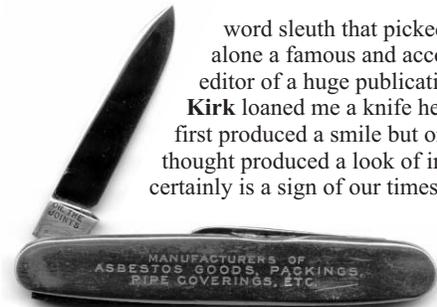
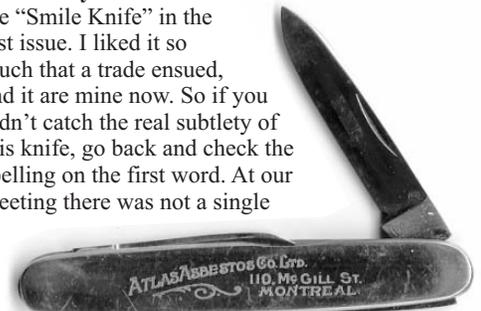
In other words please enjoy the knife I hand you. Treat it with kindness and uhhhh, ahhhhh and ohhhhh over it and just hand it back..... saliva, fingerprints and all.

Monthly meeting....

The next local Oregon Knife Collectors meeting will be February 15th at the Sizzler. This is a real fun event. Members have been coming over 100 miles to be with us.

Smile Knives

Jack Birky contributed the "Smile Knife" in the last issue. I liked it so much that a trade ensued, and it are mine now. So if you didn't catch the real subtlety of this knife, go back and check the spelling on the first word. At our meeting there was not a single

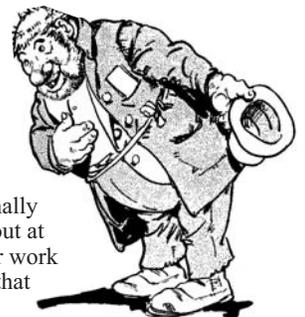


word sleuth that picked it up. Let alone a famous and accomplished editor of a huge publication. **Jim Kirk** loaned me a knife he has that first produced a smile but on further thought produced a look of irony. It certainly is a sign of our times now; but when the knife was first produced, it was quite

acceptable. I'll let you think on this one. The knife was made by George Wostenholm Sheffield England.

The Silent Auction....

A few years back we started something called the Silent Auction. Special knives were auctioned off on Saturday at our April Show. When someone donated a special knife, we placed this in the silent auction as a way of raising money for our organization. This event has grown into a major fund raiser for us. It has grown and is a great event due to three members that have contributed their talents to this happening. They are **Terry Davis, Bill Ruple and Roy Humenick**. Traditionally these craftsman sell out at our Show due to their work and artistry. So with that said we thank them profusely for helping



Continued on page 7.

The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

The January 18 meeting was attended by 46 people.

The committee reports stated all was on schedule. **Larry Criteser** reported he has received the steel for the grinding competition. He will need help at the Show. Please advise if you will be available. **Peter Faust** has coordinated the judging of the displays. He will also need help with this project on Saturday. Please advise if you will be available. **June Morrison** was not present so we were not able to thank her personally for the excellent job she did with the coordination of the potluck at the December Winter Mini Show. Unfortunately she will not be available for the December 2006 potluck so I am seeking "volunteers" for this task.

We have finalized the prices for the Club knife and its companion. (Please note the order form that is included in this Knewsletter.) We also are offering collector sets of the gold relief medallions which are special to the OKCA. (The order form is also available in this Knewsletter.) We have uploaded both of these order forms to the website, and you will have a difficult time saying no to either of these offerings once you see them in colour.

Members of the American Bowie Knife Collectors Association have been reserving trade tables and display tables for the 2006 Show. We added 50 tables in anticipation of their attendance. The Miniature Knifemakers and Collectors Association also have stated they will have their meeting at our 2006 Show. We are in discussion with the Randall Knife Society for 2007.

We have had a post office box for all of our mail delivery since the beginning of time; however, when we have received shipments of donations or publications for our Show, we had arranged for an alternative address. We have made new arrangements for the 2006 Show. The new shipping address for donations will be: **Oregon Knife Collectors - 3003 West 11th AVE PMB 107 - Eugene OR 97402**. You can also make arrangements at that location for return shipment of your packages after the Show.

We still have arrangements with the **Baron's Den** to house any shipments of knives for the tableholders in their vault/safe. Be sure to mark the shipment OKCA so it can be identified upon arrival. You cannot mail (use the postal service) to the Baron's Den. These items must be shipped to our "new" shipping address or the regular PO box. (If it were simple, someone else would be doing this. That is a fact.)

January is our annual election of officers. The current slate of officers had agreed to serve another term, if it was the wish of the membership. It was moved and seconded the current slate be reelected. It passed. Thank you for your vote of confidence in the current officers. We do try (but sometimes I think we are more trying.)

The Willamette Valley Arms Collectors show will be February 25-26 at the Eugene Armory. We have a reciprocal agreement with that organization for free admission. Take advantage of one of the perks of membership and attend.

See you at the February 15 meeting at Gateway Sizzler Steak, Springfield Oregon. 6:00 for dinner, 7:00 for meeting.



Elk and Deer Handles... (cont from page 1)

type markers on antler or stag, the ink will penetrate deep enough into the antler to make it unusable. Parts 1 and 5 will make handles for folding knives where the tip is left intact. I call them tip folders. Parts 2 and 4 are possibilities for use as full handles on hunting sized knives, or with 4 it is just large enough for a small Bowie. Part 3, the button, will be used to make a belt buckle. Part 6 is not suitable for much more than the handle on a leatherwork knife or similar, where it can be reshaped and not worry about having a smooth handle. Part 7 might make a Bowie knife handle. The fork sections, at 9 and 11 are useful to make buttons out of. They have too much curve in them to make anything larger than about one-inch long. Part 12 is too large on the big end in relation to the length, and as such is not good for much. Occasionally these odd pieces can be split, a section removed from the middle, and then put back together as a mortised type handle. I find it useful to make a pattern of the outline of the slab type handles I make. Parts 8 and 10 are where slabs may be found. The pattern can be laid on the antler or stag piece to see how it will work. The antler material is getting pretty thin at part 13, but small slabs can be found there. Part 14 would make a good handle for an awl, 15 has possibilities as a small knife handle.

There will always be lots of small scrap pieces from cutting antlers, some of it very beautiful. I'm planning on making some mosaic type handles in order to use up the small pieces of real fine antler and stag. They are not good for much except button material.

OKCA Club Whot-zits & Whos Zits

Darrold (Ole) Olson *President* (541) 914-7238

John Priest *Vice President* (541) 689-6020

Elayne Ellingsen *Sec/Tres.* (541) 484-5564

Craig Morgan *Master at Arms* (541) 345-0152

Dennis Ellingsen *Show Coordinator* (541) 484-5564

Knewsletter by elayne & dennis

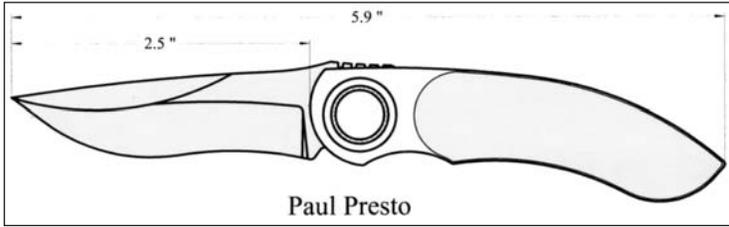
Cut-toons by Judy & Lonnie Williams

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

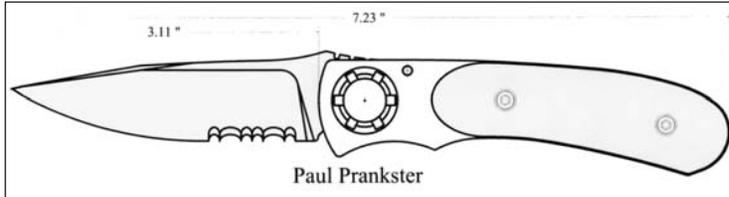
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Paul Presto



Paul Prankster



The Lone Wolf Paul Presto is this year's Oregon Knife Collectors' Club knife. A prototype version is shown above. The Presto will have ivory micarta handles and will have a reproduction scrimshaw artwork with a Beaver scene. The knives will be serial numbered and our logo etched into the blade. This is a beautiful pocketknife that measures 5.9" overall. Only 50 of these knives will be offered. The knives will be boxed and can be purchased by advance sales. They will be available at our 2006 Show. Serial numbers will be randomly drawn, but you can specify that you would like the same serial number you had for last year's knife.

As a special offering you may purchase the Paul Prankster at the same time. This knife has not been released yet but can be had through the Oregon Knife Collectors. You must purchase a Paul Presto to be eligible to purchase this knife. This is a tactical knife that measures 7.23" overall. It will have wood handles, marked with an OKCA logo and a serial number. This knife can be your everyday carry knife as it will have a pocket clip. This knife will also be available at the April Show.

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Paul Presto at \$165 _____ Paul Prankster at \$125 _____

Serial number request if you had purchased a 2005 knife. _____

Shipping if needed add \$10 _____

Total _____

Payment in full at time of order.

www.oregonknifeclub.org



Presented by the Oregon Knife Collectors Association
Oregon Lighthouses - 1 oz. Silver Rounds
 From upper left clockwise
Yaquina Head - Cape Blanco
- Tillamook Rock - Bandon
Not Shown
Heceta Head -Cape Arago



These boxed medallion sets are being offered by the Oregon Knife Collectors Association in a limited quantity. The six medallions (.999 fine one ounce silver rounds with gold relief) were created for the Association for each year since 2001.

We are offering these boxed sets at a special price of \$280.00 to members of the Oregon Knife Collectors Association. Non members will also have an opportunity to purchase these sets at the price of \$360.00.

This offer expires soon. No more will be offered after our initial order is made.
 Delivery will be at the Oregon Knife Show on April 08 - 09, 2006.

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Number of Sets @ \$280 _____

Number of sets @ \$360 _____

Membership (include form) _____

Shipping if needed add \$10 _____

Total _____

Payment in full at time of order.

www.oregonknifeclub.org



OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Eve (_____) _____ Day (_____) _____ Date _____

* Collector * Knifemaker * Dealer * Mfr./Distrib. * Other _____ Email _____

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) \$ _____

There is Gold in Them There Catalogs

B K Brooks

The quandary that stops most buyers from purchasing a knife is the question if they are getting the real article. This also is a hurdle a seller must contend with when trying to sell certain knives. This commonly occurs if the knife is a unique or rare model that will cause a buyer to hesitate making the purchase. Education and knowledge is the key to a great collectable purchase, a good sale at the right price or tarnished reputation and hard feelings. It is surprising how fast those hard feelings can spread throughout a club or community, one even as large as the OKCA.

Educating oneself, and making friendships in a group of like minded collectors are a defense and a offence at the same time whether making a knife purchase or sale. There are numerous knife books out there from authors like Goins, Cole, Levine, and Trzaska for example. They are part of your ammunition, the tools to defend yourself and also make good bedtime reading too. Some of the fun is also finding the experts may have erred here and there. Some experts take this well, even to the point of being helpful in correcting the misstated "fact"; and others get downright huffy and may never communicate with you again as I have unfortunately found out.

Speaking of bedtime stories, if you are up to reading scary stories, especially if you're a Case collector, be sure to read **Counterfeiting Antique Cutlery** by Gerald Witcher. Mr. Witcher conjured up more than a few nighttime runs to open the safe and check on a knife. On a few trips it really hurt me.

But the most basic research tool is catalogs. Straight from the source, the manufacturer's sales catalog. They are indisputable proof that at least that style of knife was made by the manufacturer, (but again remember Mr. Witcher's book lurking out there). The best and cheapest way to get a good collection of old catalogs is from the books like **Col. Mayes Knife Album** or the more recent **Big Book of Pocket Knives**. If you are a Schrade collector, don't forget the catalog reprints that A.G. Russell III put out in 1971. One big draw back to these books is that they do not always provide the date the catalog was printed. Whether the date is unknown or just an omission by the author, it sure rubs me raw sometimes. I have run into original catalogs, and they usually do have dates.

Savvy eBay shoppers may have noticed recently, a large number of old knife manufacturer's catalogues for sale in the knife listings. This series of catalogues came to the market from the research library of the late Roy Ehrhardt. The prices these catalogs brought were sometimes equal to the price of a good collectable knife. One buddy even wrote to me "for that price, I would rather have the knife itself." But if one stops to think about it these catalogs, especially if they are rare, hard to find, and cover knives that are not in the usual compilation catalogs are like gold. A well known knife collector told me he feels catalogs may be a better investment than knives Being able to support with documented reference material the legitimate origin of a knife can make the wary buyer more confident about parting with his hard earned cash (or assure you that you are getting a really good deal).



Just a smattering of catalog prices were an early 1900's Schrade (not reprint) for \$125, 1924 DASCO at \$139, 1900's Anvil Brand Cutlery & Knife \$114, early 1900's Cattaraugus Co. Cutlery & Knife \$316, 2 early 1900's Remington Cutlery & Knife catalog \$510 and \$338, 1915 Keen Kutter cutlery & tools catalog at \$179. Shortly after the Ehrhardt collection sold, I saw a Walden Pressbutton Knife catalog that went for over \$550 and a Joseph Rodgers Pen and Pocket knives bid out at \$460.

Now, you collectors who have been scouring every flea market for knives, don't you feel a bit silly just not asking, "Gee, you got any old knife or hardware catalogs?" Not only are the catalogs worth some coin, they can help you make wiser purchasing and selling decisions. A good example was a seller of a stag handle Marble's knife with a single bolster. The seller was wise enough to know that single bolster Marble's knives were only early production models, explained such and referenced it to educate buyers. This was a wise use of his tools. So when out in those hills, look for the gold; and these catalogs are the gold you need in more ways than one.



Knotes on Military... (cont. from page 2)

of the good sleeping bags which would be fine trading material towards those French uniforms. When they came upon the knives, it was a big surprise to everyone concerned including the warehouse manager. They agreed to "requisition" the knives as long as the warehouse supply folks could also acquire a few. Enough were found to equip the LRRP's Company, the Supply folks, a few German NCO's in the 25th Airborne Brigade stationed nearby and even enough to trade a few to the French as they had set out to do.

The men wore the knives in the process of training and doing their duties. It seems that someone had gotten wind of the "fearsome" knives; and a general recall was announced to turn in the dangerous weapons, again a few were turned in. A vast majority were sent home, stashed, traded and generally made to vanish before any turn in occurred. One enterprising fellow stashed his under his wall locker after a short timer was afraid to take it home. By the time this wise young fellow was to leave, all the searching was over and merely sent it home in his duffel bag. Many of the knives were used as throwing knives, again exactly like the young men had done in World War Two when the knives were newly made, some things never change and Young American Boys are one of them! Many of the men continued to shine the knives and keep them throughout their careers. Many were mounted on wood plaques to hang on the wall of an office or placed under glass to set off the credenza. Two have been nickel plated to show off in any setting which makes the eye appeal all the better. The two nickel plated knives have never been sharpened, mint condition prior to the plating, after two careers in the field. The scabbard with one is also mint.



As this story was related to me, several of the LRRP's, who communicate quite freely with each other after all these years, have memories of the knives, the places and the names associated with the knives only appreciated by those who know the type of men and the appreciation for a fine knife. Fellows like, Theo Knaak, Joseph Chetwynd, Jim Handlin, Rowe Attaway, Tom Lake and others who sent me memories of the knife and the times. Rowe had his with him in Vietnam. Some of the locals wanted to copy it, but Rowe wasn't about to let it out of his hands! One fellow, Patty Smith, forwarded a photo of himself in white snow gear with an M14 rifle in the prone position along the East German Border, ready to take on the whole of the Russian Army if need be, well armed with a real rifle and a very high profile knife on his hip in a ready position, just like the day it was made. Hanging low below the snow parka just like Colonel Fredericks envisioned it in 1942. A fitting tribute to the old war horse known as the V-42. Brought back to life by the VII Corps LRRP Co. (Abn) in front line duty, facing yet another enemy head on.

Thanks fellows, it's folks like you who make me proud to be an American!

Attached are a few photos of the knives some of the guys brought home, and a photo of one being worn.

Frank Trzaska [trz@mcsystems.net]

Knews and Musings... (cont. from page 3)

our cause. I had a call from **Jerry Melton**, and he wants to donate some early OKCA Club knives to the auction. I have no idea what they are but show-time will tell. And to those that involve themselves in the silent auction on Saturday..... Thank you.

Article contributors.....

We want to thank **Frank Trzaska, Wayne Goddard, B.K. Brooks and Mike Silvey** and an especial thank you to **Robert Miller** for their contributions in this month's Knewsletter. It is greatly appreciated.

Membership cards and Show badges.....

Everyone who is a member paid up for 2006 gets a laminated membership card. Those who are tableholders get a special tableholder badge which they will find in their Show packet when they arrive at the Show. We will again have a special surprise for tableholders in their show packets. That is besides the Tootsie Rolls.

Club Knife and the special Medallions....

The order form for the gold filled silver medallions can be found in this issue and also on our web site. The color web page will push you over the edge to get this set. This is a Club fund-raising project and a once only offering. Help your Club and help yourself.

Orders are being taken for the 2006 Club knife. The knife is a Lone Wolf Paul knife. This knife is the Paul Presto with ivory color handles with special art work of Beavers on the side. The knives will be serial numbered; and if you like, you can claim your serial number from last year. We will have a drawing for the remaining numbers. This knife will be boxed and some other enhancements will be placed on these knives. Price will be \$165 and only 50 of these knives will be made.

A second option is available to those that buy the above knife. You may, if you like, order the Paul Prankster knife with the OKCA logo and serial number on it. This soon-to-be released knife is a tactical knife which is larger than the Paul Presto. It will be the knife to carry everyday. It has wood handles and a pocket clip and will function just like all the Paul design knives. The only way to get this knife is to order the special Club knife, and then you can order the Prankster to go along with it. The OKCA Prankster will be sold for \$125. This is one heck of an offering, and the prices are super. Thank you, **Lone Wolf Knives**, for helping us out.

Look on the web site.....

For the prototype pictures of the two Lone Wolf Paul Club knives in color. Then try and say no.

Display Cases for the April Show....

Bryan Christensen has offered to supply display cases for rental for the April Show. We must have your request for these cases before the April Show. These wood cases measure 24x30x2 and come with a lock. There are a limited number of these display cases available so get your request in early. The rental is \$30 for the three day weekend and can be paid for at the Show. They are going fast.

Lodging in Eugene....

We have suggested possible lodging for your visit to Eugene. With the added tables at the Show, it might be wise to plan ahead. We have made arrangements with several facilities in the area. The **Valley River Inn** has been our strongest partner over the years and will continue for 2006. You can book rooms today if you like as everything is in place.

The Valley River Inn -(800)543-8266 -(541)687-0123 -Our top recommendation. Fills up fast. A quality place to stay. Official home for folks away from home visiting the Oregon Knife Show. Special Show rates if you mention the OKCA Show.

The Campbell House -A City Inn -(800)264-2519 -(541)343-1119 - Classic Hospitality. A very unique experience. Top quality.

Courtesy Inn - (888)259-8481 -(541)345-3391 -The closest motel yet to the Knife Show. A budget motel and special rates if you mention the Knife Show.

La Quinta Inn - (541) 344-8335 - Cost effective and in a delightful setting. Close to a park, the river, the bike trail and in the city. Call direct for special OKCA rates.

Phoenix Inn - 800-344-0131 - (541) 344-0001 - Cost effective and close to the college campus and downtown. Nice, clean and a pleasant place to stay.

MORE ON U.S. NAVY ROPE KNIVES by Mike Silvey

Over the years I've accumulated a number of United States Navy rope knives. Some are a bit odd and don't quite fit in with the established thinking on the subject. I've wondered if these old knives were indeed Government Issue or if they were private purchase items or even related to the Navy. They all seem to date from around the beginning of the twentieth century, but why are there so many different makers and models and where do they fit in time with respect to each other?

The first is the large (4.75 inches) Miller Brothers' rope knife shown at the top in Figure 1. There are at least three different markings found on this knife, and they include, "Miller Bros", "Miller Bros/Cut.Co/Meriden" with Miller Bros in an arc, and "Miller Bros/Celebrated/Cutlery". Most collectors believe these date from the Spanish American War of 1898, and Miller Brothers was certainly in the business of making knives during that period. Earlier, they had provided their patented gravity rope knife to the Navy, and these were all etched "U.S. Navy". I seem to recall seeing at least one of these large folding Miller Brothers' knives with "U.S. Navy" etched on the blade. I have two other knives that bear an uncanny resemblance to the Miller Brothers' knife. The center knife of Figure 1 is marked "Parker & Field" and the bottom knife marked "DEHM & CO/BALTO MD". I am aware of another knife marked "James R. Michael/MF'G CO." which has the patented Miller Brothers' screw-on handle scales and was most likely made for them by Miller Bros. The Michael knife has the U.S. Navy mark forged into the blade center but is otherwise identical to the Miller Brothers' large rope knife. I think the Miller Brothers and the Michael knife are military pieces but withhold judgment on the Parker & Field and the DEHM & CO knives. Is there information that places these knives in the Spanish American War?

Figure 2 shows another Miller Brothers' rope knife, this one known as the "small" (4.125 inches) Miller Brothers. The only marking I've seen on these is the "Miller Bros/Cut.Co/Meriden" with Miller Bros in an arc. I believe these were of the World War I period (1914 to 1918) but have no real solid data to support that conclusion. Another knife of the same size and configuration is shown at the bottom of Figure 2.



Figure 2



Figure 1

This knife is marked with the typical New York Knife Co. markings and is etched down the blade center, but I am unable to make out what it says. This knife is similar to the Miller Bros.' knife but is not identical and does not appear to have been made by them. Does it date from the same period and does it have a military background? In fact, was the small Miller Brothers' knife an issue item? I do have one of these Miller Brother knives from a U.S. sailor who served during the WWI period, but I do not know if he was issued the knife or purchased it privately.



Figure 3

Figure 3 shows two knives proudly etched "UNITED STATES NAVY" down the blade center. The top knife is by Camillus and has their mark, "Camillus/Cutlery Co/New-York" which dates from around the World War I period. The bottom knife is marked, "Thomaston/Knife Co./Conn.". These two knives are quite similar and are sized between the large and small Miller Brothers' knives at 4.375 inches. Thomaston Knife Company was in business from 1887 to 1930, a period that covers the First World War. The etch on both the Camillus and the Thomaston knives appears to be identical in terms of

Continued on page 9.

Navy Rope Knives... (cont. from page 8)

size and font. Were these knives in use at the same time as the small Miller Brothers? Or did they precede the Miller Brothers? Did the contract specifications call for the blades to be etched, "United States Navy" and, if so, why didn't the earlier knives have the etch?

Figure 4 displays knives representing the three groups above and a fourth knife representing another World War I issue item; the diminutive (3.25 inches) rope/manicure knife. This knife is a fairly common item which probably derives from its numerous makers which include: Case, Camillus, Cattaraugus, New York Knife,



Figure 4

Union, Robeson, Schrade, Canton, Valley Forge, Empire, Challenge, Shatt & Morgan, and Imperial. The 1926 Schrade catalog shows their version of this knife with "U.S. Navy" etched on the blade. However, I have never heard of one of these knives found with Navy markings so I've concluded they probably were not etched. Were these knives made and issued at the same time as the small Miller Brothers, the Camillus and Thomaston knives? Were these a more general issue knife provided to a wide group of servicemen including those in the Army? Were the other knives the real working knives and were they provided to those who needed them as part of their jobs?

To further confuse the issue, there are several of the Sheffield made heavy rope knives with the U.S. Navy marking forged into the blade that date from around this period. These include those by: F. Westpfal – Acme, 1874 to 1928; Challenge Cutlery Co., 1867 to 1928; Alfred Williams, 1890 to 1920; H.B. Clafin, 1900 to 1930; Cambridge & Co., 1900 to 1920. It is possible that all these knives were provided to the Navy by a single American contractor who obtained them directly from the makers. This would account for the fact that there are so many different knives/makers during the same period. Or, is it possible that the demand for knives during this period was so high that multiple contracts/suppliers were needed? If anyone has information on other Navy rope knives of this period or information that sheds light on this subject, I would love to hear from you.

Mike at m.silvey@comcast.net or (530) 644-4590.



Shipping Your Knives to the Oregon Show by ibdennis

If you are driving to the Oregon Knife Show in April, you need only throw your knives into the car and then go. But if you are coming via air... then that is another matter. The security systems at our airports do not lend themselves to ease of travel with knives or, for that matter, anything.

The horror stories abound with the hassles and indignation. The knives get there, but the agony lingers on. And in some cases the memories are so strong that some will not travel with knives ever again.



We asked ourselves just what it is that we could do on this end to make the transportation of knives to our Show a bit easier. We do not have all the answers, but we do have some directions and ideas that might be attractive to those coming to our Show.

The carriers that deliver packages have become pretty reliable these days. In the business that I am in, we experience almost no losses; and the damage to cartons is usually the result of poor packing rather than poor handling. We also can track the package from the point of departure to the destination with a high degree of accuracy.

In year's past I have volunteered to be the recipient of knives and packages as a service to the visitors that come to the Show. I am always nervous about this, as the burden of responsibility weighs heavily on me; and I really do not have a secure storage facility for items of value. So what to do?

Well the first thing was to find out which carriers could handle items such as those with which we are involved. There were several that provide tracking and will carry up to 150 pounds per package. They also require a signature at the point of receipt, and you can get a delivery confirmation if so requested. The carriers that I checked on were United Parcel Service (UPS), Federal Express (FedEx), Roadway Express (RPS), Airborne Express and the US Post Office. All of these have Internet web sites so detailed information can be had through these pages. More details as to your particular needs must be requested of the carrier of choice. Some of those might be round trip planning and also pick up and delivery details.



The real problem on our end was where to send these packages. A solution has been found. I frequent a firearm's store and shooting range here in Eugene called the **Baron's Den**. They have installed a bank vault on their premises for firearm's storage. The security here is the best you can find. The Oregon Knife Collectors has arranged with the Baron's Den to receive your packages. On arrival they will be stored in the vault until you claim them. The

Continued on page 10.

Shipping... (cont. from page 9)

Baron's Den is also open on Sunday so you can deliver your return packages to them with delivery instructions. **The Baron's Den will serve as a safe house only; you must arrange shipping and also packing the return packages. This means you makd the calls and other arrangements to have it returned. The return via our West 11th site on Monday may prove better.** We have arranged with the Baron's Den so there will not be a charge for their services. You must mark your packages for OKCA and provide identification when you pick up your knives. Pretty neat I think. The Baron's Den has a web site. Check out the hours when they are open.

There were a few last year that wanted to ship USPS, but the Baron's Den does not have delivery directly with USPS (US Post Office); therefore any shipped USPS must be shipped to the address below. I will then hand deliver to the Baron's Den. All other carriers can be sent direct. Please mark your packages in some way so we will know that these are for the Knife Show. Just OKCA and your last name will work wonderfully.

So ship only the below directly to the Baron's Den (Not USPS).
United Parcel Service (UPS) - <http://www.ups.com>
Federal Express (FedEx) - <http://www.fedex.com>
Roadway Express (RPS) - <http://www.roadway.com>
Airborne Express - <http://www.airborne.com>

Ship USPS (Post Office) packages and anything else to the address below. Please advise to take to the Baron's Den. Catalogs and no value items will be stored elsewhere.
**Oregon Knife Collectors Assn.
3003 West 11th
PMB 107
Eugene OR 97402**



US Post Office - <http://www.usps.com>

The Baron's Den - <http://www.thebaronsden.com>
86321 College View Rd Eugene Oregon
97405-9631 Phone: (541)744-6229

Oregon Knife Collectors - <http://www.oregonknifeclub.org>

The following letter was sent in response to the article that appeared in our January Knewsletter. It is this reaction that makes me proud to work with this publication. ibdennis

Dear OKCA correspondent:

My wife and I just joined OKCA at the mini-show, and the January Knewsletter was the first we received. I can add some details of David Miller's life to the "Yiddish Shop Sign" article: By 1909 David Miller was well enough settled in New York to have sent for his wife and three children to join him. In August, 1910, in New York, their fourth child was born, a son. He was my father. I am the youngest of David Miller's grandchildren. I am quite certain my grandfather and my Uncle Joe were the David and Joseph Miller of the article. I have several knives bearing the "J. and D. Miller N.Y. Guaranteed" stamp. I believe I also have the original die. I have only the dimmest memories of my grandfather and my Uncle Joe. My grandfather died in 1958 or thereabouts, when I was very young. His dates, given as 1883-1943 are certainly in error. I was born in 1949, and I knew him.

Since we have been going to the knife shows, starting in 2001 or so, I have asked any number of people if anyone had ever heard of my grandfather, with negative results. I knew that my cousin Irene had donated the machinery to the Smithsonian --some also went to the Jewish museum in New York --and I had looked in the Smithsonian, and asked museum staff members, again with no success.

So the very first issue of the Knewsletter was of particular personal interest. If we had joined a month later, we would have missed it.

It must have been fate. Thank you so much for publishing a piece of my family history, some of which was unknown to me.

Sincerely,
Robert Miller

Dear ibdennis,

I have passed the website to my older brother who may be able to add more than I could. I didn't see much of my uncle Joe or my more distant cousins on that side of the family after I left home for college in 1967. My cousin, Ken Galdston,, son of Irene Galdston, was a year ahead of me at the same college I went to; but I didn't see much of him after my freshman year.

I don't know how much I can add. My grandfather was retired by the time I was born; and I remember his home in Monroe, NY, which was out in the country back then, and is surely a bedroom suburb of New York City today. He had a shop in his basement with many tools that my father eventually took back to our home outside of Washington, DC. I remember the lathe and the anvil. My father's passion was woodworking, rather than knifemaking. The tools that didn't wind up in the museum are now with one of my cousins. I was told I could have them anytime I wanted; but that was a long time ago, and it would be most difficult to bring them to Oregon from New York.

During my childhood, our kitchen knives resembled the tools in the pictures, with handles that looked like ivory

and stainless steel bolsters. They were quite a bit thinner and not so heavy as the kitchen knives one finds in the stores today. They did hold an edge nicely, though. They all had full-length tangs, and I was told at an early age never to buy a knife without a full length tang. In later life, every time I ignored that advice, I regretted it.

There was a carving set made for each of the grandchildren. I still have mine. It was like our home kitchen knives, with green handles that look sort of like marble. David and Joe made a large variety of knives, including large folders, a hatchet, a saw and a straight razor. I wasn't aware of any military stuff. I have a number of their knives. At this moment they're still packed up from our last move and from the cleaning out of my mother's apartment in 2004, when she moved to a seniors' residence. I'm pretty sure I have an implement with a curved blade, as mentioned in the article. I never knew what it was for.

Nobody in the family knows the origin of our name. Many acquaintances simply refuse to believe that Russian Jews could have had the name "Miller," but we have letters from the old country with the name spelled out phonetically in Hebrew characters. The name appears twice on the sign from the website. Eastern European Jews typically did not have family names at all. It was enough to be "Abraham son of David," which would have been enough to identify my father, had he been born in the old country. Family names were assigned by officials to keep track of Jewish subjects of the Czar, for the purposes of the army or collecting taxes and such. Many Jewish families took anglicized surnames when they came here. My grandfather's name was David Miller back in the old country. Why? My personal theory is the following: family lore has it that David Miller was an apprentice in England. Maybe he took his master's name.

The last of David Miller's children, my aunt Florence, died in January, 2000, two weeks short of her 100th birthday.

Yiddish is written in Hebrew characters, from right to left; but the syntax and vocabulary are mostly German, and I can't decipher it all. I think the line below the picture reads (right to left) "The Miller [something] Mohel knives." A "Mohel" is a man who performs ritual circumcision. The last word spells out "Messerim" phonetically. "Messer" means "knife" in German, and the suffix "-im" is the Hebrew plural. I think the bottom line says "Guaranteed against rust," and maybe other things.

Now I'm sure I've told you more than you wanted to know. I was hoping to send a picture of one of the family knives, but the ones in my drawer are not the best examples. Maybe my brother or one of the cousins has more to add.

With warm regards,
Bob Miller





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 noodle ends) 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.

WANTED ----OKCA CLUB KNIVES # 16. Need years 79 Case — 80 Gerber ----81 Gerber--- 83 Gerber ----87 Al Mar — 89 Cripple Creek ---91 Mark Walster — 92 Gerber, will buy or trade . Contact Fred Coleman (541)915-6241 or leave message (541)688-3624 . **DESPERATELY LOOKING AND NEED AND WANT.**

For Sale - Criswell Swords. Rob has again started making swords. Woohoo! 28" katana w/G10 saya. 7-1/2" tanto w/G10 sheath. Hawthorne Cutlery 3208 Se Hawthorne Blvd Portland OR 97214 (503)234-8898

Books For Sale - ART AND DESIGN IN MODERN CUSTOM FIXED-BLADE KNIVES, MOKUME GANE: A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY, many other reference books concerning both custom and other collectable blades. Quality Blade Books, P.O. Box 41854, Eugene, OR 97404. wagner_r@pacinfo.com

Wanted - Mint Western Black Beauty knives. ibdennis@oregonknifeclub.org

WANTED: Carbon steel kitchen/butcher knives and top-quality stainless steel. Buying single piece or large quantities. email Leroy: knipenifer@gmail.com

For Sale - Oriental makers..cured stiff white/clean ray skins. All sizes. Special. 4x10 packs of 5 only

\$60.00. Prepaid shipping. Call Elliott (480)945-0700 or send order and Visa/MC to Hilary 7303 E Earl Drive Scottsdale AZ 85251

For Sale - Tourquoise, lapiz, coral, malacite, amber, only \$20.00 per piece. 5x1-1/4 square. Shipping \$5.00. Call Elliott (480)945-0700 or send order and Visa/MC to Hilary 7303 E Earll Drive Scottsdale AZ 85251

I have 157 knives for sale. Most are riggers and sailor's knives. Can send a CD with pictures and info on each knife. E-mail lgunn@yahoo.com - Leonard Nunn (509)456-6954

For Sale - WORLD KNIVES LTD offers a huge variety of unique high-quality hunting, pocket, collector, specialty, horticultural, culinary and miniature knives and aggers from 20 countries world wide! Check out our website at www.worldknives.com or call toll free at (866)862-5233. email chris@worldknives.com

BLADE's Guide to Making Knives, new book from Krause Publications. Contact Goddard's for an autographed copy. \$25. plus \$5. shipping in the US. 473 Durham Ave. Eugene, OR, 97404. (541)689-8098 e-mail wgoddard44@comcast.net

Knife Maker's vise -I will only be bringing to the show those vises that have been prepaid. They are

\$160.00 and if you order before March 1st 2006 you can choose your own pool ball numbers. Bob Patrick 816 Peace Portal Dr. Blaine, WA 98230. (604)538-6214 or bob@knivesonnet.com

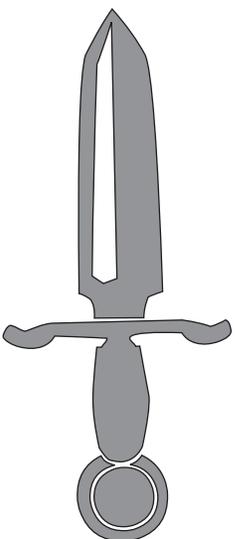
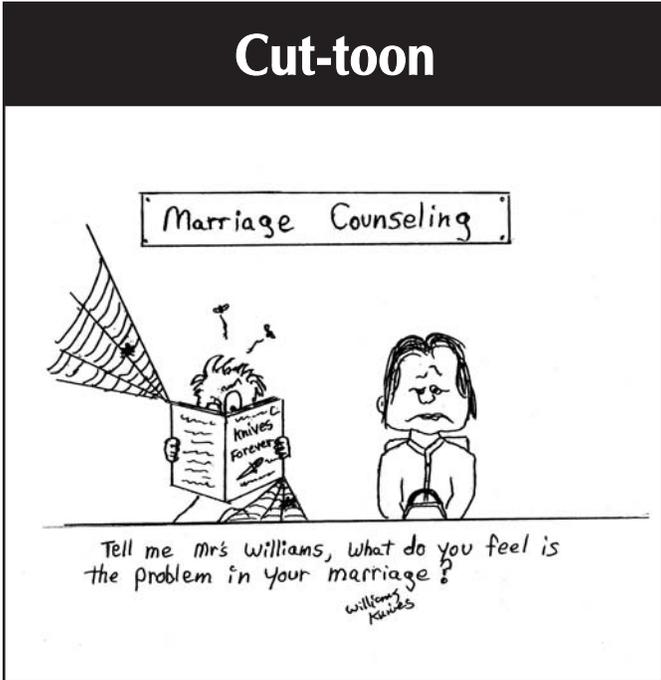
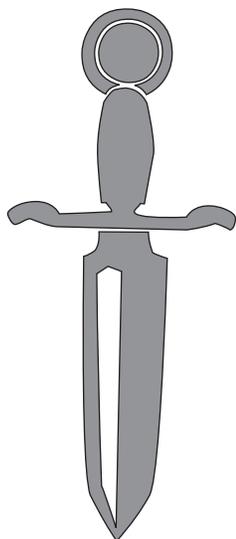
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The Bowie Knife™: Unsheathing an American Legend by Norman Flayderman. 512 pages, over 260 color plates, hard cover. This book covers the fact, fiction and folklore of the world's most famous fighting knife. Only \$79.95 plus \$5.00 shipping. James D. Hayden Bookpeddler, 88360 Charly Lane, Springfield OR 97478. Check or Visa/MC orders (541)746-1819. Info email jhbkpdlr@pacinfo.com

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Official Scout Blades a new book by Ed Holbrook 112 pgs. Boy Scouts ,Girl Scouts,Cub Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls. Pocket knives, sheath knives, axes, 99% complete from 1910 to date + price guide \$25.00 + \$3.00 postage Ed Holbrook 12150 S Casto Rd Oregon City OR. 97045

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The Knewsletter
 Oregon Knife Collectors Association
 PO Box 2091
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Events Calendar February 2006

----- February 2006 -----		
Feb	18-19	- The Collector's Show -Napa Valley CA (B)
Feb	24-26	- Knife Expo - Pasadena CA (KW-B)
Feb	24-26	- East Coast Custom Knife Show - NY (B-KW)
Feb	24-26	- NKCA Dayton Ohio Show (B)
Feb	25-26	- Willamette Valley Arms Collectors - Eugene OR (DE)
Feb	25-26	- Keystone Blade Show - Lewisburg PA (KW)
Feb	25-26	- Northwest Knife Collectors - Tacoma, WA (KW)
----- March 2006 -----		
Mar	10-12	- Northwest Georgia - Dalton GA (KW)
Mar	18-19	- Scottsdale Knife Show - Scottsdale AZ
Mar	24-26	- Badger Knife Show -Janesville WI (KW)
Mar	31-02	- Ohio Spring Show - Wilmington OH (KW)
Mar	31-01	- Northern Plains Show -Minot ND (KW)
Mar	31-02	- Shenandoah Valley Knife - Harrisonburg VA (KW)
----- April 2006 -----		
Apr	08-09	- Oregon Knife Collectors - Eugene OR (KW)
Apr	08-09	- Bunker Hill Knife Show -Bethalto IL (KW)
Apr	22-23	- Vancouver Knife - Coquitlam, B.C. Canada (KW)
Apr	21-23	- Shepardsville KY Show (KW)
Apr	28-30	- Solvang Custom Show -CA (KW)
Apr	28-30	- Mason Dixon Show - Frederick Maryland (KW)
Apr	28-30	- Wolverine Knife Collectors -Novi MI (KW)
----- May 2006 -----		
May	11-13	- Parkers Greatest Pigeon Forge TN (KW)
May	13-14	- NCCA Mystic, CT Show (KW)
May	19-21	- NKCA Springfield Knife Show (KW)
----- June 2006 -----		
Jun	03-04	- Western Reserve - Dover OH (KW)
Jun	08-10	- Parkers Show -Pigeon Forge TN (KW)
Jun	10-11	- Northwest Knife Collectors - Tacoma, WA (KW)
Jun	16-18	- Blade Show - Atlanta GA (B)
Jun	23-25	- Springfield Show -MO (KW)

----- August 2006 -----		
Aug	04-06	- Knifemakers Guild - Lake Buena Vista FL (KW)
Aug	04-05	- Dutch Land Show - Adamstown PA (KW)
Aug	11-13	- Central Kentucky - Lawrenceburg KY (KW)
Aug	25-27	- Montana Knifemakers - Missoula Mt
----- September 2006 -----		
Sep	15-17	- Ohio Fall Knife Show (KW)
----- October 2006 -----		
Oct	06-07	- Northern Lakes Knife Co. -Janesville WI (KW)
Oct	14-15	- Northwest Knife Collectors - Tacoma, WA
Oct	20-22	- NKCA Fall Show - Shepardsville KY (KW)
----- November 2006 -----		
Nov	30-02	- Parkers Greatest -Pigeon Forge TN (KW)

DINNER MEETING

Wednesday Evening
February 15, 2006
 Third Wednesday of the Month
Sizzler Restaurant
 1010 Postal Way
 Gateway Area
(Across from the Post Office)
 6:00 PM Dinner
 Followed by meeting
 Come Knife with us!
 Bring a Show-N-Tell 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

