



## KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



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- ✓ Show Notes

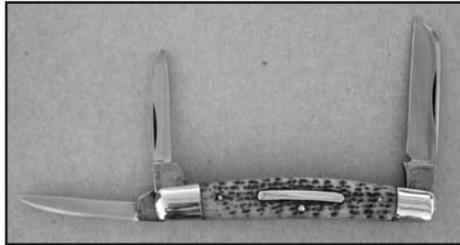
Our international membership is happily involved with "Anything that goes 'cut!'"

### March 2005

## My Lucky Knife By Roy Humenick

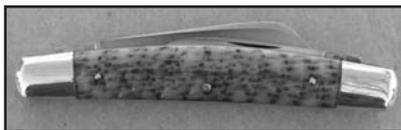
My lucky knife is an antique knife that I picked up several years back at a knife show. One thing about antique knives is that almost all have been previously owned. Sometimes one can tell what kind of life the knife led from close examination. Something from the maker still "lives" in that knife, and something from each one of its owners stays with the knife. Things that can be seen, and things that cannot be seen.

For example, was the previous owner wealthy or poor, cheerful or sad, a celebrity, a soldier, a backwoodsman, a politician, or even a minister? Who knows? One has to agree that the knife's present-day condition would be different if owned by anyone other than the individual that actually carried it. So far as I know it, my lucky knife has never brought me any luck. So, why do I call it my lucky knife? Let me explain.



New York Knife Company

I had never been to the East Coast of the USA, so when business required travel to Boston, I thought about what else I might be able to do while there. Naturally, the first thing I did was to consult my knife periodicals, looking for a knife show in the area. Bingo! I



New York Knife back side

found one. The NCCA is putting on a show in Waterbury, Connecticut. This is great. In my collecting of antique pocket knives, I prefer ones made by companies in the United States, especially those in the Connecticut region. I am partial to the whittler pattern because of how aesthetically appealing many of the patterns are and because they are more difficult to make. It seems that many companies chose this pattern to highlight their talents, which can be seen in some of their "exhibition" pieces. I had paid dearly in the past for a Holley and an Empire whittler from a mail order dealer. Now, hopefully, a show nestled in amongst all of these knife companies of "yesteryear" will yield some very fine examples of the region.

The drive from Boston to Waterbury was very pleasant. Being from California where most of the year the hills are a golden color, I liked how nice and green all of the vegetation was. As I approached the entrance to the show, I could feel my pulse quicken -wondering what I would find inside. I paid the entrance fee and was soon wandering the isles of "knife history for sale". One of the things that the NCCA does at their shows is a raffle. This raffle is slightly

different than others I have seen. You must be present to win because if your number is drawn, you get to visit the prize table and select an item from the assortment. First one drawn gets the best prize, and this show has some high dollar custom knives in the booty. I noticed that there were many antique knife dealers present as compared to dealers of custom knives. One dealer had so many knives he kept them all in containers stacked up on his table, as well as under. You had to tell the dealer what you were looking for and he knew where to dig it up from his extensive inventory.

As I strolled around, I found that many knives offered were made by famous Connecticut companies like LF&C, Challenge and even Winchester. There seemed to be a fair number of knives made by the Miller Bros. Knife Company about the show. I had not heard of this brand before, but there sure seemed to be a lot of them here. I managed to pick up a Miller Bros. whittler at a reasonable price. Another pattern that gets my attention is the Congress pattern knife.

I like to think that the Congress pattern is an American invention. I spotted several Congress pattern knives in the show, but one in particular, under a glass case, caught my eye. As I



Miller Bros Whittler

looked closer, I noticed that this was a Congress Whittler! Wow, it is not often to see a congress pattern done as a whittler. I had to have a closer look so I asked the dealer to please take the knife out for me. The first thing I noticed was the cream colored bone scales. They had a very fine pick pattern to them, and there were no cracks or flaws in the bone. I checked the walk and talk of the blades, and they were all flawless with good snap opening and closing. The master blade is a sheepfoot blade, and both of the smaller blades are pen blades. Closed, the knife measures a little over 3.5 inches long. According to the tang stamp it was made by the New York Knife Company -not a Connecticut company! The dealer wanted a healthy price for it, so I returned it to him and thanked him for showing it to me.

I am a fan of the New York Knife Company. I guess I was caught off guard by that knife, so I passed on it. Besides, I wanted to see more of the show. I continued to see many great knives as I moved on. There was much to see so the going was slow. It didn't take long before I started to think about that Congress Whittler again. This knife had the kind of fit and action that one would expect from a custom knife, not necessarily in a factory knife. It must be hand made, and most likely made before 1915. I decided to go and have another look. I began to work my way back towards that dealer's table.

Continued on page 5

# Knotes on United States Military Edged Cutlery

by Frank Trzaska

## Steffens

On a recent ebay auction the price of a Steffens marked knife escalated quickly as it was linked to the so called Delta knife. While this is all speculation, I am as guilty as others as I tried to put them together too. Well the publicity caught the attention of the grandson, Mark Steffens, of the original maker Jacob Steffens and some e-mails were exchanged on the topic. Here is what I found out:

The factory that made them is not known, but the man who had them commissioned was Jacob Steffens. Mr. Steffens was a LA police officer who had these knives made and proceeded to resell them in popular hunting & fishing magazines. (Need to find a copy of that ad; if you see it, please let me know the publication and date.) Unfortunately the enterprise did not pan out too well. When they failed to sell, he gave many of them away to his friends and fellow officers. If any made it to Vietnam, it was just by luck. Steffens did not have sheaths made for these knives as he thought that they could be more affordable without them, so any sheath you see on a Steffens knife today was furnished by one of its previous owners. There was only one production run of 500 knives made. All had the gray / black swirl or marble pattern handle with a through tang. And I do mean a through tang as the tang actually comes out the end of the handle. This is one area in which it differs from the so called Delta knife in that the tang does not protrude from the Delta's handle. Toward the guard portion of the handle is "MADE IN USA" in lightly raised letters. Well it is still a possibility that the same factory or shop that made the Delta also made the Steffens, but that shop is still a mystery to me. The search continues.....

## DESCO Knives

It was recently brought to my attention that another well known maker of diving knives is currently on the net and selling knives. Remember a while back I wrote of the Morse knives showing up on eBay that are modern made knives? Well we now have the Desco knives to look for too. Both are World War Two makers and suppliers that still make the exact same product today and continue to sell them to commercial divers. Nothing wrong or illegal about it at all, and I am NOT saying there is. I am just warning everyone that these knives are available so be on the lookout if you are in the market for the deep diving knives.

Desco, like Morse, are also military and government suppliers which compounds the fact that you may indeed find a Desco knife with military markings or packaging from a very recent time period, or for that matter pre World War Two. Great knives and a fine company history.

## Where is Herman Hanneken When You Need Him??

Tomahawks are cool weapons, but we need more than smart bombs for this one. It took an enterprising USMC Sergeant Herman H. Hanneken, actually an acting Captain at the time in the Haitian Gendarmes, to eliminate the resistance by brutally killing the leader, up close and personal. In the age of political correctness this is not allowed by U.S. law. The similarities in this current problem we have are very close to identical. For example, consider the killing of Haitian guerrilla leader Charlemagne Peralte by Hanneken in 1919. During this period, U.S. Marines were involved in the occupation of Haiti. Peralte had raised a rebel force of as many as 5,000 in the northern part of the country. From February through October, Marine forces pursued the rebels, known as "cacos," fighting 131 engagements but were unable to suppress the rebel activity. So, disguised as cacos, Sgt. Herman Hanneken and Cpl. William Button infiltrated Peralte's camp, where Hanneken shot and killed the caco leader.

The rebellion in the northern portion of the country subsided. In this case, a special operation consisting of two Marines accomplished what seven months of combat could not. To make it even more unbelievable, at the time no one knew what Peralte looked like, there were no photos of him. To accomplish this feat the Marines established a fake band of "deserter" gendarmes who gradually convinced Peralte's people of their sincerity. Hanneken and another Marine NCO, Corporal William Button, along with a trusted local gendarme "deserter" successfully passed through several check points to come face to face with Peralte. Hanneken then shot Peralte up close and personal with a Colt .45 while Button took out the bodyguards with a Browning BAR he was carrying. They threw the body on a mule and quickly departed the area. The following day Peralte's body was buried in concrete to prevent his followers from digging it up. It won Hanneken the Medal of Honor, he later retired from the Marine Corps as a Brigadier General. I just bring this up as it seems our very own Peralte is with us today in the form of Osama bin Laden. The plan worked before, who

will be our Hanneken this time around?

## Save A Life With A Knife

Recently I was contacted by *Knife World* Editor, Mark Zalesky, with a letter from a subscriber, Bryan O'Shaughnessy. It seems this individual has been buying inexpensive broken knives and repairing them all at his own expense then giving them to a charity that would include them with good will packages to our troops overseas. All was going fine until the powers that be deemed the pocket knives weapons and refused to include them with the packages. Not wanting to get into the hows and whys of such a decision, you probably wouldn't believe it anyway and I don't want my head to explode, I entered into the conversation by saying I would provide all the shipping to get the knives into the troop's hands. Over the years I have made many connections and have multiple outlets to send a good knife to. I have done so repeatedly in the past two years and will continue it anyway. One such connection is my son who is a U.S. Marine and has many friends currently serving in hot spots around the globe. Either way I pledged to get those old knives where they belong. If you are interested in donating strong, practical knives for the cause, you can send them directly to the *Knife World* offices; and they will see that they find their way into the proper hands. Mr. O'Shaughnessy has graciously offered to refurbish donated knives that are in need of it, so don't hesitate to send along something less than perfect. (Bryan adds that donations of useable old blades would also be greatly appreciated!)

If you would like to make a donation of an old knife to the project you can mail them to:  
*Knife World* PO Box 3395 Knoxville, Tn. 37927

Thank You!!

Frank Trzaska [trz@mcsystems.net]



Two Marines in Iraq comparing knives. On the left is son Jake Trzaska.

# OKCA Knews and Musings

*ibdennis*

## It is nearly Show Time....

It won't be long now. About a month away once you receive this Knewsletter. There are a few key words to sum up the event. We are sold out; we are celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> annual Show; the opening ceremonies are set; the demonstrations are set; many off shore nations will be here; donations are coming in for our fund raising events; a chapel service will be held Sunday; a steel seminar will be held Friday morning; the Saturday Nite social will be like last year and some special surprises for your enjoyment.

## This Knewsletter.....

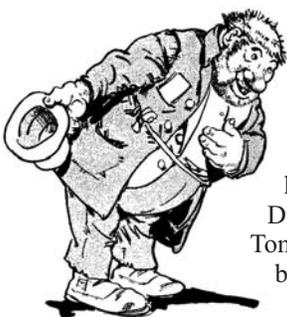
When I was putting the articles together for this month, it seemed that the articles were of personal experiences and stories to be told. I have enjoyed compiling these articles and think that this issue will be unique and entertaining for you the reader. Sit back, take a break and enjoy.

We thank **Roy Humenick** (Rescue CA) - **Aaron Thomas** (Greenfield IN) - **Melvin Melonkowski** (Center of the Universe) - **Frank Trzaska** (Deptford N.J.) - **Gerry Parmley** (Clatskanie OR)

The book titles and the cutlery sayings were contributed by several people. Not a single one wanted to take credit for them. Therefore only they will know what evil they have done and oh yes, The Shadow..... he knows.

## The Oregon Knife Club website....

Our web site ([www.oregonknifeclub.org](http://www.oregonknifeclub.org)) has been totally revamped. Check it out. This site is also a great place to catch up on the latest happenings and also details on the Show. What to do when you get here can also be found. There is also a page for members links so link to, or if not linked, let us know. Your request is the only way we will link to you.



Other things to do while in Eugene: Look at our site map on the web and click on the to do while here link. Sky Diving, shoot a Tommy Gun, bicycling, a concert, an art museum and more.

## Club Knife by Ford Swauger.....

This will be the last call to have the Haida Beaver put on your Swauger Damascus knife. That deadline will be within a few days after receiving this Knewsletter. You will have had to have ordered a knife in order to have the Beaver scrim done. Now there is a potpourri of "have's."

## Donations R US.....

The heart beat of our organization is the donations we receive. These items go into the raffle and door prizes to help fund the things we do for the Show. In year's past the generosity has been wonderful and from the looks of things that trend will continue. Of note at this writing we received a sheath knife from **David Shirley** (The Custom Shoppe LLC). This knife is a Northwoods Knife and has beautiful stag handles. **Ed Schempp** has donated a Persian folding knife that he designed for Spyderco. Great knife. **Mike Silvey** will be donating several of his world class books to the OKCA. Mike is a historian of Military knives.

## Forgot where your membership card is hidden????

Better find it now before Showtime. Everyone who is a member paid up for 2005 gets a laminated membership card. Those who are table holders get a special table holder's badge which they will find in their Show packet when they arrive at the Show. In year's past we have had massive abuse of Show Badges so we have a limit on how many badges a table holder can have. Death by slow torture will be awaiting those that dare ask at the Show for more badges. If you ask me, I will direct you to dear elayne who will not be given the title of "dear" after she gets done with you.

## Table Holders one more time.....

Leaving early is one of the most serious offenses that you can do to our organization. Public hours means open and attended tables non stop. We advertise show hours for our visitors, and we as an organization are bound by this. If you cannot abide by this, please do not have a table at our Show. It is only fair.

## Display Cases for the April Show....

**Bryan Christensen** has offered to supply display cases for rental at 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. The cases are going fast and they are limited.

## Knives that make ya Smile.....

This knife was handed to me during the December Mini Show. It is a Gits Razor Nife (which in itself makes me smile) and carries a standard advertising logo on the front and a make you smile expression on the back. My guess is that this is a 1950s advertising knife as zip codes didn't come into being until 1963.



## Places to lay your head down whilst here.....

We have retained the same price at the Valley River Inn as we have for the last few years. Ya gotta mention the OKCA Show to get this pricing. Is it too early to reserve a room? Nope. I checked and they are ready for you now. Their operators are standing by. Go to our web site for web links to these places.

**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.

## Show notes.....

### Members

- Find your membership card for entry to the Show.
- New members clips free. Lost clips a buck.
- Help us with donations to help fund our Show.
- Get your Saturday Nite Social tickets early. Limited number at \$5.
- Make lodging reservations. Valley River Inn has OKCA special rates.

### Shipping...

- Items can be shipped to the Barons Den for safe keeping. See the February Knewsletter.
- USPS packages can be shipped to PO Box 2091 and will be carried to the Barons Den.
- USPS is special. All other freight goes direct to the Barons Den.
- Do not ship to the Lane Events Center.
- Package return must be done by you. The Barons Den is a freight pickup only site.

### Table holders...

- No roll carts will be allowed through the front doors. Tile breakage on the floor.
- Doors open 10 am Friday for members and table holders. Saturday at 7 am for setup.
- No show badges will be made during the Show. All will be ready when you arrive.
- The Show packet for table holders has many specials in it. Look for sure.
- Your Show badge has hours on the back side of it.
- Friday - no rules on tables being open or closed.
- Public hours. No table closures or covers at all. Early closure results in stiff penalties.

### Events...

- Steel seminar Friday AM
- Custom knife judging will be Friday afternoon. (January Knewsletter information)
- Grinding competition will be Saturday morning.
- Demonstrations mostly on Saturday. (web site information)
- Opening ceremonies on Saturday morning at 8:30.
- Chapel service Sunday AM

### Web Site.....

- www.oregonknifeclub.org - everything you could possibly want to know about the OKCA.
- Knewsletters are archived here in case you lost your hard copy.

### Non Members.....

- Door prizes are only available for guests and paid entries.
- Mailing lists are for the use of the OKCA only and are not distributed in any way.
- Entry to the Show is \$5 per day. Hours 9 - 6 Saturday and 9 - 3 Sunday.



### Knife Books

Basic Knifemaking: for People Who Don't Know a Tang  
Book Two: Getting a Handle on it  
Fast Turnover Knife Selling: Queen for a Day  
Smart Knife Buying; Don't Get Pommeled  
From cutler to gunsmith... You will get a bang out of this.  
Is Knife Making a Vise?  
Are you sure you can handle it?  
Using the pocketknife as a writing tool on commode walls  
Tangs for the memory!  
It's the only Balisong (bally song) that I know.  
Buck up!  
Just a Case in point.

### Sharp Little Sayings

The hafters don't have to.  
Knife collectors get the point  
Knife collectors are edgy people  
No tangs for the gift knives.  
If you can't handle it, give them a skeleton knife.  
Good knife makers have polish  
He didn't have to become a hafter.  
Bolster your pride with a pocketknife.  
The knifemaker always gets the point  
Snap to it.  
Will it take an Act of Congress?  
Should I bail you out?  
This should bolster you up.  
I can paddle my own Canoe.  
It's the Coffin they carry you off in.  
Go and chew on your own bone.  
Is that a Butterfly I saw flutter by?  
Never burn the candle end at both ends!  
This looks like a carve up.  
Don't be clever with me!  
Are Coke bottles returnable?  
It's spring ...See the Crocus?  
Is that D Guard or de hilt?  
I need an easy open beer can  
This is the house that Jack's built.  
It's etched on my memory.  
EUREKA! I found it.  
Don't put a false edge on this issue!  
If your dog's have fleas, you should deFleam  
For he's a jolly good Farrier.  
I'm fuller than I've ever been.  
Take the harness off the horsehead, the farrier just arrived.  
Let's play pin the fishtail on the elephant's toenail.



### From Gerry Parmley:

I have sent you a picture that you might find interesting. The little boy is my grandson, Jeremiah Judson. A while back I gave him a four blade camp knife as his 'first' knife. Last weekend I gave him a real 'rubber' sheath knife, just like the one his Dad and I use for hunting. He has a real interest in collecting knives, and we have a nice start for him with old "JUDSON CUTLERY CO." pocket and sheath knives, a dozen or so to date. At the Show I always take a little time with

little guys like this and give them some kind of old knife if all the dynamics have been covered. I only ask them to come by in the years to come and say hi and show me what they have acquired. I have had a nice return on that gesture. Here is hoping that this tradition will sift down to others to perpetuate interest in knives.

My reward was seeing the smile on Jeremiah's face, which he wore all night.

Gerry Parmley in Clatskanie, Oregon



# 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 Address \_\_\_\_\_

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) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Lucky Knife *(cont. from page 1)*

I think the dealer remembered me as I approached. I asked to see the knife again. It looked like the knife had been "cleaned" professionally, meaning that there must have been a slight amount of rust on the blades that was removed by some minor sanding. The master blade seemed to have very little wear, and the pens showed some minor usage. The swedge lines were nice and crisp. I made up my mind. I was going to make him an offer. I had brought along several knives for trading purposes, so I offered one of the better knives and some cash to the dealer for his Congress Whittler. Well, we couldn't find common ground, so back the knife went under the glass and I thanked him again.

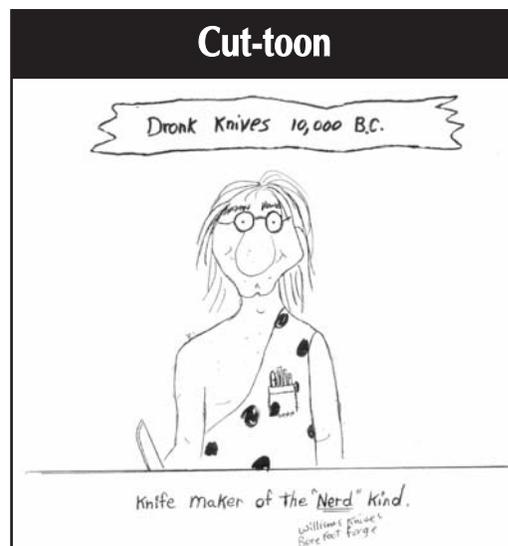
I was glad to see the number of Remington knives here at the show. I am a big fan of the Remington brand and there were plenty to see. I found one fellow who was selling old issues of *Fur-Fish&Game* magazine. I purchased an issue that contained an ad for a Remington Bullet knife. I came across a copy of *Goins' Encyclopedia of Cutlery Markings* and decided to look up the New York Knife Company. I found out that the "arm holding a hammer" mark began to be used in 1878. According to the text, it appears that the Congress Whittler I have been admiring was made between 1856 and 1878, in Walden, New York, by cutlers who had previously worked in Waterbury, Connecticut. This was very interesting.

After a little more walking around, I realized that I had finally visited every table in the show. I relaxed for a short time, reflecting on what I had seen. Wouldn't you know it, I could not get that New York Congress Whittler out of my mind. I had to go back for another look. As I made my way back to that dealer's table, an announcement was made over the PA system informing everyone that the drawing would be underway shortly. As I got nearer to the dealer's table, he saw me coming and started to bring the knife out for me to examine again. He knew why I was there. I began another inspection, looking for any value that would support the dealer's asking price. I noticed that the blades all had half-stops in the tangs -where the blade comes to rest half way open. The springs were flush with the backside of the scales when the blades were open, closed and even at the half stops. It is rare to see this kind of attention to detail in a factory knife.

The dealer commented, "I can tell you really want this knife. Make me your best offer." It was time for me to dig down and see what

was left in the coffers. I made my final offer, and the dealer just smiled at me and said, "sold!" We started to shake on the deal when just as we did, the first number of the raffle was announced over the PA. It belonged to the very dealer that I was shaking hands with, so he dropped everything to rush up to claim his prize. Remember, this was the first ticket drawn, so this dealer gets first pick out of the selection of prizes. I waited for him to return so I could pay him. He soon did with his beautiful fixed blade custom knife in hand. We finished the transaction, and both felt quite satisfied with the deal. Was it merely coincidence that the dealer won the top prize, just as he officially parted with the New York Congress Whittler? Or, was the knife blessed in some way and contributed to his good fortune?

Without knowing the answers to these questions I can only ponder the possibilities. Could it be that good fortune is bestowed on the one who parts with the knife? If I ever part with the knife, will I experience something positive as well? At least, this extraordinary event has started me to think that this is a lucky knife. Every time I see my New York Congress Whittler I start to smile -remembering the positive circumstances that surrounded it coming into my life. My lucky knife now has this entire ensemble of events tucked away in its memories. Even more steam for the next time it is called upon to perform its magic. Oh, that would mean parting with the knife! For now I can take comfort knowing I have a "genie in the bottle" of sorts - my lucky knife.



# The Robeson Whittler

By ibdennis

For the last two years I have been running an ad in this publication for a Robeson whittler pocketknife. In truth I have been looking for a knife like this for the past 25 years. I have never seen one offered for sale, and those that were offered were close but not winners. So how does one become obsessed with finding a particular knife and why?

The story revolves around my good friend, Loy Moss. Loy and I are charter members of the Oregon Knife

Collectors Association. Loy has been a good friend as well as a fellow knife collector. I have some real treasure knives that came from Loy. I have had some wonderful moments with Loy that go back to times spent in a power plant when he was working and other times spent on his farm. Good times.



About twenty five years ago Loy handed me a knife and asked me what I thought of it. I told him I liked it and liked it enough to buy it. This Robeson large equal end whittler pattern felt good in the hand and had a character that appealed to me. Loy felt the same way about it. In fact it wasn't a put in a display box knife but rather a carry in your pocket and use type knife. The shield bore the name "Pocket Eze". The shield name brought attention to the fact that this was a sunk joint knife that had no sharp corners that would tear holes in your pockets when you carried the knife. It had beautiful bone handles and was a 1930's vintage knife.

As we both liked it we struck on this idea that we could share the knife. I think I held out \$30 and suggested that I would carry it for awhile; and then when Loy wanted it back we would again trade dollars for the knife. I think we both thought that we would find another one, and both of us could have



this special pattern knife. For several years we traded dollars and that knife, and both of us were happy with the experience. We would meet on the streets and ask the other whether it was being carried and it would be brought out for inspection.

And then one day Loy approached me with a sullen expression on his face. He had lost the knife. It wasn't one of those misplaced and soon to be found lost; this was a lost it

forever type lost. My heart sunk. Loy was on the farm when it happened. He was working with a string tag baler and using the knife to cut the string. And then it was gone. A search around the field did not find it. In fact Loy spent hours looking for that lovely Robeson. He even said he would spend future years in hopes of finding it, but it never happened.

That was twenty five or so years ago. I vowed I would find another for no other reason than a memory of our friendship. I looked and

looked. I even had a Robeson collector keep his eyes open for one, figuring that he would spot one with no problem. Nothing! I haunted knife shows looking and hoping. Nothing!

And then one day I spotted a picture of one in a book. It was a pattern 633499 and had a spear blade. I couldn't recall whether the knife had a spear main blade, but this one was close enough. Now I had a number and a picture. But in reality it didn't get me closer to the knife I was wanting. This went on for years.

And then eBay happened. I had searches going on constantly for this knife. Nothing! Even automatic searches revealed nothing. And then one day Charlie Campagna wrote me an email asking if I had seen this Robeson whittler up for auction. My eBay search engine failed to find it so I looked where Charlie pointed. And there it was. Exactly what I was looking for. It was a pattern number 632498. And then it dawned on me that it was a clip point main blade that we had, and that this was the same knife. It wasn't the lost knife but was one just like it.

I told dear elayne that I was going to have that knife no matter what I had to bid for it. I told her what my maximum bid would be.

She gulped and rolled her eyes in a manner only she can do and said faintly, "go for it." I think she thought it would go for far less than that and I did too. All during the bidding process it looked like I would get it for a high but nominal figure. Even up until the last minute I gulped but had calculated the number it would stop at. It was fine. I should have known by the name of the bidder that put it into orbit that he might be nuttier than I. It was "slick Willy" or something like that. He came within \$20 of my ludicrous, outrageous, stupid, spendthrift, exorbitant and costly bid. But I won it. And dear elayne's exclamation when I told her will forever ring in my ears. And keeps on ringing.

I shared my victory with Loy and he was happy for me. We both agreed on the facts of the story. Loy asked what I had paid for it and I sheepishly told him. He helped in consoling me about it. I asked if he would be interested in carrying it in his pocket like we did all those years ago. He suggested not. Loy was always smarter than I when it came to reasonable amounts of money to spend. It is mine now. To carry and enjoy and bring back fond memories of a friendship.

## OKCA Club Whot-zits & Whos Zits

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### Loy Moss

*Vice President (541) 747-7600*

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### Knewslettter by elayne & dennis

### Cut-toons by Judy & Lonnie Williams

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# The Seek-re-tary

## Report

by elayne

The meeting was held February 16 at Sizzler Steak House, Gateway. The attendance was a record 42. Thank you **Bernard Levine** for the emails to remind us of the meeting.

**Larry Criteser** will host the profile party for the grinding competition knife the weekend of February 26.

**John Priest** has ordered the award plaques for the Show. This year we have also ordered small plaques which can be given to the buyers of the award knives.

**Martin Brandt** and **Wayne Goddard** are finalizing the knife sharpness competition which will be held Sunday.

**Gene Martin** has finished his donated display award and we will add that to the items on display at Excalibur Cutlery at Valley River.

**Dennis** reported that we have a few tables available for sale. We have not sold out as in years past. We will try to update the web page with a list of the table holders-but as is understood the list is ever changing.

We are only intending to have demonstrations on Saturday of the Show. Sunday we will have the forging and the knifemaker sharpness competition.

Please be sure to renew your membership prior to the April Show. No membership renewals until 2PM Friday, 9AM Saturday or 9AM Sunday. Early entry is only for current members.

I have completed the labels for the table holder badges which will be included in the Show packets. If you have any changes to the names, please contact me--email, phone, postcard. We allow two table holder badges per table holder. Please be sure we have the names **before** the April Show, and we will include the badges in your Show packets.

See you at the meeting, March 16, Sizzler Restaurant, Gateway.

elayne @oregonknifeclub.org



# The Wise Old Whittler

by Aaron Thomas

The hall clock chimed twice. The only other sound was a soft, deep snore.

"I hate it when he does that." The complaint came from the display case.

"Oh give me a break!" came another voice. "I know how hard you worked today. After all, laying around in a display can be quite tiring."

"I'm the one that needs his sleep. I cut paneling all day and I even fell off the ladder. My springs are still sore!"

"Come on guys, not tonight." someone pleaded. "What is wrong with you two anyway? You're brothers! Came from the same lot, even share the same birthday. When the master brought you home he made one a display and one a worker."

"The problem is, my brother, we Swiss Army's are tough; good steel, quality workmanship. We were made to be out there in the world, not under glass. After all, my brother and I aren't like some of you."

You could hear a moan go through the case as feelings were hurt and knives were angered. "Hey, Swiss Boy, you have a lot of nerve! There are a lot of Bucks, Case and Schrade here. Some knives here were retired for broken springs and blades. Do you think they want to be here?"

This statement created a stir. Some agreed. They didn't want to be there. Some were thankful that they never saw the outside world, for they have heard the horror stories.

The worst treatment, however, was not being used as a pry bar, but the dreaded "Sock Drawer", a place where a knife goes to be forgotten and die of loneliness.

The Aitor spoke out in a loud and forcefully Spanish accent. "I don't know what you guys are complaining about. I was engineered and field-tested to be a soldier's knife. Several years of research went into my multi blade from the wrench spanner to the can opener. I was created to be with a soldier. Where I can be of some service. You Swiss boys aren't even the "soldier issue model" you have no idea how I feel!"

The case fell dead silent for two reasons. One, the master was stirring. Two, everyone was thinking about their position in life. Were they workers or display? When you get right down to it that is those are the only two classes'.

Clearing his voice the old Camillus asked in a very gentle voice "May I tell you my story, and my thoughts?"

Everyone knew that the Whittler was the oldest and the wisest in the display, so when no one spoke he knew it would be okay to tell his tale.

"My master was the grandfather of your master. I was bought in the late fifties," (You could see unbelief on some of the knives) "and the first thing that my master did was scratch his initials in my scales. I have lost count of how many flowers I have cut, apples I have peeled, and splinters I have dug out. I was left in a pocket during laundry, stolen by grandchildren to be returned later, and I, too, have survived the "Sock Drawer".

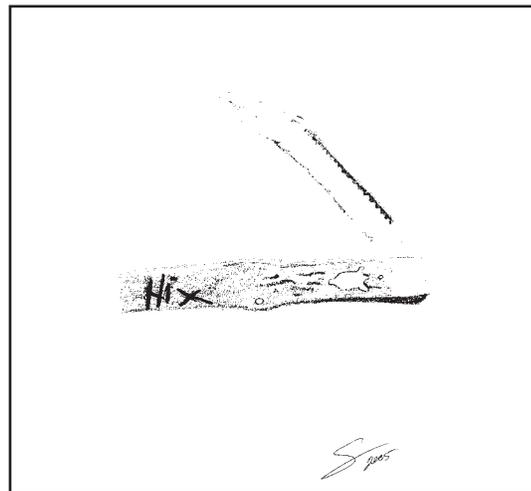
With his eyes misting up he said, "In 1966 my master passed away. For thirty-five years I set in the "Drawer", and during that time a lot of life's mysteries were solved. I was a worker for several years and then "stored". Now, due to sentimental reasons, I am under glass. Do you want to know which is better, the worker or the display?"

All attention was focused on the Whittler. Soon the answer would come. Some knives got ready to be crowned winner. Others started to cower in their blue velvet beds.

The Whittler finally spoke again. "In my humble opinion the best class you can be in is... The suspense was killing them they couldn't wait any longer.

"The best class to be in is the one that gives your master the most pleasure."

Between the soft snore, and the clock ticking in the hallway, you could hear whispers of "I'm sorry" throughout the display case.



## YCDBSOYA by ibdennis

Over the years I have written what I refer to as sale's aids for our table holders. This information reflects my opinions based on my life's work as a salesperson. These are the thoughts and views that I pass on to you for the sake of making the Oregon Knife Show a successful event in your lives. Successful can mean several things depending on your point of view. As caretakers to the Show, we provide the environment that should be the platform for a memorable happening. We provide the room, the advertising, the people, problem solving, enthusiasm, entertainment and attitude for you, the participant of our Show. From here on it is you, the table holder, that needs to effectively use this to your advantage whether it be for fun, frolic or monetary advantage.

I received a rather disturbing email earlier this year from a person who has been a regular table holder for several years. This person will not be attending the 2005 Show because last year he did not make enough money at the Show. The thought was that we were responsible for this fact. He did not volunteer to go into details but suggested that I could ask and he would tell me about his decision. I declined and did the politically correct move of "missing" and "sorry." But in reality I did know exactly why this person had a poor show, as I was privileged to the details of a huge sale that he missed because of a poor attitude with

one particular customer. And of course that customer told others.

Handling a sale takes a skill that most of us have if we pay attention to the details. In a simplified version of the story above, a customer took a liking to a particular knife on this knifemaker's table. It was one of several that the customer was preparing to purchase. One knife in particular caused a concern since its price was a tad bit higher than the customer was willing to invest. The seller volunteered that he thought the price might be high also and asked the customer to return, and he was sure he could lower the price to where they would both be happy. On the return the knifemaker stated that he had already lowered the price and told the customer the amount. The customer thanked him very much and left immediately. The reason: the price was the same as before and no explanation was offered. A mistake or an attitude problem, but in either case a no sale.

Not only did the seller insult the customer, but he made it awkward for the customer to continue with this pending sale. So if the seller lost this sale then how many others did he lose due to poor sale's techniques? The transaction could have been handled many different ways. The way it was handled is like the expression, "Don't write no checks your tail can't keep." Or better put, "Do not make statements that get you into trouble." There is also the fact that a bad transaction leaves the customer telling dozens of people about the bad transaction, whereas a good transaction leaves a customer telling a few. I would rather have a few "goods" rather than a bushel basket full of "bads."

Engaging a customer in good healthy information and conversation about your products is great for all concerned. As a famous line goes, "All we want are the facts, ma'am," is good advice when dealing with your products and the customer. Any additional has the potential for creating problems. Deal with the concerns and questions at hand and do not over elaborate.

I recently had a bad experience at a local gas station. Apparently I irritated

the attendant by making them return from a coffee break early, and my identity was challenged when I attempted to use a credit card. As a regular and frequent customer

I was taken aback by this behavior. I explained the fact of being a regular customer and that my profile certainly did not warrant that type of inconvenience. No matter, they wanted some ID. I produced my driver's license, which wasn't even looked at closely enough to verify identity and received my final, never to return again, tank of gas. How many customers do you rub the wrong way never to return? A few minutes of thoughtful non provocative conversation can result in a great sale. Like your child, have you hugged your customer lately.

I think most people at our Show have recognized that you have to establish a relationship with the customer before you will make that first sale. This can also create repeat sales. A happy and satisfied customer always returns. After that the work at sales is easier.

Selling is easier if your product is desirable. And desirable means to some or all of the customers. But that is the first baby step. First meet your customer eye to eye. Your aching feet will be cured by a good sale. Being up beat is infectious. Being down and out is an infection. Being positive is electrifying. Being negative puts a short on a sale. Don't pontificate and be engrossed in yourself. It is the product they want to take home and not you.

And to the customer. Your smile is where it can all start. Your interest is what can provide you with an educational adventure and the chance to get involved, not only with a handmade work of art but maybe a cutlery item of historical significance. Knife shows are supposed to be fun, and a highlight to your trip to the Oregon Knife Show.

Since many like my off the wall expressions and trivia quizzes, there are two involved in this article. Where did the expression about "Just the facts, ma'am," come from; and what does the title of this article mean? The answer to both can be found in our want ads page.



# Knife Photography

by  
**BLADEGALLERY.COM**

knife by  
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Seattle, WA 98103  
(206) 527-0315  
www.bladegallery.com/photography

# Forging Ahead with Ford

by ibdennis

I have always known of Damascus Steel. The Saimiri sword of old Japan was made this way. Our Oregon Knife Collector's Club Knife for 2005 is made from Damascus. But just what goes into



*The Billet*

this has always alluded me. It is pretty to look at and from scattered conversations seems to have some advantages over other steels and methods.... so "they" say.

My goal was to write an article about the Club Knife and explain as best I could the rudimentary steps in the making of Damascus metal. I must admit that I am barely even close to explaining all there is to making Damascus, but I think I can give a basic overview to this process. This will be on

a par to some of the basic books that seem to be popular these days. Damascus for Dummies or something like that. The information here is not enough to confuse but enough to get one going should they want to pursue this fascinating art further.

Ford Swauger lives in the Roseburg Oregon area which is 70 miles south of Eugene. He has become fascinated with the making of knives using Damascus steel. I spent time with Ford at his forge in order to write this article. I discovered that this was not only an art but was also a scientific adventure that has more variables than a mathematics puzzle. The making of Damascus has to do with a forge (very hot); pounding the heated object with a hand hammer and then a trip hammer; and a technique and the willingness to devote oneself to a labor intensive endeavor. In this case the Damascus metal was used for the blade and the bolsters of our Club Knife. Once the metal is created, the making of the knife proceeds as we typically know it.

The Oregon knife is of a pattern that Ford designed and the mechanics used in opening both variations of this knife are unique and original. That part is another story, but the story of the steel is the part that I want to tell.

Labor intensive is the key word when it comes to making Damascus. This is part of the price for which one pays when investing in this type knife. Before I arrived, Ford had prepared a billet of steel (see picture) which was welded onto a steel shaft. The billet consists of alternate layers of two different steels. The steels in this case were a bandsaw steel called L6 and another steel called 1095. Rather than go into details of the steels and their properties, we will just assume they are two different steels that can be blended together. There are 17 layers which, when forged together, will be doubled over to give a layering of 34.

The first thing done after I arrived was to fire up the forge. The forge can be likened to an oven that is fueled by propane to reach a toasty temperature of 2500 degrees Fahrenheit. (Even the forge would be a story- what with the construction and technical points

of its use.) When the billet is ready and up to temperature, the color of the billet will have turned a yellow color that matches the color of the propane heat in the forge. Once the billet reaches the proper heat level it is taken out and beaten with a hammer. Ford forges or draws out the billet with both a hand hammer and a Little Giant trip hammer. This process has numerous steps, and I will not elaborate on the whys and wherefores of this in this article.

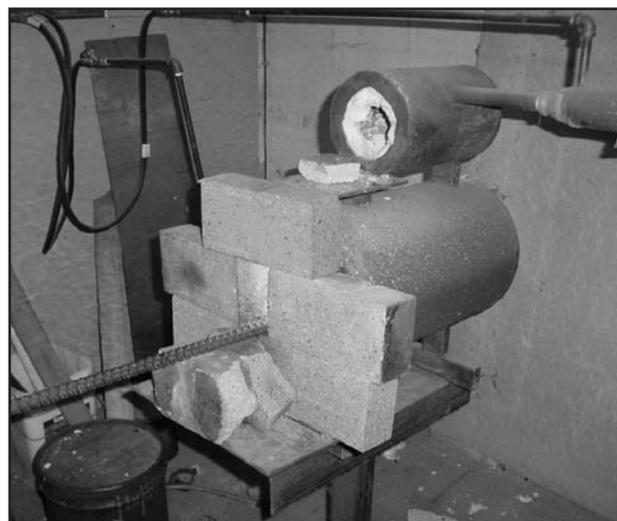
The layers of steel become one layer which is thinner and longer because of all the heating and hammering. The result is a huge amount of loss of the original quantity of metal. For every ten pounds of steel one starts with, the finished steel gained is one pound. Not a good return on investment considering that the slag, not used metal, has no value.

Once again the billet is heated and then it is twisted to a ratio of two revolutions per inch. This whole process dictates the ultimate pattern that one will see when the knife blade and



*The trip Hammer*

bolster are finished. There is yet one other step that affects the way the Damascus appears: the introduction of acid on the Damascus steel. The acid attacks the 1095 steel layer and turns it black. And then one can see the layers and the artistry of this blade. In using this method the patterns will vary from knife to knife. Every knife is unique.



*The Forge*

*Continued next page*

## Forging... (cont. from previous page)

When Ford was drawing out the billet with his hammer, I was cautioned to stand back as the pieces of steel fly in all directions. It is imperative that proper protection be used at all times while doing the Damascus process. Glasses, hat, gloves and heavy clothing make up the attire. As I watched Ford draw out the billet with hammer in hand, I witnessed Ford do a fantastic dance. At first I thought it was a showman spectacle. It appeared to not be the case as he quickly sat down and removed his shoe revealing several holes that had burned through his

sock. A new lesson is learned each day as Ford explained that one should put their pant leg outside the shoe thus not letting the elusive hot slag a chance to find new hiding places. I was then shown similar forge marks on his arms. Not a sport for me for sure.

The room where Ford does his forging is quite spacious and even with doors open the temperature can soar to

intolerable levels. So you have heat, fire, slag and fatigue that play against one in this work. Hard work that yields fantastic rewards.

As much as I enjoyed the first-hand experience of watching Damascus being made, I realize now why some are spectators like myself and others, who so appreciate the art involved, make the sacrifice of creating the product. Will I be teased to try my hand at this? Not a chance. And that is not a firm maybe.



The holes in the sock



Jean Swauger making the pouches for the Swauger Club Knife.

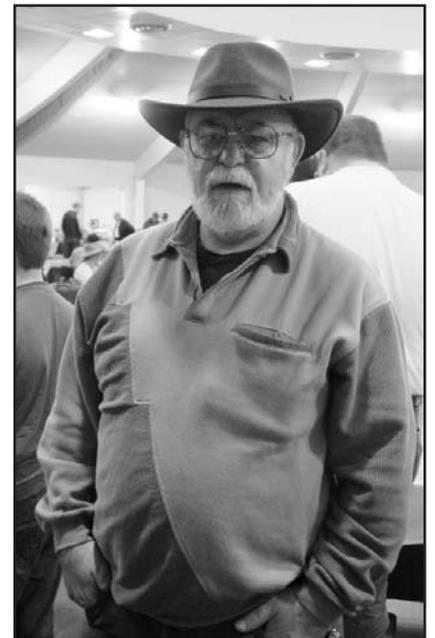
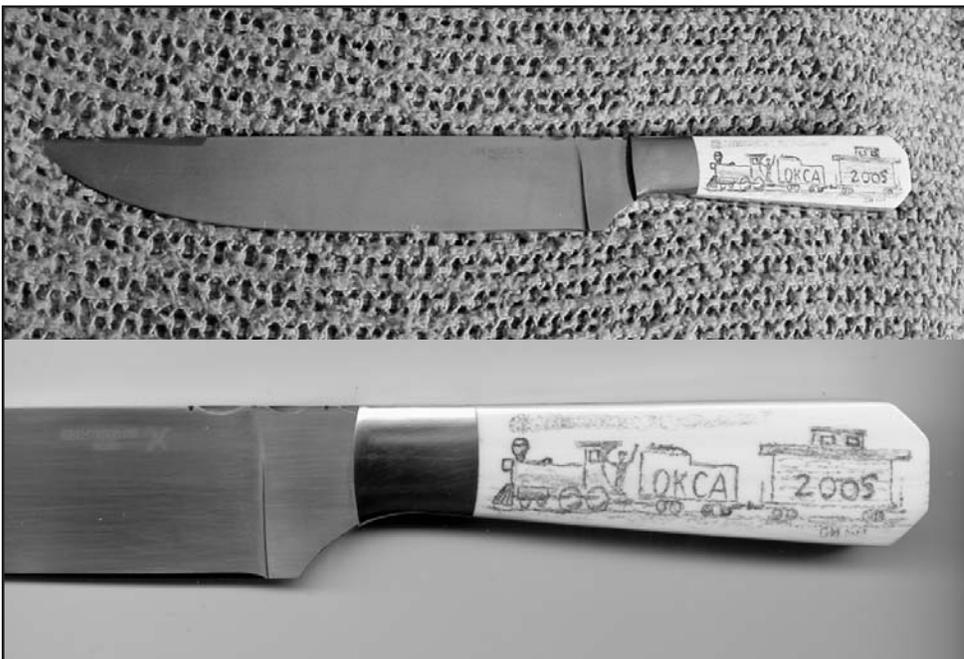


Jim Chartier

## Display Award Knife by Gene Martin

Handles - Ivory

Original art work by Gene Martin



Butch Vallotton



# 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 Billy Point Toe Nail papers) 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.

**Display cases for rent** - Sign up now to reserve your rental display case for the 2005 Show. These special made wooden cases w/lock are 24x30 x2 and rent for \$30 for the three days. Bryan Christensen makes these up just for our Show. Contact the OKCA via mail, phone, email.

**WANTED:** I am a collector of Ek knives. I have limited my collecting to those models made during WW2 and Vietnam periods. I am always interested in purchasing additional pieces including original sheaths; silent partner books and other vintage advertising items. Contact Richard Schechner P.O. Box 181923 Coronado, CA 92178 (619) 437-0564; email: rgs522@san.rr.com J

**Wanted to buy:** Folding bowies Larry Hogan 253 927 3909 email rhogan39@net-venture.net J

**Books on US Military Knives** and Government Reports. Send \$2.00 for a list of over 300 declassified govt. reports and current listing of military knife books in stock. Knife Books - PO Box 5866, Deptford, NJ 08096 or free via e-mail at trz@mcsystems.net. J

**Wanted** - Folding bowies, no Pakistan. Larry Hogan (253)927-3909 email Rhogan@net-venture.net J

**Knife Maker's Vise** - Due to the weight of the darn things, I will be bringing a limited number of the knifemaker's vises (the ones with the pool ball handles) to the April Show. If you would like me to bring one

especially for you call, write, fax, email, telepath, yell or somehow let me know and I will gladly bring it to you. They are currently selling for \$150.00 and as the price of steel continues to rise this may not last. Anything paid for before the Show will get this price and will save \$20.00 or so for shipping. And.....you choose your own balls! Bob Patrick 816 Peach Portal Dr Blaine WA 98230 (604)538-6214 Fax (604)888-2683 email bob@knivesonnet.com J

**Throwing Knives** - Anyone wanting to pre-order Pierce Arrow, Vanishing point of the new Claw-Z throwing knives please contact Bob Patrick. I will be happy to bring them to the April Show for you. See Knife Maker's Vise for contact info or www.knivesonnet.com J

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(425)868-5880. Look forward to seeing you in April at the Oregon Show.

**"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 aCharly Lane, Springfield OR 97478. Check or Visa/MC orders (541)746-1819. Info email jhbkpdlr@pacinfo.com

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**For sale** as good answers. Dragnet. Joe Friday. Good advice, YCDBSOYA! "You can't do business sitting on your ass." Refer to the article in this issue.



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## Events Calendar March 2005

----- <b>March 2005</b> -----		
Mar	19-20	- Western Canada -KXA Arena in Kamloops B.C.
Mar	19-20	- Canadian Guild Show - Toronto (KW-B)
Mar	18-20	- Arizona Custom Show -Scottsdale AZ (KW-B-TK)
Mar	18-20	- Ohio Spring Show NW - Wilmington OH (KW-B)
----- <b>April 2005</b> -----		
Apr	01-03	- Badger Knife Show -Janesville WI (KW-B)
Apr	01-03	- Shenandoah Valley - Harrisonburg VA (KW)
Apr	01-02	- Northern Plains Show -Mandan ND(KW)
<b>Apr</b>	08-10	- Oregon Knife Show - Eugene Oregon (KW-B)
Apr	09-10	- Bunker Hill Show - Bethalto IL (KW-B)
Apr	09-10	- Munich Germany Show (KW-B)
Apr	15-17	- Lone Star Show - Ft Worth TX (KW)
Apr	22-24	- NKCA Shepherdsville KY Show (KW-B)
Apr	22-24	- Wolverine Collectors Show -Novi MI (KW-B)
Apr	23-24	- Custom Knife Show - Gulfport MS (KW)
Apr	29-01	- Solvang Custom Knife Show - CA (B)
Apr	29-30	- Mason Dixon Show - Frederick MD (KW-B)
Apr	30-01	- Espolama Knife Show -Lugano Switzerland (B)
----- <b>May 2005</b> -----		
May	12-14	- Parkers' Greatest -Pigeon Forge TN (KW)
May	14-15	- NCCA Stamford CT Knife Show (KW)
May	21-22	- The Dover Show - Dover OH (KW)
----- <b>June 2005</b> -----		
Jun	03-05	- 2005 Blade Show - Atlanta GA (KW-B)
Jun	24-26	- Springfield MO Knife Show NKCA (KW-B)
----- <b>July 2005</b> -----		
Jul	22-23	- Queen Cutlery Show - Titusville PA (KW)
Jul	29-31	- Central Texas Show -Austin TX (KW)

----- <b>August 2005</b> -----		
Aug	05-07	- Knifemaker's Guild 2005 -Orlando FL (KW )
Aug	19-20	- Denver Custom -Denver CO (KW)
----- <b>September 2005</b> -----		
Sep	16-18	- AECA Knife Show - Oak Lawn IL (KW)
Sep	17-18	- Wolverine Knife Show -Clawson MI (KW)
Sep	23-25	- Ohio Fall Show -(KW)
----- <b>October 2005</b> -----		
Oct	14-16	- Montana Knifemakers - Missoula MT (KW)
Oct	21-23	- Shepherdsville KY Show (KW)
----- <b>December 2005</b> -----		
Dec	01-03	- Parkers' Greatest -Pigeon Forge TN (KW)

## DINNER MEETING



### Wednesday Evening

March 16, 2005

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

