



KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ Eagle Pencil Company
- ✓ Dirty Old Town
- ✓ Pea Knife
- ✓ Smile Knife
- ✓ Military Cutlery

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

September 2005

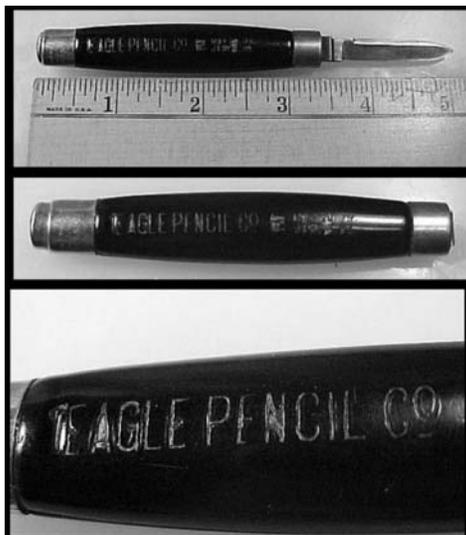
A Knife Meant to Drop! by B. K. Brooks



Mass production of lead pencils began in the U.S. after the Civil War. U.S. production of pencils was encouraged by the import tariff of 1865 as well as increasing demand.

Demand for pencils was growing at an unprecedented rate at the time, and in the early 1870s it was estimated that over 20 million pencils were being consumed in the United States each year. Four companies that were the principal manufacturers of lead pencils throughout the latter 19th century and early 20th century—the Eagle Pencil Co., Eberhard Faber, the American Lead Pencil Co. and the Joseph Dixon Crucible Co.—all set up or expanded pencil factories in the New York/New Jersey area. This article is going to look at the gravity pen knives produced or at least marketed by the Eagle Pencil Co.

Eagle Pencil Co., New York, N.Y., was founded in 1856. They were known for producing lead and mechanical pencils. They also had a sideline of sale items that included dime banks to collapsing cups. One thing they did produce in a prolific amount of designs and styles were small gravity knives that opened or closed at a push of a button. Before the mechanical pencil sharpener became common, a small pen knife was used to do the job of sharpening pencils. Can you imagine in today's schools all the children having small knives to sharpen their pencils?



These Eagle Pencil Co. gravity knives were very clever in their operation.

Holding the knife with the blade end down and pressing down on the button at the opposite end extends and opens a small forked clamp. The blade, which is loose inside the body of the knife, drops down by gravity; and when the button is released, the fork clamps onto the blade



and holds it securely. Inverting the knife and pressing up on the button allows the blade to drop back into the body of the knife ;and when the button is released, the clamp closes, retaining the blade inside.

An Eagle Pencil Co. gravity knife marked with their logo recently sold for \$129.50 on eBay, but I have also purchased perfectly good examples of

this knife for under \$10. The varieties of the styles are amazing from plain brass, leather covered, ad/souvenir

and even a fancy silver plated model on a twist body. The silver plated one I own is marked on the body Eagle Pencil Co. Pat. June 1883. I have been sent a photo of one from an eBayer and prankster, Uncle Ron, (would you buy a used knife from this man?) that is a hexagonal barrel model. Full text of imprint on the side of the barrel is: 2203 (picture of spread-winged eagle) Eagle MAGIC KNIFE Pat. May 20 '79 followed underneath by June 5, '83. Uncle Ron has another one that on the blade-end ferrule of textured brass barrel w/ black paint (no rings) has Eagle Pencil Co./ Pat June 5, 1883/ D.R.P. No. 27244. This gives us a time frame for production of these wonders.

The Eagle Pencil Co. gravity knives are a delight to own and a fun piece of history for the small collector. Many people overlook these older knives at shows and garage sales. They are a true piece of Americana! When it comes down to the ad/souvenir styles, I bet you can't collect them all. Now quit sticking that girl in pigtails in the desk ahead of you, Johnny!



Knotes on United States Military Edged Cutlery

by Frank Trzaska

Ames Swords

I was sent the below newspaper clipping. Makes for good reading.

From the Boston Mercantile Journal, Oct. 1, 1839:

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AMESSES -

We have very cursorily mentioned the beautiful table of N.P. Ames, which occupies a conspicuous place, as it well deserves one, in the centre of the rotunda at Quincy Hall, and attracts a continual crowd of admiring spectators. This show is somewhat novel; to some extent unique in our country, as well as in this exhibition... It may not be generally known that there is no other regular sword manufactory in the United States. There never was one, to our knowledge, excepting a small concern set up at Middletown (Conn.), we believe, during the last war, and which ceased its operations very soon after. Swords, to be sure, are occasionally got up elsewhere. There is a German at Philadelphia who finishes some imported blades; and Fletcher, the silversmith, of that city, does one to order now and then, just as our neighbor Mr. Jones would, we suppose, on a pinch; and especially if he got \$7,000 for it, as Fletcher did (they say) for the sword given by the Legislature of New York to Col. Worth of the Army; or \$1,000, which was the cost of one presented not long ago to Gen. Brady at Detroit. This, by the way, is the greatest cost for a home-made sword, we have heard of. General Macomb has one, a present also, of the \$700 style. The Amesesses made one lately at \$500. for Capt. Turner, now of the frigate Constitution; that is, for the parties who made a gift of it; and they are just now finishing up half a dozen, which are to be presented to as many officers, who distinguished themselves in the last war, by the Legislature of Virginia. We have been surprised to learn how much of a business grows out of these presents, and how many more out of prizes for target-shooting, and so on. They are not, however, made so costly as these we have named, but more generally from one hundred dollars to two; and for that kind the Amesesses have a very considerable and a constant demand. They have recently made a



\$125 sword, which has been given by one of the Salem military companies to Captain Sutton of that city.

These gentlemen furnish the United States army with their swords, by contract with the Government, which amounts, we believe, to some \$4,000 yearly, including, no doubt, what are stored, and what are furnished in quotas to the States. The officers order their weapons where they please, only following the national pattern; but not a great many are ordered to be imported. Generally they order their service-swords of the Amesesses - a very handsome article, though not above \$20 in cost - specimens of which may be seen at Quincy Hall. In that collection we notice one also, ordered by Captain Moore, now commander of the Texan navy, adorned with the

national magnolia, and got up altogether in beautiful style, with silver mountings, though not costing probably above \$50, and so by no means, an extravaganza for the naval chief of so mighty a nation as that - is going to be. The same gentleman has ordered another article, more substantial - a boarding-sword, elegantly finished - but having the weight and formidable aspect of a pick-axe, or of that far-famed Drontheim "star," wherewith the worthy watchmen of Norway last season thought proper to beat in the thick skull of the riotous Marquis of Waterford. It would do no

good, at all events, in a close grapple; probably a bore, rather. The same must be said of the bowie-knife on this table - the only one in Boston we hope - for a most terrific utensil it certainly is. These, Mr. Ames says, are not very marketable, though he has tried his hand at a few.

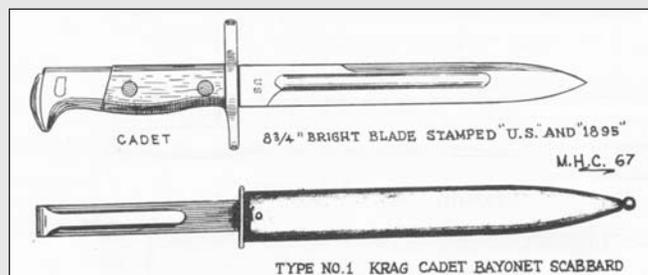
Mr. A. showed us an article more to our fancy, which is ordered by a Southern gentleman, as a present to "John Trezevant Wigfall," doubtless a military personage. This is a splendid sword, rated at \$250, but we have no room for describing it. We can merely mention, also, the new and beautiful pattern intended for the United States Topographical Engineers; the dazzling fancy-sword, fitted for the stage - such as Macready likes to wear, and such as Forrest does wear.....it is too good a fact to be lost, that the swords sent out to England some years since by the Amesesses, or by some of their customers, were not only imitated as exactly as possible, and at once, by

their manufacturers, but thought so well of, that the counterfeits came back to this country with even the name of "N.P. Ames" upon them. This was a daring move, and has been discontinued, but we understand the pattern comes constantly still, though without the name. So much for American ingenuity. The compliment may certainly be appreciated, though the trick must, of course, be despised.

1955 Krag Bayonets

I have recently been informed by our good friend, Dick Boyd, that Chrome plated Krag Bayonets were produced by Rock Island Arsenal as late as 1955. These items were used by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point until 1962 when they switched over to the M14 Rifle which mounted the M6 bayonet. You see the Krag bayonet and locking system fit the Krag rifle, the M1903 Springfield rifle and the M1 Garand rifle, a fact that is little known. The shorter Krag bayonet balanced better and looked smarter on the Cadet Parade ground. The black metal scabbard with hook also better suited the cadet uniform with the black scabbard body and the locking hook which could fit over the white dress belt of the cadet. I had seen a reference to 900 being ordered in WW II (*Bayonets, Knives and Scabbards -- yes a plug for the book!*) but never as late as 1955. In a letter from Rock Island in Dick's possession, we find they confirmed the production. The letter, dated 30 March 1979 from Department of the Army, Rock Island Arsenal states that "the M1898 dress bayonet and scabbard is from the last group made at RIA in 1955. When West Point began using the M14 Rifles, these M1898 dress bayonets were offered for sale to former graduates of West Point. The piece under the belt loop of the scabbard is a safe made of black leather." We are unsure of the markings but there seems to be ARIA B-136C@ on the ricasso. It does not seem to be a stamping according to Dick. So there we have it, you read it here first. Krag bayonets, some 100 years old, to be refurbished for the Corps of Cadets. They also stated that some of the bayonets have been refinished as many as five times! Shorter and rounded blades are normal for a refinished cadet model so do not worry if yours appears to be shorter than the proscribed length, it is a common occurrence. Our deepest appreciation to Dick Boyd for sharing that with us.

Frank Trzaska [trz@mcsystems.net]



OKCA Knews and Musings

ibdennis

It was a good Summer.....

Elayne and I enjoyed the summer and now are ready once again to become "sharp." It seems that the summer hones our recovery for a knife related existence, and we are now ready to go once again. The big goal for us is the extension of the 2006 Show to accommodate the Bowie Knife Collectors. More tables are available and additional planning is necessary to make this event happen. This will be the largest Show yet. Something for everyone.

Articles....

We are good to go for a few months on articles for this Knewsletter but would again appreciate having some in reserve. I would especially appreciate articles on Bowie knives in anticipation of our 2006 Show. I think it would be beneficial to have articles on Bowies geared to those who want to know what to look for at the upcoming Show. Of course we are always interested in specialty articles where someone will share their knowledge with our membership. Keep those cards and letters coming.

Re-evaluation....

There is an article in this issue that deals with some of the upsets our organization has faced in the last six months. We feel that we have attained a level of success with our organization that is unsurpassed. It really ain't broke and continues to thrive on what we are doing. So this year will be an extension of year's past, and we will continue to do our best to put on a Show that has wide appeal and which we can evaluate as highly successful. The nay-sayers will continue to disrupt and destroy, but the Show will prevail.

Some thoughts on the Show....

We have always strived for a family Show where every member of the family is welcome. That includes pets be they dogs, cats or tarantulas. For some reason this has worked except for last year. Complaints abounded and I witnessed a near disaster as a result of a stray leash. So for 2006 there will be a restriction on animals allowed at our Show. In other words no pets unless approved by the Board. No prior approval, no pets allowed. Seeing eye dogs are allowed and animals we know, and those that can show cause will be permitted.

Get your table reservations in now....

Those who had tables at the 2005 Show have

the first right of refusal on those tables with a December 15th deadline. If you desire a change in table location, please apply early so that we can plan on changes. There is an application form for tables and for membership in this Knewsletter. Not to put off that which you should do today.

We took a hike....

One of my favorite summer events is to hike to Indigo Lake in the high Cascades. This year I went with **Craig Morgan**. It



was a five mile easy hike to a spectacular lake with a spectacular view. Craig complained the following day about being sore. I was surprised to hear this as it wasn't a tough hike. But then again I reflected on all the knives we packed. We are that kind of people it seems. Where one knife between the two of us would have worked, it seemed that we could have had a knife show at 6000 feet elevation. We had small knives and multi tools; we had large knives and everyday carry knives. We had sharp knives and sharper knives. We had folding knives and straight knives. We had commercial knives and custom knives. And it was show and tell every few miles. And what did we use these knives for that we had laboriously carried on this hike? Next question, please.

December Mini Show....

The December Mini Show (sometimes erroneously called the Winter Show) will be held December 10th (eleven days before Winter starts on December 21.) This is a free for all show (not meaning raucous) but free tables and free admission. Free tables are for members only. Free entry for anyone except pets unless approved. To get a single table one must register by write, verbal or email for said table. If we do not have an advance reservation, we will take away any table that someone uses in favor of someone that has reserved. This show is one day only and sharing is allowed. There will be 100 tables available, and the rule to be there for all hours of the show will be strictly enforced. Covering a table is the same as not being there.

I am still looking...

This idea of smile knives seems to be well accepted so keep those pictures and stories coming. The smile knife this month is from **Mark Resner**. I want to also thank **Bernard Levine** for his contributions of Pea Knives and Indian Crooked knives. I also want to thank **B.K. Brooks** for sharing his interests in the Eagle Pencil Company and their knives. And to Mr **Jim Taylor**, a huge thank you, not only for his articles to our Knewsletter but also for his tremendous support of myself and our organization.

Lodging in Eugene....

We have suggested possible lodging for your visit to Eugene. With the added tables at the Show, I think lodging might be a wise way ahead thought. 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.



The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

The Summer hiatus is over. The new year has begun for the OKCA and its Board. Dennis and I are reviewing the Knewsletter and preparing for the 2006 Show. I have reviewed my report in the May 2005 Knewsletter about the Show and the special Board of Directors meeting trying to get into the spirit for the 2006 Show year.

We, the Board, have written an article to address some of our concerns regarding the forum of May 2005 on the Internet. The OKCA Show is a fun, educational, time consuming happening for all. We, the Board, want to represent our members in the best way possible with the best interests of all. We need the input of the membership and constructive criticism is very much appreciated.

Please remember to include the names of all persons for whom you pay membership dues so we can make membership cards. Also, tableholders, please be sure to note the name you want on the second tableholder badge. Two badges are provided for each tableholder. We do require a signed contract for each tableholder.

I will have the videos from the 2005 Show at the meeting. Please be sure to return any videos you might have from the 2004 Show. If you are interested to review the videos, send us a note and we will mail them to you. It is a good opportunity to see the Show that you missed.

The first meeting of the OKCA will be September 21 at Sizzlers Gateway Springfield. Hope to see you there.



A Knife That Makes Me Smile by Mark Resner



At the 2004 OKCA Show I spotted a Remington "pull-ball" auto opener. It was an advertising piece with a worn Milwaukee Railroad logo on the handle. The tang was stamped on one side "Quickpoint/St. Louis", and on the other, "Remington/PAT./11-9-37". The little knife was in something less than great shape, but it appealed to me so I tried to buy it...several times; but the price was just a little too far out of line. You see I grew up playing along the Milwaukee Railroad tracks in a dusty North Dakota prairie town, and the Milwaukee Road logo on those speeding cars was a call to far-off exotic places like Aberdeen and Butte. I often fell asleep to the sound of the train whistles and to calves bawling in the stockyards at shipping time.

I know I thought of the little knife several dozen times between my April 2004 and 2005 pilgrimages to Eugene. I was sorry I hadn't spent the extra dollars and put it in my pocket; but the opportunity had been forever missed, or so I thought.

I certainly never expected to see the little knife again, but on the last day of the 2005 Show I spotted IT nearly hidden in a display case with several more attractive companions. Then and there, I decided this time it was coming home to North Dakota. A quick trade and the little Milwaukee Road knife was safely tucked into my hip pocket. Now every time I hold the knife I wonder at the good fortune of my getting a second chance to own it; I remember those long past Milwaukee Road trains, and *I smile*.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Dear Friends,

For quite some time now, I have been considering the way that the O.K.C.A. membership demonstrates apathy towards this Knewsletter.

A mere glance through past issues for, say, the last year, reveals that about two dozen members are prepared to assist the editors with written copy. I happen to be one of those members, and I'm becoming a little tired of the rest of the membership taking a back seat, so to speak.

Perhaps some of you are not aware that the O.K.C.A. is, ---without a shadow of a doubt, and by a considerable margin ---THE leading Knife Club on the planet earth! A bold statement you might think? Well, the facts are quite easy to prove.

A membership in excess of 1,000 is totally beyond the imagination of any other Knife Club, anywhere.

The annual O.K.C.A. Knife Show is unequalled both for size and attendance by any other Knife Club, worldwide.

The ten page Knewsletter that you have in your hand, is far and away the finest published. Nothing remotely like it is available anywhere. In fact, Dennis receives regular requests from around the country; mostly from other Knife Clubs, for permission to reproduce some of the articles that they read in your Knewsletter.

From the above, I hope that I have given you some kind of appreciation of what the O.K.C.A. is all about? Naturally enough,

the big event of the year is the annual Knife Show. However, the thing that binds the membership together as one entity is undoubtedly the Knewsletter.

Simply put, without fodder to fill its pages, the Knewsletter will become a leaflet! Is this what you want?

With any luck I shall continue to submit pieces for publication. Hopefully, my friend, Frank Trzaska, will do the same. He seems to have a bottomless pit full of good stuff at all times. What seems to come easy to Frank is not quite so simple with me. I have to wait for ideas to emerge from the morass that exists between my ears, and masquerades as a brain. Only then do the words start to make a little sense. We contributors, though, need your help.

Surely you have a tale to tell? You must have had a lucky find? Do you recall a funny incident that is knife related? How did you get started in the hobby? Do you have a favorite knife? Tell us about it, please.

You don't have to be Shakespeare or Tolstoy. God knows I've proved that! You don't even have to be a spelling wizard or a grammar fan. Dennis and Elayne will help out by knocking your words into shape. Trust me here, you will enjoy seeing your thoughts and words being published. The pay, by the way, is wicked bad! Zilch; Nada; Zero. But that's not why we do it. We do it because this Knife Club is precious to us.

Kindest regards, Jim Taylor.

p.s. There now, Dennis. No need to whine in this issue. I did it all for you!



OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND SHOW TABLE CONTRACT

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

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

* Collector * Knifemaker * Dealer * Mfr./Distrib. * Other _____ 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) \$ _____

31st ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 7-9, 2006 470 — 8'x30" TABLES

Exhibit Hall, Lane Events Center and Fairgrounds, 796 West 13th Ave., Eugene, Oregon.
For Information Contact Show Chairman: Dennis Ellingsen, (541) 484-5564

AUTOMATIC RESERVATIONS: If you had a table at the 2005 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2006, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2005. You may still apply for a table after this date, but we cannot guarantee a table after December 15. NO RESERVATIONS HONORED OR APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT! Note to NEW exhibitors: your table(s) will be assigned after 12/15/05.

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

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

THIS IS A KNIFE SHOW. All tables must be 90% knives or knife related items (e.g. swords, axes, edged tools, edged weapons, knife books, knifemaking supplies). If in doubt, check with the Show Chairman ahead of time. The OKCA reserves the right to bar any item from display or sale. No firearms made after 1898 may be sold or shown at this show.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHOW FACILITATORS will be provided by OKCA from 10AM Friday until 4 PM Sunday. However, exhibitors are responsible for watching their own tables. Neither the OKCA nor the Lane Events Center will be responsible for any loss, theft, damage, or injury of any kind.

CITY AND COUNTY REGULATIONS require that there be:

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

Violators of these safety rules will be asked to leave.

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

SHOW SCHEDULE

Friday, April 7, 2006.
10am - 8pm set-up; open ONLY to table-holders and members of OKCA.

Saturday, April 8, 2006.
7am-9am set-up. 9am-6pm open to public.

Sunday, April 9, 2006
8am-9am set-up. 9am-3pm open to public.

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

EXHIBITOR CONTRACT: PLEASE ENCLOSE FULL PAYMENT WITH THIS FORM. Full refund granted if reservation canceled by February 15, 2006; for later cancellation, refund will be granted only if your table is rented to someone else. **DON'T GET LEFT OUT!!! MAIL THIS PAGE AND YOUR CHECK TODAY. A signature is required.**

Type of knives on your tables _____

Name for second badge _____ (two badges per table holder)

_____ Club Dues (Total from above) \$ _____

_____ Saturday Night Social Tickets \$5.00 each \$ _____

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

_____ Collector Display table(s) free with sale table: Quantity _____

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

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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

www.oregonknifeclub.org

Mal Contents

The electronic world has certainly revolutionized the way we live and behave these days. We have yet to fully comprehend or adjust to the phenomena. The Oregon Knife Collectors Association has become a victim of this affect both in the eBay market and also in the accessibility that people have to exercise opinions, ideas and thoughts. Anybody can have an Internet forum these days and anybody can express their opinions while sitting at their computers while still in their pajamas sipping on their beverage of choice. The point here is that "with power comes responsibility." Just like we can experience "road rage" in the confines of our mobile sardine cans, we can exercise "computer rage" with our electronic communications.

Last April we had an attack on our 2005 Oregon Knife Show. The most disturbing part of this "computer rage" was that most of the contributors were not members nor were they at the Show. It was disturbing to many of us who had been at the Show and had a great time and had extolled this Show as one of the best yet. Attendance was up. The educational offerings were superb. The attitudes were positive. The Show was sold out. People had a good time. Sales in many sectors were outstanding.

And in some sectors sales were dismal. It appears that from this sector came most if not all the complaints. These complaints came from knifemakers that had poor sales and chose to blame the Show. We have stated over and over that we cannot guarantee sales, and we only provide a place for people that like "cut" to gather and



share their interests. To some that interest is sales. At one time knifemaker sales were awesome for all who attended our Show. That trend has seen its demise for many obvious reasons. The market for custom knives has been diluted due to the sheer number of people now making knives. That market has been diluted due to everyone having "me too" products to offer. That market has been diluted due to a weak economy and the consumer "watching his bucks."

For years we have preached in our publication that the way to sales is through getting out and selling and not just laying out your wares and having the flocks come by. Even with this advice we still see people content to sit and wait for business to happen rather than engage their customers. And these same people now demand changes in our Show so that they can be more successful. They want isolated sections for like interests. They want a better class of customer for their sales and expect our organization to produce this. They want an upgrade of tables in the categories of their interests and expect the organization to produce this.

When the organization started 30 plus years ago, it was agreed that the world of "cut" would not be of a singular interest. It would be a gathering place for all to share. That goal has been wonderfully fulfilled and our Show has grown well beyond our wildest dreams. In the recent turmoil we have heard knifemakers in particular want changes. They want their own little corner, and they want the elimination of "flea market type knives." The board has taken these comments and weighed them against the history of our organization. It has been decided that we ain't broke and therefore we ain't got nothing to fix. We have always accommodated requests to move a tableholder to a new location when it is possible. We have constraints because many of the tables have been reserved for many years.

The 2006 April Show will be the last of the really huge Shows with the addition of some 50 tables to accommodate the Bowie Knife Association meeting. This will also allow extra tables for some of those that claim they cannot get into our Show because of our sold out status of the last few years.

The Oregon Knife Show is touted as a fun event for comradery, fellowship, education and promotion of like interests. This is our goal and we will attempt to adhere and continue on this path.

OKCA Board of Directors



BLADE SHOW WEST is Coming to Portland!

We're pleased to announce that the
2005 BLADE SHOW WEST
will take place September 30, October 1 & 2, 2005
in Portland, Oregon.

Portland airport Holiday Inn & Conference Center
8439 NE Columbia Blvd • Portland, OR 97220

Special Show Room Rate
\$92 single/double • \$97 triple/quad • \$119 Jr. Suite
Call 503-256-5000

Mention Blade Show West for the special Show Rate

SHOW HOURS:

Friday, Sept. 30 12pm-6pm
Saturday, Oct. 1 10am-6pm
Sunday, Oct. 2 10am-4pm

ADMISSION:

\$9 per day
\$14 Two-day pass
\$18 Three-day pass

For more information contact: BLADE SHOW WEST

700 E. State St. • Iola, WI 54990-0001

877-746-9757, Mary Lutz – ext. 313

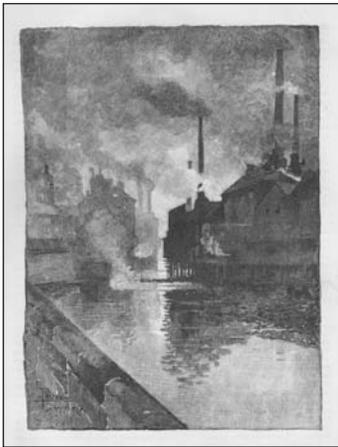
E-mail: mary.lutz@fwpubs.com • Fax: 715-445-4087

for up-to-date information: go to www.collect.com/shows

Bring in this ad for \$3.00 off your admission

DIRTY OLD TOWN by Jim Taylor

By the fourth quarter of the 19th century, Sheffield and everything it stood for was in full swing. I would defy the layman to name me one tool or piece of cutlery that was not being manufactured in the city at that time. Furthermore, these said items were being made by hands that could conjure up nothing, but the very best of everything.



A small view of Sheffield and the River Don in all its grimy glory.

All of this comes with a price and that price, back then, was squalor, filth and endless years of backbreaking work whilst enduring the most horrendous working conditions.

To better illustrate the situation I intend quoting at some length from a written report from 1884. The said report was published in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, of June, that year. The author's name is not quoted, but his command of the typical Victorian prose of the day is extremely evident.

Get a load of the first sentence; "One beauty of Sheffield is that you can see very little of it at a time." To me, of course, that is like a red rag to a bull; but then I wasn't there at the time, and I have zero doubt that the writer was exactly right in his pronouncement. The paragraph continues; "The greatest altitude and the clearest day combined do not considerably affect this circumstance. No matter

which point of view is selected, the foreground is dim, yellow and confined; the distance is spectral, muffled and deplorably gloomy."

Yards more of this dislike for the surroundings are expounded with typical flourishes and adjectival contrivances. That this diatribe goes on for 14 pages, I leave you to guess of the distaste that being in Sheffield left in that author's mouth?

All is not lost, though. Having run out of words to express his disgust, the author turns his attention to the cause of this squalor; "Scarcely any limitation can be set to the variety of purposes served by Sheffield manufactures. Travellers in Russia and Austria are whirled

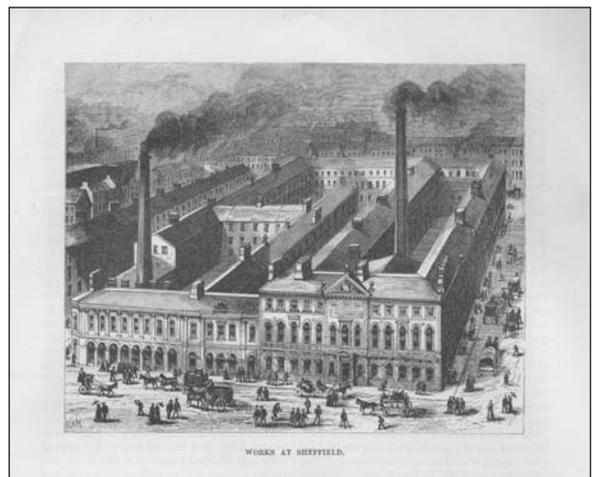
over Sheffield rails; the scissors that myriads of pale seamstresses are plying bear the Sheffield brand; the scythes that are leveling the fields of ripe grain in Iowa and Minnesota were ground on Sheffield stones; the rotary saws that are hissing in lumbering settlements among the California sierras were cut by Sheffield hands; the superb repousse work of silver epornes that adorn banquet tables was hammered out by Sheffield artisans; and every variety of electro-plate and silver-ware, beautiful in design and enormous in price, is wrought under Sheffield roofs."

Perhaps Sheffield has something to be thankful for after all? My own feeling is that we are all the worse off, now that the "Old Sheffield" is gone for ever. Not that I would wish the degradation that the Victorian workers had to endure upon anyone. I am just so steeped in that love of pure craftsmanship. Just the fact that these poor people – and believe me, they were poor – created what is still regarded as the very best that human hands could do. All of this was accomplished in the most demeaning of circumstances and surroundings. They did it because it was traditional and because they had families to feed. If it wasn't utterly perfect, they didn't get paid. A situation that concentrates the mind like no other, I suggest?

One of the semi-paragraphs in the report quoted above caught my eye; "At one long bench we find a party of men cutting files on the blades of pocket-knives with such dexterity that the threads, each less than the hundredth part of an inch in thickness, and exactly equidistant, are as true as if they were graven with the aid of a rule and a magnifying glass, while the only implements used are a chisel and a mallet." Isn't that a wonderful testament to the hand and eye co-ordination of these under-appreciated artisans?

We're getting to the end of this "testimony" to Sheffield, and I won't bore your pants off with much more. I just have to include the final summing up that the author included with his report....perhaps I should call it an article? "Though Sheffield is itself so somber, it is environed by some of the fairest scenery in England. Chatsworth and Beauchief Abbey are in its vicinity. Proceeding in any direction, the traveler is sure to find within a few miles of the town a picturesque charm in an embowered rivulet, a quaint old church, an ancient manor-house covered with ivy, a cool expanse of woodland, or a sweep of velvety pasturage." There you go. Not too bad, surely?

Be assured however, dear reader, it's not like that today. The city is now one of the cleanest in Europe, and the belching chimneys are gone. Oh, by the way, don't bother looking for the guys that hammer the nail files by hand. They, too, are long gone. This comes under the heading of progress. Perhaps it's just me, but I could cheerfully sit and watch such wizardry all day long.



An interesting birds-eye view of Joseph Rodgers Works in 1882.

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From Knife World Whut Izzit

#299 November 2002:

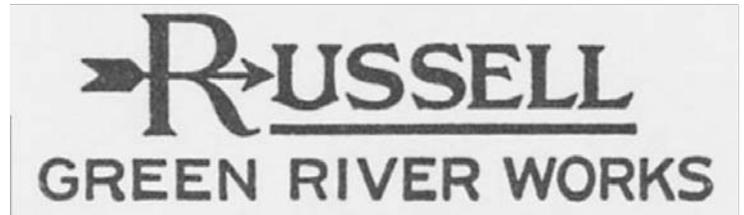
by Bernard Levine

On the subject of table knives (one of my favorite subjects), Mr. Robert L. Kinzel of Illinois wrote to ask about a most curious example which he has owned for 15 years. I last showed one of these knives 22 years ago, in the October 1980 column, so the time has come to show another. That knife belonged to Mr. T. V. Jamieson of Texas, and was identical in every detail to this one.



He writes, "The knife is 9-3/8 inches overall, with a slightly flexible blade 5-3/4 inches long, tapering on the top from approximately 1/8 inch thick to approximately 1/32 inch at the tip. The obverse is

etched [between the slot and the bolster] VOM CLEFF'S/ LOS ANGELES. The reverse side is etched [in the same location] RUSSELL/ GREEN RIVER WORKS.



"The handle is of a material which is beyond my expertise to identify. My guess would be possibly bone or Bakelite."

This handle is actually celluloid. The markings are deep etched. This style of Russell etching was standard in the 1920s and 1930s (the enlarged logo is from the firm's 1933 catalog), but I do not know when it was introduced. My guess would be 1918, but it might have been earlier.

Vom Cleff & Co. was an important wholesale importer of cutlery based in New York City, active from 1887 until the late 1920s. The firm had a branch office in Chicago. I do not know if the "Vom Cleff's" in Los Angeles which sold this knife was a branch of the New York firm, or if it was a separate entity --perhaps a retailer owned by a relative.

Now the knife. Mr. Kinzel quite neatly described some of the characteristics of a forged blade, his most notable omission being the forged bolster which is integral with the blade. He also neglected to mention this knife's most unusual and obvious feature, the lengthwise slot in the blade.

What's up with that?

Well, I posed that very question back in 1980, to then president of Russell-Harrington, in Southbridge, Massachusetts, Mr. Richard B. Hardy. He wrote back that he too had one of these slotted Russell knives, although his was not marked Vom Cleff's. Then he continued, "I am sure you will recognize the slot in the blade as designed to keep peas from rolling off the knife blade while eating. Hard to believe? I have it on good authority from Bill Schneider, Russell's work-superintendent during the early 1900s, who still has a sharp memory at 87 years old."

This of course calls to mind a famous old poem, variously attributed to Shakespeare, to Poe, and to Winnie the Pooh:

I eat my peas with honey,
I've done it all my life.
It makes the peas taste funny,
But it keeps them on the knife.

With this knife one could dispense with the honey, thereby cutting calories --important even then in fashion-conscious southern California.

INDIAN CROOKED KNIFE

Usual method of holding a crooked knife. The cutting is done toward the worker.

Plate by W. BEN. HUNT, HALES CORNERS, WIS.

The white man of today uses two crooked knives, the grapefruit knife which everyone is acquainted with, and the farrier's or horseshoer's knife, used for trimming horses hooves. But those knives are not suited for whittling. Indians and Eskimos have used crooked knives for whittling ever since they have been able to procure iron and steel. In many cases they are not only used for gouging, but for all whittling and shaving of wood. A flat file, about 8 in. long, $\frac{5}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide and $\frac{3}{32}$ to $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick, is the best material for making this knife.

1. Grind the file down until no file cuts show. Use emery wheel.
2. Then break off the end, leaving 4 inches of flat surface.
3. Now grind cutting edge on one edge. (Indians sometimes grind the upper side only and sometimes both sides.) Grinding both sides will make it better for gouging. Fig. 1.
4. Heat to cherry red and bend blade over round piece of iron, or over the horn of an anvil to about the curve shown. Fig. 1.
5. Bend end of tang in the opposite direction. Knife blade ready for bending. (For right hand)
6. The blade should now be tempered. This is a job which should be done by one who knows how. The blade is tempered glass hard first and then the temper is drawn by heating to a yellow or straw color.
7. We now come to the handle. Let's make it in true Indian fashion. Get a piece of wood 4 inches long by $1\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{3}{8}$ inches, or a piece of limb as shown. Fig. 2. Whittle it as shown in Fig. 3. Cut to allow for rawhide binding. Cut to fit tang.
8. Now wrap handle firmly with wet rawhide as shown and let it dry. Or if no rawhide is to be had, wrap with trolling line or some other good cord, and give the entire handle several coats of boiled linseed oil.

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 punta choons) 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: Pea Knives like described in this issue of the Knewsletter. The ad is from 1929.

*I eat my peas with honey
I've done it all my life
It makes the peas taste funny
But it keeps them on the knife.*
ibdennis@oregonknifeclub.org

S



WANTED: Seguire knives. Please call or email Jack. 805-489-2222 or 805-431-2222 (cell) email: jh5jh@aol.com

S

For Sale - 50 year collection of Case knives. Tested thru 10 dot. Mostly all mint. Toenails, doctors, melon testers, stag set, many others, plus old boxes, display, etc. Frank Miller (541)822-3458. Leave message or email fshnfrank@aol.com

S

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 - They are currently selling for \$150.00 and as the price of steel continues to rise this may not last. 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. See Knife Maker's Vise for contact info or www.knivesonnet.com

J

"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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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

Collectible Knives of Finland by Lester C. Ristinen. 176 pages of Finnish knife history, factory and cottage. Knife catalogs form the 1920s to present. 40 pages with color and introductions to makers of today. \$40.00 + \$3.00 postage. Les Ristinen 17533 Co Hwy 38 Frazee MN 56544

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The Invention of the Age! Defies the Law of Gravity!
Now You Can Eat Your PEAS With Ease

*Don't Eat With A Spoon
You're Done Too Soon!*



Use The Safety Pea Knife

THE SAFETY PEA KNIFE is a simple instrument, designed to be used with grace and ease by every one. Its mastery requires no long and patient practice. Master it in a moment. When you have learned its use you'll be delighted. No longer will you be bothered by having those pesky peas slip and slide, jiggle and joggle off the knife and down into your vest or dress. This freedom will be valued not only as a gracious social accomplishment, but as a great health aid, insuring you the full nutritive value of every pea, instead of wasting much of it in sloppy spotting. Users tell us the SAFETY PEA KNIFE pays for itself in the saving of cleaners' bills.

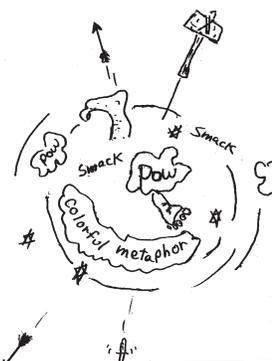
TO USE, grasp in the right or left fist, as the case may be, thrust the blade into the pile of peas in a determined manner, then convey or hoist the whole load into the facial cavity or mug. Instead of starting out with a full blade and ending up at the mouth with one or two lonesome peas wobbling on the blade, as is the case with the ordinary table knife, the SAFETY PEA KNIFE takes the whole load directly to the spot. Try it once and you will always use it.

No. 2806, THE SAFETY PEA KNIFE. Price Postpaid..... 25c

Ad from 1929.

Cut-toon

Drunk Knives 10,000 BC



In the world of handle materials;
"Fake-Imitation, Fake-Imitation"

williams knives



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Events Calendar September 2005

September 2005

Sep 23-25 - Ohio Fall Show -(KW-B)
 Sep 30-02 - 2005 Blade Show West-Portland OR (B)

October 2005

Oct 01-01 - Florida Knifemakers -Tampa FL (KW)
 Oct 07-08 - Northern Lakes Show -Edgerton WI (KW-B)
 Oct 08-09 - Great Southern Knife Show -Atlanta GA (KW-B)
 Oct 14-16 - Montana Knifemakers - Missoula MT (KW-B)
 Oct 15-16 - NorthWest Knife Collectors - Puyallup WA (B)
 Oct 15-16 - Ft. Myers Florida Knife Show (KW-B)
 Oct 21-23 - Shepherdsville KY Show (KW)
 Oct 23-25 - NCCA East Windsor CT (KW)
 Oct 28-30 - Las Vegas Steel Classic -Nevada (B)

November 2005

Nov 04-06 - Scottsdale Knife Show - Scottsdale AZ (KW-B)
 Nov 05-06 - Mt Vernon Illinois Show (KW)
 Nov 11-12 - Ohio Valley Knife Show - Cambridge OH (KW)
 Nov 11-13 - New York Custom Knife Show (B)
 Nov 19-20 - A.K.C.A. Phoenix -Mesa AZ (KW)

December 2005

Dec 10-10 - **Oregon Knife Collectors December Mini Show**
 Dec 01-03 - Parkers' Greatest -Pigeon Forge TN (KW)

January 2006

Jan 20-22 - American Bladesmith Expo -Reno NV (KW)
 Jan 27-29 - Gator Cutlery -Lakeland FL (KW)
 Jan 28-29 - Gateway Area Knife Show - St Louis MO

February 2006

Feb 25-26 - Keystone Blade Show - Lewisburg PA (KW)

March 2006

Mar 10-12 - Northwest Georgia - Dalton GA (KW)
 Mar 24-26 - Badger Knife Show -Janesville WI (KW)

April 2006

Apr 08-09 - **Oregon Knife Collectors - Eugene OR (KW)**
 Apr 21-23 - Shepardsville KY Show (KW)
 Apr 28-30 - Solvang Custom Show -CA

May 2006

May 11-13 - Parkers Greatest Pigeon Forge TN (KW)

June 2006

Jun 23-25 - Springfield Show -MO (KW)

September 2006

Sep 15-17 - Ohio Fall Knife Show (KW)

November 2006

Nov 30-02 - Parkers Greatest -Pigeon Forge TN (KW)

DINNER MEETING



Wednesday Evening
September 21, 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

