



KNEWSLETTER IN A KNUTSHELL



- ✓ Billhooks
- ✓ Military Knives
- ✓ Knife Shows & Events
- ✓ Knifozilla
- ✓ Application Form

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

September 2001

Billhooks

by Clyde Shoe

(Based on Jack Wilson's article and illustrations in *The Countryman*, a British periodical, used with kind permission of the editor-in-chief.)

How about a tool that cut, cleaved, chopped, shaved, sheared, slashed, sliced, split, shaped, pruned and pounded its way through two thousand years of history, evolving into dozens of different forms - all this on one island off the coast of Europe. It is the classic form-follows-function tool, the versatile English billhook. Americans have scarcely heard of it, let alone used it.

The billhook is an ideal tool, used with one hand, leaving the other free to handle whatever is to be worked or cut. The hook is known as the bill or beak for cleaving; the middle of the blade is called the throat for dressing and pointing; the heel next to the handle for following through the split. When it has a short handle, it is called a handbill; when the handle is long, a hedgebill.

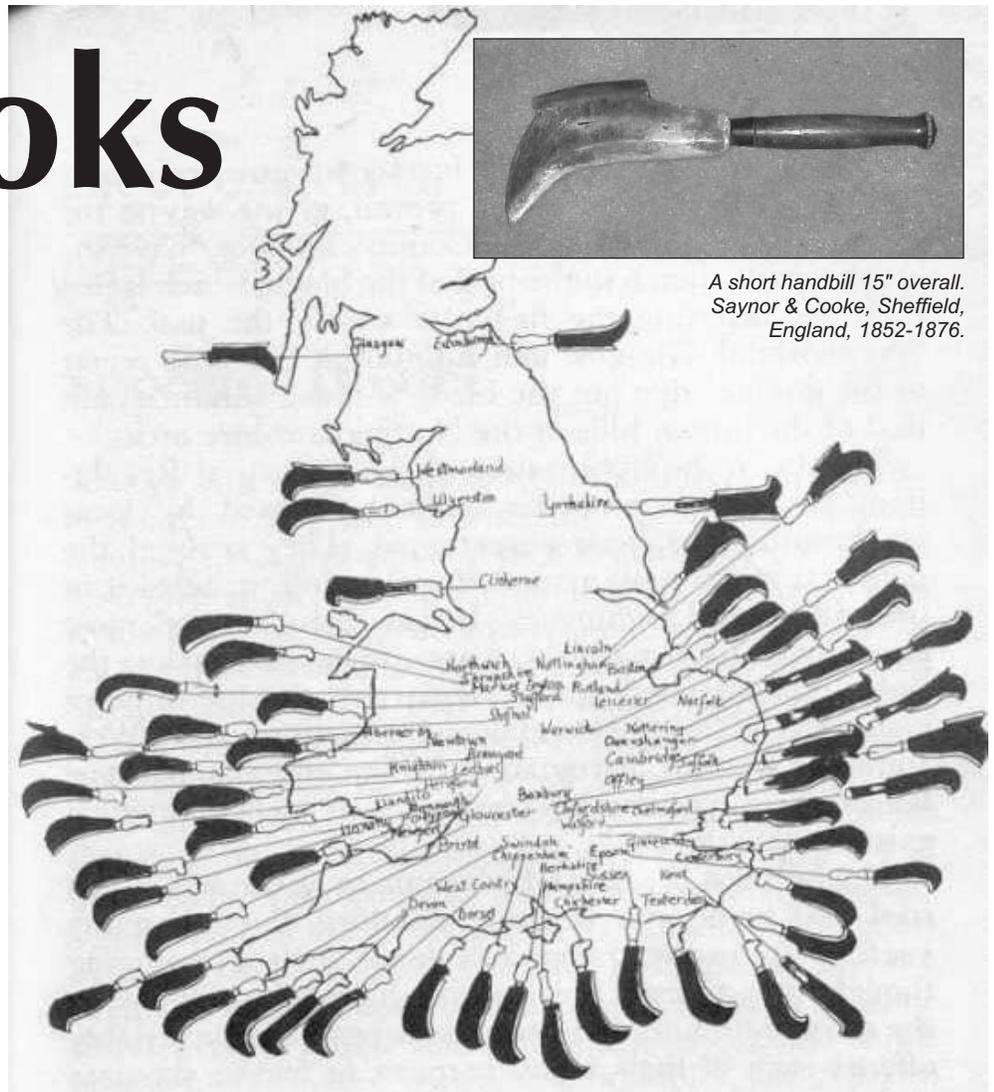
This map shows the strong pattern association with locality. Each of these many shapes developed in a specific locality of England or Scotland were made by village blacksmiths to satisfy local needs, and persisting well into the industrial age. Whether made in Stowmarket village or Sheffield city, the patterns stayed true into the Twentieth Century.

We have Jack Wilson to thank for all this rich detail. Wilson wrote and illustrated his billhook piece years ago. He is now out of *The Countryman* editor's reach and therefore out of mine.

Jack Wilson wrote that the "the billhook is a very ancient tool, made and used by the iron age people...It is very much a British tool, kept alive by our coppicing and hedging."

Billhooks and Hedging

English hedgerows have a dark history. Country people occupied landlord-owned cottages for centuries. They were allotted dwellings, small farming plots, common pasturing, hunting rights and meager pay in exchange for their labor. With the General Enclosures Act of 1801, and other



A short handbill 15" overall.
Saynor & Cooke, Sheffield,
England, 1852-1876.

Billhook patterns by locality: England and Scotland.

oppressive maneuvering before and after, landlords displaced tenant farmers and used the land to serve more profitable agricultural pursuits, usually livestock. This reduced large numbers of country people to begging and extreme poverty and forced them into the expanding urban mills and factories. Enclosure was key to the transition from feudal subsistence agriculture to modern commercial agriculture, but at a terrible price in human suffering.

Hedgerows were the physical barrier that created the enclosure, keeping sheep in and peasants out. The billhook was the primary tool for tending thousands of miles of hedgerows. To be stock-proof, the thorn or field maple trunks that made up the framework of the hedgerows were bent over, slashed nearly through, then staked until the hedge could support itself; all done with the versatile billhook. A laid hedge could securely

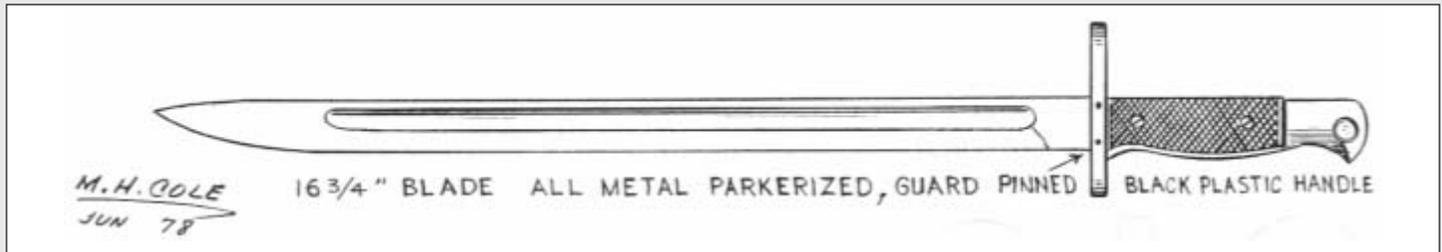
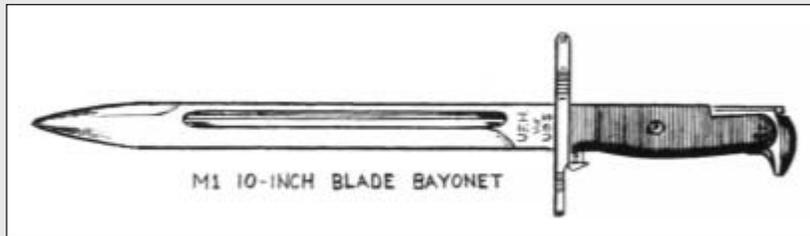
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Knotes on United States Military Edged Cutlery

by Frank Trzaska

DRMS (Defense Re-utilization and Marketing Service)

Through this agency large numbers of bayonets have recently hit the market. Items are



posted online, and a bid can be placed directly to the government. You need to pick them up from the storage arsenal wherever it may be. Be careful if planning this, as some items are stored overseas. Shipping could be a problem. I have seen lots from 10 to 1000 offered. All types, from WWII era to the present, have shown up in government storage. Many of these bayonets are in excellent condition and only show storage wear. Prices have been effected accordingly. The M7 market has been driven into the ground where an M7 bayonet can be picked up for as little as \$10.00. M1 prices have also fallen, though the excellent condition rare maker marked items have generally held their prices quite well. As before, condition and rarity continue to hold the prices on many of these old warhorses. M1917 Vietnam era bayonets have also been in these packages. Prices have dropped slightly but not very significant. The bonus to this is that many of these prior unobtainable items are now available in great condition.

Conetta and Bren-Dan

Some interesting info on Bren-Dan and Conetta. I stopped by the Bren-Dan address today just to check it out as I was passing through Stamford. It is still open and operating, much to my surprise. I spoke with Pete Conetta, the owner, and an employee there since 1950. He remembered making the knives and bayonets quite well. Another employee there, Mike Sabia, also worked for them at the time as a tool and die

maker who also worked on the cutlery. Sadly they couldn't find anything such as paper work or old blue prints, but Pete promised he would look for them in the attic. They did have a bag of old plastic grips and a bag of old leather washers for the Conetta Mark 2 Knives. That was about it for any old parts laying around. Pete had a bayonet there in his desk for use as a letter opener. It was a Bren-Dan M4. The Conetta address is directly across the street. I took some photos of the current location and tooling that they used in the making of the knives and bayonets. I toured the facility with them, and they showed me some of the old grinding equipment used for the making of the bayonets. They had an example of the Conetta Mark 2 blade with the strange shaped leather handle and the M7

guard and butt that a fellow collector had sent to him. Pete stated they did NOT make them. "The

Pete knew of them as they had the same inspector come out from the govt to check on the items they were making. The strange part was the inspector was based in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and he was a sailor. Could it be that Conetta and Bren-Dan had a contract with the Navy Department (Marines), and that is the reason we could not locate records on them at Rock Island? Makes one think. Conetta started in business in 1946 and Bren-Dan sometime in the middle 1960's. They couldn't remember the exact dates. They also told me the inspector used to laugh that the bayonets being made by Bren-Dan were obsolete and wouldn't fit anything in the current US arsenal. He used to laugh at how they were "getting over" on the govt. Again makes me think the bayonets (M4's) were going to the S. Vietnamese govt. or some other Asian country we were giving aid to and that might be the reason that Rock Island did not have records on them? From the labeling found on a few Conetta boxes, it equates to a Marine Corps contract and part number so that theory is valid. Below is a sample of the writing on a circa 1969 bayonet box produced by Conetta.

1005-716-0944
BAYONET, KNIFE M-4
1 EACH
DA-11-199-AMC-724 (W)
A-3/69

All these years of hearing about the Conetta and Bren-Dan connection and not really paying much attention to it, all it would have taken to check it out was to call them up and ask. Sometimes I really miss out on the easy ones!



OKCA Knews and Musings

ibdennis

Gad Zooks it was a great summer

It went by all too quickly. Here we are again with our first fiscal year Knewsletter. You might say that it is our first step forward toward the ultimate goal of the big Show in April 2002. A launching so to speak. Now is the time to start your planning for the April Show. Putting it off will only make it tougher on all. If you were a table holder and want to do it again next year, those fees are due before December 15, 2001. Remember that your dues are due before December 32, 2001 for the year 2002. (Must be a 2002 member to have a table at the 2002 Show.) An application form in this Knewsletter will help you toward those goals.

The Show has grown so much that we are now faced with a problem of motel room availability. Making reservations now is the strategy you should be thinking about. The motel of choice is the Valley River Inn, and this fabulous place filled up months before the Show. Mention the Oregon Knife Collectors and get an awesome rate on this six star motel.

Please Read this notice...

At the close of the OKCA April Show a table holder from the eastern area of the US asked a local Oregon table holder to mail two large boxes of knives that needed to be shipped to his home. The boxes were left on a table. And that was the last that was seen of them. Since the majority of people in the show room at that time were members, it strikes me that there is a strong possibility that these boxes were accidentally picked up.

I should suspect that this could be an embarrassment and the "what to do now" problem has surfaced. The boxes are of considerable value, and the owner would really like them back which goes without saying. So if anyone knows of these boxes I propose that contact be made to Elayne or Dennis, and we will handle this situation with absolute discretion and without comment. The mission here is to get the merchandise back to the rightful owner.

And then we need help once again...

The strength of our Knewsletter lies in the membership which sends us articles. These articles are what make us the best in the world. Right now the cupboard is bare. I have no reserves for the rest of the year. I know that there are many of you who have articles on knife subjects and just need to be coaxed a bit. Well, let this be your special coaxing request. Elayne & I can massage your articles if needed so you need not think you have to have writers blood to make a story. Just ideas and the special knowledge go together to make fine reading. Help if you can.

Show Dates for the Next Four Years

It has taken much effort to position ourselves for future OKCA Shows. The size of the Show dictates only one building, and the events at the Convention Center have increased over the years.

Therefore trying to get dates in advance is difficult. But we done did it. So mark your calendars: April 19 - 21, 2002 - April 11 - 13, 2003 - April 16 - 18, 2004 - April 08 - 10, 2005.

Aside from the clamoring for space at the Convention Center, we are also very cautious about dodging the Easter Bunny. We had one Show mega years ago that fell on Easter. Not a good happening.

A Symbiotic Relationship

Everyone should learn or be exposed to a new word from time to time. So it goes for the word symbiosis. The Willamette Valley Arms Collectors and the Oregon Knife Collectors have a symbiotic relationship. Membership into either organization allows complimentary entry for any Show that either of these groups sponsor. Just show your current membership card to gain entry.

On September 15 - 16 the WVACA will be hosting a Gun & Knife Swapperoo at the Lane County Convention Center. The hours on Saturday are from 9 - 5 and Sunday from 9 - 4. Help support the club by showing up and also stop by and say hi to Pam. I understand that there may still be a table or two left; so if you want to sneak in as a last minute thought, give Pam a call at (541)747-5271.

Chiffon and Rope - Opening Ceremony

We had three people video the Chiffon Act by Shanna Lord at our 2001 Show. The resulting video was awesome. We still have several for sale if you missed getting one. We had one video of the rope act in 2000. After the success of the 2001 video we took this early tape for editing and had some extra VHS tapes made that you can purchase. Each tape is \$10 and allow \$2 for shipping of each. Refer your orders to the OKCA PO Box 2091 Eugene 97402 if you are interested. These are must have tapes.

The Meeting at the Mission:

When you come to the meeting on September 13, please park your vehicle in the back parking lot. When we storm the Mission, they have no room for their other customers to park. So if you can, use the lot in the far back where it is a pay to park. But we don't have to pay.

At the meeting I think maybe we need to review several aspects of our Show. After an extremely upsetting comment about the value of the opening ceremonies, it raises the issue of whether we should continue to look into this event. Likewise the subject of Club Knives is a difficult task to get done each year. Should we continue with this; and if so, any ideas of what to do?

The Focus Is the Winter Mini Show

The December one day show will be held on December 08, 2001. Mike and Barbara Kyle will again be hosting this event, so please direct your table reservations and questions to them. (541-998-5729.)

Remember that this is a free Show. Free table

and free admission. However also bear in mind that a commitment to do this show means that you must abide by our rules. The one rule that has vexed us the most is the early departure of table holders. So we will tell you that if you get a table then you must commit fully to the hours. Failure to do this will result in the same penalty that our April Show has: You will be denied a table at future Shows, forever.

Yep and that means the April Show too. We post the hours that we are having an event, and it is a sad affair to have a show start emptying out prior to the posted hours.

So if you are not prepared to abide by this rule, then please do not get a table at any of our Shows. Thank you.

Places to Stay and How to Get Here...

Judy Bailor of Travel Team is our official travel consultant for travel to Eugene. She has been doing this for mega many years. Contact her at (541) 344-6202 or (800) 950-5839.

- Valley River Inn - (800) 543-8266 - (541) 687-0123 - OKCA recommendation
- The Campbell House - (800) 264-2519 - (541) 343-1119 - Elegance in the Old tradition
- Quality Inn - (541) 342-1243 (800) 228-5151 - By the University - Special OKCA rates

Mentioning the OKCA will get you special rates at the above.

ibdennis@earthlink.net
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OKCA Club Whot-zits & Whos Zits

Darrold (Ole) Olson
President (541) 726-7503

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Vice President (541) 747-7600

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Sec/Tres. (541) 484-5564

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Master at Arms (541) 998-5729

Dennis Ellingsen
Show Coordinator (541) 484-5564

Knewsletter by elayne & dennis

Cut-toons by Judy & Lonnie Williams

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(541) 484-5564

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The Knifezilla of Giving

by Mike Tyler

The gift of a knife is long remembered. Think back to that first knife you were given. Some things you just don't forget. My memory runs clear when I think back to my father giving me a beautiful handmade hunting knife. I was 12 years old at the time, and I remember my father explaining in detail how his hunting buddy had cut the knife blade out of a saw blade. Many years later I had the joy of sharing that same knife with my son who is now 31. Hopefully he will soon be sharing that knife with his son.

Not many gifts compare to a quality knife. Sure, a truck, car or gun are right on a guy's "top list"; but a knife is affordable enough to share without financial set back.

Part of the joy of giving a knife is to find out what a person does with his or her life. Knowing their work, hobbies and general values and lifestyles. Here again one of the best ways to acquire this information is to share your knife collection with them. It's the perfect opportunity to explain quality, craftsmanship and colorful histories of your collection. By watching and

listening to your guest, you can get a pretty accurate idea of that person's needs and likes in knives.

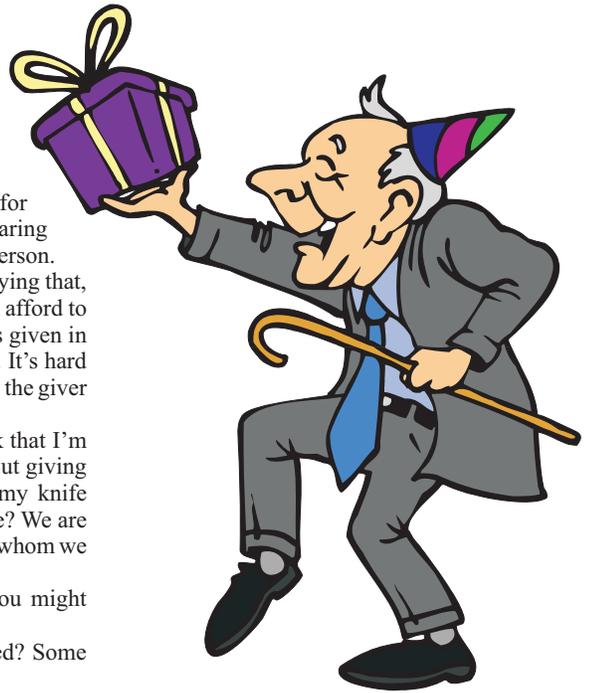
No special occasion is needed for giving a knife. It's just a great way of sharing and showing an appreciation to a special person.

There's that old Native American saying that, "One is only as wealthy as to what he can afford to give away." It's the spirit that the knife is given in that truly carries the reward for the giver. It's hard to measure who gets the most satisfaction, the giver or the receiver. Giving frees the giver!

My intent is not to lead you to think that I'm the Knifezilla of knife giving. I'm not! But giving knives as gifts is an important part of my knife collecting. Why collect if you don't share? We are all surrounded by family and friends with whom we could share.

Who knows what knife odyssey you might start by giving that gift of a knife?

Think back. How did you get started? Some things you just don't forget.



The Seek-re-tary Report

by elayne

The May meeting was memories of the Show. From the comments that were made it can be assumed that all had a fun time. Plenty of knives and money changed hands, but far be it for me to say anyone made money—the constant refrain is "I didn't sell a thing, but I sure did buy."



We are now starting on the new season of knives. Remember the December 15 deadline for payment if you want to reserve the same 2001 table at the 2002 Show. You must also remember that membership is due December 31 if you want that table—you must be a current 2002 member to hold a table at the 2002 Show. We already have a waiting list for 2002, since we have reservation payments from people who did not have a table at the 2001 Show.

We attended the Bernard Levine Garden Picnic. It was a surprise for all. We have had a non rain year, and the one day that we receive a downpour was when? You guessed, the day of the picnic. Not only did it rain, but it was much colder than it had been. Nevertheless, a very fun time was had by all. None of us melted—I am sure you could have guessed that. Thank you, Bernard, for your hospitality.

See you at the Mission Restaurant, September 13. The owners and managers at the Mission are very gracious to us, and we do thank them for their help.





OREGON KNIFE COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

BOX 2091 • EUGENE, OR 97402

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND SHOW TABLE CONTRACT

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

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Collector Knifemaker Dealer Mfr./Distrib. Other _____

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

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

2002 27TH ANNUAL OREGON KNIFE SHOW • APRIL 20-21, 2002 470 — 8'x30" TABLES

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

AUTOMATIC RESERVATIONS: If you had a table at the 2001 Show, you have an automatic reservation for the same table in 2002, but THIS RESERVATION EXPIRES DECEMBER 15, 2001. 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 12/15/01.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECURITY will be provided by OKCA from 10AM Friday

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

CITY AND COUNTY REGULATIONS require that there be:

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

Violators of these safety rules will be asked to leave.

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

SHOW SCHEDULE

Friday, April 19, 2002. 10am - 8pm set-up; open **ONLY** to table-holders and members of OKCA.

Saturday, April 20, 2002. 7am-9am set-up. **9am-6pm** open to public. **6 pm** no-host bar, **7pm** food, awards, entertainment. Tickets Required.

Sunday, April 21, 2002 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, 2002; 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 @ \$12 each:** \$ _____

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

___ **Collector Display table(s) free with sale table:** \$ _____

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

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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

www.oregonknifeclub.org

26th Annual - 2002 OREGON KNIFE SHOW April 20-21

LANE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER
796 W. 13TH AVE. • EUGENE, OREGON

Open to Public
SATURDAY, APRIL 20 9 AM - 6 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 21 9 AM - 3 PM

INFORMATIVE ★ EDUCATIONAL ★ FUN FOR EVERYONE

Buy ★ Sell ★ Trade

- ★ Old & New Pocket Knives
- ★ Kitchen and Sport Knives
- ★ Competition Awards for Best Displays
- ★ Awards Competition for Custom Knives
- ★ Access by Car, Train, Plane or Boat
- ★ Private Collections on Display
- ★ RV Parking
- ★ Interesting Live Demonstrations
- ★ Lodging Available Nearby
- ★ Saturday Night Social
- ★ Handcrafted & Custom Knives
- ★ Old Swords and Antique Arms
- ★ with Stone Knives & More!

*Largest Cutlery Show
West of the Mississippi River!*



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Montana Show

by Wendell Fox

Sunday July 29th was Rick Dunkerly's 40th birthday. The fun started with a large Bowie in elmarko Damascus appearing on Rick's table. It was touted as his first piece. Things really heated up Sunday afternoon when Rick was treated to a Happy Birthday Serenade by a very attractive lady ??? This was the high spot of the entire weekend.

Didn't get to see much of the July Montana Show, being there alone; but what I saw was the usual high class show they put on up there. The attendance seemed a little down from last year. Anything seems small after the OKCA Show.



Billhooks

Continued from Page 1

enclose any livestock. Even hedgehogs had to pick their way through.

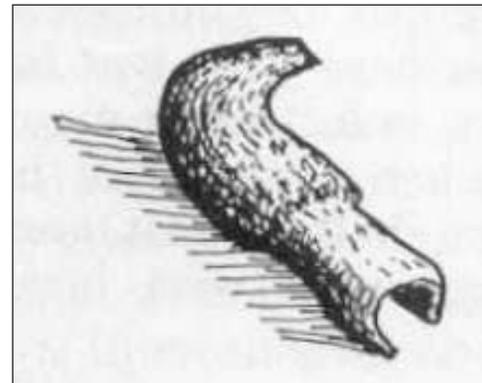
Established hedges are much taller than a man's head and too dense to see through, making them a first-rate refuge for wildlife. The abundant small game is doubtless one reason shotgun shell extractors are often found on old English horsemen's knives.

I have swung a heavy billhook for a few hours, cutting vine maple, followed by a sore arm for a few days. What tree trunk-like arms those old-time English hedgerow tenders must have had, swinging a heavy billhook for perhaps sixty hours a week. They would have been incredulous of the modern practice of paying to exercise at a health club.

I don't have the skill to make tight wattles. Sheep, if I had any, would doubtless leap my wattles. Come to think of it, most of my woodworking is about half a bubble off plumb, but good enough to screen pots.

Some shrubs and trees can coppice, or resprout freely from the stump. Coppiced plants grow fast since they start from established roots, a kind of jump-start thanks to Mother Nature. Hazel can coppice, and the best tool for cutting back a hazel thicket for coppicing is a billhook. Hazel craftsmen who need a steady, renewable supply of straight hazel shoots cut back thickets to the stump, then sit back and watch their hazel sprout factory grow. I do the same; it's satisfying. I wish more satisfactions in life were so easily achieved.

"It is well to find your employment and amusement in simple and homely things. These

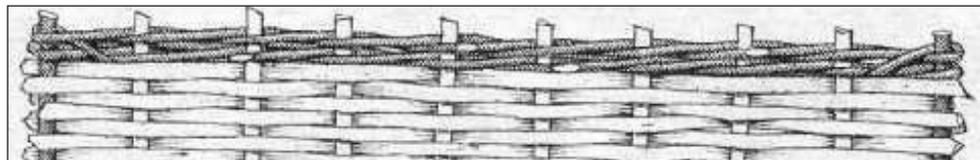


Iron Age hook.

billhook design different from existing English ones would be like finding a bureaucrat who doesn't dream up paperwork. There may not be such a thing. The fact that Jack's billhook is an English pattern proves nothing about where it was made.

Our English Jack, Jack Wilson, wrote that, "It does not appear to have crossed the seas to America with the Pilgrim fathers. The billhook was exported to the West Indies, Barbados, Peru and Brazil for use in plantation work." Why not to America? We had plantations. Or why didn't we make our own billhooks? We made everything else.

Continued on Page 8



Top section of a woven wattle hurdle. Dark stems are round; light stems are riven.

Billhooks, Wattles and Coppicing

The English used billhooks to make hazel wattle hurdles: small, hingeless, portable and gate-like, tied one to the other to form pens. Wattle hurdles were used to fold in sheep on a crop the sheep would eat, such as turnips. When the fenced turnips were completely eaten by the sheep, the wattle hurdles were moved and again set up in a new part of the turnip field for sheep feeding.

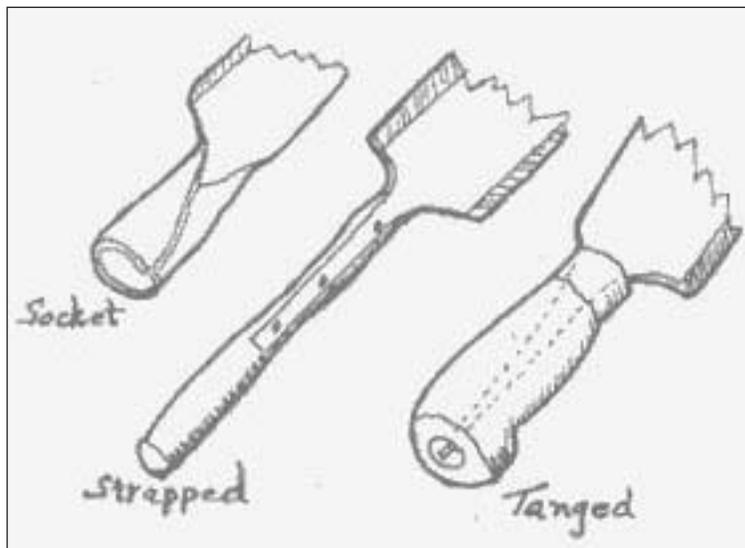
I make wattle hurdles, not for sheep, but for screening garden areas, such as where pots are stored. Our home is favored with nearby abundant native hazel. I use the billhook to bark and point the upright hazel stakes and cut the long, flexible stems. Some stems are left whole for strength (in the round); others are split lengthwise (riven) for flexibility. There is a notch in the heel of my billhook blade - just right for inserting a finger to steady the tool when riving - and the hook is useful for picking up material without too much bending.

Old English wattle craftsmen used the flat of the blade to skillfully tamp the hazel stems tightly together. If a sheep can see through the wattle, it will leap over. If a sheep can't see through, it won't.

wear best and yield most." Henry Thoreau's Journal, October 5, 1856.

American Billhooks?

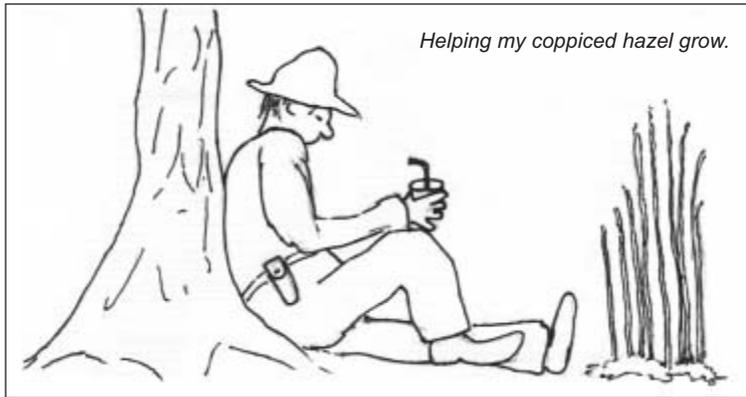
Jack Birky from Elmira, Oregon, a fellow OKCA member and a long-time tool collector, has a billhook. It has no markings. Jack doesn't know where it was made. The pattern is English; but, when you think about it, how could it not be. The English have been making billhooks for two thousand years and have laid hold of just about all possible patterns. Finding a



Ways of fixing handles.

Billhooks

Continued from Page 7



Our American Jack, Jack Birky, has searched his extensive tool library--lots of English billhooks, but no American. Jack has never for certain seen an American-made billhook. Neither have I. It is such a versatile tool we think there ought to be some around, but where are they? Since at this writing we cannot say for sure there are or are not American-made billhooks, their existence remains, as the police say, an open case.

I have a facsimile reprint of a 1897 Sears, Roebuck catalogue, several pounds of fascination, the original published just one year after Rural Free Delivery was established in our nation. I was sure I could find billhooks in this weighty tome, I thought I could find anything there. In 1897 Sears told the world:

"Don't say it isn't in the catalogue...nearly everything in merchandise can be found in this book. Look carefully through the index. If you don't find it in the index, look carefully through the entire catalogue."

Whew! A big assignment, but I know you expect thorough research. I decided to spend the evening in my easy chair, catalogue in lap. Pages 45 through 86 show hundreds of hand tools, this is where it will be. I find corn and hay knives, broad axes, butchers' cleavers, bush hooks, froe--but no billhooks. I see I'm here for the longhaul.

I make my way slowly through the pages, then even slower when I get to page 109, Pocket Cutlery: Wardlow's fine English steel. I pick a Wharncliffe whittler, stag, ninety cents. Farther along there is a big hunting knife with a turned up clip point which Sears calls a club knife. I try hard to see it as a hook, but I can't.

The sun is down and I am getting glassy eyed and beginning to stray. I am on page 306 and into ladies' corsets: Dr. Warner's heavily boned corsets, making them absolutely unbreakable. The hip is extra stayed with clock spring side steels, colors: drab or black. I pick black and look for a clock spring key. Still no billhooks, but I haven't missed anything.

Bedtime. At page 770

I am on the home stretch but stuck in dog skin horse robes: fawn, black dyed Siberian, gray Siberian, Galloway (a Scottish dog?), and prairie wolf. I pass.

Later I dream of bargain antique pocketknives, ladies' windup corsets, skinned dog cadavers, and the phantom American billhook. All this abundance of Gay 90s merchandise, but no billhook. Could the West have been settled without it? If a billhook isn't in this monument to American utility, does that mean it wasn't in America?

Hold the presses:

Jack Birky, my cohort and diligent tool researcher, has uncovered two 19th century American billhook makers:

1. Underhill operated the business George Washington Underhill & Co, 1839-1852 in Nashua, NH. In 1852 he was a founder of the Underhill Edge Tool Co.

2. Blood operated the business Isiah Blood & Co, Ballston, NY from 1860, continued after his death by his son-in-law until 1895, when it became part of the American Axe and Hoe Co.

Reader to supply caption.)



Jack Birky's billhook.



Reader to supply caption.)

ABS West Clinic 2002

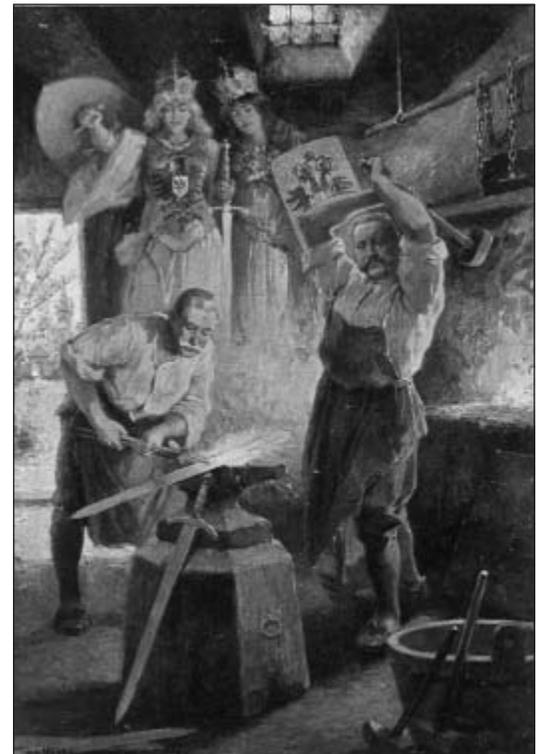
Red St. Cyr, Roger Bost and I looked at a site for the ABS West Clinic 2002; and it's a doozy. The new location is only a few miles further than our previous site, the Empty Saddle Club. Motel, restaurants and such will remain the same as last year.

Ft. Mc Arthur (for the father, 1st WW) is an old 1940s coastal protection gun battery with the old bunkers and fortifications and is now part of the LA Parks system and a museum. They have 20 acres and numerous buildings, some of which will be available on approval from the board of directors. The building and grounds we hope to obtain overlook the ocean and can accommodate a bunch of folks.

We may be able, in the future, to set up and donate a full blacksmith shop. So somewhere down the line we will be looking for help for this project. The instructor line up for the clinic is; ASB President, Jim Batson ABSMS; ABS Sec., Greg Neeley ABSMS; Don Fogg ABSMS; Board Member, Jay Hendrickson ABSMS; Steve Schwarzer ABSMS; Red St. Cyr ABSMS; Board Member, Houston Price Publisher Knife World; maybe Mark Zalesky Editor of Knife World, expert and collector of Samuel Bell knives.

We hope to have collector/purveyors Phil Lobred, Tom Hutton, George Cummings, Tom & Gwen Guinn, Paul Basch and a couple more join us. There may also be some "cut and bend" tests for both Masters and Journeyman (maybe from So. Africa). We have rumors of more visitors from Japan.

Looks like the third weekend in March, and the \$250 price remains the same. That's four deli meals and a dinner, plus access and classes (Sat. & Sun) by some of the best Master Smith in the world. We may also take on a few more folks than our previous 30 attendees. Make your reservations by check or M.O. NOW for March 16th & 17, 2002!!! Send to Bill Herndon, 32520 Michigan St, Acton, Ca. 93510. Questions to bherndon@aol.com or (661)269-5860 or Fax (661-269-4568)



Bladesmiths: What's wrong with this picture?



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 ice cubes) and mail to the **OKCA, PO Box 2091, Eugene OR 97402**. The number and size of ads submitted by a single member will be accepted dependent on available space and the mood of the editors.

FOR SALE - Jason Williams damascus folder, titanium linerlock, fossil ivory. Anodized, carved, file work no disappointments. \$2850 (503)-330-4415 Mark, or j_mark_cannon@yahoo.com S

NEW! Your Knife Questions ANSWERED ON-LINE. Bernard Levine, author of Levine's Guide to Knives and Their Values, will answer your knife questions on the Internet. Is that knife on eBay real or fake? Is the knife you're thinking of buying authentic? What kind of knife do you have, and what is it worth? What is the value of your collection, for insurance or tax purposes? Instant payment by Visa, MasterCard, or PayPal. Go to: www.knife-expert.com and follow the link.

HELP!! Did anybody find a large sign (7 ft. x 3 ft.) on the front of table I-3? It says "SKM - Maniago, Italy" in black letters on a bright yellow background. Thanks for your help. Michele Beltrame. Please let Dennis know if you know the whereabouts.

FOR SALE-M.. W. Sequine knives, Juneau, Alaska maker. Will consider most any condition. Contact Jack (805)489-8702 or email jh5jh@aol.com S

WATERJET YOUR KNIFE PARTS-no heat effect, finished edge. Tolerance to .005. We will accept your DXF files or we will reverse engineer your physical parts and convert to computer drawings. Price, quality, service! References upon request. HYDRATECH INDUSTRIES REDMOND OREGON (541)548-5453 S

FOR SALE-Prime, old elephant ivory. Full tusks, chunks, custom cut prices. The following OKCA club knives @ issue prices 1988, 1989, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996. JACK SQUIRES (503)472-7290 S

FOR SALE-Special brand new Baldor 1-1/2 HP variable speed motors complete with control, cord and plug \$525. JOHN MALLET TRU-GRIT ABRASIVE SPECIALTIES 760 E FRANCIS ST #N ONTARIO CA 91761 (909)923-4116 S

FOR SALE-I am a new member of Miniature Knifemakers Society. Museum quality Indian reproductions. Antique trade beads, custom orders. JOHN YASHINSKI P O BOX 1284 RED LODGE MT (406)446-3916 S

FOR SALE: Oneida collection system, paid \$2300, never used, 3hp motor, complete system including cyclone, barrel, valves, ducting, etc. Very high quality \$1600. BRUCE BERGLIN (360)422-8603 M

FOR SALE: Complete collection of custom made knives by Jerry Rados with Turkish Damascus twist pattern. Most pieces made in the early 1980s, leather sheaths, all in brand new condition. 7-1/2" fighter w/stag handle \$1800; 5" hunter/boot with integral guard and stag scales \$1000; two 4" Skinner w/stag handle \$800; two 4" Skinner w/impala handle \$800; 4" boot w/ivory handle \$900; two 2-1/2" bird/trout w/integral guard and ivory scales \$550; 3-1/2" folding hunter lock back, file work, fossilized ivory scales \$2000. 3-1/2" folding hunter lock back, file work, ladder damas' blued steel, fossilized ivory scales \$2000 BRUCE BERGLIN (360)757-4094 M

WANTED: Gerber Mark II Combat/Survival knives. Especially interested in early and unusual pieces and related items and histories. Canted blades, colored handles, dive knives, etc. If you carried a MkII please let me know. Also knuckle knives, Kukri's, Randall's, F-S Commando, U S Military knives and nice old fighting knives in general. PHIL BAILEY POB 13000A PORTLAND OR 97213-0017 (503)281-6864 or email: pbailey@europa.com M

FOR SALE-diamond burrs (nickle base) use dry on Rockwell, etc. Really a fantastic buy - 30 burrs. Fits Dremel, fordom or any chuck on drill press or hand drill. Over 60 sets sold at OKCA in April. 100% satisfaction.

Only \$25.00 ppd. The same price as the Show special. VISA/MC/AX/DISCOVERY. HILTIARY DIAMOND BOX P SCOTTS DALE AZ 85252 (480)945-0700 ELLIOTT or email hiltary@hotmail.com M

FOR SALE-Giraffi! For scales or full handles. Better than sanbar or fossil ivory. 4-1/2" long. Can be cut for scales or filled for a solid handle \$60ea + \$5.00 shipping. Each piece makes 2 or more scale pairs or use for single handle. Makes about 6 pairs of folder scales. 100% refundable if not cut. VISA/MC/DISCOVERY/AX. HILTIARY INDUSTRIES 7117 - 3 AVENUE SCOTTS DALE AZ 85251 (480)945-0700 ELLIOTT or email hiltary@hotmail.com M

FOR SALE-Ironwood scales 5"x1-1/2"x1/2". Close out all or part. 1000 pairs @ \$3.50 pair minimum 20 pairs. All excellent condition. Plus shipping. You'll love them. HILTIARY INDUSTRIES 7117 - 3 AVE SCOTTS DALE AZ 85251 (480)945-0711 ELLIOTT or email hiltary@hotmail.com M

WANTED-Blue Grass series second hand and fourth edition commemorative knives. Will pay top book price for mint knife. Also looking for bone handled Pal and Western pocket knives. Will trade. mtyler77@webtv.net or (541)3362107 A

WANTED-Al Mar knives new or used condition. New OKCA member from Michigan is trying to bring more Al Mar items to the Midwest, but I need your help. Please call (734)485-1308 or email baileypsi@aol.com. Interested in all models. BOB BAILEY 1386 LEVONAST YPSILANTI MI 48198 A

WANTED-OKCA Club knife-Al Mar edition. New Club member from Michigan would love to add one of these to his "Al Mar" collection. Phone (734)485-1308 or email baileypsi@aol.com A

WANTED-Any fly fishing knife and any fishing gear, i.e. rods, reels, lures, creels. Pay top dollar. Call FRANK MILLER (541)822-3458 email fshnfrank@aol.com A

FOR SALE- Jet horizontal or vertical metal cutting band saw 4-1/2" \$125.00 -Jepson 14" cutoff saw \$125.00 -Kicker punch press \$125.00 -Gorton 2-3 pentomill 3 dimensional. Great for knife bolsters or cutting out and engraving blades. \$2500.00 obo -Bench top bead blaster and shot \$80.00 -Craftsman 12" wood lathe \$150.00 5 hp air compressor America \$500.00 -Smithy lathe, milling, drilling machine combo \$1200.00 -12 Volt forklift 250 lb capacity \$300.00. -PETER KILMER (541)752-3510 A

FOR SALE-"Dave Murphy a man to be remembered" Twenty of his knives made from 1983 to 1995 for sale all together. Included is his life history in booklet form with several copies of his newsletter, also newspaper write ups and pictures. VIRGIL ANDERSON (503)761-4053 A

CLOSING SHOP FOR SALE-Knife collection consisting of Case, Remington, Gerber Paul, American Blade, Camillus, Winchester and OKCA Club 94095 silver and gold knives. All are in mint condition. CHRIS LINDSAY BEND OR (541)389-3875 M

FOR SALE-Terry Davis "Bullet Pattern" folders. A set of 12 knives, one of a kind. Mint condition. All knives in mint condition. CHRIS LINDSAY BEND OR (541)389-3875 M

FOR SALE-Pocket and sheath knives. New lists. Case and assorted knives. Victorinox list and information on collectors club. Send SASE to REX MCELWAIN 605 DONALD LN NEWBERT OR 97132 or email at mrcex@juno.com M

FOR SALE: 5" Post Vise-\$75.00 / Toaster Oven for tempering \$5.00. Dry Doug fir anvil bases-9 1/2" x 11 1/2" timbers new \$12.00. Stainless steel slack tubs \$10.00. I-Beam for hydraulic press 6 1/2" x 21" x 7" \$50.00 -MARTIN BRANDT (541) 747-5422 email: OUBOB747@aol.com M

FOR SALE: Amboyna, thuya, snakewood, ebony and all other woods. LARRY DAVIS, GALLERY HARDWOODS, 916-386-1150.

High quality copies of various hard to find government reports, files and letters on Edged Weapons. All of these offerings have been found in archives, libraries and depositories around the country over the years and are in the "public domain." Contact - Knife Books - PO Box 5866 - Deptford, NJ 08096 for a listing or follow the link from the ad on the OKCA web page. trz@citnet.com

"John Nelson Cooper Knives" by Paul Basch and Bill Martin. Only 100 left. \$100.00. Call (501)872-5200 or (501)872-5209.

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

"Knives of the United States Military in Vietnam" by M. W. Silvey is a color celebration of the knives, patches and other accouterments of the Vietnam War. This is a book that you will open time and again just for the pleasure of viewing. Hardbound only. \$39.95 plus \$3.00 shipping. M W Silvey - email: silvey@jps.net

"How To Make Multi-blade Folding Knives" \$20 ppd. Autographed by the author Terry Davis Box 111 Sumpter OR 97877

"Bayonets, Knives & Scabbards" Thought to be the most important paper ever written of U. S. edged weapons by the U. S. Government. Available for the first time to the general public in one volume, covers U. S. Army edged weapons from 1917 through the end of World War II. Soft cover, 80 pages filled with facts. Even the advanced collector will find "new" material between these covers. \$15.95 + \$3 priority postage. Frank Trzaska - Knife Books P O Box 5866 - Deptford NJ 08096

"Knives of the United States Military World War II" by Michael W. Silvey. is hardbound, 8x5x11 inch format, 250 pages (240 full page color plates). Over 425 knives are displayed. Great reference for collectors and others interested in the period. First edition has a limited printing of 3,500 copies. \$59.95 plus \$5 shipping. Contact Mike Silvey (916) 383-7531 email: silvey@jps.net

"The Wonder of Knifemaking" by Wayne Goddard is soft cover 8 1/2 x 11, 160 pages, 16 page color gallery. \$19.95 + \$3.05 (\$23.00) shipping in U.S. Send a check or money order to: Goddard's, 473 Durham Ave, Eugene, OR 97404. Or call (541)689-8098 to order using Visa, MC or Discover cards.

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The Knewsletter
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----- **September** -----
Sep 14-15 - ABANA Blacksmith Conference -
Winston-Salem NC (KW)
Sep 15-16 - Sollinger Messer-Tag -Germany (KW-B)
Sep 15-16 - WVACA Swapperoo Show - Eugene, OR
(free admission for OKCA)
Sep 21-23 - Blade Show West - Irvine CA (B-KW)
Sep 21-23 - Louisville Show -KY (KW-B)
Sep 27-29 - Spirit of Steel -Mesquite TX (KW-B)
Sep 29-30 - BAKCA Knife Show - Palo Alto CA (KW-B)
Sep 29-30 - Wolverine Knife Show - Clawson MI (KW)
Sep 30-30 - NorthEast Collectors Show -East Windsor CT (B)
----- **October** -----
Oct 06-06 - Florida Knifemakers -Tampa FL (KW-B)
Oct 06-07 - Frankfurt-Hoechst Messer Borse- Germany (KW-B)
Oct 12-13 - Fall Knife Show -Edgerton WI (KW-B)
Oct 12-14 - American Knife Throwers -Awendaw SC (B)
Oct 20-21 - Arizona Show -Mesa AZ (KW)
Oct 27-28 - NorthWest Knife Collectors -Tacoma WA (KW)
Oct 26-28 - Cincinnati Ohio Show (KW)
----- **November** -----
Nov 02-04 - New York Custom -NYC (B)
Nov 03-04 - Mt Vernon Knife Show - Illinois (KW-B)
Nov 03-04 - Australian Custom -Fremantle W. Australia (KW-B)
Nov 09-10 - Greater Ohio Show - Cambridge OH (KW-B)
Nov 09-11 - Fort Meyers Knife Show - (KW-B)
----- **December** -----
Dec 08-08 - OKCA Winter Mini Show
Dec 06-08 - Greatest Knife Show-Pigeon Forge TN (KW)
Dec 08-09 - Heart of America - St Charles MO (KW)
----- **January 2002** -----
Jan 25-27 - Wolverine Knife Show - Novi MI (KW)
Jan 25-27 - Chattanooga TN Knife Show (KW)

----- **February 2002** -----
Feb 15-17 - Gator Show - Lakeland FL (KW)
Feb 16-17 - Arkansas Custom Show - Little Rock(KW)
----- **April 2002** -----
Apr 20-21 - Oregon Knife Collectors Show - Eugene OR
----- **May 2002** -----
May 31-02 - Blade Show -Atlanta GA (B)

Events Calendar

September 2001

DINNER MEETING

**Thursday Evening
September 13, 2001**

**The Mission Restaurant
On Franklin Blvd
Mexican Cuisine**

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

**Show-N-Tell
Bring sumthin' Sharp for
Share-Wit-Us, like sumthin'
you got at the Show. No
excuses—Show 'N' Tell**



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.

