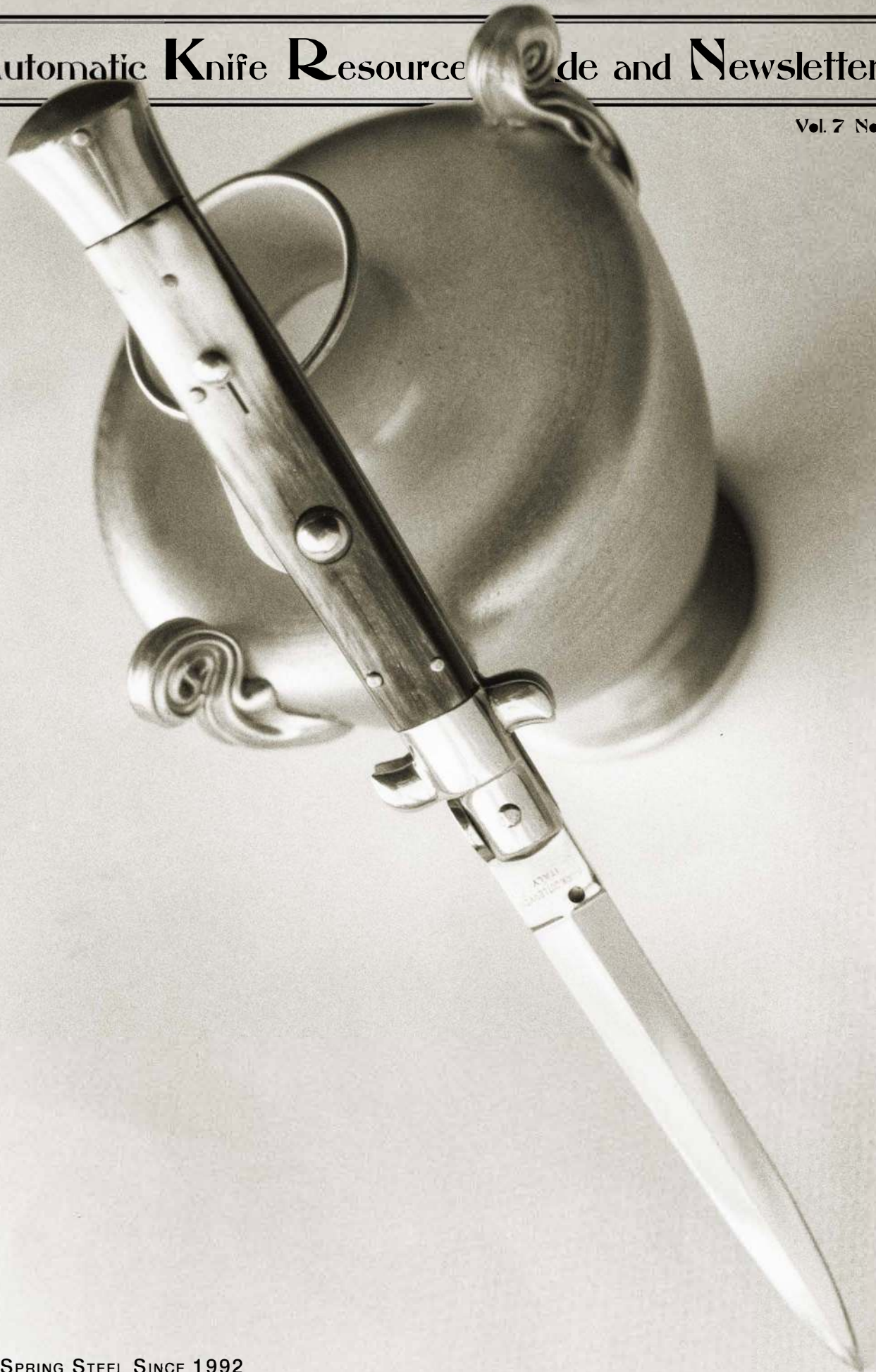


THE Automatic Knife Resource Guide and Newsletter

Vol. 7 No. 2



DEVOTED TO SPRING STEEL SINCE 1992

And now a word from your editor:

Dear Readers,

I think it's fair to say that most folks have a generic perspective of what a switchblade looks like--the traditional Italian. Out of the dozens of calls I get on a daily basis, are always a couple from the non-collector who wants to "buy a switchblade". Their response to my asking what type, usually gets "you know, the knives you push a button and the blade springs opened." I go on to describe the style of an Italian--shape of the guard on the front bolster and that's it. These folks have no idea how vast the world of switchblade design actually is. You folks, who read THE NEWSLETTER are most aware of this. Nearly seven years of publishing an incredible array of spring steel and I believe there is no end in sight! This issue of THE NEWSLETTER is a testament to the vast variety of the world of switchblades. Heck, start with the cover of this issue--A vintage Italian with a very special, added dimension--That superbly executed dagger-ground blade. Dr. McMickle again brings not one, but a pair of spectacular mid-19th century switchblades. An incredible pair that have come through the last century and a half never having been sharpened. A remarkable feat for a tool whose purpose was for cutting things.

The MicroTech (mini) UDT is probably the most practical cutting tool produced in the last few years. In the last couple years, I've put one through an endurance/torture test that would have left most knives in the dust. The UDT's size, shape, weight, action, materials and performance have made it a most sought after knife. For whatever the reasons, it has not been available from MicroTech in the last year. Well, that's changed, and it's back. You can read all about it in this issue, along with the first look as Brad West's foray into knife production with his version of the UDT, the "Nitrox 98".

Bill McHenry has generously contributed another feature of "The Rumble". Along with Bill's prosaic presentation is a sad note. The knifemaking world has lost one of its pioneers. Chuck Stewart was a creative genius. A wizard with an ability to craft steel in novel forms. Chuck was at the vanguard of custom spring steel, at a time when knifemakers wouldn't dare show any switchblade, let alone even admit to fabricating one. Chuck was creating covert double-action switches, before a lot of contemporary collectors were even born. Chuck Stewart was a master of his craft. You get a chance to see some of his gems here.

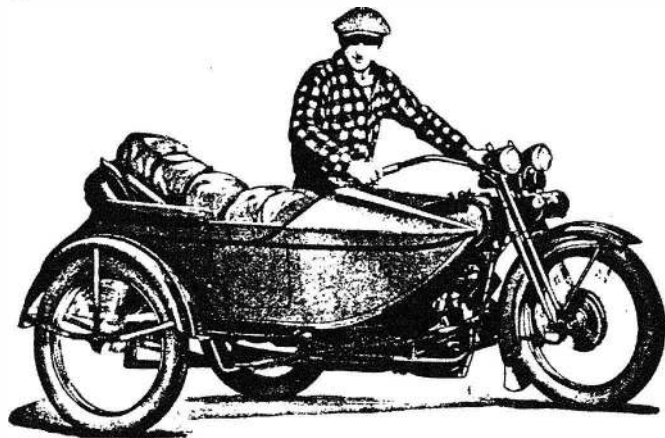
Enjoy the issue,

Sheldon

P.S. A day doesn't go by that I don't get calls, mail and email, asking when The Book is going to be available. Jeeze, I've even had folks try to pre-pay it, (without even knowing what it's going to cost!). I assure you all, NO ONE wants The Book finished more than I do. "Haste makes waste". I'm not about to rush out a half-assed book. If it takes more time than I'd anticipated, it's because it will be that much better. Be patient. It'll be worth the wait.

BUBBA KAHN SEZ:

"Go to a knife show this weekend!"



Knife shows and *Knife & Gun* shows are among the best venues for discovering that "rare treasure". The possibilities are endless! Like anything else, some shows are better than others. Those of you that frequent shows on the look-out for automatics, know that patience and perseverance can definitely pay off. Keep in mind, that while you may not see any autos displayed at a particular table with cutlery on it, by asking, you may luck-out and come home from a show with something VERY special!

If there is a show that you'd like to share with the readers for publication in this calendar, please drop a note to THE NEWSLETTER with the *who, what, and where*, along with any details you would like to add.



Showtime!

APRIL 3-5 HARRISBURG, VA
Shenandoah Valley Knife Show,
Rockingham Co. Fairgrounds, Info:
540-997-5651

APRIL 4-5 KOKOMO, IN 2nd
Annual Kokomo, Indiana Knife Show
at the Ramada Inn. Info: 765:628-7852

APRIL 4-5 TULSA, OKLAHOMA
Wanemmacher's Tulsa Gun and Knife
Show, Expo Square. Info: 918-492-
0401

APRIL 4-5 EUGENE, OREGON
23rd Annual Oregon Knife Collectors
Association. The SHOW OF SHOWS!
The spring - steel friendliest of shows.
Info: 503-484-0294

APRIL 17-19 LOUISVILLE, KY,
NKCA Louisville Spring Knife Show.
Info: 800-548-3907

APRIL 18-19 PLANO, TEXAS The
Professional Knifemakers Association.
2nd Annual PKA Dallas, TX Custom
Knife Show at Harvey Hotel. Info 972-
578-8555 or "www.web2.com/pka"

APRIL 18-19 VANCOUVER, BC
3rd Annual Vancouver Knife Show at
Historical Arms Collector's Show.
Info: 604-538-6214

APRIL 24-26 SOLVANG, CA.
Solvang Custom Knife Show. Solvang
Scandinavian Inn. Info: 805-688-3612

MAY 1-3 MONKTON,
MARYLAND Appalachian
Knifemakers Rendezvous, Camp
ALKOR, Info: 410-343-0380

MAY 8-9 SAN ANTONIO, TX Flint
and Steel Knife Show at Live Oak
Civic Center. Info: 210-695-8332

MAY 15-17 GREENCASTLE, PA
Mason Dixon Knife Club 14th Annual
Knife Show at Mason Dixon Auto
Auction Complex. Info: 717-597-8511

MAY 23-24 SARASOTA, FL. Knife
and Gun Collector Show at Robarts
Sports Arena. Info: 904-935-2342

JUNE 5-7 PIGEON FORGE, TN
The Greatest Knife Show on Earth
XV, Grand Hotel & Convention
Center. Info: 800-247-0599

Showtime!

JUNE 12-14 ATLANTA,
GEORGIA 1998 Blade Show Cobb
Galleria Centre. Info: 715-445-2214

JUNE 12-14 INDIANAPOLIS, IN.
Indiana Knife Collectors Annual
Knifest at Marion County
Fairgrounds. Info 765-642-6313

JULY 10-12 LAS VEGAS,
NV.Knifemakers Guild Show at
Rivera Hotel & Casino. Info 800-634-
6753

JULY 10-12 SPRINGFIELD, MO
NKCA Springfield Knife Show. Info:
800-548-3907

AUGUST 1-2 BRANFORD, FL.
Florida Gun Collectors Assoc. Knife
& Gun Show at Lake Mirror
Auditorium. Info: 904-935-2342

AUGUST 14-16 LEXINGTON, KY
Central Kentucky Knife Club Show at
Continental Inn. Info: 502-863-4919

Showtime!

AUGUST 14-16 DENVER, CO. The
Professional Knifemaker's Assoc. 6th
Annual PKA Denver, CO Custom
Knife Show at IAP Holiday Inn. Info:
970-669-9016

**SEPTEMBER 11-13 COSTA
MESA, CA** Blade Show West, Info:
715-445-2214

**SEPT. 12-13 WINSTON-SALEM,
OR** Southeastern Custom Knife Show,
Benton Center, Info: 910-759-0640

SEPT. 25-27 LOUISVILLE, KY
NKCA Louisville Fall Knife Show.
Info: 800-548-3907

**OCTOBER 16-18 LOVELAND,
OH** NKCA Cincinnati Fall Knife
Show, Info: 800-548-3907

NOVEMBER 6-8 NEW YORK, NY
New York Custom Knife Show,
Sheraton Hotel, Info: 516-781-5515

THE NEWSLETTER Reference Collection

It's certainly no surprise to any of you looking for information on automatic knives, just how scarce ANY kind of material is! If it wasn't for THE NEWSLETTER, there would be NO information printed on a regular basis. Along with the back-issues of THE NEWSLETTER that are available, is some rare and very special materials have been collected and assembled, and made available to you. Unless otherwise noted, each booklet is individually printed and bound and in an 8½"x11" format. These booklets contain a wealth of automatic knife knowledge! No collectors should be without them!

KNIFE-PISTOLS-A great deal of material was amassed while researching the article on knife pistols for Vol.2 No.2 of THE NEWSLETTER. A mere fraction of the material that was unearthed, was used for the article. This manuscript is MOST informative. A detailed restoration of a very popular knife-pistol, a "Huntsman", is included in this most intriguing material, along with several unique patents. 25 pages, Only **\$10**.

THE LAW-A summary of the automatic knife laws, state by state. Federal regulations and examples of local ordinances that may prove to be very valuable to you. Some very interesting reading is included, an in-depth analysis of the Crowley Companies journey through the United States Court of Appeals. 23 pages, Only **\$10**.

LATAMA CATALOGS- From the illustrious switchblade manufacturer of the 1950's, exact reprints of two catalogs from 1950. One is 20 pages, 8½"x5½". The other is 24 pages, 8½"x11". The smaller of the two was geared more towards sales promotion, while the larger was reprinted from a "loose-leaf" three-ringed binder with each right-hand page a full-sized photo and the left-hand page descriptive text. This is incredibly RARE and SCARCE material! An absolute MUST for any ephemera collector. Both catalogs, Only **\$25**.

To order, send check or money order to:

THE NEWSLETTER
2269 Chestnut Street, Suite 212
San Francisco, CA 94123

★★★All prices include first-class postage.★★★

Renewals and...

When it gets to be that time, Dear Readers, Fear not! I'll make sure you get an advance notice.! Your issues of THE NEWSLETTER will keep on coming when you take advantage of the subscription renewal offers that you will find with the last issue of your subscription. So don't worry about missing an issue. And while you're waitin', check out "When's the next issue?" and you'll find the mailing dates for the coming issues of THE NEWSLETTER.

☆FIRST-CLASS☆ RESTORATION

Quality repair and restoration of your automatic knives is available from a highly skilled craftsman. Custom scale work of abalone, mother-of-pearl, ivory and the rarest of exotic woods is also provided. Missing or broken parts can be replaced or fabricated. Some original replacements parts are available on a limited basis.

Please contact THE NEWSLETTER for detailed information at: 415-731-0210.

Appraisal Service

There are many reasons to get an expert opinion of the value of your collectable knives. Perhaps you've inherited a collection and have no idea of its worth, or maybe you're a long-time collector out of touch with contemporary values. In pricing your collection for sale or insurance purposes, the most accurate appraisal if available from THE NEWSLETTER. Many variables determine the true value of a knife. With five years of publishing and a subscription base that extends beyond every state in the US to more than a dozen foreign countries, THE NEWSLETTER is a network of the most serious, astute automatic knife enthusiasts on the planet, exchanging and providing a wealth of automatic knife knowledge. Whatever your reason for wanting an accurate assessment as to the value of one knife or your entire collection, contact THE NEWSLETTER Appraisal Service for details. All appraisals include photographic documentation.

THE NEWSLETTER

Telephone Business Hours:
9:00am until 5:00pm
Monday thru Friday
West Coast Time

415-731-0210

Yes Readers, your editor is available for all your questions during the above times and days. At all other times as well as from time to time during "business hours", an answering machine will take over the phone chores.

Back issues of THE NEWSLETTER:

Sorry folks, but not every issue of **THE NEWSLETTER** is available. All back issues listed below are from their original first printing. No issues have every been reprinted. However, next year there will be a retrospective published: **THE NEWSLETTER: The First Five Years**, containing every article and photograph from the first five years of issues. This volume will no doubt become the most comprehensive resource of switchblade knowledge ever published. In the meantime, to tide you over, the back issues listed below are available. Because they are in limited supply and as a benefit for subscribers, **back issues are available to subscribers only. Each issue is \$10. and includes first-class postage.**

Highlights:

Vol.2 No.2

- Hubertus Scale-release switches
- Unique Russian Paratroopers Front-opener
- Extremely RARE knife-pistols
- Infamous *Remington Steel* fiasco.

Vol.2 No.3

- Tour of the German switchblade manufacturer, Hubertus.
- Rarest of Case switchblades "ZIPPER"
- A variety of Boker switches
- The 18th Annual OKCA Show review

Vol.2 No.4

- "Custom Gallery", a FULL-COLOR center feature.
- Search for Puma automatics
- The Paul Fox Electric Switchblade
- Queen switchblades

Vol.3 No.1

- Century old "Korns Patent"
- 3 pages of Italian "Picklocks"
- Puma Switchblade hunted down!
- Bubba reviews the New York Custom Knife Show

Vol.3 No.2

- Rare French front opening switches
- More front openers from Italy
- Superb double-action switches from Hoskins
- U.S. Government issued switchblades

Vol.3 No.3

- Introducing the Vallotton "VIPER"
- The 19th Annual OKCA Show review
- 28cm picklock restoration "how-to"
- Production switchblades from Spain

Vol.4 No.2

- Customized Hubertus
- 33cm Latama "how-to" restoration
- Soviet handmade switchblades
- Microtech side and front-openers

Vol.4 No.3

- New Boker "Speed-Lock"
- 20th Annual OKCA Show Review w/Bubba!

- Rare Chinese Govt. issue switchblade
- *The Switchblade Sisters* review by Prof. Fuller

Vol.4 No.4

- MicroTech Front-openers and their knock-offs compared.
- Dr. McMickle knocks your socks off with this gem of an antique switch!
- Bubba Shares a whale-of-a-tale from this years Blade Show in Atlanta.
- "Rockin' a Hard Place"- Spring Steel wizard Bill McHenry speaks out!

Vol.5 No.1

- Magnificent customs from eight of the finest makers-All on one cover!
- Bubba does the Rhode Island Show and finds a worm in the Big Apple.
- Turkish-twist Damascus in a scale-release from bladesmith Jerry Rados.
- Restoration wizard Reese Torrit Does it again with a Case lever-action.

Vol.5 No.3

- Part 2 of the LATAMA history featuring the rarest specimens.
- Professor Fuller presents the list of reader submitted "Switch-flicks".
- New production switches from South Africa, Czechoslovakia, & Germany.
- Specialized switches from Hubertus and vintage Mexican switches.

Vol.5 No.4

- MicroTech's *MIRAGE* covered.
- Bubba reviews 21st annual OKCA show in Eugene.
- "Switches that Deliver!" The rarest of all switchblades, combination Knife-Pistols.
- Rare KaBar "Dogshead" and Aerial lever switches.

Vol.6 No.1

- One-of-a-kind front-opener in the Italian tradition by MicroTech's brainchild- Tony Marfione
- "LATAMA-The Saga Continues". Some more rare gems from this illustrious Italian manufacturer.

- Precision machined front-opener from Tenmil Industries.
- "The Gorgon". Exotic switchblade from custom cutler Paul Fox.

Vol.6 No.2

- "Sign of Spring", dazzling custom spring steel from William J. McHenry
- Rare etched Flylocks, with original advertising and patents.
- Dr. McMickle presents an exotic 19th century coil-fired switch.
- Very scarce, mint specimen of turn-of-the-century PressButton "one-armed" knife/fork switch.

Vol.6 No.3

- 19th Century switchblade combination knife pistol, a Reese Torrit "before & after" restoration.
- New "Pen Blade" release switchblade from Hubertus.
- Exotic antique spring steel from Prof. Pete McMickle.
- New production knife-pistol chambered for percussion.

Vol.6 No.4

- The exotic "Dragonslayer". Another spectacular auto from MicroTech.
- The Best of the Bayou. Fine hand-crafted customs from Louisiana's master knifemaker Charlie Dake.
- A fine spread of thos sought-after favorites--The coolest PICKLOCKS!
- Dr. McMickle Shows off a vintage "fishermans" switch from Sheffield.

Vol.7 No.1

- Prof. Fuller delivers the second half of his interview w/switch dealer Ken.
- Spring Steel wizard Bill McHenry waxes eloquent with another installment of "The Rumble".
- Dr. McMickle again, tantalizes switch lovers with yet another remarkable century old gem of a switchblade!
- A new factory coil-fired, hard-working switch from GT Knives and much much MORE!

When is the next issue?

ISSUE	DEADLINE	MAILING
Vol.7 No.3	4-30-98	6-17-98
Vol.7 No.4	7-31-98	9-17-98
Vol.8 No.1	10-31-98	12-17-98
Vol.8 No.2	1-31-99	3-17-99

Dear Readers, I receive many checks and money orders for the exact amount of a one year subscription, without any note whatsoever. These are processed as a new subscription and the current issue is sent out. The majority of the time, this works just fine. However, with some frequency lately, these turn out to be renewals and the subscriber winds up receiving a duplicate issue of one they already have. The resolve is always a waste of time and energy, in addition to postage. Please Dear Readers, at the very least, even if you noted on the corner of your check or money order "renewal", I would really appreciate it. Thanks Folks!



Pictured above is the pommel of one of the switches presented here. An intricate example of elegant design and superb workmanship. To the right here is an extraordinary pair of mid-19th century English spring steel.

Antique - Spring Steel

by Dr. Pete McMickle

Aside from his university professorship duties, one of the things that makes Dr. Pete McMickle tick is his overwhelming enthusiasm for automatic knives that came into this world prior to the coming of the 20th century. Specimens from this long-gone era are among the rarest and most scarce of switchblades one could collect and/or admire. Readers with possible pre-1900 switchblades wishing expert opinion or with questions of switchblades of the period, may contact Dr. McMickle via THE NEWSLETTER.



“Double your Pleasure!” Indeed! Nope, no double exposure here. You’re looking at a pair of extraordinary spring dirks manufactured more than a century and a half ago by the Sheffield firm of S. C. Wragg. Both knives, entirely original, still fire with considerable authority. And firing these blades is accomplished without buttons, levers, sliding scales or bolsters. These knives are lockbacks, with a large and small blade on a single pivot. The lockbacks are activated in a novel way. The tang of the smaller blade extends just far enough so that when depressed in the closed position, pushes against the underside of the larger blade’s backspring, lifting it, “unlocking” and releasing the larger blade. And as a lockback, closing the blade is accomplished the same way. Fans of vintage Sheffield spring steel will recognize the action of this mechanism similar to those found in the spring dirks manufactured by Robert Lingard. Variations on this mechanism can also be found on some non-automatic folders.

By the way, Levine notes that the word “dirk” formerly meant a knife with a double-edged

“dirk,” or “dagger-grind” blade. Today, collectors use the term to refer to small antique pocket knives, regardless of blade shape, that lock open for fighting purposes. Larger locking English folders made during the period from 1830 to 1860 are called “folding bowies”.

When I think of early English dirk makers, the premier names that first come to mind are Butcher, Bunting, Congreve, Wostenholm, and Wragg. Collectors consider Samuel C. Wragg’s folding knives to be among the very finest in the world. For instance, my all-time favorite folding bowie is by Wragg and owned by my friend Rodger Baker. You can find a picture of it on the third page of the “Folding Dirks/Folding Bowie” section of *Levine’s Guide to Knives*. It is not often that you get to compare, side-by-side, two extraordinarily rare, antique knives of the same model from the same manufacturer. When you do, the first thing that becomes obvious is no two are EXACTLY alike! A testament to their hand-crafted origins.

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(CONTINUED)

The main blades on these knives are exactly the same length, precisely five inches. Their blade grinds however, differ. One is a spear-point, the other a dagger-grind. Both blades are clearly marked from what appears to be an identical stamp. On the tang of the main blade, "S.C. Wragg, Sheaf Island Works, Sheffield". The release/pen-blades are nearly identical at 2-1/2 inches in length with their tangs bearing the same markings as the larger, main blades, only scaled down in size. Although the blades in each knife are the same length, the frame/handle is noticeably longer on one of the knives. 5 inches in length on one and extra 3/8ths of an inch on the other. Both handles are scaled in the kind of gorgeous stag that seems to only be found on vintage English cutlery: A rich, nut brown, tightly stippled surface texture. Perhaps Robin Hood and his Merry Men didn't kill off all the deer in Sherwood Forest. An escutcheon of German silver is centered on the right scale of each knife, attached with a slightly different pin configuration. Three pins on one knife, four on the other. The front bolsters are alike. The rear bolsters, while similar in shape, exhibit unique floral designs.



Right: This spectacular pair of Sheffield's finest, pictured here with both blades open, give you a look at the "heel" on the smaller blade. It is this extension of the tang, integral to the larger blade's release mechanism. When closed, the small blade is depressed, pushing the backspring up from under, a tab on the larger blade's backspring, "unlocking" it from the closed position, releasing it, propelled by the kickspring. **Below:** Amazingly enough, these beautifully preserved blades, center-ground dagger and flat-ground have never been sharpened. **Left:** A slim "package". These are finely constructed knives. The attention to detail rival most customs.



Although these knives were hand-crafted, their ornate nickel silver bolsters came from outside suppliers. As a result, the same style bolsters can be found on dirks of different makers. The bolsters were formed by pressing a thin sheet of nickel silver over an iron die. The finished bolster was solid lead with a thin "skin" of nickel. They

were sweated or soldered to their brass liners. While the dies to fabricate these bolsters have been given up to the last century and a half, a few have survived history and are highly sought after by serious collectors of spring steel and spring steel ephemera. A rare example of one of these dies accompanies this feature.*

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It doesn't take a rocket scientist to establish the fact that you're looking at a couple of valuable examples of vintage switchblades. Knives are tools. Tools that are designed to be used, and maintained for use. The years can take their toll on a good, solid using knife. Knives of this vintage, are rare and scarce in ANY condition. Having come through more than a century and a half in relatively mint, unused condition, like the two pictured here, are rare prizes indeed! The rules of "supply and demand", which establish the prices of most commodities, certainly apply to rare collectibles like these. When it comes to a switch that can fetch thousands of dollars, as opposed to switches in the \$100. range, collectors of the former are a much smaller group. A "fair-market-value" just doesn't apply to knives in this realm. Knives like this are so rare, so unique, that while a range can be accepted by the principals, the actual selling price is one that the buyer is willing to pay and the seller, willing to accept. Because of the unique status of these knives, I am reluctant to publish an appraised value. And from what I understand, THE NEWSLETTER has refrained in the last seven years, from becoming a "price guide" for spring steel. Instead, letting these collectibles seek and find their own level--adhering to the best price guide there is, the one of supply and demand.

Antique - Spring Steel

by Dr. Pete McMickle

(CONTINUED)

* **Right & Below:** This is a rare example of the type of die than was used to fabricate the pommels and bolsters found on the highest quality of Sheffield cutlery of the 19th century. (French cutlers also employed this manufacturing technique to fabricate bolsters and pommels. However, the known examples are nowhere near as intricate or ornate.) These dies are of cast iron and burnished to establish the crisp detail necessary to produce the extraordinary bolsters and pommels you see here. **Lower left:** The pommels (rear bolsters) of each switch pictured side by side, are sterling examples of Sheffield knife-craft.



As always, I enjoy hearing from my readers and welcome any comments or questions you may have. I am always looking for antique switchblades to feature in this column. Please feel free to contact me at THE NEWSLETTER.

On behalf of the readers and myself, I have to say "Thank you Dr. McMickle for your generosity in sharing these unique, special and most extraordinarily wonderful examples of antique spring steel in THE NEWSLETTER with all of us". -EDITOR

THE RUMBLE:

"The Biker, The Dean and the Beauty Queen"

From the pen of William J. McHenry

This issue's Rumble comes to you from storm-torn Fort Lauderdale, where I pause to recoup from a savage frenzy of switchblade action. So much is going on in our world--major changes and events--but first I must stop and pay my respects to one of the grand old wizards of spring steel. Sadly, the switchblade world has suffered a profound loss--Knifemaker Emeritus Chuck Stewart passed away suddenly from a massive heart attack. He went as quick as his knives opened! Chuck was one of the true giants--a pioneer in the field of fine, hand-crafted automatic cutlery--A skilled and accomplished master sculptor of spring steel. Every switchblade maker out there owes Chuck a tremendous debt, whether they realize it or not. Back in the early years, the dark and mysterious times--those years before THE NEWSLETTER, things of a springer nature were very different, clandestine.

I have a little history lesson--Back in the early eighties, the now infamous "Michigan Three", were virtually the only game in town. They were Chuck, Judy Gottage and Jim Serven. Sure, there were others working in this realm at that time, and yes, we'll get into this someday, but the serious flash, flamboyance, and sheer joie de vivre were coming from "The Three". You could be certain they had the "goods". This was, I firmly believe, the kernel, the very beginnings of the "Art Switchblade" movement. We are not talking about today's titanium wonders, we are talking about brilliant styling, equal or better, (certainly cooler!) to the best custom knives of the era, and often mind-boggling mechanical genius. The classic styling looks and sheer variety of locks and releases defined and made the Michigan knives the treasure that they are. These knives are time capsules, an aspect of Americana, every bit as consequential as today's high-tech trend in auto-knifemaking. Traditional pinned cutlery most deserving of a place in our history. Mark my words, these pieces will one day join the ranks of the great antiques Dr. McMickle brings to THE NEWSLETTER.

Jim explained theory to me, but Chuck showed me the ropes--how to live the life.

Always the perfect gentleman, impeccable dressed, he was known for his genius and wit. I jokingly addressed him once as "the Dean of the College of Automatic Knowledge", and he said, "just Dean will be sufficient". From that time on, I respectfully referred to him as "The Dean". He knew how to do it all.

Over the years at shows and over the phone I grew to know this great man and was honored to be taken under his wing. There is more to being a switchblade artist than just making a springer. Chuck knew this and lived and defined the lifestyle. Along with Judy and Jim, they went in first, set the pace and showed us "pups", how to do it right, with class, dignity and discretion.

Chuck's knives were as elegant and refined as he was. A giant is gone, but his legacy lives on. Only Judy Gottage continues on from this group. If you wish to handle the living tradition of the very beginning of custom automatics, she is still making beauties in this genre. You owe it to yourself to check her knives out. Jim my friend, remains missing, rumored to be holed up in a bike club somewhere in Michigan. If anyone has a lead on Jim, please contact me. How about everyone pausing for a moment to honor the late, great Chuck Stewart, with a raised arm, springer in hand and a click from the heart. He'll hear it. God rest you Chuck.

•••

And now for the news:

If you missed the Gator Show, you sure missed some fun. As predicted, this show was not only loaded with spring steel, but it made history--Again! What can I say, switchblade heaven. Plenty of custom makers--plenty of custom dealers representing most of the custom houses around the world--countless tables of new and used factory gems--even basket case wrecks of ancient springers were available for the diligent and dedicated restorer. It is always good to visit with Mr. Switchblade himself, Brad West. Brad has even got his OWN brand now. Just as nice, was hangin' with Ray Johnston of Ray, Ray & B.J.s. A man of few words and many knives.

Looking for that special piece to fill-out your collection? Call Ray. I've known him for a few years now and I still can't talk him out of that oh-so-cool black leather jacket. Just as well, I couldn't fit into it anyway. Keep the jacket Ray! Hmm....but what about the vest?

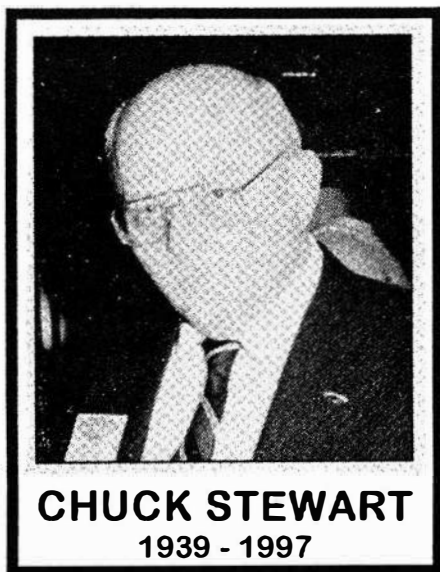
By the second day it was SRO and things were poppin'--or should I say clickin'! I was especially delighted to see my ol' bud Vinny the Spike, out of Jersey. In fact,, quite a few of our more adventurous AKRG&N readers made the pilgrimage to this venerable Mecca of spring steel. A special howdy to Red, Bill and anyone else I forget. Proves some of you are literate. Where's the history part you ask? What makes the Gator Show so important? It's the people who make up the scene, the exchange of ideas, the sheer power of schmoozing. Well, hold on the that Latama with both hands and don't let go for the news of the century:

Da-ta-dah-da-da-da-daaahhh!!

Announcing the First Annual International Switchblade Convention! "SWITCH-CON ONE" Yes, it's true. Great God Almighty, a loose, but very determined group of collectors, dealers, makers and one very enlightened promoter, hacked out the last details around the sunny outdoor tables of the Plant City Convention Center. Goes to show you the persistence of the springer set, against all odds, rising above the archaic laws, the paranoid knife press and UN-enlightened show people. The will of the people and their devotion to and love of switchblades will make this for one and all, an Historic Event! The good people of the Miami show in August have opened their doors to us under their wing, a show within a show, so to speak. Saturday night is reserved for our FIRST conference. All are welcome! What more could you ask for? Here is your chance to be heard. The future of automatic knives is in our hands. "Be there or be square!" There are a very limited number of tables open for exhibitors, so get on it. We are looking for displays too. Contact me about this. Be a part of history!

•••

Well, not much more to say except my sincere apologies to Miss Kelly, I am not the editor. (Jeeze, for paint rollers and plastic bags? You're a paragon of virtue Bill!--EDITOR) Come next issue, I've got an interview with Butch Vallotton on switch-technology and other relevant stuff. Keep on clickin', Willy



Chuck Stewart's creativity resulted in the fabrication of some wonderful examples of spring steel. One aspect of Chuck's wizardry was known to only a few lucky enthusiasts of the genre. Chuck created some very special combination pieces--knife-pistols. The lavishly embellished, .22cal. lr. two-shot pistols pictured here are the result of almost two decades of refinement. Chuck manufactured his first knife-pistol in 1980 and his first "double-barrel", two-shot, in 1984. Chuck produced these pieces to order. No computer driven cnc mills here--Each k-p was individually produced. No two were alike.

The knife-pistol pictured here has one of Chuck's earlier firing mechanisms. The handle is 5 inches closed, with a 4-1/2 inch stainless Damascus blade. The blade release mechanism is one of Chuck's superb double-actions. Exclusive of the single scale and release button of outstanding Russian malachite, the remaining material is 416 stainless. The exterior is embellished with an intricate damascened (jeweled) surface.



Chuck described the operation of this piece as: "full floating firing pins, locking self-rising breech, individual cocking strikers, full blocking safeties which completely cover the triggers in the safe position." Strikers are fully adjustable and use coiled compression springs. Firing pins operate in bushings, spring retractable. Everything can be disassembled. The standing breech, containing firing pins and base mounting plate, (what would be a liner in a typical knife) are all cut from a single block of steel. The breech is integral with the main frame. Firing is selective--right or left by activating the triggers. Cocking is accomplished by pulling the trigger to the rear and down into a "holding" notch. Simple-Reliable-Foolproof.



This smooth stainless knife-pistol has a traditional single action switchblade, firing a 4-1/2inch ATS-34 stainless tapered flat-ground blade. The balance of material is 416 stainless. Also designed as a "two-shot", this k-p is chambered for the more robust .22 cal. magnum round. The standing breech and base plate are integral-cut from a single block of 416 stainless. Full-floating firing pins are encased in bushings.



Handmade Knives
CHUCK STEWART






The "strikers" are individually cocked and fully adjustable as to striking force. Their two slide buttons are visible in two of the photos. Sliding individual safeties cover the right and left triggers. The breech is closed and self rising when opened. The firing/trigger mechanism is unique from the damascened knife-pistol on the opposite page and represents the state-of-the-art Chuck attained at the time of his death.

Chuck created some of the most novel switchblades ever--combining weapons and other materials as well. Sometimes you had to search like crazy to find the release on a switch, or like a Chinese puzzle box, discover the hidden compartments. The gem pictured here to the right with its 3-1/2inch Damascus blade fires from a titanium handle with lapis lazuli inlays. A double-action mechanism--the blade may be opened manually or when the upper lapis inlay is depressed, the blade is released. Sliding the lower inlay down reveals a Whitnauer watch movement.





**UDT
UDT
UDT**

This original silver anodized MicroTech UDT pictured here has seen serious duty over the last couple years, stripping bark, opening envelopes, breaking down cardboard boxes, cutting rope, prying nails, opening paint cans, punching holes, as a slotted and phillips screwdriver, breaking up clumps of dirt, cracking walnuts, and a whole lot more! A few ministrations with a Lansky sharpening system over the years has kept it up to speed. My feeling is this UDT has just begun to perform.

For years, I carried the "Classic" model of Swiss Army knife on a keychain. Definitely unobtrusive and with a pen blade, file, scissors, pick and tweezers, well, that was a handy package to have in my pocket. But there were always those occasions when getting a folder opened with one hand while the other held twine, cardboard or whatever needed cutting, left you literally putting the bite on the nail-nick and risking a chipped tooth in the process. Then I carried an 8cm Hubertus. I have to admit, that knife was rock-solid in the opened position, held an edge through any abuse I could heap on it, and came in a compact package. My primary consideration in replacing that with the UDT was the thinner, lighter package. They're both fine, using/carrying knives, BUT this is about the UDT!

.....I digress here: *WE ALL KNOW* what perfect sense it makes to have a knife that opens with only one hand. George Schrade knew that concept full well. The majority of his small switches, manufactured from the turn of the century were purchased by women for their ease of opening. Those little double-enders could be found in sewing kits throughout America. But we have this idiot Kefauver waving around a 33cm Italian pig-sticker in congress, proclaiming this piece as the status quo for switchblades in America--when the reality was the blade found in the overwhelming majority of switches were one to one and a half-inch pen blades. For someone sewing with one free hand to cut a thread, it is plain ol' common sense to have available a cutting instrument that only requires one hand to bring into use. But then again, no one could ever accuse our government of common sense!



Now I am speaking subjectively, the (Mini)UDT is without-a-doubt, the most useful, practical, convenient switchblade I have ever had the pleasure of carrying/using. The diminutive size (2-3/8ths inch blade and a bit over 5-1/2 inches opened) and lightweight make it the most unobtrusive knife/tool you could have in your pocket. The shape, release mechanism and blade grind make it unparalleled for using. The silver-anodized example shown here has an etched date of 8/95 on the blade. It is and has been used everyday for a wide range of tasks--letter-opener, cardboard cutter, screwdriver, pry-bar on cans and nails, rug-cutter, putty-knife, stripping bark, hole-punch, and a big ETC. An occasional touch-up with a Lansky diamond unit has kept it razor-ready. THIS IS ONE FINE KNIFE! I've given a number of these knives as gifts. I was sure disappointed when I discovered last year that they were no longer being manufactured. I couldn't believe that such a quality knife was no longer available. Well, the reasons for that are complex and not really relevant here. Save to say, there was a void in the spectrum of really great using knives. Well, I am happy to say that cries for its return have not fallen on deaf ears and the UDT is now available again!

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

UDT



UDT



The original UDT in anodized silver is pictured along with its new incarnation—a licensed, sterile version, indistinguishable from the original. Between the two is a simplified version of the UDT, produced by the curator of the West Collection, Brad West.

(CONTINUED)

It is sterile, free from any blade markings, and MicroTech is not the manufacturer. MicroTech has licensed its manufacture and established a quality control, that judging by the final result is no different from the original. God bless CNC machines!

Bill McHenry mentioned in this issue's "Ramblings" how the conservator of the West Collection has drawn upon his acumen for spring steel and made a foray into manufacturing. Manufacturing a switchblade that is! And heck, when you've seen as much spring steel as Brad West has, how do you decide on a design. Well, keeping it simple, Brad built upon (and exploited!) a tried and true design—the MicroTech UDT. However, Brad, in keeping with keeping it simple, (whew!) produced a knock-off of this fine design and has christened it the "NITROX 98".

As if the original UDT isn't as basic/simple as a coil-fired CNC produced switchblade can be, Brad has reduced this design to its component parts even further. Unlike the two-piece handle of the original, the handle of the *Nitrox* is milled from a single piece. This eliminates the need for any assembly screws, save the blade's pivot. Speaking of the blade, Brad had also simplified that. Their profiles are very close, with a subtle swell to the trailing point of the *Nitrox*. But it is



No assembly screws to keep the Nitrox together. Not when the handle is milled from a single piece of aluminum. The only screw is the blade's pivot. The backstop for the blade is a small steel pin, cleverly installed perpendicular to the blade. Finely threaded at one end and slotted at the other (The dark pin next to the release button, visible in the "parts" photo, lower-left)



Keepin' it real simple—Brad's Nitrox 98--If you count the two checkered rubber inserts for the handle, you're talkin' ten parts! Pictured here to the left.

the "meat" of the blade that is important. The UDT is a superbly executed hollow-grind, while Brad chose the path of least resistance and outfitted the *Nitrox* with a flat-ground blade.

The *Nitrox* has yet to prove itself as the UDT certainly has. And while I don't have any numbers, I would guess that instead of a head-to-head competitor, the *Nitrox* will be an inexpensive alternative. Good luck Brad!

SPRING STEEL - The Writes Of by Professor Dan Fuller

Professor Fuller enlightens and inspires legions of university students with the infinite rules, regulations, uses, mis-uses, ups, downs, ins, outs, why and wherefore of the English language. (And your Editor to boot!) Professor Fuller has generously shared the fruits of his enthusiastic research with the readers of **THE NEWSLETTER**--From his search for the origins of the word "switchblade" to his monumental quest for examples of the visual portrayal of spring steel in the film entertainment industry. Professor Fuller's review of "The Switchblade Sisters" in a past issue of **THE NEWSLETTER** was a veritable tour dé force of keen observation, destined to keep Joe Bob Briggs slappin' his knee 'til the cows come home! (And also have many of you rushing out for copies of the flick!) I feel honored to have Professor Fuller on board **THE NEWSLETTER** as a regular contributing columnist.-EDITOR

Well, faithful readers, I believe that in a way I've finally arrived. I had to be out of town during an auction that included an item I "absolutely had to have." I have not had great luck with giving my top bid to the auctioneer in advance; somehow or another the winning bid always turns out to be my absolute top bid--although I don't mean to disparage auctioneers, most of whom are absolutely trustworthy. Instead, I sent my wife, who is not much of an auction-goer, and who has her doubts about my many collections. Anyway, she performed admirably and got the item I was after for a good bit less than I was willing to pay. When I got home, she commented that almost everybody at the auction seemed to know me (which shouldn't have been a surprise) and generally described me as "eccentric." So I was ecstatic. One of my life's goals has always been to be thought a bit eccentric. Weird, no. Bizarre, huh-uh. But eccentric; that has a certain *je ne sais quoi*. I feel that in a way I have arrived.

Anyway, a few years ago, when I first started surfing the World Wide Web, I typed in "switchblade" and got about two hits, both, as I remember, connected to Switchblade Sisters in some way. Of course, I go back to the dark ages when it was the Internet, not the WWW. I used to go around the globe by GOPHER and would usually end up frozen in some strange address book in Sweden (really). The net was entirely text back then. Black and white and there weren't any pictures, but it was still quite exciting. Of course, CompuServe and Prodigy and AOL had color and organization and chat rooms and such, but that wasn't for me because I had already spent a couple of years on Q-LINK, the Commodore 64 service, and had had about all of the on-line fun a reasonably normal

person could stand (now if you wanna talk "eccentric....") Anyway, I probably sound like a cyberhead, but I'm not. We do have three computers, but that doesn't mean I know anything about them. Actually, the campus where I teach has been on the cutting edge for years, and one of my former students is my personal computer "dude" (he hates it when I say "nerd"), so I don't have to learn much on my own. Anyway, after Sheldon published Mike Larson's list of websites in the previous issue, I thought I'd go out and see what I could find.

Before I get into the knife sites on the Web, however, I have to note that a word search will also bring up several sites for a music group called Switchblade Symphony, described as "most talked about gothic/darkwave (whatever that means) band of the '90s." There is also an LP vinyl called Strawberry Switchblade in the DJ Rhythms Music Catalog, our favorite flick Switchblade Sisters maintains a web presence in several places, so does a comic book named SwitchBlade, and so does a bizarre London "club" called Night of the Switchblade Sisters--apparently a rather kinky leather bar. I mention these things because it illustrates my oft-repeated assertion that the very word "switchblade" has a sinister tone to it, a kind of on-the-edge cultural cachet that lends its cultural power to activities far removed from the world of automatic knives. To put it another way, there are no non-knife sites, music, movies, clubs, or anything else named for the euphemistic--and safe--"automatic knife."

Anyway, I was fairly amazed that after many hours of surfing, Mike's (if I may be so familiar) list and mine had only one

overlapping site when I was finished, so I think it's about time we went high-tech. I mean, now that THE NEWSLETTER is on-line, we'd better get with it. So I decided to perform one of the essential services that somebody or the other performs on the web and rate the various sites along with a brief description of what the site offers. The list is too long for Sheldon to print in a single issue, and it'll have to be updated by the next one anyway, so I'll stick to the first dozen or so.



My all-around choice for best website was my third stop. It is not because of its graphics but because RecDot Knives (www.recdotknives.com) is a webzine that does most of what a cyber magazine should. It contains headline news, knife reviews, "4Sale" with quite a few entries for the five days posted--Chat, Wanted --with 92 listings--and, most important of all, Links. Now before you start thinking that this or any other site is a substitute for THE NEWSLETTER, let's recognize that most on-line sites are there to sell a product--which is fine--and that there are no real controls on "chat," one doesn't have to know that he is talking about to publish on the Web. (One of my least inspired students is a regular presence on the Web as a sci-fi writer.)



Although I took a look at the other departments, it was the links provided by RecDot that I was most interested in (addresses are included), so I'll take them in the order I punched them up. Switchblade Makers (skm.to/bin/skm.cgi/index/default) is a fairly elaborate site, with listings for Italians, front openers, lever locks, new-age autos, kits, and several non-auto knives. There are also three chat rooms and a book link to Amazon books, the Borders of the Internet. While there are some fine knife books listed, unfortunately, the only auto book is that waste of ink and paper by Ragnar Benson. The chat rooms are "forums," one of which had had hundreds of messages posted in just 17 days. I punched up a few and can only observe that as with almost every other forum I have investigated, they seem to be a place for people with axes to grind and too much time on their hands. The good stuff is hidden in a mass of name-calling, invective, chummy messages and other sophomoric junk (there are exceptions, of course, but I intend to keep them secret so the computer potatoes don't take them over).

(CONTINUED NEXT PAGE)

(CONTINUED)

Second of the RecDoc links was my second favorite commercial site: Central Florida Knife and Tool (www.mindspring.com/~knifeandtool/). These guys take us on a tour of MicroTech illustrated with brilliant color photos of the shop and the making of a Halo from start to finish. Mad Dog Knives and Kevin McClung also make an appearance. (www.binary.net/brokenarrow/snindex.htm), whose homepage shows one of the more attractive pairs of blue jeans you'll encounter. Broken Arrow seems to know its stuff and offers Benchmade, Boker, and Microtech--and they got a very nice recommendation from a correspondent to RecDot. Chai Cutlery (www.earthlink.net/jkmtsm) talks about and displays but does not sell autos. The owner, James Mattis, provides some interesting chat beyond his knives (chai is Hebrew for life/luck). Northwest Cutlery (www.nwcutlery.com) also provides some excellent pictures of its product lines, including the MicroTech/Whitewolf Masters of Defense series. Northwest also goes into useful detail about various state and federal laws, especially as regards ordering. It is worth noting that many of these sites state that they sell only to legal buyers (i.e. law enforcement, military, and ??). The other RecDot sites either do not sell switches or are currently incomplete. Finally, I must mention another ubiquitous site, the Knife Shop of Austria (www.knifeshop.com/auto/indexe.htm). Prices are in Austrian shillings, but they have a lot of Hubertus to look at as well as a bunch of other stuff.



Anyway, this is the result of quite a few hours staring at the electronic fishbowl. Are there mistakes here? Undoubtedly, but I'll try to clear 'em up next time. Are there other wonderful sites? You bet, and I'll talk about them next time too. Until then, keep your powder dry and your thumb on the button.

Any interaction with the web sites Prof. Fuller has listed in this column are the responsibility of the reader. THE NEWSLETTER has no affiliation whatsoever with any of the businesses or sites referred to by Prof. Fuller. Use them at your own risk. Be aware. Be responsible. Be guided by common sense and a reasonable guiding principal to keep in mind is, if something seems too good to be true, it probably is. -EDITOR

My position as editor of THE NEWSLETTER presents me with the wonderful opportunity to see/handle/scrutinize/admire and play with a wide variety of spring steel. Like most of you, I have always been intrigued by the creativity and inventiveness of the mechanisms that are the heart and soul of a switchblade. As the years go by, I've come to the realization that the variety of operating systems are as endless as the cutlers fabricating them. Every so often a switch comes my way with yet another mechanism I've not seen before.



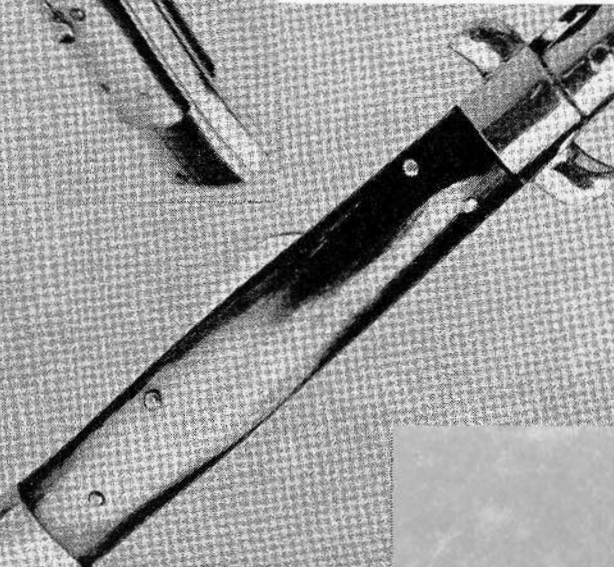
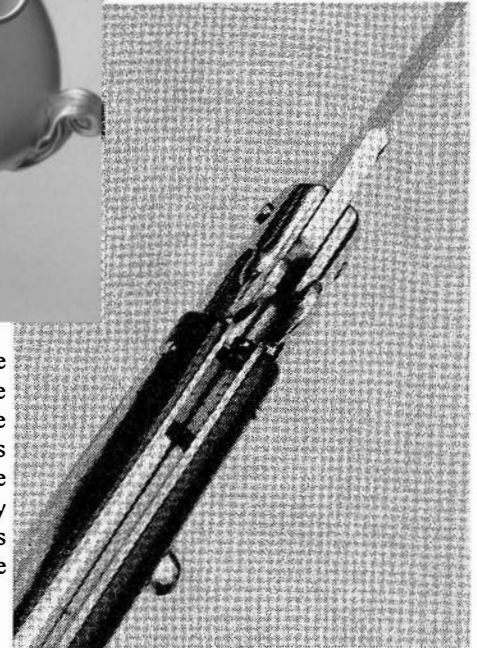
This is one of them, a very well-constructed springer of German origins from the mid to late 1950s. The 3-1/4inch flat-ground spear-point blade is tang stamped "Solingen, Cutlery, Germany" on the front and "D.B.G.M." on the reverse. The blade appears to be carbon steel, not stainless. The bolsters are a chrome or nickel plated brass. The reverse bolster is also stamped "Springer". The 4-1/4inch handle is framed with a wrap-around steel liner. The scales are a superbly jugged reddish-brown bone. In the absence of a backspring, there's a nylon spacer at the rear. Providing structure, it also protects the front edge of the blade in the closed position. There is also a bail at the rear. Now on to the operating system/mechanism. A pegged steel button is pulled to the rear to release the blade. The same action of the button allows the blade to close. What appears to be a simple sliding "block", lining up with a notch or cut-out in the blade, is far more sophisticated than that. Activating the button moves the entire mechanism, including the kickspring. A very powerful compression spring under the "spine" of the wrap-around liner provides the tension. A cleverly shaped shim, seats between the back of the liner and the tang of the blade in both opened and closed positions. It's always a treat to make a rare find like this--In pristine condition Several decades gone by with nothing more than the factory edge.

From the

Cover



This 23cm gem is in original, pristine condition. While a lockback from the picklock era, the early to mid-1950s, the Italian switchblade you see pictured here is without-a-doubt the coolest of Italians! The fit and finish of this knife is extraordinarily fine--As well as the materials used in its construction--Nickel bolsters. Heavy gauge brass liners.



The scales are that variety of cow horn that every picklock fan seeks out. Especially the back scale with that creamy-white to black with the dark orange highlights at the margins. A patina that only a half-century can produce, yet not one iota of flaking or splitting. Perfect. Okay, okay. I'm saving the best for last. But how about this blade. A dazzling symmetrical rare-as-all-get-out dagger-grind! With a crisp center grind line front and back. The tang is stamped "York Cutlery Co., Italy". The reverse, "Patent, 77431".

The 23cm (closed) is pictured here below with a 16cm coil-fired Italian with a flat-ground blade. The tang stamped "Patent" on the reverse.

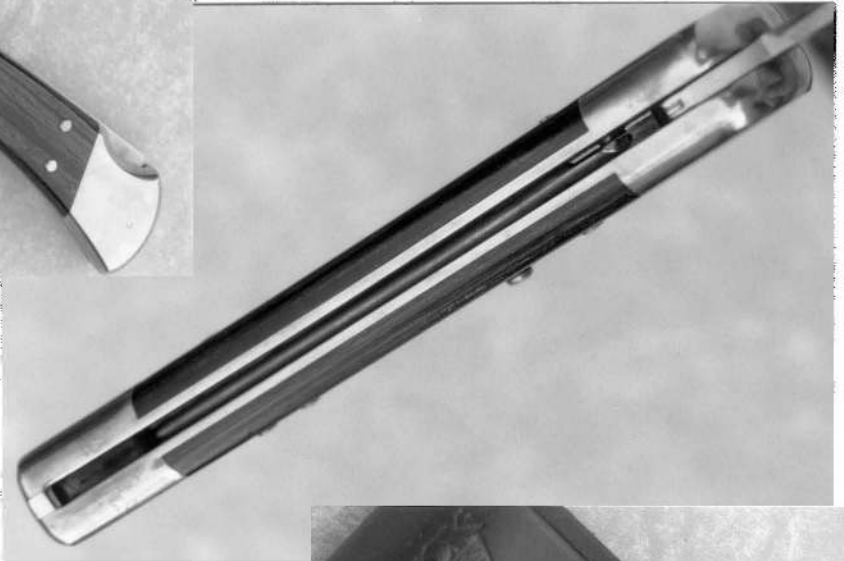
And as if everything you see of this utterly knock-out specimen of spring steel isn't as cool as can be, if you look at that photo at the upper right of this page giving you a look at the inside of the knife around the blade pivot, you'll notice something missing. Heck, about the most critical aspect of a switchblade--the kickspring! That's because you're looking at a 23cm knife of traditional Italian design (save for a couple subtly cool variables), manufactured about a half-century ago with a COIL KICKSPRING! The kickspring is between 1/4 and 3/8ths of an inch in diameter with 3-4 windings. The tang of the blade is milled out about half its thickness at the pivot, which along with the top of the back bolster, contains the kickspring. There have been a few other coil-fired Italians pictured in THE NEWSLETTER over the years, but none as fine as this.



The Cumberland
Mountain Knife and Tool
Buck "Quickblade"
aka: A converted Buck 110



I can remember about thirty years ago when this folder, the Buck 110, in their trademark factory sheath, started showing up on belts across America. The fact that for a conventional folder it is an incredibly cool looking knife. Add to that gorgeous natural wood scales, solid brass bolsters front and rear, and a wickedly clipped blade with a hollow grind on a high-carbon steel blade, that combined to make the Buck 110 the most popular, most knocked off design of the last quarter-century.



Among the myriad genres of spring steel are conversions--Folders that were originally manufactured as manually opening. The Gutmann "Explorer" and the Boker "Top Lock" are well-known examples from the last few years. And now a process calling themselves "Cumberland Mountain Knife" are converting the rock-solid Buck 110 into a really slick switchblade. An acronym of this venture is deeply etched into the reverse of the blade's tang, "CMK".

This is a well-done conversion with a distinctive advantage for southpaws. For whatever their reasoning, the conversions are done as left-handers. The release buttons are an alloy of brass which harmonizes with the front bolsters it is seated up against. The pivot of the release button is positioned in such a manner that it allows for comfortable release as a left-hander, as well as a right-hander using the index finger, similar to the Chameleon.

The kickspring is removable, produced from 304 tempered stainless steel. The release button is 360 brass alloy tubing with nickel chrome coating on some models to match. The locking pin is A-2 toolsteel hardened to 56 Rockwell (matching blade to reduce wear). Future plans from Cumberland include converting Buck 112 models, offering a variety of scale materials like Micarta and stag, as well as other blade grinds. Converting folders from other manufacturers is also in the offing.



These conversions are being marketed in Buck factory boxes along with their original Buck leather sheaths. Check the larger dealers for availability, Phil's Fine Cutlery in Las Vegas would be a good place to start.

NOW AVAILABLE!

Will Hanna's

Portfolio of Patents

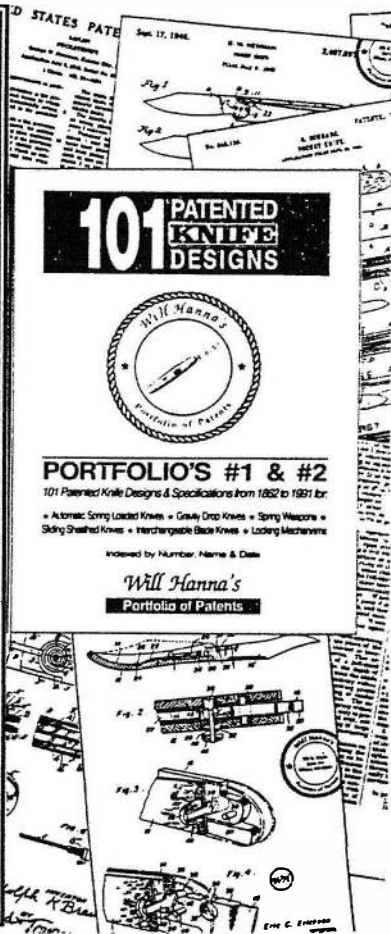
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**Sorry:
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An Introduction to Switchblade Knives

This will come as no surprise to the folks whose checks I've returned over the last few weeks. I have told those folks that they have been placed on a list in the order their checks were received. No, I've got to use an "iP" here--IF by some fluke, some twist of fate, happenstance, copies of the Myers book are discovered and procured, these readers on the list will be notified and I will let everyone else know on these pages.

If you wish to be placed on this list, SEND NO CHECKS, just your name and address and you will be placed on the list in the order they are received.

I have been checking with my previous sources, but unfortunately, to no avail. Anyway Folks, good luck! I hope I can turn them up for you. If anyone has a source for them and would like to share it with your fellow readers, let me know please.-EDITOR

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Details.....

In the world of knife collecting, for some reason most Italian automatics are measured overall, in the opened position, while German manufacturers designate the measurement of the length of the blade only. Collectors of older, (antique) American autos, commonly measure the overall size while the knife is in the closed position.

Centimeters = Inches

- 20cm.....7-7/8 in.
- 23cm.....9 in.
- 28cm.....11 in.
- 33cm.....13 in.
- 38cm.....15 in.
- 45cm.....17-3/4 in.

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LOOK!

Now Dear Readers, take a deep breath, calm down and recall the old adage, "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is". Well, there ya go! Sure, we'd all like to pick up a few vintage 28cm picklocks for \$7.50, but unless you have a time machine handy, this c.1950s ad is presented here for your enjoyment. An anonymous contribution from one of your fellow readers. Whomever sent this in, thanks!-EDITOR

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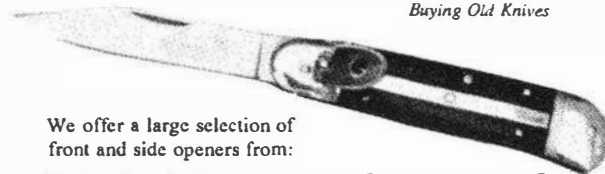


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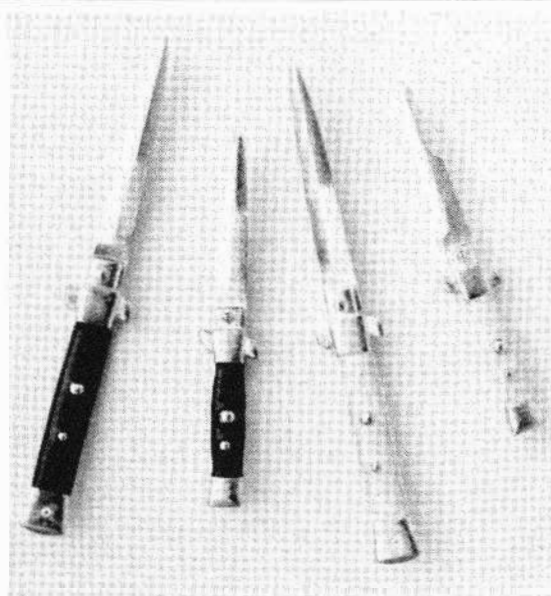
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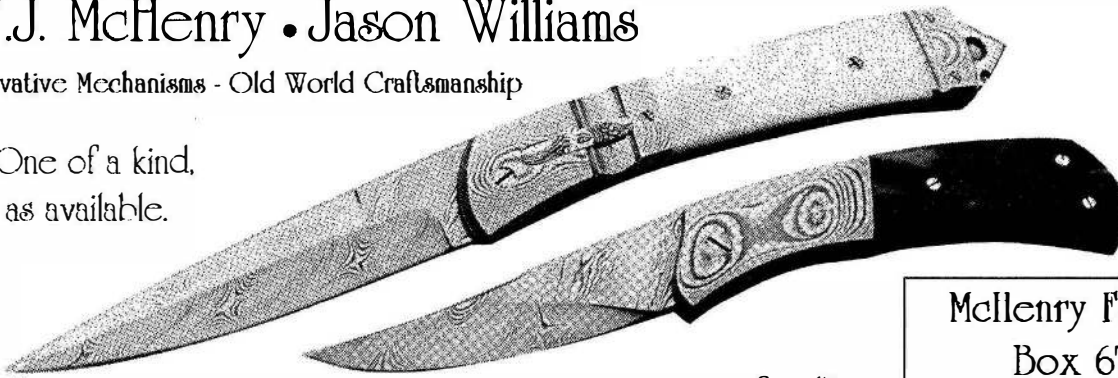
THE NEWSLETTER can be found on the World Wide Web at: "thenewsletter.com". Any of you searching the 'net for switchblade oriented sites know that thousands of "hits" can be generated from the various search engines, (Yahoo, AltaVista, Excite, etc.) Well, thanks to the surfin' of fellow reader, Mike Larsen, a number of switchblade knife sites have been collected. However, I want to make this very clear, THE NEWSLETTER has absolutely NO connection with any of these sites. Nor does THE NEWSLETTER endorse any of these sites in any way, shape or form. They are presented here for your enjoyment only:

- <http://www.the21stcentury.com/knives/contents.htm>
- <http://www.public.iastat.edu/~stiletto/bl.html>
- <http://www.accessnv.com/pfc>
- <http://www.conaz.com/english/index.htm>
- <http://www.infinet.com!/browser/bldesmth.html>
- <http://www.kinge.com/>
- <http://www.interhop.net/%7Ebleblanc/links.html>
- <http://www.atw.fullfeed.com/~seoman/txt/sources.html>
- <http://www.donb.com/ncca/dealers!.html>
- <http://www.randalknives.com/>
- http://www.public.iatat.edu/~stiletto/blade_links.html
- <http://www.shooters.com/harris/tnives.htm>
- <http://www.knifecenter.com/knifecenter/index.html>
- <http://www.whitewolfknives.com/index.html>
- <http://www.chattanooga.net/~burtonld/knife.html>

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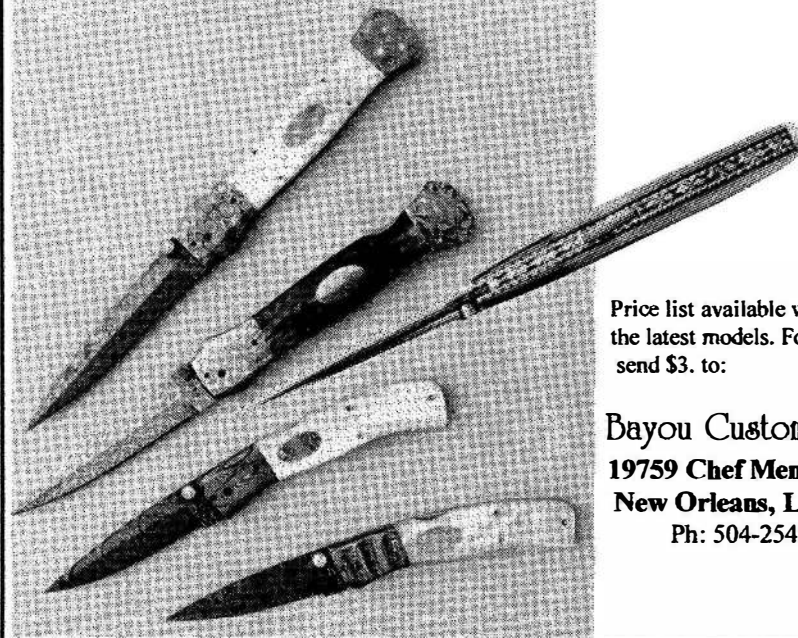
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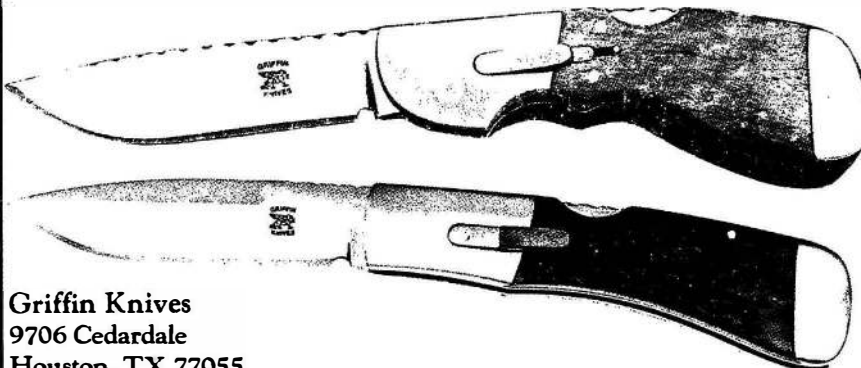


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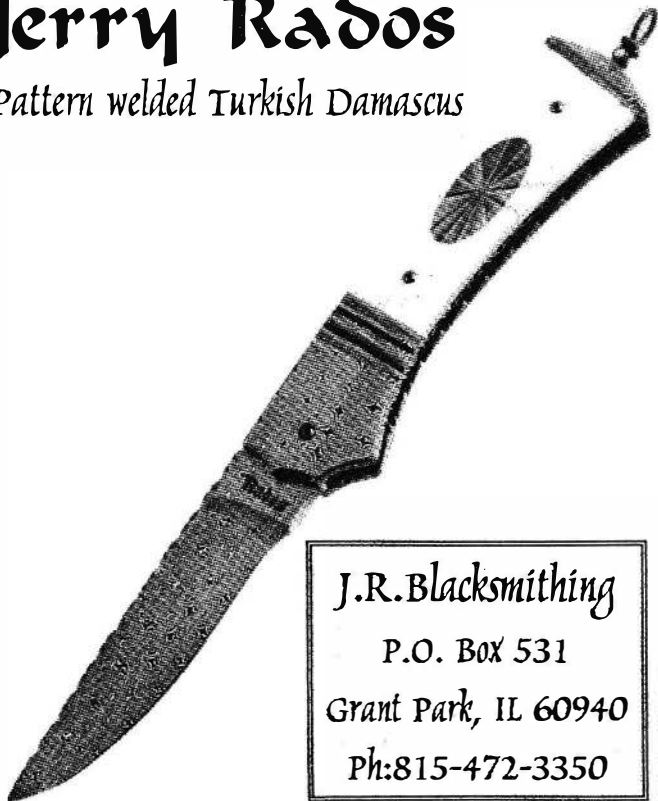
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FOR SALE: MicroTech/Vallotton dbl. action original Chameleon #36/50, NIB-\$525. Mike "Whiskers" Allen front bolster release, stag scales, 6-1/2" o/a, Mint-\$475. Brend auto, 3" bead blasted recurved blade, black T6 6061 aluminum handle-\$325. Box #208

FOR SALE: Och's '98 "white" seal auto, serialized one of fifty w/makers signature on pocket clip-\$250. Och's "black" '98 -\$155. MicroTech HALO w/sheath, -\$280. MicroTech USSOCOM-\$280. Benchmade Mel Pardue -\$130. Box #209

FOR SALE: Rainy Vallotton "Sakkiyn" dbl. action w/ivory Micarta, mirror finish, limited series 1of25-\$750. A.A. Sanders, split bolster inter-frame w/mother of pearl inlays, engraved-\$650. C. Dake, "AF-10", coil-fired, Damascus blade & bolsters, fossil ivory, satin finish-\$750. B. King, ivory scales, satin finish, mokume bolsters, #12/27-\$700. Box #210

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FOR SALE: Camillus MC-1 orange handle paratrooper in original wrapper, New-\$85. Al Mar GPA, rare serialized model, New-\$300. Benchmade "Coast Guard" issue AFO black-T finish, partially serrated, with documentation. New- \$150. Box #214

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FOR SALE: Humongous Italian! Extremely RARE 1950's Italian with folding guard. 37-3/4 inches! Engraved blade, ornate filework. (Featured Vol.6 No.3 THE NEWSLETTER). Superb working original condition-\$10,000. -Box #202

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FOR SALE: Important resource-"Firearms Curiosa" by Winant. A MUST-HAVE book for fans of knife-pistols. The definitive book on rare and exotic combination weapons. Long out of print. Two copies available. One from the first, limited -edition printing of 1,000-\$110. and one 1955 Bonanza printing-\$100. Both perfect w/dust jackets. Box #203

FOR SALE: Hubertus "Pen blade release"-#150. R.B. Johnson custom w/Damascus blade, bolster and lever. Mastadon ivory scrimshawed scales-\$800. Original Al Mar GPA-\$225. Boker Top Lock conversion-\$95. Boker Speed Lock II- \$135.Box #204

FOR SALE: Italian front-opener, double edged, Nato mechanism-\$75. Sheath for first HALO-\$20. HALO knock-off by Dalton w/clip point and combination edge-\$180. Box #205

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FOR SALE: Eickhorn German Paratrooper gravity front-opener-\$50. MicroTech HALO w/Kydex sheath, blade etch dated 12/95, Mint-\$275. Baby seal, no markings, ballistic cloth sheath, Mint-\$75. Explorer "Lockblock" suitable for conversion, blade scratched-\$40. Tenmil aluminum "Baby" w/ gravity scribe. Blade heavily used and worn-\$75. Box #206

FOR SALE: Boker #707 Top Lock conversion-\$85.ppd. Vintage 11 inch, lever-action springer, clip point, white plastic scales, bail for lanyard-\$100.ppd. Box #207

The Automatic Knife Resource Guide and Newsletter

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