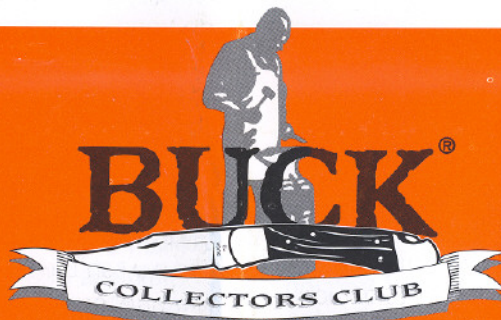


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VOL. XV

JUNE 2003

NO. 6

BUSY SCHEDULE

Chuck's Corner



Charles T. Buck
Chairman
Buck Knives, Inc.

My schedule for promoting our products at retailers along with speaking at wild game banquets has gotten kind of crazy this year. I have had a hard time saying no since promoting the sale of our products in the marketplace is so important.

On the other hand, the move to Idaho is looking larger than life and there is so much to do. Besides the construction of our new facility in Post Falls going

on, we have selected a group of our employees who will move with us to train new help and to grow with us. We are in the middle of sending employees and their families up to Idaho for a few days to look at the schools, churches, homes and all the various elements considered in making the move. We have also put our building on the market and are spending time with real estate people. Lori and I are putting our house on the market also, and I'm not looking forward to cleaning out the carriage house (barn). So you see I am in a constant state of flux, trying to fulfill my schedule, as well as leaving time to move.

We are looking forward to your visit to our part of the world in mid-July. This will be the last chance to see us here in San Diego. This era began when Hoyt and Daisy Buck came in 1945; through my father, Al Buck, struggling to keep our little company alive through the fifties, then the incorporation of Buck in 1961, and finally the moves of our factory through five different locations.

"Life doesn't get any better than this."
Hope you all had a blessed Easter. God bless.

Chuck Buck

Club News

by John Foresman

The 12th annual Shenandoah Valley Knife Collectors Knife Show held the first weekend in April was a total success for the BCCI. We had eight tables of Buck Knife displays along with a table for the club that held fundraiser items, newsletters and some AKTI literature. I displayed my collection along with fellow members, Joey Foltz, Jim and Becky Seagle, and Ken and Vickie Burns. Thanks to each of these members for taking the time to share their collections with everyone. I had the pleasure of hearing many show attendees exclaim that they didn't realize that Buck Knives made so many different types of knives. One of the highlights of the show for me was having my father with me. It was his very first knife show. I think he has a new appreciation for us Buck Knife collectors now. I received an email from him about one week after the show stating that he wanted to join the BCCI. The Buck bug has bit again! Welcome to the club Dad!

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a form for ordering member ID badges. Board member Frank Meek undertook this project about a year and a half ago for club members. Anyone who attends knife shows will want to order one of these badges. They have the club logo on the badge and use magnets along with a smooth metal strip to hold the badge to your shirt. I highly recommend them.

We have decided to extend the deadline for the fundraising 532, due to the fact that we did not have a photo available for the last newsletter. You will find an order form along with a picture of this knife elsewhere in this issue. There are still a very limited number of 15th Anniversary 119 Specials available as well. Contact Larry Oden if you would like one.

Progress with the website is moving along very well. As I write this column, we are currently testing the site. We should be up and running soon. However, it will take us quite some time to completely populate the site. The website address is Buckcollectorsclub.org. Check it out sometime in June.

This will be a busy summer for many Buck Collectors Club members. The Blade Show will be held in June. It's worth attending just to see the awesome Buck Knife displays. Plus, the annual membership meeting will be held on Saturday afternoon, June 14. Then, about a month later, we'll be celebrating our club's 15 year anniversary at the Buck plant in El Cajon. Remember, with Buck Knives moving

(Continued on page 3)



Joe Houser
Club Administrator

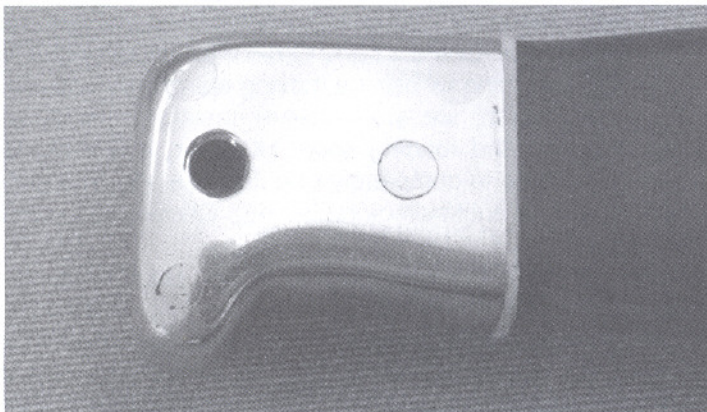
Buck Nemo Fans

Will want to take a look at this knife! Ask any expert on the Buck Nemo/Frontiersman which version came first and most will tell you it is the one stamped BUCK, U.S.A., with a black phenolic handle. There has always been a debate as to whether the first ones had bone hard fiber handle spacers or the hard to find white teflon.

A theory, circulated by this "expert" was that the hard fiber came first, then a quick test, maybe 300 or so knives, with the teflon, then back to hard fiber. If you take a close look at the knife below however, you will see that my theory is all wet! I recently discovered this knife, a customer who had purchased it back in 1967 brought it in to Buck, and it has a few attributes that demand attention. First of all is the stamping, BUCK *. I have never heard of that stamp being used on this model. The other interesting item is the fact that it has the white teflon handle spacers. In my opinion, this proves that teflon spacers knives are the first version. So how many were made like this one? I have heard unconfirmed rumors of one more like it. In my years as a collector, I have only heard of maybe a dozen 122/124's with white teflon spacers and only two with a one line stamp. What a find one like this would be! Happy hunting!

Chronological order of those known to exist:

1967 Unknown quantity made, probably less than 50
Black Phenolic wrap around handle, just over 3" long,
(phenolic piece only)
Stamped BUCK*
Plain edge
Stainless guard, varying thickness, and two piece stainless butt with 4 visible rivets
Lanyard hole in center of pommel
White teflon spacers.
Sheath type unknown, probably plastic or leather

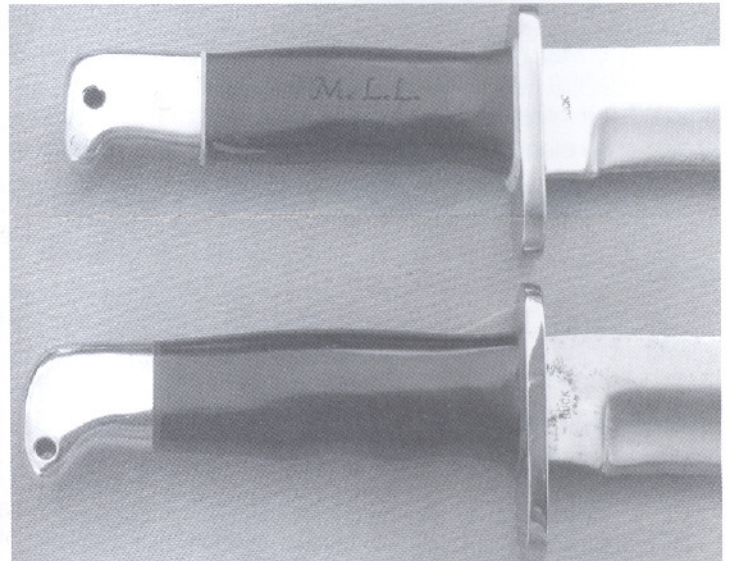


Pommel with 4 rivets

1967 Only 300 to 500 made
Black Phenolic wrap around handle, just under 3" long,
(phenolic piece only)
Stamped: BUCK U.S.A.
Plain edge
Stainless guard, varying thickness, and one piece stainless butt with one visible rivet
Lanyard hole on end of bird's beak pommel
White teflon spacers.
Plastic or leather sheath.

1967
Black Phenolic wrap around handle
Stamped:BUCK, U.S.A.
Plain edge
Stainless guard, varying thickness, and one piece stainless butt with one visible rivet
Lanyard hole on end of bird's beak pommel
Red "bone hard fiber" spacers
Plastic or leather sheath.

1969 to 1970
Black Phenolic wrap around handle
Stamped:BUCK, U.S.A.
Plain edge
Stainless guard, varying thickness, and one piece stainless butt with one visible rivet
Lanyard hole on end of bird's beak pommel
Red micarta spacers
Plastic or leather sheath



Top knife made in 1967, less than 50 made.
Bottom knife also made in 1967, 300-500 made.

An Overview of Quality

By Jeff Hubbard, Quality Supervisor

Quality, we all know what it is when we see it. The most difficult aspect of Quality is to define it in a meaningful way. Of the top 10 Quality 'Gurus', not one can agree on a good working definition. All of them define it in different ways. Basically it boils down to two aspects. 1. Conformance to Specifications. 2. Fitness for Use.

The Conformance for Specification aspect is easily measurable. It is based on solid blueprint and other design criteria. It is black and white so to speak. Quality professionals always try to get any parameter defined in black and white. Unfortunately the real world users operate in the Fitness for Use aspect. End users could care less if it is made exactly to a blueprint. What end-users care about is 'Does it function properly?' 'Is it aesthetically up to the end-user standards?' A unit can be totally conformant to Design specifications, but not fit for use.

So here is where it gets tricky for companies to define their products in a concrete manner. Why? It's because Fitness for Use is based on the individual consumer's needs and perceptions. Quality is truly in the eye of the beholder.

Let's look at this in relation to the knife world. A knife in its most simplistic definition is a tool for cutting, nothing more. So all a knife has to do is cut. It doesn't have to do much else. Doesn't even have to look pretty, or does it?

Looking at the parameters in fitness for use terms, the following questions emerge. How much lateral blade play is acceptable? Does that small scratch on the blade or bolster make the knife undesirable? How much sharpness is adequate? Does it matter if the edge is uneven from one side of the blade the other? What I think about these items is distinctly different from what other consumers think. The answer to all the above is theoretically irrelevant. The knife still cuts. In the real world though, these are the only questions that matter as long as a knife conforms to specifications.

Each of us brings our own perceptions, likes/dislikes, and experiences that filter our view of a knife through these lenses. So how does a company define these intangibles? It's done by feedback. The only way to address these issues is by listening to what customers are telling you. It is imperative that the corporation listens to what customers are telling them or more importantly NOT telling them. Unhappy customers tend to take their purchasing power elsewhere, and most times you will not even realize you have lost them as a customer.

It is imperative for Quality professionals and their corporations to develop these avenues of feedback. This is done by talking with users through verbal, electronic or traditional methods. A corporation in this day and age of global competition cannot sit back and wait for feedback. Typically the only unsolicited feedback a company will get is very good reviews or very bad reviews. In other words, only the customers that are beyond happy or beyond dissatisfaction will give you the feedback. These groups are a very small part of the end-user population, and the needs of end-users in between these extremes are needed.

Quality professionals are charged with setting standards that meet as many end users' needs while keeping the cost of the product from getting out of hand with unrealistic expectations. So we need to define subjective criteria in concrete

terms. But how do you define something that is different for every end-user?

In my view price points are the key. Every knife needs to be the best we can make it, but competitive reality says that a knife that sells for \$20 at the Marts will have a different quality level than a Buck/Mayo Custom collaboration. The target audience is distinctly different. The Marts customers want a good knife at a bargain price. The Buck/Mayo collector is looking for a piece of art at a fair price. The little blade play or small scratch that is allowable on the Mart knife is never allowed on the Buck/Mayo knife.

The only constant parameter that is never compromised on at Buck Knives is the edge grind and sharpness of our units. Each and every knife coming out of our factory must have a great edge. All other parameters are a delicate balance of Fitness for Use and cost of production. Corporations that understand this and adjust to the customers' changing perceptions will succeed in the long run.

(Continued from page 1)

to Idaho, this will be the last celebration at the current plant. I sincerely hope that you will be able to join us at both events.

The club's books are currently being audited by Larry Oden and Ken Burns. They will have a report for those attending the annual meeting at the Blade Show. I'll also have an update for you in the September newsletter.

John Miner, Larry Oden, Jeff Hubbard, and Vern Taylor have all contributed articles for this newsletter issue. I thank them for taking the time to write and research their articles. Contributions like theirs help make our newsletters a success. If you have ever considered submitting an article, please do so. Or, if you have a topic that you would like to see covered in an upcoming newsletter, please let me know.

I regret to inform you that Club Founder, and my good friend, Vern Taylor's pancreatic cancer is inoperable. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers as they follow the path that Our Lord has chosen for them. Vern's faith through this whole ordeal has been very inspirational. God Bless you Vern.

Don't forget the membership drive is in full swing now. Many new members have signed up since the drive began. Please take an active role in recruiting new members. Access to our website should be a great recruiting tool. Growth in our ranks is vital for our club to continue to prosper. And remember, there are two award knives waiting for the top two sponsors! Any club member with a graphic art background who would be interested in volunteering to design some club recruiting posters and flyers, please contact me.

Please keep our troops in your thoughts and prayers. They still have a tough job ahead of them and will be in harm's way for quite some time.

Happy Collecting!

The Buck 700 Series

by Larry Oden

The 700 series of Buck pocketknives consists of perhaps the most distinctive looking factory produced slipjoints of their era. With their heavier bolsters and beefier backsprings, these knives were designed by Buck to be upgraded replacements for the contract-made 300 series. As it turned out, Buck dealers welcomed the new models but made it known to Buck that they also wanted the less expensive contract pocketknives to be retained in the Buck line-up. As would be expected, Buck acquiesced to their dealers' wishes. Instead of replacing the popular 300 series knives, the 700 series became an upgraded option in the Buck stable.

Stable is an appropriate term as the knives' names suggest. But did you know that the planned original names of two of the models characterized a "south of the border" flavor? Originally, Buck planned to name the model 705 the 'Amigo' while the model 709 was to be known as the 'Compadre'. For reasons unknown to this writer, Buck decided to go with an equine/cowboy theme in naming these knives.

I have a copy of a "Buck 1979" letter to Buck dealers which announces the upcoming 700 series.

Among the attributes touted are:

- "new high-carbon, high chrome steel from Sweden" for the blades
- "same hardness of 58Rc"
- "hollow ground blades ground before heat-treat operation to insure no soft, burned edges"
- "heavier bolsters of stainless steel with stainless steel pins for added strength"
- "handle inserts of laminated wood/epoxy for long-lasting wood-grain beauty and durability"
- "will include about 12 models, to be introduced at the rate of 3 models a year ...the first one (Model #703, the Colt) scheduled to break about July of this year"

Needless to say, the twelve models turned out to be only five and I am unsure whether the steel came from Sweden. Bolsters were originally made of stainless steel as were the liners. At some point, the bolsters were switched to nickel-silver, but I am unable to ascertain when this occurred or how to tell the difference. For sure, the knives were heavier and stronger than their 300 series counterparts but Buck experienced a nightmare with the earliest 703 models. Chuck Buck related the story to me at the Blade Show a few years ago. My display included the 1980 catalog with its reference to an "all new, coming soon" 703 Colt. I can still see Chuck slowly shaking his head and recounting how the 17-7 steel used for the backsprings was somehow tempered incorrectly. Alarming reports were received that the springs were breaking while the knives were closed - while not even being used! Chuck grimaced as he related some of the stories: Knives falling apart in pockets, in boxes and on store shelves. It was a rather expensive problem and really dampened the early enthusiasm which accompanied the release of the first model in a new series advertised to be heftier, stronger and engineered by Buck craftsmen! Fortunately, Buck's reputation and warranty proved to be reliable and the issue was corrected.

Joe Houser has researched Buck archives and provides much of the following information:

Model 703 Colt - Three bladed stockman pattern (3 1/4"

closed) - The first prototype was made in 1978. In June 1979, parts were going through the plant. By December 1979, a small quantity of finished knives was in shipping. It first appeared in 1980 catalog as a "coming soon" knife. Retail price - \$22.00

Model 701 Mustang, renamed Bronco in 1983 catalog - Larger three bladed stockman pattern (3 7/8" closed) - First prototypes made in March 1980. Production commenced about November 1980. In March 1981, finished knives were in shipping. It first appeared in the 1981 catalog. Retail price - \$28.00

Model 705 Amigo / Pony - Small two bladed executive knife (2 5/8" closed) - First proto-type was made in 1979. In October 1980, parts started through the plant. In May 1981, finished knives were in shipping. It first appeared in the 1982 catalog. Earliest boxes had Amigo name on them. Retail price - \$19.50

Model 709 Compadre / Yearling - Medium two-bladed executive knife (3" closed) First prototype was made in 1980. In September 1981, finished knives were in shipping. It first appeared in the 1982 catalog. I have not seen boxes or advertising material using the Compadre name, but they could exist. Retail price - \$22.00

Model 704 Maverick - Single-bladed jackknife (3 1/4" closed) - First mentioned in a 1982 order form but not featured in 1982 catalog. This is the only knife in series with a non-equine name. A maverick, in cattle raising regions, is an animal found without an owner's brand or is a calf separated from its mother. Retail price - \$21.00

The earliest 700 series models featured three line tang stamps of BUCK (script)/ model # /U.S.A. Also, the handle escutcheon (shield) was imprinted with the name BUCK in old English script. Both the tang stamp and the shield maintained the script style until about 1984 or 1985 when Buck began to use block letters. It is at this point that documenting tang stamp and shield fonts begins to become difficult. Various combinations which do not follow a logical path in chronological terms may be found on the knives manufactured immediately preceding Buck's switch to tang stamps with year marks in 1986. These combinations which seem to be impossible to catalog in a coherent manner are as follows:

- models with script tang stamps and block shields
- models with block tang stamps and script shields
- models with block tang stamps and block shields
- models in each of the above categories with a dot placed after the model number on the tang stamp.

There just does not seem to be a straight-forward pattern for these variations. Those of us who have studied and discussed these variations are unable to make sense of them. We have a few theories which seem somewhat logical, but they are just suppositions. For example, it seems possible that misplaced inventories of script shields turned up and were used by Buck after the switch to block letter shields. Similarly, it is possible that Buck's supplier of shields mistakenly reverted to the original script shields and Buck went ahead and used them in order not to impede production. If either of these guesses is correct, how can the existence of block letter shields on knives with script blades be explained? Could misplaced script stamped blades have been discovered and used? Factor in the blades with dots after the model number and then try to come up with a logical explanation! Previous conjectures about the dots on other models of the mid - 1980s era have pointed to them possibly serving as markers for fineblanked blades or the switch to

425 modified steel. I do not know of anyone who knows how to definitively explain these incongruities. I can say that these knives are not found in great numbers. However, enough of them exist to cause me to believe that they are not factory repaired knives. You may want to accept the challenge of locating some of these "oddities".

I also should mention that the perimeters of these knives (liners, backsprings, and bottom of bolsters) were polished until the introduction of year marks in 1986. Sometime around that time, Buck began to place a sanded finish on the knives' perimeters. Another manufacturing change was incorporated in 1986. On the three-bladed model 703 and later, on the model 701, each blade was given its own backspring instead of the secondary blades sharing a backspring. To accommodate a better fit where the closed blades nested in the well of the knife, Buck also swapped ends for the secondary blades. The sheepsfoot blade was placed where the spey blade had formerly resided and vice versa. The two-bladed knives were also changed to have a backspring for each blade at about this same time.

In early 1980, Buck began to offer an Aurum etched model 703 Colt. I have a Special Order-Gram form which even paired the knife with the over-produced 1776 Bicentennial Commemorative Bowie and offered matching serial numbers. I am not sure just how this came about, but three subsequent models in the 700 series (701, 705 and 709) were also etched by Aurum and offered in serialized form. These etched knives featured appropriate pictures of horses or a pony to match each knife's name. There are collectors who have the four 700 series knives plus the 1776 Bicentennial model, all with matching serial numbers. As an aside, because Buck produced more of the Bicentennial knives than the market could readily absorb and because the knives were issued too late to take full advantage of bicentennial fervor in 1976, it makes sense that creative means were adopted to try to move the large backlog of unsold knives.

In 1983, Buck packaged the 704 Maverick in a Whittler's Kit (model 143). Offering "everything you'll need to get started as a woodcarver", the 704, honing stone, honing oil, two wood blocks and a twelve-page instructional booklet were combined in a plastic box. This kit remained in the Buck catalog until 1986.

Buck also produced each of the knives in the 700 series with brass bolsters and liners in the late 1980s. They could have been a special project because they are not mentioned in any of the catalogs of the era. These knives in my collection have year marks from 1986 and 1987. The 703 has three backsprings with a 1986 symbol on the blade while the 701 was constructed with only two backsprings with the 1986 marked blade.

The 1987 through 1994 catalogs each featured one to three different 700 series models with stag inlays. I am unsure whether these models had polished perimeters or not. Because the Buck Custom shop was also turning out stag handled 700 series knives up through 1993, it is difficult to know which stag handled knives from this time frame were "factory production" and which were "Custom" knives. Knives from the Custom shop should have polished perimeters but there are probably exceptions. I will say that if a knife has a polished blade, it is most likely from the Custom shop. The Custom shop also turned out many other enhanced 700 series knives. Various woods, mastodon ivory and pearl inlays were offered. These may be found with or without handle rivets. Damascus blades as well

as other steels were offered so there is a very diverse mix of possibilities to be found in this series.

It should be noted that in about 1994, Buck switched to 420HC for its standard steel across the product line. The blades were not marked and short of metallurgical testing, there is no way to discern the switch. It was also in 1994 that Buck produced the 703, 705 and 709 models in jigged bone for Bass Pro Shops. The handles were pinned and these knives are now very difficult to find because production was limited to 200 of each model.

In 1999, Buck started to wind down the run by removing the 704 from the catalog. The 2000 catalog did feature the remaining four models in the series with shields removed. It is my guess that this was strictly a cost saving measure on a series which was declining in sales. In 2001, the 701 was taken out of the catalog and by 2002 the remaining models were all discontinued. It is my understanding that special orders were possible for at least the model 703 during 2002.

The 700 series now seems to be history. As someone who has really appreciated the more traditional knives in Buck's line-up, I always feel a twinge of regret when my old "friends" are discontinued. On the bright side, discontinued models can boost interest on the collector's side of the equation; you may find the 700 series to be the right direction for your collecting travels.

I welcome your input on some of the unresolved questions regarding the 700 series.

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Buck Titanium

By John Miner

I have attended various knife shows, including NKCA shows and the Blade Show for the past six years. It is surprising to me, that I have never seen a collection of the Buck Titanium knives displayed. I find this to be a very interesting and collectable series. Starting in 1987, this series of Buck knives ran through 2001.

In 1987, the first Titanium (Model 186) was introduced at a suggested retail price of \$107.80. It could be disassembled with an attached wrench and the knife had a removable belt clip. Problems surfaced right away because many owners were unable to reassemble the knife correctly after they had taken it apart. Often, their problem was made worse because they had misplaced one or more of the knife's components. Many of these knives were sent back to Buck and the company found itself rebuilding the knife. Buck even went so far as to make up a parts package, with extra screws, a bushing, and wrench. Unfortunately, this did not alleviate the problem and the knife was discontinued in 1988.

In the 1989 catalog a replacement model # 560 (XLTi) was introduced at a retail price of \$81.98. It was a similar knife with a riveted body. This knife was silver/gray in color. A very attractive sheath in gray with black trim completed the package. In 1990 Buck came out with an additional Titanium knife, the model #565 Tiny Titanium. This small knife was blue and silver color and weighs only 1/2 oz. It sold for \$25.98. In 1993 Buck made more changes to the Titanium family. First the model 560(XLTi) was slimmed down for a sleeker appearance. The knife also came with an attractive black sheath with red lettering. A second model, the 560bk (XLTi) was offered with a black nitrite coating. Buck also changed the tiny Titanium model 560 giving it a rainbow look. It stayed at the same price of \$25.98, and was now the model 565RB.

By 1998 the model # 565RB was discontinued and by 1999 only the Model # 560Bk (Black Nitrate) remained in the catalog. In 2001 Buck came back with a new model #560 (XLT-Ti Crystal). This knife had an anodized crystal finish, and sold for \$86.00.

In my opinion, these knives are a very collectable series, and would make a fine collection.

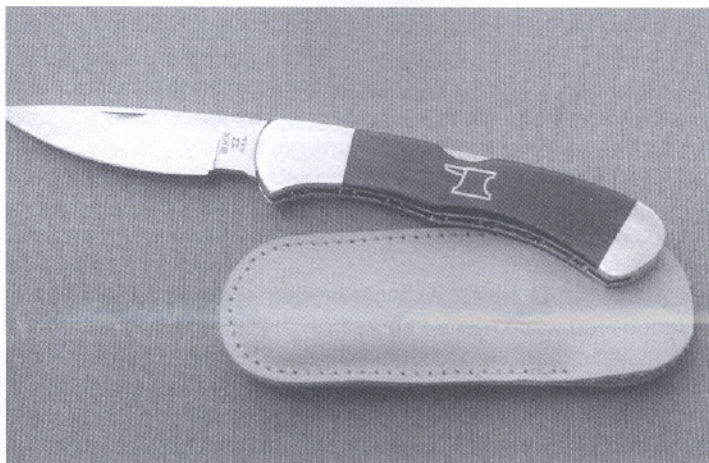
Summary of Titanium Series:

- #1 model # 186 (Silver/gray color) (Some with Damascus, Mirror polished, Bead blasted, Satin blades)
- #2 Model #560 (Silver/gray color) Type I
- #3 Model #560 (Silver/gray Color) Type II (thinner & rounded edges)
- #4 Model #560 (Black Color) Type II
- #5 Model #560 (Crystal Color) Type II
- #6 Model #565 (Silver & Blue Color) Type I
- #7 Model 565RB (Rainbow Color) Type II (Same knife different color)

There are other colors and different finishes out there; some are prototypes and sample knives. Let us see a collection of these fine knives at some future shows.

**AVAILABLE ONLY TO
BUCK COLLECTORS CLUB MEMBERS!!**

A SPECIAL 532 BUCKLOCK (BCC532)



FEATURES:

BG-42 BLADE / SATIN FINISHED / NON - SERIALIZED
DESERT IRONWOOD INLAYS WITH PICTURE OF ANVIL
LASER-CUT AND PAINTED INTO ONE HANDLE INLAY
SOFT LEATHER POCKET POUCH
LIMITED PRODUCTION - ONLY 200 PRODUCED

MEMBER COST (INCLUDING SHIPPING) \$97.00

WE NO LONGER ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS SO PLEASE SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO THE BUCK COLLECTORS CLUB.

SEND ORDERS TO:

LARRY ODEN
BUCK COLLECTORS CLUB ADDRESS
PO BOX 297
PERU, IN 46970

SHIPPING ADDRESS OF BUYER:

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
MEMBERSHIP # _____

____ MY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR ONE BCC 532 KNIFE IS ENCLOSED. IN ADDITION, I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE AN ORDER FOR ____ ADDITIONAL BCC 532 KNIVES. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ORDER IS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. I AGREE TO PAY THE CLUB FOR ANY ADDITIONAL 532 MODELS UPON RECEIPT OF THEM.

BCC Memories

By Vern Taylor

It is just amazing how the human mind works; how one event triggers a flood of memories. When John Foresman asked me to do the article (published in the last newsletter) on the beginning of the Buck Collectors Club, he triggered such a flood. As I began to reminisce about those early days a lot of things came to mind. I'd like to share two of those with you for this edition.

As I refined the story published last edition, I began to doubt my memory on a couple of things. I dropped an email to Bernie Levine to confirm a couple of facts and he responded with a footnote to the story I had forgotten. As you will recall, it was writing the information on Buck for LEVINE'S GUIDE TO KNIVES that really got the ball rolling. Bernie reminded me that the initial splash for that book was at the Custom Knife Show in Anaheim and that he had been selling them (autographed) at the show and was a little disappointed when he had about 1/3 of his supply - 25 or so - left after the show. He recalled with amazing clarity how I had driven him down to El Cajon to Buck after the show; he even recalled the funky motel under the freeway where I usually stayed in those days. What was vivid to him, and I had forgotten, was that Chuck was so enthused about the book that he bought all of the remaining copies and had Bernie autograph all of them! If you've never seen the first edition you need to understand that the most prominent knife on the big color cover was an etched Buck 110 C.H.P. knife! I had left that knife with Bernie after one of our many photo sessions because he liked it so much. Little did I dream that it would wind up on the cover of the most comprehensive knife book ever published.

Another thing in that flood of memories was the time that I spent with Al Buck, gathering information on the early days of the company and details about the early knives. I used to go to El Cajon pretty regularly and I often called Al so we could get together and I could pump him for more information. We always met at the same coffee shop, away from any interruptions. I recorded a lot of what he said in those meetings and I still have those tapes. On some of those trips I took him boxes of lures, I was a rep for Luhr Jensen back then. Now, remember, Al was an avid fisherman and he was still sailing the "Kalinga" in those days. I always refused his offer of payment so one day he brought me a knife and gave it to me. I'll never forget what he told me when he gave me the knife, and you must visualize that this was about twenty five years ago.

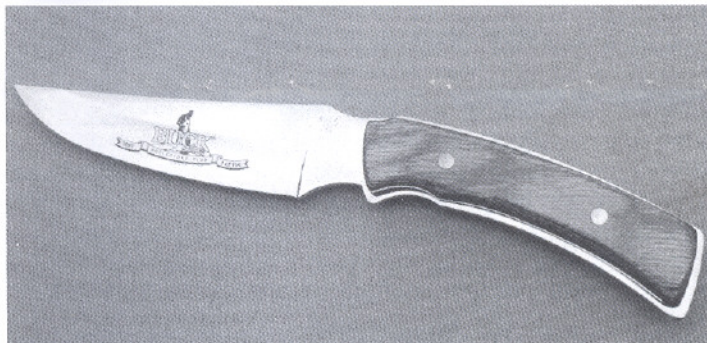
He stated, simply, that it was obvious to him that my interest in Buck knives went far beyond my interests as a Buck rep, and he wanted me to have this particular knife because of that interest. He then gave me the knife that his father, H. H. Buck, had given him and Ida as a wedding present. He went on to apologize that the fork from the set had been lost, can you imagine how I felt! Honored does not describe it. He said that the knife had always been in his kitchen drawer, up until that very morning when he took it out to give to me. Of the hundreds and hundreds of Buck knives I have owned, that has always been the prize of my collection.

I have never shown the knife, but I have used it often as a reference, because I know exactly when it was made. It has helped me to date and verify the authenticity of other knives of the period. Now I must decide what to do with it because as I am writing this story (today is April 5, 2003) I confront my own mortal nature.

I am writing this article early because I have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and I am currently scheduled for surgery on April 8 at the University of California, Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. The surgery planned is called a "Whipple procedure" and it is a drastic surgery. My cancer may not be operable, it may

be too late, but I am confident that our God is in control and I know that He has a plan that will cause this to work for good (Romans 8:28) and for His glory. I don't have too many clues on what that includes but I am sure He will reveal it to me in due time. He has given me a fabulous life and I will continue to lean on my Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, for my strength. I covet the prayer of everyone who trusts in God and I am still asking for a miracle. If God says "No", I will continue to serve Him and trust Him for what He knows is best.

2ND COLLECTIBLE IN THE BUCK 400 SERIES



Here it is...the "Members-Only knife for 2002, exclusively for the Buck Collectors Club. This Limited Edition Model 470 Mentor has an exposed tang with an oak handle. The club logo is gold etched in the mirror polished blade. The knife comes in a leather sheath and includes a certificate of authenticity. Your knife will be individually engraved with your Club membership number. The Mentor is now a discontinued model, making this club knife even more collectible. Member cost is only \$95.00 including shipping. Club knives will be shipped in December.

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ORDERS MUST BE RETURNED BY AUGUST 31, 2003
 (Many thanks to Larry for volunteering to process the order forms at no cost to our club.)



Member Identification Badge Order Form

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1. Kraton handle knives (6)—Models 639, 620, 619, 605, 603 and 602.
2. Big Sky (2)—Model 403—(1) brown Obechee handle and (1) elk stag custom.
3. Mini-Mentors (4)—Model 475—factory rubberized handle, "Deer Tracks", "Deer Profile" and "Elk Profile".
4. Nighthawk (1)—Model 650.
5. BuckLock—(3) Model 535's all custom and (2) 531's one factory, one custom.
6. Trapper (1)—Model 314—Yellowhorse (signature series).
7. Skinner (1)—Model 103—Chuck Buck signature & picture on blade (custom).
8. Chuck Buck Signature Knife—Model 400CB—display case & COA.
9. Ranger—Model 112—Yellowhorse (signature series) Artist Proof knife w/display case.

If interested contact:

Jimmy "The Duke" Holbrook

(770) 607-5345 or papaholbrook@earthlink.net

(Best prices with multiple purchases and all knives come with sheaths except #6 and #9.

Call Ed Sheets 304-925-4062

Wanted: West Virginia University Bucklite

Call Ed Sheets 304-925-4062

Correction

In the December newsletter under the Special Project heading, Model B532SP3-0 was stated to be made for Cecil Cooper. They were actually made for Cecil Clark. This 532 has an imitation ivory handle that is lasered with the Buck 100 year logo to simulate scrimshaw. This 100 piece order comes in wooden box and was shipped 10/02.

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