

Goodland man makes custom hunting knives

By Pat Schiefen

*The Goodland Star-News
pjschiefen@nwkansas.com*

A Goodland expert will make a hunting knife with your choice of blades, with a handle made from your choice of different woods, bone or horn. Recently he was recognized for his work at a Denver knife show.

Marvin "Pepper" Seaman, who has been grinding his own knife blades and finishing them for less than two years, won the Best New Knifemaker award at the Professional Knifemakers Association's 18th Annual Denver Custom Knife Show in August. The knife that won was a hunting knife with a desert ironwood handle, he said.

Seaman said this was the first time he had taken knives to a knife show. Most of the time he takes his knives to sell at gun shows. His busy time is in the fall around hunting season, he said, and then he's busy with Christmas orders.

"I ground my first knife blade in October 2009," said Seaman, adding that he wanted a hunting knife and wanted to get one from his brother, Mark, who also makes knives. While he was visiting, Mark gave him a knife blank, got him started grinding and went to work at his job. When Marvin finished that step, Mark started him on the next one.

Seaman said he started putting handles on purchased blades in 1995. He makes cooking knives, hunting knives and letter openers.

"It's only been in the last couple of years that

I've really started making my own knife blades," said Seaman.

To make a knife, he starts out with a piece of stainless steel bar stock a little longer than the finished knife would be. Seaman then marks the shape and the pin holes using a sprayed-on prussian blue marker. Once the blade is ground and polished, the next step is to pick a material for the handle, get it ready and pin it to the blade.

Seaman said he favors natural materials, including stabilized woods, stabilized camel and giraffe bone or sheep and water buffalo horn. He has several places he buys his handle blanks. After the wood or horn is dyed, he said, it is placed in a vacuum with resin. The material becomes impregnated with the resin, making it waterproof, which prevents cracking and warping.

The blanks then are pinned to the blade. Each set is shaped to fit the type of blade it goes on. Polishing the wood and blade finishes the process. Seaman said he generally uses a satin finish on the blades. The pins can be made from different materials as well with a treated paper product of different colors between the blade and the handle.

He and his wife Charlie moved back to Goodland in 2004 from Colorado.

Seaman said he makes eight different knife designs with blades from 2 1/2 to 5 inches long. His knives cost from \$195 to \$300 a piece.

To visit with him, call (785) 899-2706.



Knifemaker Marvin Seaman ground on a blade. He said he gets his grinding belts from Germany. After he is done, he heat treats the stainless steel.

— Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

- LP Bottle Fill Station
- Farm • Household • Oil Field
- Irrigation • BBQ Tanks Filled
- We Recertify LP Bottles

785-877-3218
800-953-4985

Mobil Oil Dealer

- Diesel • Gasoline
- Bulk Oil

**Norton
Fuel Service**

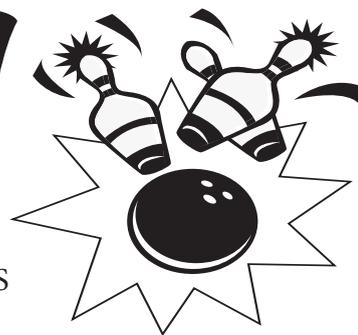
206 N. Jones • PO Box 467
Norton, Kansas



— RICK SCHWAB AND BOB NEFF —

"Wishing All Hunters A Successful Hunt"

RAINBOW LANES



WEST HIGHWAY 36 • NORTON, KANSAS
PHONE: 785-877-3632

NEXT TO PIZZA HUT AND ACROSS FROM HILLCREST MOTEL

Unwind after a day of hunting with a beer and a game of bowling!



Have a Safe and Successful Hunting Season

Come in for the Coldest Beer in Town!

LARGE SELECTION OF WINES
SPECIAL ORDER - NEW ITEMS WEEKLY
Kansas Lottery and Powerball Sold Here

Hours: 9 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Monday thru Thursday
and 9 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

J & R Liquor

112 N. First, Norton, Kansas - 785-877-2585

*We Have
Weekly Specials*



Ebke Liquor WELCOME HUNTERS!

Beer - Wine - Spirits - Lottery

GREAT SPECIALS!

Hours: Monday-Saturday: 9 a.m.-11 p.m.
West Hwy. 36, Norton - 785-877-2152

900 The ~~800~~ pound Gorilla



Just got a whole lot bigger!

That's right. The Gorilla has been growing. Already the biggest and most effective advertising medium in the Tri-State Region, **The Country Advocate** has been adding readers all year.

No more 800-pound weakling. Now **The Advocate** is the 900-pound gorilla of Northwest Kansas advertising!

First, **The Advocate** added nearly 1,550 new home-delivered households in Sherman County with readers of the all-

new, all-local *Goodland Star-News*.

Then, the Gorilla picked up 1,750 new home-delivered households in Norton County when *The Norton Telegram* joined the club.

When you need to sell something, find something or notify someone, the Gorilla is your best friend. Reaching 18,200 households with nearly 42,000 readers across northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado, the Gorilla packs a punch. It can move your

refrigerator or your old car. A house? No problem for the Gorilla. And all at rates that save you money.

And **The Advocate** is nearly all home delivered. Some "shoppers" count on people picking them up at the filling station. It's cheap, but it can't compare to home delivery reaching nearly every house in the area.

Just try it! The Gorilla will work hard for you. Call today with your ad.



**COLBY
FREE PRESS**

155 W. Fifth Colby, Kan. 67701
(785) 462-3963

The
Goodland Star-News

1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735
(785) 899-2338

THE NORTON
TELEGRAM

215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
(785) 877-3361

THE OBERLIN HERALD

170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749
(785) 475-2206

Bird City Times

Box 167, Bird City, Kan. 67731
(785) 734-2621

The Saint Francis Herald

Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756
(785) 332-3162