



- ✓ Kershaw Knives
- ✓ Imperial in the Military
- ✓ Broken Knife
- ✓ NKCA Invite
- ✓ Application Form
- ✓ US Military Knife Notes

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

October 2006

My First Kershaw by Dave Anderson

It seems that no matter how old we get, we always remember the "FIRSTS" in our lives. Your **first** love, **first** day of school, **first** lie you told and got caught (ouch). I remember my **first** bicycle and the **first** time I rode it without training wheels. My dad got me on it, gave me a big push and straight into the only telephone pole I went. My **first** car was a two tone (ugly) green '57 Chevy four door sedan, I was 17. My **first** fish I caught was a nine inch trout at Beneke Creek on a family camp out when I was nine years old.



My first Kershaw knife

I purchased my **first** Kershaw knife sometime in the early eighties, and it is still in my collection. It is a rotary lock (similar to a Gerber Paul knife), mod. 2100, with bone handles and scrimshaw done by Sam McDowell. Sam spent half his time in Carmel, California; and I sent the knife to him there to have him scrim a Pintail Duck on my prized knife.

Over the years my collection has grown some, and my love for Kershaw knives has added a great deal of enjoyment to my life. I remember going to knife shows years ago, scouring tables for Kershaw knives and not finding any to speak of. Today they have become, not only very popular, but very collectable as well. Kershaw has been around now for over 30 years, and I believe they have certainly arrived and made a place for themselves in the knife community. They continue to produce affordable knives of high quality. They produce knives to fit every budget and every need or want.

When I first started collecting them, I was attracted by the bone handled knives like the 2105 (Little Stud), 2110 (Honcho) and the 2120 (Macho). These knives were produced in at least three different style runs, but most people aren't aware of this. The first design had squared off bolsters with riveted handles, the second had riveted handles with bolsters being angled; and finally the third design had angled bolsters with glued on handles. They were also made in limited production runs with petrified wood, Jasper, and I have heard rumors of a few done in ivory. This series has become highly collectable in recent years.

Another popular series was the 2000 series knives that were produced in a dozen or so folders with a wide array of blade configurations. These knives had all mirror polished parts with all rounded corners for comfortable pocket carry. They had rosewood handle inserts and were very attractive knives. Also in this series came the fixed blade knives, made in four sizes with wildlife etchings on the blades. They are the "Caper" mod. 2205 (Jim Martindale says this is the Holy Grail of

Kershaw), the "Catfish N Buzzard" mod. 2210, the "Li'L Skinner " mod. 2220 and the "Li'L Skinner II " mod. 2230. All came with leather sheaths and are highly sought after.

In the early to mid nineties some of my recent favorites were produced. Kershaw started using some G10 and ATS34 and came up with some great knives, like the 1431 Wild Turkey, that featured textured G10 scales on a skeletonized liner lock frame with a thin ATS34 blade. Awesome knife! If that wasn't good enough, they also made the 1430



Model 1430 (Wild Wild Turkey)

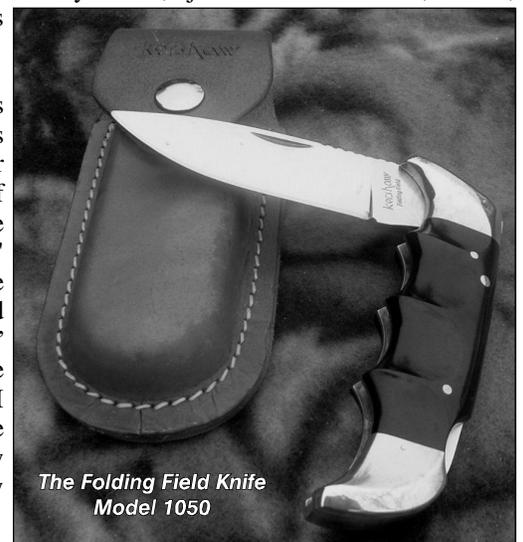
(Wild Wild Turkey) which was the same knife, only with a titanium frame. This remains as my current all time favorite. Also in that same time frame they made the 1410 and 1415, both models came in plain



The Kershaw Model 1410 in Titanium

and serrated blades. The 1410 had titanium handles and the 1415 had G10, both had ATS 34 blades. These were not only high tech for their time, they were work horses, almost indestructible I am told. I wouldn't know because I don't use my knives, I just look at them. Sick, I know; but I never said I was perfect.

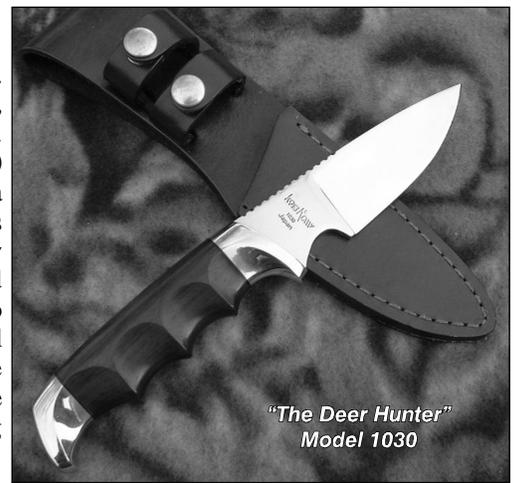
Some of the knives that Kershaw has kept around for years, and most of you have seen, are the "Folding Field " mod. 1050, the "Camp & Field" and "The Deer Hunter" mod. 1030. They are mainstays; and I suspect they will be produced by Kershaw for many years to come.



The Folding Field Knife
Model 1050

Kershaw... (Continued from page 1)

Another long runner is the "Trooper" mod. 1007, this knife was first introduced in 1979, and every knife was given a serial number. Today's number is over 30,000. The first 2500 or so of these troopers were made without a blood groove. In 1980 a blood groove was added and remains today. There were a few limited edition runs on the trooper. Around 1986 Erhard Gross was commissioned to do carved ivory handles depicting several different animals, and these are quite extraordinary. I would think that one of these troopers in today's market would easily bring a \$1000 or more.



"The Deer Hunter"
Model 1030

That is a little info on year's past, but the really exciting stuff for Kershaw has been happening in recent years. Ken Onion came on board in 1998 with his "speed safe technology" (assisted opening) and his cool knife designs to bring an already great knife company to the level it is at today. The first Onions were the "Random Task" mod. 1510, the "Mini Task" mod. 1500 and the "Ricochet mod. 1520. These knives have polished G10 scales, 440V and ATS34 blades and are IMO, a thing of beauty. Since those knives Ken and Kershaw have designed numerous models, some that I am not yet familiar with like the new leek with titanium handles and ZDP189 blades in a limited 1000 run, the offset, cyclone, spec. bumps, and on and on.



Kershaw Trooper

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"Li'L Skinner II" Model 2230

As you can see I have what might be called a fondness for Kershaw knives, but it goes farther than that. I truly believe in this company. The people at Kershaw believe in their product and truly care about their customers. The customer service department always delivers beyond expectations and does things for their customers that the rest of the retail world wouldn't consider. Kershaw is truly an awesome knife company, and I believe they will be around for many years to come. A special thanks to Jeff, Thomas, Diane, and all the rest of you at Kershaw Knives for your dedication to your customers and your product.



"Catfish N Buzzard" Model 2210

editors note: In addition to all the other "firsts", this is the first article that Dave Anderson has written. Since we have received more pictures than we have space, we have placed the remaining pictures on the OKCA web site. www.oregonknifeclub.org and go to the site map page to see the rest of the story.