

Pauline and I have six children, five sons and one daughter. And we have ten absolutely wonderful grandchildren, three boys and seven girls. After raising my family, I realized that my kids didn't have one of my handcrafted knives. I wanted each child to have one of my handcrafted folders. My wife and I want to travel after I retire from General Dynamics/Lockheed. From my military experience in Germany, I decided I would build a mobile knife shop.

In order to fulfill this goal, I have converted a 22-foot utility trailer into a mobile knife shop. Please visit my web site to see my mobile shop). By the time I had made six knives for the kids, I had the fever back and I wanted to make more knives.

A lot of things had changed in the years of not making knives. I had always wanted to be in the Knifemakers' Guild. I am very fortunate to have had a friend and mentor like Martin Pullen. He encouraged me to apply to the KnifeMakers' Guild. Today, I am a probationary member, and in 2005, I will become a voting member.

While working at General Dynamics/Lockheed Martin, I have held several positions - tool and die maker, Supervisor, Tool Engineer and Buyer I also worked for Lockheed for four years as an off-site manager in Detroit, Michigan. Currently, I am working in Fort Worth as a Manufacturing Engineer. I am looking forward to retiring from Lockheed very soon.

My knives are made in my shop by me, using my equipment. The Blade materials that I prefer to use are ATS-34, 154CM, 440C, D2 and Damascus steel. They have been selected for their ability to hold a sharp cutting edge. Some of these steels require double tempered after heat-treatment to reach the full optimal performance of the steel. I send my knife blades that are stainless steel to Paul Bos for heat-treatment. Steels that are carbon steel are heat-treated by me. I use the stock removal method to handcraft each knife.

The primary handle materials that I use are giraffe bone, horn, ivory, certain exotic woods, micarta, G10 and carbon fiber. I try to use handle material that requires very little maintenance.

In the future, I want to forge my own Damascus steel. This is just another step in the process that I want to control. I believe that the American Bladesmith Society (ABS) has been very successful in promoting handmade knives. Now, all I have to do is find some time to pursue the world of forging.