

ESTABLISHED 1904

SCHRADE WALDEN CUTLERY CORPORATION
WALDEN, N. Y.

TRADE **EVERLASTINGLY SHARP** MARK

*Manufacturers of
Quality Pocket Cutlery*

1904 - Fiftieth Anniversary - 1954

BRIEF ROMANCE OF CUTLERY

FROM the crude cutting instruments chipped from flint by prehistoric man to the finely ground, polished, and finished steel blade of today, cutlery has always played an important part in Man's history. For perhaps 15,000 years he developed and improved his crude stone implements continually progressing from stone to flint, skillfully chipping, grinding and polishing this material in his knives, axes, spear points, and other articles.

Next man discovered copper and tin. He made knives out of copper and then found that if he added tin to the molten copper he had a much harder metal - so the Bronze Age was born about 3000 B. C.

The next great step in the cutlery art was the discovery of iron which is believed to have been discovered about 1000 B. C. It was slow in coming into general usage because of the greater heat required to smelt the ore, and the difficulty in working it. The discovery of iron slowly developed forging and experimenting resulted in the making of steel.

Steel, which has revolutionized human life and which is the core of modern industry, was the result of man's unceasing effort to perfect knives and weapons. Steel is a combination of iron and carbon, the control of carbon, and the removal of other foreign elements are the most important steps in steel making. In earlier times there was a wide variation in the finished product, and the skillful steel makers cloaked their knowledge in greater secrecy than the case of the atom bomb production.

The forerunner of the pocket knife is found in examples of early table knives, the blades of which folded into the handle. These clasp or spring knives were mentioned as early as 1650. The development of the art of writing, which was done at first entirely with goose-quill pens, gave rise to the penknife used for trimming the quill. The manufacture of cutlery in earlier times seemed to have its greatest development in England, and the largest Cutlery Guilds were in the Sheffield area. Modern industry in making the things with which we work and live has at its disposal a tremendous range of cutting instruments. Even the individual workman can select a special cutlery tool for every type of cutting operation.

DIVISION OF IMPERIAL KNIFE ASSOCIATED COMPANIES, INC.,

THE CUTLERY INDUSTRY IN WALDEN

WALDEN is primarily an industrial community. At one time, because there were three important cutlery plants in Walden, it was called "The Sheffield of America". Today Walden industries are more diversified which tends to keep it and the entire Wallkill Valley in a healthier economic condition.

The cutlery industry had its start in Walden in 1856 when the New York Knife Company was established. This plant employed as many as seven hundred people, and its reputation for fine cutlery was recognized throughout the United States.

The Walden Knife Company had a modest beginning in Walden in 1870, and also became one of the largest producers of fine cutlery in the country.

The Schrade Walden Cutlery Corp. was started in Walden, at its present location, in 1904. 1954 marks our fiftieth anniversary. At this time Schrade Walden instituted a new process of precision work in the manufacture of pocket knives, in which special machines are used and elaborate tools and dies are individually designed for each and every pattern of knife. From the beginning the plan has been to manufacture a line of staple patterns of pen and pocket knives having the highest quality that can be achieved by skilled craftsmen using the finest materials. In recent years we have extended our manufacture to include steak knives and also a line of hunting knives.

THE STORY OF POCKET KNIVES

THE POCKET KNIFE is made by assembling linings, blades, springs and outside handles. The finished knife must open and close smoothly, and have the correct amount of tension on the springs. The assembling and adjustment of a fine pocket knife requires both skill and experience. Not fewer than one hundred separate operations are involved in the making of a knife of multiple blades.

Schrade Walden maintains a uniformly high standard of quality, that is recognized throughout the industry. We are able to do this because of the individual attention given each knife by skilled craftsmen, the careful selection of raw materials and the symmetrical and perfect design of blades, springs, and other parts. An artistic pocket knife that gives long service, is the end result.

MATERIALS

ALL **RAW** materials used in the manufacture of our knives are selected from the highest grades in the market. Special Cutlery steel is used in every blade and spring. We specially mention blades and springs as they are the two most important parts of a knife, but the raw materials for all other parts are selected with equal care. The following list covers most of the materials used and the condition in which they are received.

STEEL-(Both high carbon and high carbon stainless) for blades and springs, received from the mills in flat sheets of various thicknesses.

IRON-For linings and bolsters.

NICKEL SILVER-For linings, Bolsters and shields.

BRASS-For linings and center scales are received in sheets and rods. of various widths and thicknesses.

PLASTIC-For handles, in various colors, also molded handles to fit linings.

BONE-Cattle shin bones received from meat packers. The bone is sawed to required sizes, dyed and staged for use as handles.

COCOBOLA and **ROSEWOOD**-received from mill in slabs to be sawed and processed for use as handles. Also various other materials such as Mother-of-pearl, sterling silver and gold are

used for handles.

PROCESSING

OUR BLADES and springs are processed from high carbon cutlery steel, both carbon and stainless. The sheets of steel are cut into proper widths, and the blades and springs are blanked out by large presses.

Next the necessary holes for riveting the knives together are pierced in the blades and springs and then flattened by a drop hammer.

The blades and springs are now ready for the most critical operation in the making of a pocket knife, namely hardening and tempering. Whereas originally temperature of heat was determined by the color preception of the workman, and his judgment, the temperature of the quench, this is now determined by precision instruments known as Pyrometers. Our blades and springs are hardened and tempered in electric furnaces which are controlled by electronic pyrometers.

The center scales and linings are then blanked and pierced. The bolsters are blanked, dropped and trimmed and then dropped on linings. The covers are matched on the linings.

All the necessary parts are then assembled into knives by skilled cutlers and all required adjustments are made. After being assembled and properly adjusted, the knife backs are ground on abrasive wheels. Then they are fine glazed and polished on abrasive belts, after which the bolsters and handles are hafted. The knives then go to the finishing room for finishing and polishing of blades.

The final step is when the knives are sent to the Wareroom where the very important operation of edging is done. Every knife is carefully edged by hand in order to produce a fine cutting tool. The knives are then carefully cleaned and boxed ready for packing.

USES FOR OUR POCKET KNIVES

OUR KNIVES are produced to give the craftsman, farmer, horticulturist, sportsman and the general utility man an instrument of the finest quality, on which he can depend for long and reliable service.

We also supply the Armed Services with electricians knives, paratrooper Safety Push Button knives, floating raft knives and other knives required for special purposes.

Today, Schrade Walden stands as the foremost producer of custom pocket cutlery in America. The Master Cutlers touch is there - in the keen edge, in the velvet finish and smooth action. The ultimate in quality-Schrade Walden quality.