



Ken Warner inducts Bruce Voyles into the Blade Magazine Cutlery Hall Of Fame® at the 1993 BLADE Show Awards Banquet in Stone Mountain, Georgia. From left: George Herron, A.G. Russell, Buster Warenski, the inductee, Paul Tausig, Joe Mangiaracina, Warner, Houston Price and B.R. Hughes. All but Tausig and Mangiaracina are in the Cutlery Hall Of Fame. Along with Col. Rex Applegate, Hughes joined Voyles as an inductee that year.



The BGG folder from Ken Warner Knives sports an unlocking button, Micarta® scales, a blade of 10CR17, which Warner indicated is equivalent to 440C stainless, and enough bulk for the biggest hands. The convex edge is properly presented to the work all along, from grip to point. (photo and caption courtesy of Ken Warner)

"Ken Warner is the true poet of the knife community," related *BLADE* field editor Ed Fowler. "While he did not write the most knife articles, what he did write was worth reading and serves as an eloquent inspiration for all who have thoughts to share. He had no axe to grind other than to share knowledge. As a fledgling knifemaker, I used to read his comments and soon learned that he knew well his subject matter."

Though he is not currently writing—he instead stays busy offering a wide range of fixed blades and folders through his Ken Warner Knives knife company—there is always the possibility that Warner will return to print. Meanwhile, he says he is becoming computer savvy enough to run a knife forum on the internet and to continue his online blog (kenwarnerknives.blogspot.com). He also stays busy designing knives.

"I'm 80 years old," he reflected, "and I have some things I want to say and there are some stories I can do that nobody else can do because I was there. I will get to that when I get to it."

Literally, when custom knives began to gain national and international attention, Warner was there. In fact, he was the prime mover in publicizing the work of the knifemakers. As a writer for the popular annual *Gun Digest*, he started writing about knives in 1964. That first article, titled "The Best Knives Made," has been reprinted numerous times. Back then, though, it was a challenge

just to get enough material to put a story together.

"I could hardly find any knifemakers," Warner commented. "I found [Bill] Moran and [Bo] Randall, and Buck was small then and I wrote about them. However, a number of knifemakers and collectors have told me that the article got them started. Bob Loveless, for example, has told me that he was about to give up making knives because it wasn't going any place. Then, he read the article and decided that somebody would understand. There was a time that I was actually giving away Loveless knives just to see what people thought of them. Butch and Rita Winter were pre-eminent collectors of handmade knives, and they told me I got them started."

Educating the general public about knives evolved into something of a mission for Warner. In 1976, he wrote *The Practical Book Of Knives*, a primer of information on the mechanics, components, function and terminology associated with knives. Through editorial contributions to a number of publications, he has managed to spread the word. Along the way, he has gained a multitude of friends and admirers. One of the closest was with the legendary Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer, Bill Moran. *BLADE* field editor and Cutlery Hall-Of-Famer B.R. Hughes, co-author of the Moran biography, *Master Of The Forge*, credits Warner with his introduction to the great bladesmith.