

## Trip to Boker Knives in Germany - September 1999

John Introducing Wolfgang to Christian

The trip to Solingen Germany went off without a hitch. My wife and I were the V.I.P. guests for Bokers 130-year anniversary and 25 year anniversary of the President, Mr. Felix, and the start of production of my knives.



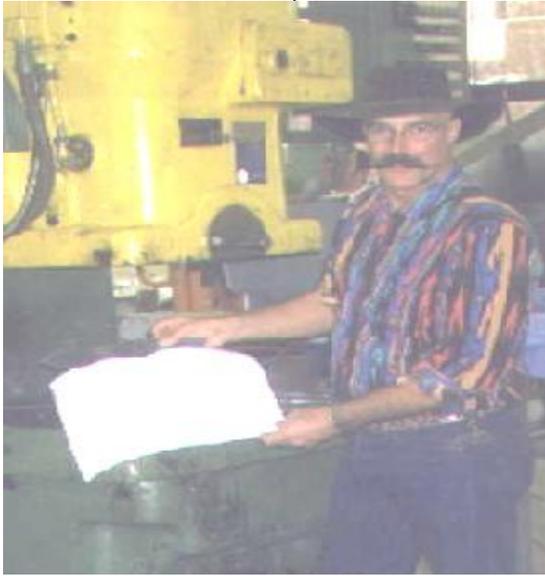
The Tourist



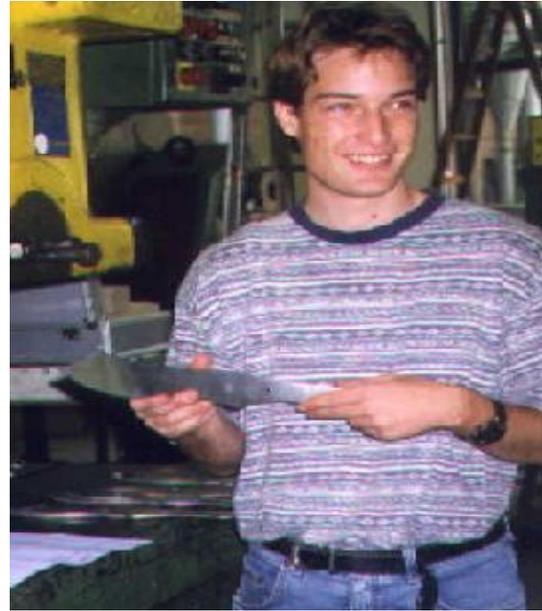
From the photos you can see it was not all work. Boker supplied us with a guided tour for the first three days. We went down the Rhein river to Koln one day; off to Schloss-Burg castle the next day, then down the Wuppertal suspended train through the town. You can hardly turn a corner in Solingen without running into a blade or scissor plant like Henckel, Boker or Drelzack-Trident. Solingen, is after all; the heart of the cutlery production in all of Germany.

As to the two knives I designed for Boker, after much discussion we decided to change the lineup. It was brought to my attention that the Tan-Kri would be better in the European market, because it's design was more in tune with present trend. The Bo-Kri is earmarked for the American market and is in limbo at the moment. The Starlight is still in the development stages and should be in the February 2000 catalog along with the Tan-Kri. I hope to have both in stock by December.

John with the Blue Prints  
at the Stamp Machine



Got Christian's approval  
on the knife



The first twenty (20) of each have been set aside for special attention. I plan on showing on this page, the step by step development of the Tan-Kri; from blank to completion. Look for a button on my page with the up-dated information, as soon as I get it. As to the description of the Tan-Kri. It is approximately 13" long, 2" wide (at it's widest points), 4.5mm thick, and approximately 15 oz. These dimensions are not etched in stone and do not include the handles. The Tan-Kri will come in a leather sheath that can be used right or left handed. O.K. this is the point I know you many of you are waiting to argue about . Boker has assured me that they have one of the toughest Stainless steels out there and they can temper it to withstand the stress of throwing. We talked about this extensively, when we first met and I was convinced that a company, that has been in business 130 years, and has that much confidence in their steel should be given the benefit of the doubt. So, YES, the knife is made out of stainless steel.

The Starlight is made of the same stainless steel and is not in the stamping stage yet. But, I guarantee you it is like nothing you have ever seen. The prices have not been set because, prices are always determined after production and marketing evaluations. Boker will establish the price and it should be comparable to any professional or custom-throwing knife.  
John L Bailey



Warm up for the  
Boker Gala Presentation