858OT Lumberjack Research

The 858OT Lumberjack, introduced in 1978, was a very large stockman, or Texas Pattern knife, to use a term Schrade used for their bonus sized knives of this ilk back in the 1950's. A cursory search produced numerous patterns of larger than four inches, but most if not all were “professional trades” knives like the #735 Marlin Spike, or the horticultural knives. Or the huge folding hunter jack knives we are all familiar with.

The Lumberjack was just a bit larger than any other stockman offering in the Old Timer line, or the predecessor open stock line as far as I can see. At 4 5/8 inches closed. It was so large as to be considered a sheath knife, not a pocket knife, and indeed a sheath was included for the $20.00 asking price. That would be nearly $85 in 2006 dollars. Sporting an appropriately enlarged pair of brown sawcut Delrin scales with the familiar Old Timer shield, brass liners and nickle silver bolsters, it had a 3 1/8" clip master blade, 2 1/16" spey blade, and 2 1/4" sheepfoot blade all made from our favorite 1095HC carbon steel. They were made for nine years, being discontinued after 1986. While this is not by any means a short run compared to many Old Timer patterns, it’s large size may have limited it’s sales causing this pattern to be relatively scarce today. They were last listed for $36.95 in 1986. Please note that I did not say rare, because they are not. And being of such proportions that they were uncomfortable as an EDC without threading the pouch onto a belt, this nearly half pound knife is often fould in excellent condition, worn users being the exception rather than the norm.

As I mentioned, I was unable to find a direct predecessor to this knife, but it does seem to be an 8OT of enlarged proportions. Schrade still listed it as a pocketknife, but perhaps they were just shy of using the name f...f...folder. Having been introduced after the company changed it’s name in 1973, you will not likely see one with Schrade Walden tangstamp. One example I saw did have the tangstamp SCHRADE+ over U.S.A. 858, indicating stainless blades. This validates the 1982 notation that the blade is “Schrade+ Steel”, a notation continued through 1986. Others I have seen did not have the stainless blades, but still did not use the “OT” identifier suffix on the stamp. It was, however listed eventually as both 858OT and 858OTS allowing the buyer the choice of "to sheath or not to sheath".

It also had decorative pinched bolsters and a plain long pull. I have also seen one with cream base material instead of the more familiar tan or light brown.

I know of no SFO’s or limited editions, or UH variant this knife was used for, but I am sure at least one or more will come to my attention in the future. Uncommon is the OT pattern that was not.

Codger