

Pruitt Knives of Valor...an Interview with Michael Pruitt

Intro

- Are you originally from Arkansas?
- Have you ever wanted to live somewhere else?
- When the tornadoes come through, and they show the map of Arkansas with the little towns that nobody has ever heard of...do you ever hear of a town name and you think, "I had no idea that was there..."

Getting to Know You

I'm going to ask you simple questions (10 simple questions) and I will give you two choices. Answer quickly, your instinctive answer. This will help us get to know you more personally and see a little about how your brain works.

1. Cartoons...Bugs Bunny? Or Spiderman
2. Meat...Steak, chicken or fish?
3. If you could choose a superpower...flying? Or invisible?
4. Which are you more likely to binge watch? Friends or Seinfeld?
5. Given the choice... Jeep or Toyota?
6. Who is a greater hero? Firemen or Police Officer?
7. Shirt preference... tucked or untucked? T-Shirt or button down?
8. If money was no object, would you rather buy...a mansion in town or a cabin in the woods with a lot of land?
9. Which name are you most likely to holler around a campfire? Tony or Benji?
10. Bedtime? Early like an old man or stay up late like a teenager?

There was absolutely NO BIAS in any of the questions that were asked.

Background & Journey

- How did you first develop an interest in knife making?
- Why is it important to forge blades instead of going on eBay and buying blanks and putting a handle on them?
- Your very first knife making experience...how did that go?
- Who was your biggest influence?
 - Did you have a mentor in the craft?
- What is the most valuable lesson you've learned in your journey as a bladesmith?
- I see you getting your son out in the garage and having him hammer and do some things
 - Do you foresee him having an interest in this?
 - Carrying on the PKV line after you are old and crippled from all the physical labor?

The Craft & Process

- Can you break down the step-by-step process of forging a knife from raw materials?
- What types of steel do you prefer working with, and why?
- How do you decide on the design of a knife?
 - Do you sketch it out, or do you improvise during forging?
- What's the most difficult part of making a quality knife?
- What's your favorite type of knife to make, and why?

Challenges & Triumphs

- What's the biggest mistake you've ever made while forging a knife?
- Have you ever had a blade completely fail on you?
- If a blade fails or breaks, is it possible to re-use any part of it to start over with another?
- What's the most challenging knife you've ever made?
- Can you share a moment where you felt the most accomplished in your craft?

Industry & Community

- What's your take on mass-produced knives versus handmade blades?
- Do you think there's a strong community of bladesmiths supporting each other?

Personal & Fun Questions

- If you could forge a knife for any historical figure, who would it be and why?
- Have you ever had a strange or unusual custom knife request?
- For someone who comes by your booth at whatever event you will be at (Jasper Jeep Jam, MOORE Expo or goes by Midwest Adventure Outfitters), they come by and LOVE what you do...
 - The very first words out of their mouths are "how much is this one?"
 - Your knife prices are not cheap
 - Now WE know that You have a lot of time, sweat, maybe even blood involved in each one...
 - But what do you say to that person? How do you convince that person that what they are looking at is worth what you are asking for it?
- Do you enjoy doing events and forging on-site?
 - You have such a unique booth as I have not seen anyone else doing this at any event.

Conclusion and Ending

- Thank you for coming on.
- You are always fun and easy to visit with and talk to
- You know your stuff.
- We love hanging with you, sitting around the fire...and using your knives.
- I am blessed to be able to use one in my Overlanding Vehicle and at home. They are all I use. And I take such good care of them.
- Thank you to everyone who joined in this evening.
- Tomorrow you will have this podcast on all podcast platforms.
- Hope you have a wonderful week!
- Get outdoors and do something fun, experience nature, cut some stuff!

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And we are happy to come to you each week with everything outdoors whether you travel by vehicle or by shoe...

So, whatever you do, look out for number one and don't step in number 2!