

# Raw Hide Gazette

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"Without question, the Raw Hide Gazette is by far the best and most informative and comprehensive Guild publications of all of them! You are to be commended for your very fine and professional efforts. Keep up the good work. With admiration"  
/signed/

Al & Ann Stohlman, December 1997

Volume 6, Issue 10

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

December 2000

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Photos by Dusty Wert

## November's Demo by Ken Imus

I imagine that most of the members like myself have always marveled at **Ken Imus's** work. His floral carving and coloring just seem to shout for your attention. With that thought in mind I asked Ken to give us a demo of his technique. Here are a few of his secrets:

He uses a pear shader tipped up at a fairly steep angle with the narrow end towards his work, and then proceeds to randomly

walk the tool around the petals (fairly close to the inside edge, leaving just a thin border). He has the lines of the pear shader directed towards the flower center. As you can see this gives a lot of contrasting texture to the petals compared to the traditional method of using the shader. The center area of each petal has a raised appearance, which lends itself nicely to decorative knife cuts.

I found out that he likes to dye his background a dark Brown then apply Super Sheen over the whole area. When dry he applies a liquid Antique with a sponge

### Meeting Announcement

NO MEETING  
in  
DECEMBER

**Happy Holidays**



Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

that he keeps in the Antiques' container, so it is really soaked up. When that is dry enough to work he'll take a damp clean sponge, (as much water as possible squeezed out) and clean up the areas, (taking off as much of the Antique till he gets his desired effect). When all is dry he sprays on a finish. Those of us who watched him work were amazed at how simple it was.

The real amazing part was that the Shader he used was just a normal lined shader off the rack with no modifications, just a lot of ability and imagination. So study the photo and really look at his work at the following meetings. Great Demo Ken and thanks for sharing your technique



Woody Collins

## The Leather Factory buys Tandy Leather

FORT WORTH, Texas, Dec. 1 / PRNewswire/—The Leather Factory, Inc. (Amex: TLF) announced today that it has purchased certain assets of TLC Direct, Inc. and Tandy Leather Dealer, Inc. dba Tandy Leather Company (“Tandy Leather”), subsidiaries of TandyCrafts, Inc. (NYSE: TAC) for a cash purchase price of approximately \$3 million.

TLC Direct, Inc. and Tandy Leather Dealer, Inc., originally founded as Tandy Leather Company in 1919 by the late D.L. and Charles Tandy, provides leather and leathercraft products via the Internet and mail order and through authorized dealers located in fifteen countries. Tandy Leather had sales of approximately \$7.2 million in its most recent fiscal year ended June 30, 2000.

Wray Thompson, Chairman, President and

Chief Executive Officer, commented, “We are excited about the possibilities and opportunities opened to us through the acquisition of Tandy Leather. We expect our market share to increase in the retail and wholesale industries, as well as in e-commerce. The proprietary assets developed by Tandy Leather over the past 81 years, the staff of season employees, and the economies of scale inherent in a transaction of this type are considered major benefits of the acquisition, not to mention the elimination of a major competitor.”

The acquisition was financed through TLF’s existing credit facility with Wells Fargo Business Credit, Inc. An amendment to that facility was executed in connection with this transaction. TLF intends to operate Tandy Leather as a separate company and has offered all Tandy Leather employees continued employment under the new ownership. TandyCrafts, Inc. and subsidiaries agreed to a five year non-compete agreement as it pertains to the leathercraft business.

The Leather Factory, Inc (<http://www.leatherfactory.com>), headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, is a multinational marketer and wholesale distributor of a broad product line including leather, leatherworking tools, buckles and adornments for belts, leather dyes and finishes, shoe repair supplies, saddle and tack hardware, and do-it-yourself leathercraft kits, as well as a manufacturer and distributor of fancy hat trims, leather lacing and kits. The Company distributes its products through 28 sales and distribution units located throughout the United States and Canada.

This news release may contain forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements made here or in other news releases issued by The Leather Factory, Inc. are based on current expectations as of the date of the release. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause the results of The Leather Factory, Inc. to differ materially from management’s current expectations. Many of these risks and uncertainties are detailed from time to time in TLF’s reports filed with the Securities and Ex-

change Commission, including its most recent annual report on Form 10-K.

SOURCE The Leather Factory, Inc.

## Finding a New Stone ...or... don't turn it over and read the other side!

Recently I broke my marble pounding surface, and I was getting tired of moving my projects around on my now " L " shaped marble. So I started looking for a replacement. Did I want the same old marble; or move up to more of a professional size? I remember seeing **Dusty Johnson's Work Bench** in the **LC&SJ** a few months ago He had a large stone set into a desk with tool and hammer racks -- a leather pounders dream. Well I stopped by Pro Horseman's going out of business sale, they had a large stone 24 x 30 x 4 inch built into a plywood table on sale for \$300. I made him an offer to see how much he really wanted, but it was more than I wanted to spend on a rock. I mentioned this to Woody the next day and he said yea he'd already seen it an thought it was a lot of \$\$\$ for a rock, but it sure would be impressive to have it in your workshop. So we got to talking and Woody, through a miss hap, had lost his stone also. We had heard of people going to Quarries or Monument companies and buying stones. After a few phone calls I located Quiring Monuments at 9608 - Aurora Ave., just north of Seattle, WA . I talked to Clark and he informed me that they had a large scrap pile and would be willing to sell us some stones. I also learned that Granite is much stronger than marble. So after work Woody and I set off for north Seattle, to find new stones. Quiring's had sizes from about 8" square to large table top sizes, I found a 10x20x3 piece of forest green granite, and Woody found a white one 14x24x3. These were only \$25 each, mine is blank, but you might ask Woody: “*Who Zofia Ciszenwska is ...or was*”?

Jeff Bement

# Leather Art Tours Announces Two New Destinations for 2001

Leather Art Tours is planning two new Dream Tours for the month of June, 2001. The Dream Team of Robb Barr, Bob Beard, Peter Main, Rene Berends and Joe Barth have each designed all new classes that include new and interesting techniques and projects they have never taught before. Each of these five instructors will teach a one day class at both locations. To give all students personal attention from each instructor, we have set a limit of 10 students per class.

**Charleston, South Carolina** is our first destination, with arrival on June 3 and departure on June 10th. We will be staying in a beautiful hotel in downtown Charleston, right in the middle of the Historic District, near the Market. Charleston offers wonderful architecture, gardens, history and of course, the Atlantic Ocean with all of its temptations, including great sea food. This is also the week of the Spoleto Arts Festival throughout the city with abundant arts, entertainment and nightlife.

The 320 Guest Ranch near Big Sky Montana will be our second destination, with arrival on June 17th and departure on the 24th. This ranch is one of the best. It is located on the Gallatin River, just 36 miles from Yellowstone Park. It is known worldwide for its beauty, scenic mountains and wildlife. The Marlboro Corporation

chooses it each year to film their commercials so it is sometimes referred to as "The Marlboro Ranch". Log Cabins are available that will sleep 2 or 4. Leather Art Tours will host a private Hayride - Chuckwagon BBQ for our group that will be put on by the ranch hands, cowboys and cooks at the ranch.

Each destination will be a Dream Vacation for any leather artist/craftsperson! Just bring your tools and a smile. We will

## Dad (Bill) with the Two Twins (Fred & Roy)?



provide you with a great time and incredible leather classes taught by the top leather artists in the world.

Everyone is invited. Make new friends with leather artists from around the world! Bring your family, friends and significant others. Each will be a Vacation to Remember!

*For further information, contact:*

**Ann Waters,**  
Leather Art Tours,  
592 Hillcrest Lane  
Brooklyn, WI 53521  
(608)835-9025, or fax: (608)835-9797  
E-mail: clearh2os@aol.com

## Bill's Update: 14-Nov-2000

Last Friday, I would have said that I would never write another of these and really didn't give a damn. To put it mildly, Friday was bad... Saturday was terrible and Sunday Night was too bad to even talk about. Saturday for instance. Chuck came over to "help me" put wheels on my Generator.

I stayed in bed almost all day and Chuck put the wheels on. (Thank you Chuck).

My biggest thing was, Radiation means to starve. I was losing a pound a day. From my 'robust 205 pounds', I now weigh 170. Exactly what I weighed

when I quit smoking the last time, about 10 years ago. This weight loss all happened in about 28 days. I just could not eat. When I did get something down (half a milkshake) it made me miserable. Sunday night (Yesterday) I didn't get to sleep until 3:30 AM. My stomach was killing me. I made up my mind last Friday that I would never lay on that radiation table again. This Morning (Monday) I went to my private doctor (Civilian) and broke my radiation treatment appointment. I was so sick and weak I didn't care about anything. Well, My private Doctor is not only a good Doctor, but I consider him a friend. He poked, wiggled, listened, and did it again. He had already been treating me for an incision that wouldn't heal and it was right where all my pain and discomfort was, but he said after all of his poking and listening that He thought that what I needed was Prevacid (you all have seen "Heartburn Hotel" the commercial with the danc-



ing stomach). Would you believe that I ate lunch and dinner, not much mind you, (my stomach is about half it's normal size) BUT FOOD. And this is the first time in my life that a Doctor prescribed something that I like. Milkshakes, at least three a day. Told you he was a good Doctor.

You won't believe it, but it is now 12:30 AM and I can't sleep. I overate. Seriously though, My idea Friday was Radiation and starvation, or Cancer. What difference did it make. Today, watch out world.

E-Mail is OK now, but please no Jokes or pictures. Again I thank all of you for your thoughts and concerns and above all, prayers. I have to get to work on the Purse that I am making for my Child bride. Her Birthday is just hours away.

**Bill Churchill**  
Federal Way, WA

## Bill's Update: 16 Dec 00

Yesterday was my last day of radiation....Thirty four shots...Actually that is the Max that you can get...After that, "It starts burning a hole in you". Thirty four days that I completely 'wasted' a day to get 15 minutes of Extreme X-Ray. But it seems to have helped.

I saw my 'Chemo' Doctor yesterday at 5:00 PM and he had all my records from the Radiation and wants to hold off until at least the 16th of January before we even think about Chemo. Glad about that, I hate to lose my beautiful big head of curly hair. It is not a done thing about Chemo although if I were a betting man, I would put my money on it. (I lose the hair)

I feel good...Radiation takes a lot out of you.....I am constantly tired (Best excuse I have ever had for "Honey Do"). My back and chest are a mess, but I can now put a cream on them to help the "Sunburn" heal.

Last Friday I ran into the Surgeon that did the original Biospies on me in September. I was walking and was not on oxygen. In so many words, "You are alive, you are not

on Oxygen or in a wheelchair...I can't get over this....I'll have to tell the rest of the team, they won't believe me". He honestly thought I would be dead now.

To make a nice ending...Watch out Pendleton Leather Show next October...I get to drink that Beer with George Hurst and Jim Linnell buys dinner.

Thank you to every one who helped and who prayed and wished. It all is very appreciated...I know I have Literally Hundreds of Guardian Angels through out and especially in this area.

**Bill Churchill**  
Federal Way, WA

## ...Edge Finishing (continued from last month)

### Definitions:

Here, Bob, is the definitive note on what **tragacanth** is and how to properly use it to burnish edges. Seems a lot of people use it but nobody knows what it is.

Trag-a-canth is a gum of various Asian shrubs belonging to the genus **Astragalus**. It is a legume (like peas, scotchbroom, peanuts) and is used as a filler in pills, etc. and to stiffen calico.

For edging ensure your edger is sharp and you apply even pressure throughout your stroke. Also make sure you are using the right sized edger for the thickness of leather you are edging. After using the edger take a felt dauber (or a wool dauber burned down to half its diameter) and coat edge with tragacanth gum. Allow to get tacky and rub your slicking wheel in one direction only for the first four or five strokes. After that rub edge briskly back and forth firmly (not HARD). If desired, when finished, coat with 2-3 coats of "Edge Coat" or equivalent for a really nice shine.

**Fred Nachbar**  
Chengpchl@aol.com  
Port Orchard, WA

## Bee Natural Leathercare:

Dear Bob,  
I want to let you know how much we appreciate your Gazette and nice to see your members in Pendleton.

I read in your **Gazette** Vol 6, Issue 9 about the questions **Dusty** answered about **cas-ing with water and edging**. We have wonderful solutions for **Mike** with **Pro-Carv and Leather Finish**. Odd that no matter how much one advertises the word hardly ever gets to those who are looking for help.

Also in looking over your leather care section I noticed that our company isn't listed as a source for products. What is the criteria for being listed? (*ed. note: There is no criteria, just send your information to stelmack@nwlinc.com and it will be put in.*)

**Paul Kummer**  
<bnatural@pacifier.com>

## Children's Leather

Just got off the phone with **Pam Sharrar** who is setting up a **4-H Workshop Day** in January. She got my name from the fair and wanted to know if I could set up a 55 minute workshop and introduction for leather craft -- I said: "Yes"! Right now there is only one spot but there might be more, if the interest is there. It will be held on the 15th of January, (Monday) and include kids and adult leaders. She is putting together some info to send to me a little later. It will be at a High School in Puyallup. This could be a start as the 4H does have a leathercraft section in their books that might be brought to life providing they can get some experienced help.

**Woody Collins**  
Woodyleather@cs.com



## From the email Bag --

### ***Threads and Wax:***

Thread really should be only of the best quality available....why put all that work into a piece of leather and compromise on the very thing that will hold it together for many years to come. Also if the stitches are 'sunken' below the surface...either by 'stitch groover' or 'hidden stitch' they will not come into contact with a 'wearing' surface.

Waxing threads has several purposes -- firstly to 'hold' together hand made threads of more than one 'core' (made from flax or similiar).....another, to prolong the life of the thread when subjected to rugged outdoor use. Waxing of commercially made threads will smooth it a little (prevent fraying)....also make the thread run easier through the leather if it has been 'worked' enough...meaning that vigorous rubbing

is required to melt the wax (by friction) into the thread. Finishing threads by rubbing with 'kraft' (brown) paper will 'really' slick it well.

I hear mention of waxes that are 'sticky'.....this wax should only be used on the tapered ends of the threads (not the length).....it will hold (lock) the needle a lot better than pure wax.

I know there are pre-waxed threads on the market, but do not use them.....I like to color threads occasionally and the wax content would prevent this. With today's modern thread production, there are some that don't require waxing at all.....this would be true of the 'polyester' type. The only disadvantage with this thread is it is difficult to get a good 'taper' on the ends. This thread can be tapered by 'burning' the ends with a lighter or match.

**Peter Main**

### ***Business Card Folder:***

Here is another piece of leather with a fine scroll design. It is made from 2-3oz leather with a tan kangaroo lining and pockets. This folder features turned edges and is hand sewn 9 to the inch. The scrolls are 'modeled' only, after cutting the outlines with a swivel knife.....no stamping tools were used. The coloring is all sable brush work with spirit dyes.

This folder is similar to the one I have planned for the three day workshop in Sheridan in May. The attached photo should appear on your screen close to actual size....just a little over four inches wide.

**Peter Main**



## Colorful Scrolls

This is part of a project I am now working on featuring the beautiful scrolls of the Victorian era. It is very detailed, as it is only six and one half inches point to point. It is carved inverted to maintain the clean lines, and is color shaded with spirit dyes. The design was created using only a swivel knife and a modeling (guess which one?) tool. I made a small 'stop' which was pushed (not stamped) into some terminating lines. This has still to have some touch up work done and a finish applied

The shading technique is as I taught on the cruise....starting with very diluted shades and adding strength of color....my book illustrates this well. Most (but not all) are shaded (dry-brushed) from the outer edges in towards the centers of the scrolls.

I use only the finest sable brushes (size 3) available....the point on these brushes are the same as a no.1 or finer.... the difference being, that a no.3 has a greater color

carrying capacity...a great advantage when there is a lot of design to color.

An airbrush has its place in coloring, but is not suitable for inverted carving -- unsightly overspray will occur. Of course areas can be masked, but I find it lot easier (and quicker) to use a sable brush. As mentioned, I did use an airbrush to lay down a graduated tan background fading out towards the outside edges of the scrolls.

They are solvent (spirit) dyes that I used....but not Pro Dyes. The dyes I use have been with me for many years (I had them specially made up)....sadly they are no longer available. The background is also spirit dye....it was applied with an airbrush. All coloring within the design itself was done with sable brushes.

In answer to Holly's request for the pattern....it is only in very rough pencil form at this stage and will not scan well. When I get the chance I will ink it in.

**Peter Main**  
Petergmain@aol.com

## Free Leathercraft Instructional Movies from CLPW

New Movies Each Month! If you have an idea for a beginner help movie, contact CLPW and let them know your idea. If your idea is chosen, they'll send you a \$5.00 Gift Certificate, when they use it! They currently offer two movies on-line:

- (1) Beginner Belt Beveling - is a 15 second movie clip. The basics of beveling a belt. (*with sound and a readme.txt file for those who don't have sound.*) by **Stanley Bonjour**
- (2) Beginner Belt Burnishing - is a 15 second movie clip. The basics of burnishing a belt edge, for a smooth, finished, edge. (*also with sound and a readme.txt*) by **Stanley Bonjour**

You can view these instructional videos at:

<http://www.shopforleather.com/cgi-bin/store/commerce.cgi>

Here is a sample frame from the movie on Beginner Belt Burnishing:



### CLPW Leather™ and Leathercraft Supplies

1482 Madison Ave.  
Memphis, TN 38104  
Outside of the U.S. Call - 901-728-5551  
In the U.S. Call Toll Free - 877-728-5551



## Bar Grounders

I'm not the best to offer advice on this tool, but will offer my experiences. If you are doing Western Floral, take the leap and go with the bargrounder. Bargrounders take a lot of effort to master, but the end results are much more appealing and professional than the other backgrounders once you get proficient at using them. Some use them for years and never get it right.

Keep looking at what others are doing. Pick out the backgrounds that appeal to you. When studying photos, try to distinguish

placement of each tool. Try to duplicate how tools were placed in problem areas. A good book to look at is the Clint Fay book about Sheridan Style carving. Another is "Tools of the Cowboy Trade". Both of these have close up, very detailed, photos of tooling by master saddle makers and leatherworkers.

If you can, go with custom tools such as Barry King, Bill Woodruff or Jeremiah Watt. If you see any from the old toolmakers like Hackbarth (not Ellis Barnes) or McMillan, grab them. Custom makers usually have several sizes (diameter) of beads, and several lengths (from two or three beads to nine or more). Many of the new Taiwan-made tools stick. In other words, the leather literally gets stuck in the holes and the grain surface is torn off. Then you have to try to pry the leather out

of the tool.

I attached a couple images of my typical work. Both of these were done entirely with one Crafttool 101, which is six beads. Ideally, I would have used a nine-bead in most areas, to cover more area, and a

in which I have to place the tools end-to-end, I overlap impressions by one or more beads so that the beads will always line up. In all cases, I try to keep a flow in the beads. Don't just stamp in random directions as you would a 104. I like the viewer's eye to move through the background, just

*Images used by permission of Andrew Pelster*



three-hole in smaller areas to minimize overlapping. But, a six or seven is pretty average and I was able to make do.

The following is what I try to do. You will see from the images that I'm not always consistent, and that I still have a long way to go with these tools. I look at each area before I start stamping it. I start at one end and run the tool over the area, rotating it in my fingers as I go, imagining the best tool positions as I move through the area. I start stamping in an acute corner, with the tool parallel to one edge of the background area. As the area I'm filling widens out, I fan it by rotating the tool and placing one end very close to the previous impression, and leaving a very slight gap at the other end. In open areas, I place the tools exactly side-by-side. When I get to large areas that are wider than the tool is long,

like it should with the rest of the pattern. If you have impressions out of line, you create breaks in the flow of the background, and the viewer's eye tends to "stick" in that area.

By fanning in this manner, I have noticed that I obtain a more even-looking background. I tried placing the tool impressions end-to-end, paralleling an edge, making stacked, horizontal rows. However, when doing this, I could see each tool impression because I was not keeping the tool exactly vertical or I was not consistent in pressure. So the viewer's eye would stick on each tool impression.

Backgrounding is the last thing I do. I do it after decorative cuts. I want the leather to be almost dry. I walk the tool, and try to go quickly. You will use a background tool more than any other tool, so you have to learn to work very efficiently.

Bevel every line - even in areas that are going to be backgrounded. You will get cleaner edges, and you will be able to put the tool in the bevel and "feel" your way around the edge for faster stamping.

Good luck,  
**Andrew Pelster**  
<APELSTER@HNTB.com>





Nov. 7, 2000

Dear Linda & fellow PSLAC members,  
It is with much sadness yet  
a certain joy I must tell you  
- my husband, Fred Crick went home  
to be with our Lord on Sat, Nov 4.

His was a life cut short by  
emphysema - a result of 40+ years  
of smoking.

He fought a good, hard battle,  
which he lost Sat AM at  
9:25.

I know he never was able to  
attend your meetings, but you  
all, and the organization as a  
whole were a huge part of our  
lives.

He never gave up - To the end  
he had ideas and worked on var-  
ious projects - The last belt he  
finished was a scene of our  
majestic elk - He had one ready  
to dye - a special project for his  
brother, and had designed a  
beautiful belt & drawn the pattern,  
depicting creation and the life  
of Jesus Christ - I am blessed  
to have a few of his pictures on  
my walls to see every day.

Again, thanks for being  
there for Fred -

Sincerely,  
Mary L Crick



## Keyless Module Belt Holder

My new pickup has an electronic locking system, or “keyless entry”. It’s pretty neat. I can unlock the doors while walking toward the vehicle, which is handy at night or in a strange neighborhood. Also, the vehicle can be locked and the alarm set from outside. It also has a red button which is a “panic button” that sets off the alarm from outside, in case of attack while walking toward the vehicle.

I like the system, but the module with the buttons was somewhat inconvenient. It’s a little too bulky to fit in my pocket as a key fob, too bulky to fit in a key case. So, I decided to wear it on my belt. I built a little sheath for it, with holes in the leather to access the lock and unlock buttons. The centrally located “panic button” is covered, but can be activated by pressing hard on the leather overlying it. Here’s how to make it.

Started by cutting a piece of 3 or 4 oz. leather about an inch and a half larger than the module. Cut a scalloped edge at the top, which would expose enough of it to draw it out of the sheath. Edge and burnish this edge. Next, cover the unit with Saran Wrap, and wet mold the leather over it. Use your bone folder to smooth it down closely around the edges, and use shoe tacks to tack it to your bench top. Put the tacks, about 6 of them, in the line where you anticipate the stitching will be, incorporating the holes into the stitching. Use your finger to create impressions of the lock and unlock buttons. Later, after drying, you can use a hole punch just a bit smaller than the buttons to create access holes. You can put the molded piece over the corner of your punch board to do this.

Then cut a piece of firmer leather for the back and belt loop. I used about 7 oz.

leather, cutting it about 3/4" larger than the unit around the sides, and with a tang at the top to form a belt loop. Edge and burnish the loop, skive it to a tapered end, and sew it to the back, where the stitches will be hidden by the module and its cover.

When both pieces are ready glue them together, with the Saran covered module



inside. I used several spring clamps to hold it tightly, so the module would be held firmly. When the glue is dry, cut a stitching groove along the edge and over the tack holes. With the unit still inside, clamp it in your stitching horse and saddle stitch it together. You can use a clean cloth, such as a dish towel, to pad it and help hold it firmly.

Trim the edge about 1/8" from the stitching. Edge and burnish. I like to use Fiebing’s edge coating for this sort of item, too.

**Tumbleweed Tack**  
Puyallup  
Leather Furnishings and Tack in the style of the Cowboy  
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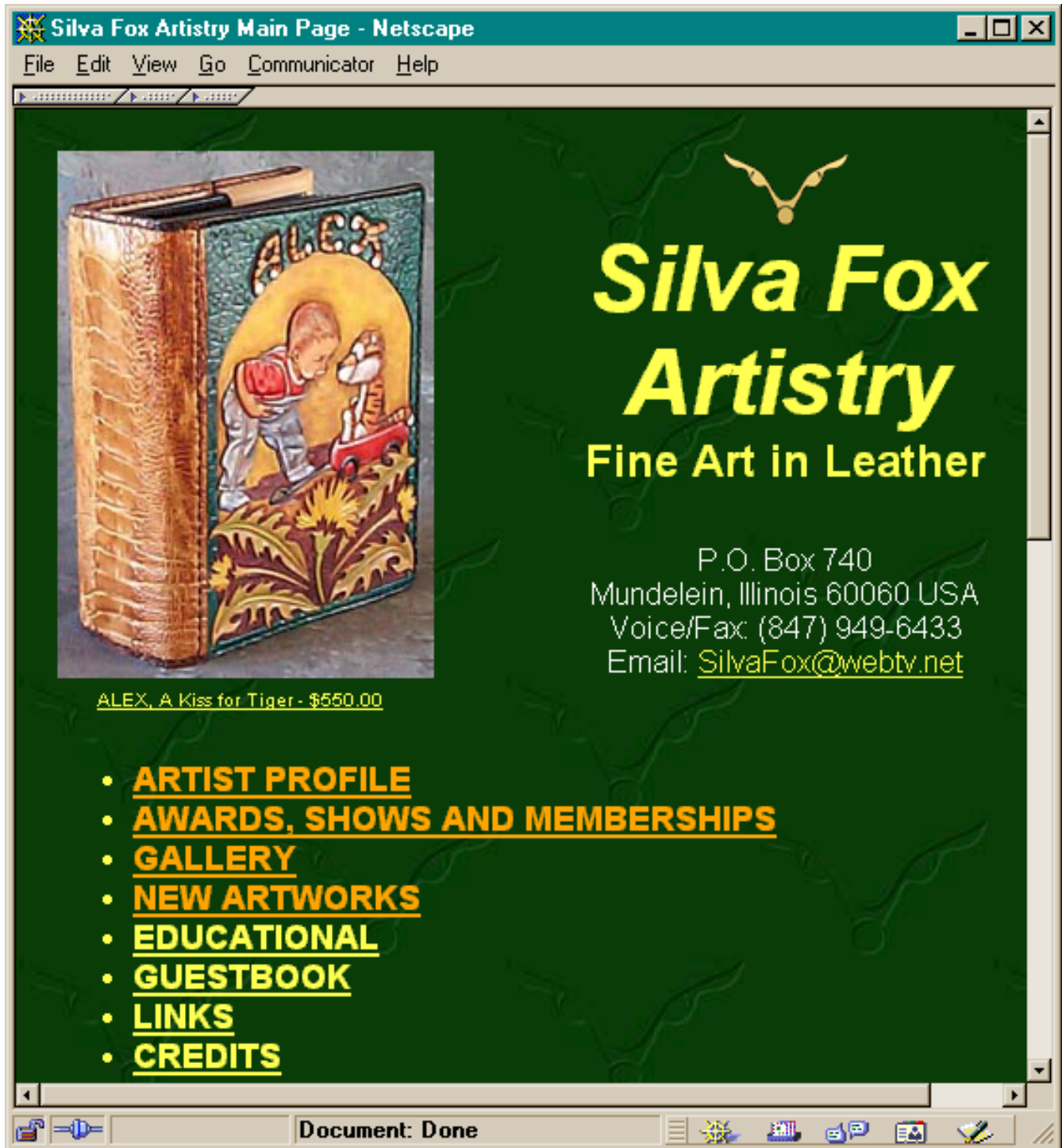
My sheath has no decoration, but you could easily add a small flower or small

basket stamp pattern. I finished with neatsfoot oil and Resoline.

Also, Al Stohlman taught us to use special tacks, poked part way through a piece of light cardboard and sprayed with varnish or lacquer. This prevents the darkening of the wet leather around the metal tack.

I wear my keyless entry sheath every day. It attracts attention and gives me a chance to tell folks about my business.

**Norm Wear**  
Puyallup



*Image used by permission of Silva Fox*

## Silva Fox's New Web Site

Silva Fox has an updated web site designed by Greg Gaub. The combination of Silva's Leather Artistry and Greg's computer skills has produced quite a stunning web site for people interested in leather-

craft and unique designs. The designs and colors are highlighted with the black background and seem to "come-to-life" on the computer monitor. The site is located at:

<http://wdstudio.net/foxart>

Some of the artwork done by Silva is in the "Doodle Page" style with the marks of the

tools used and a "step-by-step" carving example.

Stop by and sign the Guest Book and say you read about it in the RawHide Gazette.

Perhaps Silva will give permission to print on of her "Doodle" style pages in a future RawHide Gazette.





Photo by Woddy Collins

**RawHide Gazette**

**Editor / Publisher:** Bob Stelmack  
**Co-Founders:** Bill Churchill & General Seymour  
**Treasurer/Secretary:** Jeff Bement

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email: Jeffbement@aol.com

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**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to PSLAC, c/o Jeff Bement, 3942 SW - 329th PL, Federal Way, WA 98023, U.S.A.

**Advertising Rates**

The RawHide Gazette now offers advertising space to interested parties. Ad spaces are as follows:

- 1/4 Page or Business Card .....\$60 USD
- 1/2 Page .....\$110 USD
- 1 Full Page .....\$200 USD

These rates cover a six month time period. Guild members are entitled to a 25% discount. Leather companies supporting PSLAC are given free Business Card size advertisement, additional space at regular rates.

## Woody's Leather Class

Thought the members would like to see the artwork that my first **Basic Leathercraft Class** did as a final project. There were 7 in the class and all but two made it to the last session, (one of which I helped finish later). They were all proud of their accomplishment and seemed to learn quite a bit. Some are even talking about coming back in the winter quarter in January, (SAT. 20th, 9 am to 12 noon for four weeks)

Each plate is different, as each individual is unique and expresses themselves as such. One thing is for sure there is an interest in leatherwork and I've discovered that by teaching I learn at the same time.

### Woody Collins

*Just a reminder that if anyone is interested in taking a Robb Barr Class in April please contact me, Woody, by phone- 253-735-8998 or email: woodyleather@cs.com. I need to*

*let him know at the beginning of January. So far we have 4 members interested.*

## FLEATHERS?

URL Reference:  
<http://www.dgunleather.com/fleather.html>

While trying to finish up a listing of stamping tools I ran across the web site of DGUNLEATHGER.COM. One section caught my eye because of the unusual name--FLEATHERS. These are very similar to the ones that I have seen from **Ken Imus** and I think **Dusty** and **Woody** have made them also. They are leather carved and colored into the shape of feathers and DGUNLEATHGER.COM called them "Feathers of Leather" or "Fleathers". Pretty clever name. Check out the style and designs that are available on their web site.

All tooling was done with **Pro-Series Tools** from **Bob Beard** and iridescence fabric paint for color.

**Bob Stelmack**  
 Wellington, UK



## Marlene Harlow



Photos by Dusty Wert

## Marlene Harlow

It was back in the 70's when Marlene walked into my Tandy Store. Her Husband owned a business about 4 doors away. She, like many first timers In Tandy's kept saying, "I can do that". At the time, I did not know that she was an accomplished artist.

She started tooling (Not stamping) and she was a 'Natural'. She knew exactly what she wanted to do and what type of Leatherwork she wanted in the end. No lessons, just asking a lot of questions each time she came in. Her first love was horses (Especially Arabians) so this is what she started off doing. Big embossed carvings of Horses. She still has her first one.

Marlene's horses just kept getting better and better. Then she paid her dues. She started going to shows. Not Leather shows, but she would go to the better Horse shows. I have no idea what she paid for a booth, but I imagine that it was a healthy price.

Now before I go any further, let me clarify her "Carvings". She calls them

Leather Sculptures....And to the average leatherworker, they would fall in the category of embossed carving. But, Marlene's horses were a whole new medium. At first, the embossed parts of the carving were backed with instant Paper Mache', which took forever and a day to dry. She has found another way to plug her embossing and it is metal hard and instant dry. You could actually stand on the embossed parts and it would hold it's shape.

She uses a French Double Butt leather. Hard to find and I imagine expensive. It is anywhere from 6 to 9 ounce which I would hesitate to emboss. Her art is Airbrushed using acrylic. I am not sure of the brand. Most of her art is completely colored....No leather showing. But looking at the photographs of her work, you can see why. What really surprised me, she is still using a 20 year old Pachae' Airbrush.

Marlene and I had not seen each other for about 23 years and all of a sudden a ghost out of the Past. Marlene is on the phone. She had located me through Tandy Leather (Fort Worth). In the end, I asked her to come to the next PSLAC meeting

(last Sunday) and to bring a few of her carvings. She had the Members in the palm of her hand. As I have said before, Her art is a whole new medium in leather art.

She has done quite a few book covers (Horse Magazines. She has sold to the Horse World and The Entertainment World and is well known in both. But the funny part is that no one in the Leather World

knows her, and she probably ranks up with the best in Horse carvers if not the best. I have her word that she is joining PSLAC and I understand that she is giving some serious thought to having classes.

Those of you that get their Rawhide Gazette off of the Internet can get the full effect of her coloring. Those of you that receive the Gazette in the Mail...Come to the meetings...I intend to ask Marlene to bring at least one carving to each meeting. Words cannot describe these works of Art. Seeing is believing.

**Bill Churchill**



## Ken's Perspective

Bill brought a person that he'd known from the Burien Tandy that has been doing leather art, mainly 3D and mainly of Arabians, **Marlene Harlow**. She's been at it since the 1970's and apparently has a world-wide following and some of her stuff has sold for above \$10,000. She brought some of her pieces and a book of pictures. The delicacy of her leather work, all without traditional leather working tools was amazing.

But for me, her use of colors knocked my socks off. She equals Peter Main for shading and vibrancy. For being all self taught and no art classes, she's done some amazing stuff. She talked about recently getting a commission from Wayne Newton to do two life size works of his Arabians and was leaving next week to start that project. She gets full sized hides, bark tanned, from France. She's devised a way to suspend the hide's vertically to do her embossing and when done, fills the space with automotive bondo, then does her airbrushing. She was very matter of fact about her accomplishments and her message was, "it is possible to make a living from leather work". More important to PSLAC, she's interested in sharing how and what she does with others, i.e. classes for PSLAC.



**Ken Eriksen**

Some sample thumbnail scans of Marlene Harlow's leather sculptures are at:  
<http://www.pslac.org/public/harlow/MarleneHarlow.html>



**Fred Nachbar's  
Prize Winner**



**Knife  
Sheath  
by  
Woody →**



**Card Holder by  
Ken Imus (an idea  
from Bill's  
RawHide Gazette  
article of years  
ago) →**



*Photos by Dusty Wert*

**← Christmas  
Ornaments by  
Len Madison**

## **November's Meeting Sharing**





*Ms Robert & Karen Stelmack  
 7 Memorial Hall Drive  
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 England*

### Now THAT's Style

Even the mundane address label from Peter Main has that his characteristic flair and style. I just received my Peter Main modeling tool and the envelope was addressed as shown above. Looked too pretty to open. The tool is just what I needed to make my next Puyallup Fair project. Bob Stelmack

## PSLAC Membership Application

If you know someone who is interested in leathercraft — give them this information:  
**PugetSound Leather Artisan Co-Op MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**YOUR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBER:** (\_\_\_\_\_) - \_\_\_\_\_

We publish a membership list with our members expertise listed. This list is used to refer possible clients to the best person for the job. Tell a little about yourself, how you got started in leather, what your favorite things to do in leather and other crafts and/or art forms.

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If you would like to subscribe to *The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal* through the Co-Op and include an additional \$26.00 for a one year subscription.

# Season's Greetings



Stop and think.....All of the movies you have ever seen, golden coins falling out of a leather drawstring pouch. Robin Hood relieving the rich of their leather pouch with golden coins inside. The perfect gift.

**Bill Churchill**  
Federal Way Washington

## The Perfect Gift

Are you looking for the perfect gift..??..Not just a Christmas gift, but a hurry up gift. Say all of a sudden you remember a niece or nephew who has a birthday. Or for any occasion. A gift that does not ever need to be returned to the store, a gift that everyone in the world can use. In other words the perfect gift.

Using lightweight suede, make a small drawstring pouch. (Deerskin is very good for this). Go to the bank and order (The amount you wish to give) the new Sacajewea golden dollars. I keep some on hand (with a few Suede pouches for any 'emergency' gift that I might all of a sudden need.



From Bill Churchill and the other members of our guild.  
We look forward to the 2010 Holiday Event

Happy

Best Wishes

Holidays from the

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## Ken's Knothole:

This is going to be fairly short, so Bob Stelmack can wrap up the last Gazette of 2000 and Dusty Wert can get it mailed out to folks before Christmas.

Been doing some thinking about what has happened in 2000 and things to be thankful for, in what has been a pretty hectic and busy year. One of the first things that comes to mind, of course is that we still have one of our founders, Bill Churchill, around to help keep us on track and still as feisty as ever. In his latest update to us, he's already making plans to kick up his

heels at Pendleton next year. We also have a active, growing (albeit slowly) local group of dedicated leather workers continuing to attend our monthly meetings, coming up with new ideas, bringing their leather projects to display at the meetings, etc. And we also have a large group of Internet members downloading the Gazette and hearing about the PSLAC doing's through that medium. The breakfast social meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month seems to be going strong and also getting a little bigger each month (and yes, one of these days I'll actually get there in time to order breakfast).

We had a great showing of PSLAC members and family, both at the Sheridan and

the Pendleton Leather Trade Shows and lots of plans for an exhibit/demo's for next year's show in Pendleton. We have a number of members who have been very active this year in fulfilling one of our primarily goals, teaching the joy and wonder of working with leather to the kids. We have the beginnings of a library of books, patterns and videos for members (Woody, Bob and I are still working out some details on this, more info at the next meeting).

We've had the opportunity to meet, and see the work of, some of the greatest leather artists and instructors in the world. I was absolutely amazed at the work of Marlene Harlow (see article in this Gazette) and her embossed Arabian horses that we had an opportunity to see at the November meeting. And folks, she is local, and thinking of about teaching seminars!

Well I could go on (and on and on), but I did say I was going to keep this short. All in all, 2000 was a good year for PSLAC, with lots of plans for 2001. Congrats and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



**Ken Eriksen**



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### **This Months SPOTLIGHT on PRO-CARV — Working and Tooling Leather Formulation**

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

Dilute concentrate with water: 1 part PRO-CARV to 10 parts water is recommended for carving and tooling. When immersing the leather for shaping or forming, add 8 oz. PRO-CARV to 3 gallons of water.

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Leather can be immersed or sponged with this solution. PRO-CARV eliminates the need to case leather. PRO-CARV allows you to begin working with the leather after immersing for 3-5 minutes because of the very rapid penetration into even the thickest hide. Allow the surface to dry somewhat before beginning forming or carving.

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## The Holidays!



For those who like to make their own gifts this is the season that we get a little nervous because we have to think of another gift idea. Well, this year I bought a brush that folds inside of itself. I was just going to give it to my granddaughters and I made a pouch for the brush and a hair clip and now I think a lot of friends are going to get this gift. It didn't take a lot of time to make them. I had 3 of them finished in two evenings. Now that I know how they go together it will take less time to do them.

### Instructions:

- 1 Cut 2 3-4 oz. tooling leather 4" X 6" for each pouch
- 2 Tool a design on the one side of the pouch or a name
- 3 Punch the holes for lacing it up
- 4 Put the finish on Super Shene, Neat Lac or what ever you like to use
- 5 Lace it up and slip the brush into the pouch put the clip on the top
- 6 You can do fancy things with the lace
- 7 I found that when I am making more than one of an item I cut a strap of the leather all at once. So in this case I cut a 4" strap and then measured the 6" and cut all of the pieces that is needed and then get that mess out of the way then do the tooling, pop the lacing holes and then lace it up.

I would like to wish all of the members of PSLAC the Happiest of Holidays, Dusty



# RG On-line

The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op can be found at:

<http://pslac.org>

If you need the **UserId** and **Password** for the subscription pages, just contact the *RawHide Gazette* at:

[stelmack@nwlinc.com](mailto:stelmack@nwlinc.com)

-- of course the password information is free for the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op members. Those on the Internet still need send \$10 per year for a membership to:

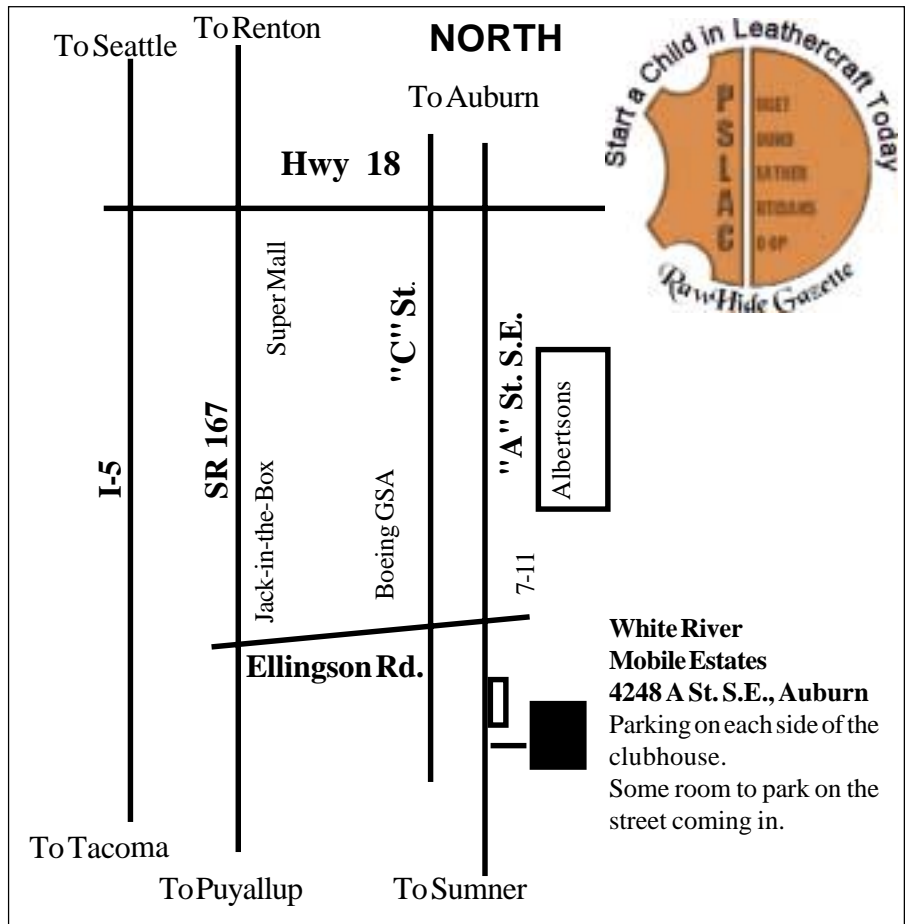
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*Photos sent in to the PSLAC are used, space and focus permitting.*

*They are also posted, in living color, on the Internet.*



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12614 142nd. Ave. Ct. E.  
Puyallup WA 98374  
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