

Rawhide Gazette

*Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op
P.S.L.A.C.*

*Volume 2, Issue 3
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The **next meeting** of Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op will be held, due to Memorial Day Weekend, **May 19th**, at **2:00pm** at the Foster Greens Apartment, Information Center (Recreation Center), 13865 - Interurban Ave, Tukwila, WA.

PSLAC March Meeting Minutes 4/28/96 - Tukwila

No minutes arrived in time for newsletter. Sorry I missed the meeting and probably missed out on some good demonstration or tip that would make my leather projects turn out better.

WANTED

Leather Seamstress, has own machine, work at home - pay according to experience. Materials to be supplied.

Contact: *Touch of Leather
c/o Shawn or Patty
Hartley
PO Box 4696
Bremerton, WA
(360)415-9010*

Uncle Bill's Corner

When you read this I should be out of the hospital. So perhaps you will let an Old Friend reminisce.

I have been doing leather craft since 1958. I started with the Air Force in Goose Bay Labrador. In all the years since then I cannot count the people I have started in leather craft or at least influenced when it comes to leather. Leather craft comes very easy to me. I was what you might call a "NATURAL", I watched others and then I did what they did. These were my teachers a few GI. Craftsmen I ran into along the way. So I learned and I also taught at Goose Bay.

From there to France and I ran into a TSGT Phillips. At that time he was the

best I had ever seen. His modeling spoon was a teaspoon and he had the basic of all basic sets — a beveler with a bent handle, a rusty camouflage, A102 (background), Crowner (veiner), and a homemade seeder.

His swivel knife was in perfect condition (so were his decorative cuts). On top of the absolute "TOP OF THE LINE" tool set he usually had a bang up set of beer shakes. His favorite saying was, "I am broke, I got to 'shake' out a wallet". He let me watch and I learned (learned to take care of my tools - if nothing else!). But I really did learn a lot from Phillips.

From France to Germany. There I excelled as a teacher. I was in the Air Force, but at a small communications site. We lived in Army Housing and so I always went to the Army service clubs. There was a German civilian that "ran" the Service Club named Herr Ludwig. Now there was a Craftsman. He did not know leather, but we swapped skills. I came out the winner on that one, but he turned into a very good leather carver. The Germans, at that time, did not have leather carving as you and I know it. If you are ever in Germany be sure to go to the Leather Museum on Offenbach. You will not believe what you see. But I could do no wrong in Germany. I was on Armed Forces TV and was featured in the European/Middle East Stars and Stripes newspaper. And I was teaching classes for the Air Force, the Army and even German civilians.

From Germany to McChord AFB - WOOD CARVING COUNTRY. I entered Art Shows, street fairs and even a 45 day show in the Washington State Historical Museum. I always was on the losing end of the Art Shows. It was either a modern art "painting" or a wood carving that won, but I did not give up. Again I was on TV (Channels 4, 5, 9, 13 and 62) and was in the TNT Newspaper. When I was transferred from McChord to Colorado Springs I think I left leather as a medium in Washington.

Colorado was easy — that was leather country. Finally I retired from "Uncle's" Air Force and went to work for Tandy Leather Company and wrangled a transfer to Seattle. The rest is history.

I have taught thousands since 1958 and being with Tandy the majority were children (in schools). Every year at the Puyallup Fair, while I am demonstrating, I always meet someone who was such and such school when I demonstrated. Or a school teacher that I helped along with his/her leather craft class. Makes me feel old, but that is a good feeling.

But there are three things that make me feel bubbly all over: (1) SEVENTY FIVE

entries in the Puyallup Fair, (2) knowing the STOHLMAN Duo, and (3) The PUGET SOUND LEATHER ARTISANS CO-OP (not necessarily in that order). Those I am proud of. I worked hard for all three and it shows that hard work does pay off.

I don't know if I will be at the May meeting or not, but in spirit I will be. Thank you for making me proud.

Bill Churchill

A Note from General:

Bill is doing well after his surgery. The surgeons removed 3/4 of one lung and are sure they have gotten all the cancer. Recovery looks very good and Bill may go home soon.

FOR SALE - Make Offer

On the reverse side of this newsletter are some Indian Symbol Stamps that Bill Churchill has for sale. Make an offer and contact Bill at (206) 839-3038.

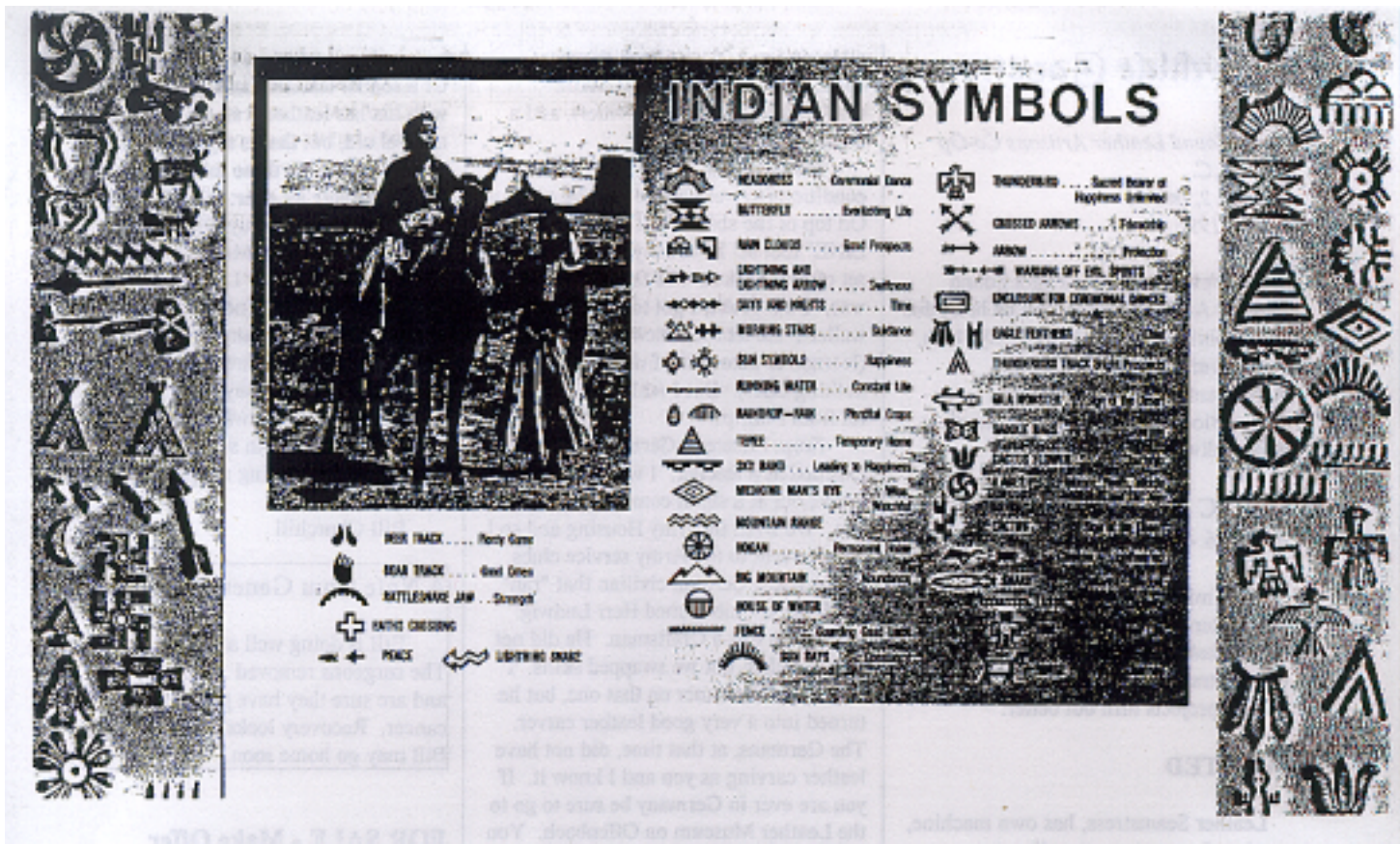
PUYALLUP Fair Draws Near

The Puyallup Fair is closer than we think. Dust off those leather tools and come up with those Blue Ribbon designs. Lets have another banner year for the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

PSLAC

**c/o Bob Stelmack
13820 - 56th Ave S., #301
Seattle, WA 98168-4779**





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