

Rawhide gazette

Volume 2, Issue 4

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

June 1996

Announcing the Next PSLAC Meeting

The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op will meet, as usual the last Sunday of the month, June 30th, at 2:00pm at the Foster Greens Apartment, Information Center (Recreation Center), 13865 - Interurban Ave., Tukwila, WA. This is the last meeting before the Summer Break - so come along and join in on the sharing of skills...*A special demonstration is planned* (see related "On-the-Net" article).

PSLAC March Meeting Minutes - Tukwila

General Seymour gave a fantastic demonstration on techniques for carving birds feet. He used for his tracings, the "How to Draw and Paint Birds" art book. General suggests that many art books show the level of detail needed for some great leather carvings. He showed the tool he uses to trace the pattern to the leather. It was a tool most often found in a craft store used for Paper Embossing. The tool was made by Kemper and was basically much like the old Stencil Stylus, but much finer at the balled end. Using just a filigree swivel knife, a smooth beveler and some modified Tandy modeling spoons General showed the way to double bevel and form the carving - bringing it to life. By double beveling the carving the figure becomes more realistic and the details for the technique can be found the Art Stohlman's book: "Figure Carving". General also showed how to

double bevel with a single beveler and the modeling spoons. A Great Demo!

The treasurer reported that as of the last expenditure that the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op had \$1,507.62

The last meeting, prior to the summer break, for the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op will be June 30.

There was a round table discussion on how to make a leather stamp from a finished leather carving. The suggested methods were:

(1) Using a plaster of paris like material (Kurr Investment) that the Dentist uses. This can be found at Dental Supply places or at lapidary or rock shops. The material would be poured over the finished leather work (spray with silicon first! - as a release agent). The investment then treated with a release agent and a second pouring to produce the form to take to the foundry for casting.

(2) Using an epoxy - pour over the finished leather work (spray with silicon first! - as a release agent). After curing, sand the back of the epoxy, and adhere to a metal block.

In both cases the stamp would be used with a press or clicker to produce the imprint.

There is yet-another material that can be used in place marble for tooling. The material is "Rich Light" and is a bonded wood product from Tacoma Plywood. It is as strong as marble, but much quieter.

Uncle Bill's Corner

My monthly note this time will be a little different than usual. After last months letter the newsletter was beginning to look like an "Uncle Bill" newsletter only. But I have it on good authority that others are going to write and to pin them down...

Fred Nachbar — should have at least one item for the newsletter and we know he is going to have a good article on all the good leather stuff he saw on his big trip "down under". I should think that if he can write for the Leather Craftsman he can write for us.

Don Betts — our new director who was elected not too long ago - who is the unofficial photographer for the Co-Op. Don tells me he knows a lot of tricks to pass along on "How-To" photograph your leather projects. That would be quite the column every month or so.

Chuck Carlson — has some expertise that we all want: SALESMANSHIP! Why not an article on how to sell your project, packaging, presentation, delivery, and whatever it takes.

General Seymour — how about some tips on airbrushing. Now we all know that you are far ahead of us on airbrush techniques. What are your secrets?

Andy Stasiak — is not so far away to put in your two cents worth in. Tell us how they do leather work in Texas. I know they do everything else different and better, so give us a note every month or so. (Jan...I guess your letter got lost in the shuffle when I went into

the hospital. I am sorry) WE MISS YOU...

Noel Dewitte — you are not getting out of this one. Why not an article explaining the operation of the Co-Op. You would be surprised at the number of people that think the Co-Op is only for discounts at Tandy and the Leather Factory.

Bob Stelmack — you have beautiful designs and I see you are putting one on each letter. Please don't stop. You can explain what they mean.

Bill Gaylord — I know that he should be able to tell us how to make a custom head knife from a circular saw blade.

Jack Gordon — could write an article on the use of new colors on leather work.

Barbara Hennessy & Tony Ezettie — are so full of ideas and tricks on leather work you learned at the saddle school that you could fill a book in no time at all.

Sister Rachel — how about some imaginative tips on small projects?

Alice Jones — what about ideas and tips on western stuff?

Richard Workman — you are just full of suggestions and new finishes and colors.

I know that I am putting these people on the spot, but I am "old" and can get away with it. But the rest of you in the Co-Op don't you even think that I am going to neglect you. How about our roving ambassadors: **Mr. Don Winn**, and our other roving ambassador **Ms. Holly Harbers** -- how many new ideas do you see on your travels.

We have people in our Co-Op that should have a lot to say about making harnesses for miniature horses. Or I know another beautiful young lady who I am sure can tell us a lot about combining glass and leather — or at least how to use a leather pattern on another

media and vice versa. (That would be pay back time).

ALL IT TAKES IS A FEW MINUTES and BANG. We are all teachers. You have the know how. We all need it. Help us!

I mentioned a little while ago that I would put one of Ann and Al Stohlmans Christmas cards in the newsletter. I wrote to them and asked for permission to reprint them, they said: "Sure..". Well here is the first one. These will not necessarily be in chronological order. This will give you quite an insight to these two people who have done more for leather craft than anyone else in history. Just think that 400 to 500 years ago (editor's note: "I don't believe Bill actually remembers back then") they would have been severely punished for giving away the secrets that they freely give us. I'll put one Christmas card in each month. Some are quite long so I imagine our Editor-in-chief will reduce them for space so get out your glasses (editor's note: this month's is full size to show some of the fine detail). Buy the way, Editor-in-chief, you are doing a bang up job - all you need are articles...

Bill Churchill

TIP-TIP-TIP

When cementing, why not put your cement in a plastic pop bottle (small size) and punch a hole in the cap. I use sheep's wool to seal the cap when not in use. Squeeze out some cement and use cardboard to spread around. DO NOT leave the bottle in the sun!

Bill Churchill

PUYALLUP Fair Draws Near

The Puyallup Fair is in September. Have you started your award winning project? - I did. Now Bill won't nag me...

Fred Nachbar

While stationed at great Lakes, IL, undergoing training for the then NEW gas turbine powered ships, my wife and I were at a stop light. On the corner was a Tandy Leather Shop. She asked if I wanted to take leather crafting lessons and I said: "No, I have too much to do already". For a couple of days she would mention it once and awhile. So finally, to shut her up, I said: "OK!". That was the winter of '78 or '79.

Since then, I have grown with leather. At first slowly due to my commitment to the Navy, then faster as I was nearing the end of my career. I was able to practice more. Got fairly good too!

After my retirement I went to Tandy, Tacoma. The first person I met there was Dusty Wert. I walked in and said: "I'm going to be buying, but right now I have to use the rest room". She said there wasn't a rest room for customers when from the back a voice said: "It's OK, I'm back here". Hence my first encounter with Larry and the start of a very good friendship. Dropped over \$400 that day.

A couple of years later I met Bill "by God I'm good" Churchill (Just kidding Bill) - took his class, improved my carving and started another wonderful friendship.

About this time Larry asked if I would teach leather classes. I asked: "So you think I'm good enough"? He said yes and now Bill and I have trained about half the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op.

I have done many things in leather and over the last couple of years I have come up with original designs, ideas and have written articles for the "Leather Crafters and Saddlers Journal".

I do custom work, but not carving belts.

Frederick J. Nachbar
Hartstene Island Trading Post

Port Orchard, WA
360-876-6227

Charter Member of the Puget Sound
Leather Artisans Co-Op and "All-
around-nice-guy"

Editor's Appolgy

It appears that the fold-over of single
sheet and mailing was a "bad idea".
More than one person has remarked on
the tears, rips and missing sections of
their Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-
Op Newsletter.

Fred had a good idea - just lay the torn
up newsletter on a blank sheet of paper
and finish the sentences the way you'd
like to see them. I'll try to make the
mailing better this time - sorry!

To make up for the many requests for
the copies of the torn May Newsletter I
have enclosed that letter with the June
Newsletter

Humbly - Your Editor,
Bob Stelmack

Eleven Exhausting Exercises

- 1 Jogging your memory
- 2 Throwing your weight around
- 3 Diving into your work
- 4 Jumping to conclusions
- 5 Swimming in paperwork
- 6 Wrestling with a decision
- 7 Bouncing ideas off a co-worker
- 8 Running up your charge cards
- 9 Letting your fingers do the
walking
- 10 Picking up the check
- 11 Skipping class

The Day that Bill Churchill Scared Me Half to Death

I'll never forget the day Bill threatened
to stop putting entries into the Puyallup
Fair, in order to "give someone else a
chance".

The irony is that the best chance we all
have always had was the existence of
people like the Stohlmans, Bill Churchill
and a bunch of others. They always
were advancing leather craft a step
beyond its present state - making it ever
more fascinating.

Those highly skilled and novel winning
entries give us something to shoot at,
improving our skills. We could have
stayed where we were in the '50's: no
color, no figure carving, no raised
undercutting, and so on; but there was
always Churchill's to keep up with.

New people are attracted to the craft by
the items they see at the Fairs and store
displays - so the more fabulous the
handiwork, the greater the potential for
new members.

We go to the Fair looking for awesome
new things. As for me, I want to see Bill
Churchill's and everyone else's project
there.

by: Jack Gordon
707 - 37th St SE, #6
Auburn, WA 98002

Membership Dues Reminder

The dues for some members are due or
past due. To continue to be a member
of the Puget Sound Leather Artisans
Co-Op you must get your dues (\$24/
year) to General Seymour by July 1,
1996 or you will be dropped from the
mailing list and will miss out on the
"Rawhide Gazette".

Here is a list of those who may have
forgotten and if there is any error or
question just give General a call to
straighten it out: *Alice Jones, D. Jeanne
Humphrey, Edward Borgatti, Gerald
Alfano, Henry Drygas Jr., Jimmy Jones,
Kim & Cindy Tate, Mark Peterson,
Ron McConnell, Sharon Capers, Terry
Harlow, and Wayne Jenson*

To help all remember when your dues
are due - just look at your mailing lable

on the Rawhide Gazette and you should
see a month/year after your name. That
is the expiration date of your member-
ship. Some do not have an expiration
date such as: Tandy, The Leather
Factory, Charter/Founding PSLAC
Members.

Send your dues to:

General Seymour (phone: 360-893-6759,
address: 17915 212th Ave. E. Orting
WA 98360-9622)

Andy's Gone but not (almost) Forgotten

I am somewhat remiss in passing along
Andy's letter on his trials and tribula-
tions on his way to Fort Worth. The
letter I was to bring to the Puget Sound
Leather Artisans Co-Op meeting was a
6 page single line spaced letter! The
letter WILL be at the next PSLAC
meeting, but to summarize I've taken
every twentieth word from the letter and
here it is:

Greetings... failed... fixed... broke down...
hooked up... stopped... on the road...
overheat... fan belt... back on road...
ruined... corrected... broke... repaired...
OK... made it... Missing you... Andy
and Jan Stasiak

Bob Stelmack

Affiliation Notice!!!

Some might want to go into shows this
summer and are proud that they are
members of Puget Sound Leather
Artisans Co-Op and would like to use
the name (e.g. You might want to enter
as PSLAC).

Remember that PSLAC is not a busi-
ness. Puget Sound Leather Artisans
Co-Op does not have a business
license so it would be illegal to use that
name. But, it is perfectly legal to say
you are a member of Puget Sound
Leather Artisans Co-Op. If you have
any questions make sure you contact

one of the board members.

Leather Sale Opportunities

Ken Imus has several opportunities for places to sell your leather craft products. Give him a call for the next place and time to join him. Don't miss this rare opportunity to expose yourself (your craft items that is!). Call him at (206)353-5514

Orting's "Festival in the Park", August 17th

The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op has a booth at the "Festival in the Park" on August 17 from 9:00am to 7:00pm. Set-up to be done no later than 9:00am. There will be food, entertainment, and an assortment of crafts for sale. Be sure you have a UBI tax number for sales tax purposes. If you don't, you can get a temporary one from the State Revenue Department (check your phone book for the number nearest you). Call Linda at 206-770-8751 to sign up for a spot in the booth by June 30th. Yet-Another-Sales-Opportunity!

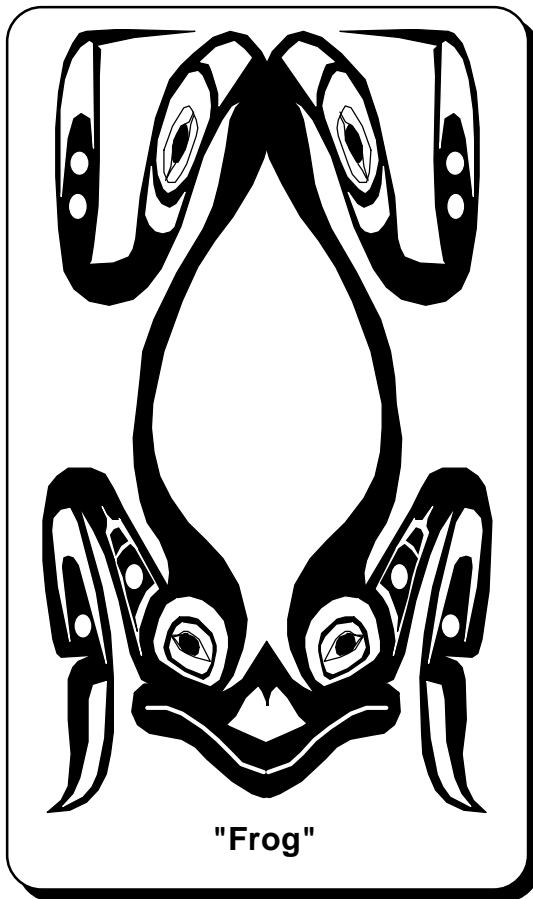
Nag-Nag-Nag!

We know who your are! You're the one who uses the whole-sale buying power of the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op to purchase less than \$5 of materials. You are trying to spoil it for us all. If you do not cease - we will be forced, as a co-op, to change the standing agreement with

Tandy and the Leather Factory for a minimum wholesale purchase price. You cheat the retailer and you make extra work for small purchases. As a suggestion - wait until you need the 20-30-40 dollars of supplies and get them at one time. Be fair! Be a member.

Leather Craft "On-the-Net"

An on-line demonstration of the Internet will be given with special emphasis on using the "net" for finding information on leather products and for displaying information to others of products and skills for sale. If you miss this meeting you will miss an opportunity to ask those nagging questions about the "electronic hiway" from someone who will explain in simple terms. And where no question is too "dumb".



Those Damn Clip-on Magnifying Glasses!

Ever since Bill told use about those

clip-on magnifying glasses (for those over 40) I have been on a quest to find them. I thought Bill said he got them at Pearl, but the Pearl stores that I visited never carried them. Well, being too stubborn to ask Bill, I just kept looking and finally gave up. Then the day before yesterday, while having a crown put on, I noticed my dentist had some very expensive magnifiers on. Dr. Zalewski, in Lynnwood (a very good dentist, by the way) copied a page out of a catalog that included two different kinds of magnifying optical aids.

One was the clip-on magnifying glasses that Bill showed that were ophthalmic plastic lens in two powers. And the other was a unique headband that placed the magnification lens on an extension closer to your work.

The company Almore can be reached at 1-800-547-1511 and I've included the information on the magifiers with this newsletter.

Bob Stelmack

Looking for Archives

I've started a three ring binder that contains our history of the PSLAC. I have very little since I came into the group a long time after its formation. I have a few of Andy's wonderful newsletters, but I would like to get some of the older newsletter and any other information that describes the PSLAC.

So... if you've got some old PSLAC information — please send (or copy it and send it) to:

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