# RawHide 9 for details.

Without question, the RawHide 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 7, Issue 1

**Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op** 

March 2001

#### Hide **Highlights**

- Special Membership Article -- Bevelers and **How to Use Them**
- Leather Resource
- Wallet Projects
- Spur Straps
- Membership Report
- Bookmarks from Scraps
- Dusty's Meeting Comments
- Ken Imus Demo
- Tips-Tips-Tips from Fred Nachbar
- Future Leather Workers **Complete Basic Course at RTC**
- Woody's Ramblins
- Demos by the Bucketful
- Members Sharing **Projects**

■Note the early start time for Judy's Demonstration -- Don't Miss It! See page

■ Dusty's Computer Age **Leather Pattern Making** 



Photos by Dusty Wert

Photos and Diagrams

#### **Special** Membership **Article -- Bevelers** and How to Use **Them**

Don't miss Bill Churchill's members only article on Bevelers. Many practical items are covered and include items such as:

- · Bevelers and How to Use Them
- Different Types of Bevelers
- Different Types of Modelers
- Matting Tools
- Five Points of the Tool
- Walking the Beveler
- Hand Bevelers
- Matting Down the Beveled Ridge

#### **Leather Resource**

Hey, I just found another resource for CHEAP leather scraps. I went by a local upholstery shop and asked if he ever worked with leather upholstery. He said, "Yes," so I asked what he did with the scraps? To shorten the story he told me that he was about to throw his leather scraps in the trash. He let me have about 75 lbs. of large size leather scraps of various colors and only asked that I make his wife a leather purse. Try your local upholstery shop. Maybe you'll get lucky like I did.

#### Mike Tillery

• • Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op • • •

<tillery@flash.net>

#### **Meeting Announcement**

**MEETING** on Sunday, March 25th <u>2-4pm</u>

Judy's demo starts at 12:30pm

at Woody's Place (see map on last page)



#### **Spur Straps**

Someone asked to see the finished product of the spur straps I had made for a local cowboy. Attached is a photo I took before giving them to him as well as a photo he took with them on his boots.

Dick Trostem

<ri>crichard.trostem@home.com>

#### **Wallet Projects**

A couple recent Jim Linnell pattern wallet projects completed. Roper wallet interiors, antiqued and handsewn (8/inch). They came from Jim Linnell's pattern pack sold by Hidecrafters although the bronco buster wallet was also in the most recent issue of the LC&SJ, although I modified it slightly.

Dick Trostem

<richard.trostem@home.com>







March 2001 -- Hide Side 2

#### Ken's Knothole

We had a very well attended meeting last month, another successful raffle and a great demonstration on beveling (and a lot of his handmade tools) by **Bill Churchill**. For those who are interested, come early to the meeting this month for a hands-on seminar in **3-D modeling by Judy** (see article elsewhere in this Gazette).

Cascade Mountain Man Craft and Gunshow was this last weekend at the King Country Fairgrounds in Enumclaw. Yours truly and another PLSAC'er, Betty Latham had a

booth with tables there, and for once I managed to spend enough time at the table to sell a few things. We also a had a number of **The PSLAC Saturday Breakfast Club** show up and I don't think any of them manage to get out of there without finding a few things they couldn't live without.

As usual there where a plentiful supply of beads, deer and elk hides - tanned, rawhide, brain tanned, etc., furs, knives, leather sewing supplies, etc. This is also a weekend for buckskinners and living history buffs to dress up in their period clothing, anywhere from the early US colonial period of the 1700's to the fur trapping and settler era of the 1800's. It makes for quite an experience. One of the vendors there takes the living history quite a bit farther and lives the better part of the year in a teepee in Wyoming. He does wonderful brain tanning of deer, antelope and elk. I asked him if he had any scraps for small projects and for beading and he said he'd send me a supply. When it comes, I'll bring it to one of the upcoming meetings to show folks, and depending on the amount, we may be able work it into a demo for the kids and have them make medicine pouches. If you missed the CMM show this year, put it onto your calendar for next year



around this time, it will be the 25 annual show.

### Demo's for kids:

Boy, these are really taking off, as you've all seen from articles and pictures in the Gazettes. We'd like to have all the local coop members get a chance to help with these, so we'll have a calendar of scheduled events and a sign up list at

the March meeting. You don't have to be an expert to do this, and there'll be other coop members who are experienced at putting these on, for you to help. I think you find the experience not only rewarding, but a lot of fun as well.

Don't forget the meeting in April will be at McPherson's Leather Company in Seattle, the last Sunday of the month. If you've not been there before, look for directions and a map in next month's Gazette. Terry Durbin, the manager opens his store up for all of us to wander around and find goodies to buy, and with



the discount for PSLAC members, you can save a bundle.

That's all for now, see you at the March meeting at Woody's.



Ken Eriksen

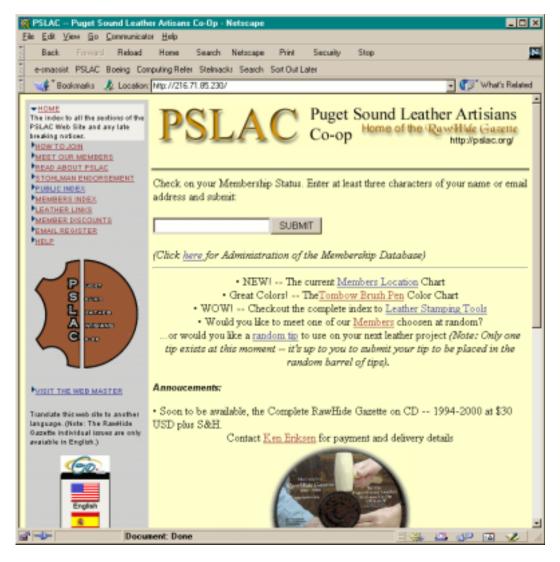
#### Membership Report

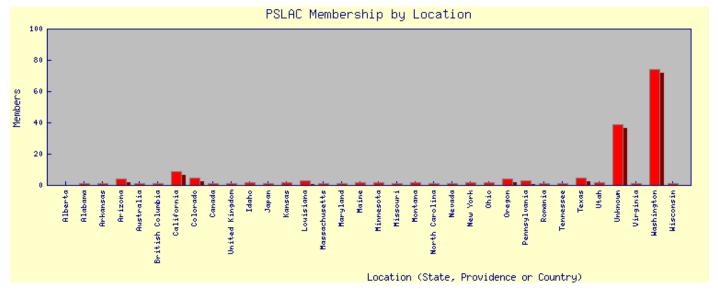
The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op has been changing over the years. With the expansion into the Internet, over five years ago, we have begun to gather members from a verity of places. I thought it might be time to review where our member reside and let you know that our group reaches are beyond the Puget Sound Area.

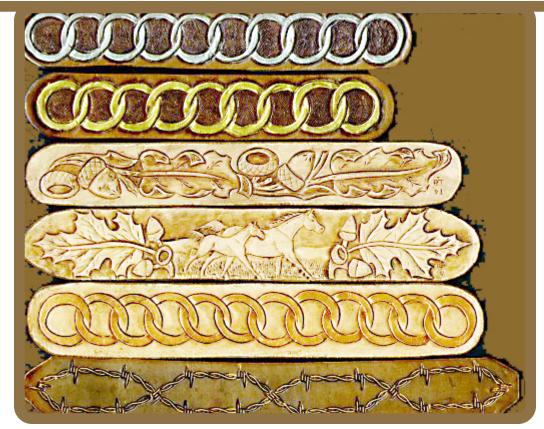
There are even a large number of Internet members that we don't know where they are located.

The membership rises and falls and time passes, but a stable core of members in the Puget Sound area have kept the group alive and healthy. Keep up the good work and invite a friend, work mate or relative to join the group.

#### **Bob Stelmack** Wellingore, UK







#### **Bookmarks from Scraps**

What is a quick and fun project that sells well, and is inexpensive to boot? Bookmarks! :) I don't often do craft fairs, but when I do open my box of "sellin' stuff" the bookmarks are some of the first things gone. That's if I can keep my wife out of them before the sale! They are also nice evening, stress-relief projects during the week. Had a bad day, go pick up a maul and pound a piece of dead cow. The cow doesn't care and it makes me feel better. :)

I'll normally sell bookmarks for \$5 - \$20 each. When pricing, I always try to figure double the materials cost, plus \$15 per hour for my time. If I'm displaying my wares, I want to have something for the kids, something that you can pick up for less than \$10 that still represents my work and the beauty of leather. This can be a great introduction and could lead to custom orders further down the road. Always include a business card or small flyer with any sale, even a bookmark or key chain. That way they can find you again. **Hint:** Use thicker leather, such as belt cut-offs, punch a hole in one end and put several on a key ring. Keep this handy and call it your "Belt sampler."

#### Materials

Bookmarks need to be thin or they may damage the spine of the book. I'll use 2-3oz or 3-4oz leather, but nothing heavier. Even 4oz will leave a noticeable bulge if left in a book for too long. 2-3oz works well, but has to be stiffened to work well. Otherwise it's too floppy to get a nice, slick edge on.

One to two inch wide strips are cut six to eight inches long. Smaller bookmarks work well in paperbacks, larger work well in hardbacks. I make several different sizes, usually based on the scrap I have in my bucket. I'll also cut and prepare a dozen or so and case them all at the same time. I use Bee Natural's Pro Carve in my casing solution and have found that I can leave the cased bookmarks in a clear plastic zip bag on my bench for a week or more without mildewing. I also let the bag dry complete, inverted, before using it for another project. **Hint**: Don't limit yourself to square ends, use slants, rounded ends, English points, etc. Give them some visual interest. You could even scallop or filigree the edge.

I don't glue my bookmarks to illustration board, since I don't line them and don't really want the rubber cement to show. I do use wide packing or masking tape, applied after initial dampening of the leather. I've tried putting it on before casing, but it's really tough to pull off cleanly. I also want the bookmark to be flat, so I don't want the extra depth and stretch that the board

would give. Hint: Leave the tape long, and fold the ends back on itself to leave a tab you can pull on.

You'll also need your tools, finishes, and whatever you use to slick the edges of your leather. I also use Gum Tragacanth to slick the back and stiffen the thin leather. You could use something else if you like, but the Gum T. works well for me.

#### Tools and Patterns

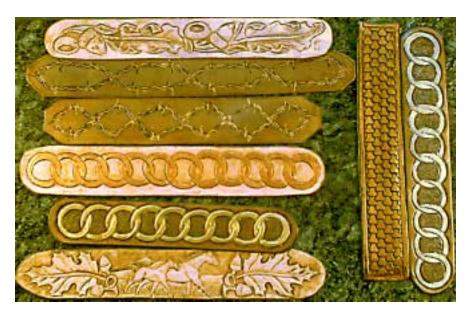
A simple geometric stamp, such as barb wire, basket weave, or any of the many geometric belt stamping techniques you'll find in books will work well. One consideration is the thickness of the leather used. Don't try to use a deep, saddle style basket weave stamp on the thin leather of a bookmark. You can't get the depth needed to make the stamp look good. The same applies to 3-D stamps, many look great when impressed into 8oz leather, but lack detail in the thin leather. Some work very nicely, and make a great, quick and easy adornment. I always leave a 1/8" to 1/4" border around my geometric stamps. **Hint**: Use 3-D stamps as the basis for mini figure carving scenes. A few minutes with a matting tool and other figure carving tools can make a simple 3-D stamp impression jump out and look like hand carved work.

Belt craftaids and patterns work great for bookmarks. They are fun to carve, great learning projects, and give you a chance to try out new styles and designs with minimal investment. If you are interested in lacing and braiding, try braiding a design into a

bookmark. Just keep it flat and thin. Inverted patterns are a favorite of mine when doing bookmarks. That insets the pattern into the leather and protects it from the tendency to crush and flatten when sandwiched in a book.

#### Completing

After the tooling is done, I let the bookmark dry completely. Then finish the front. An easy technique on a basket weave or geometric stamping is to resist the actual stamping with Resolene or your favorite finish. I use Resolene because leather sheen didn't seem to resist the acrylic antique I like. I usually use two coats. Then apply a layer of antique over all, allowing it to partially dry, then removing the excess with a damp, folded paper towel. I leave the backing tape on until all finishing is done. That way I don't worry



about slopping antique onto the back! You could also use markers, Tombo pens, spirit dye, or any other coloring technique. Don't be limited! Experiment!

After the finish and top coat is applied and completely dried gently peel the tape away from the back. As the tape comes off, you're going to get a horrible case of the fuzzies. Don't worry about it. Grab your bottle of Gum Tragacanth, put a generous amount on the back (About a measuring teaspoon full works for me), then slick down with your finger. I've tried daubers, paint brushes, slickers, and prayers. Nothing works better than my finger. Keep slicking, in one direction, until the fuzzies all lay down and start to become slick. If you can see voids, or if it doesn't want to lay down, add a little more Gum Tragacanth. It's messy, that's why I wait until all the front finishing is done. Gum Tragacanth was used as a finish for a long time and will act as a resist for antique. Don't worry if you slop a little over the edge or front. You can clean it up with a damp paper towel. Let this dry over night.

Now the leather should be stiff enough to edge and slick without too much trouble. Since the leather is so thin, it may be hard to hold it and run an edger. I sandwich the leather between a piece of illustration board and a stainless steel ruler. This gives me room for the edger to clear the surface I'm setting it on, and the ruler helps me hold it straight and keeps the leather from moving away from the edger. **Hint**: Using a "used" piece of illustration board, with a layer of dried rubber cement on both sides, keeps the leather and board from moving around on your marble. I use Fiebing's edge dye in the applicator bottle (Bingo dauber bottle). It's fast, clean, and puts just enough moisture into the leather to slick it. Then rub vigorously with a canvas. **Hint**: Canvas can be

purchased from awning and upholstery shops, or you can tear apart an inexpensive canvas apron from the hardware store or home center.

#### Finished!

See the photos of several recent bookmarks I've made. The linked rings are laid out with a compass then colored with metallic acrylic paint. I found the copper color didn't show up well against the medium brown antique, although it goes OK with a black background. It really shows up nice on bare leather. Then a full resist and antique over it. The resist is neat lac or Resolene. Fiebing's medium brown acrylic antique on all the pieces. The barb wire was resisted with Resolene, painted onto the barbs and wire with a #3 paint brush. Be very careful not to slop over! The two floral patterns are from craftaids, fully resisted with neat lac, then a layer of the antique, then a layer of Tan-Kote.

I've also done a bunch with a tri-weave stamp, basket weave, and other belt patterns. The basket weave I resist, leaving the "frame" uncoated. That makes a nice contrast with the antique. A similar finish could be done by hand dying the edges, then doing a full resist and finishing with leather glow, hi-liter, drake's leather dressing, or similar. They are a fun and inexpensive way to try out many techniques.

I hope you enjoy these simple and easy techniques to make a valuable and fun project. Maybe you've picked up a hint or two that will solve a problem. Now go beat a dead cow!

Dave T.

# **Dusty's Meeting Comments**

We had a nice meeting.

Woody started the meeting and told the members all about the scouts demos that we have done in the month of February. A great statistic that he brought out is -- PSLAC has given as many demos in the



month of February as they did all last year. Tom Berge brought his daughter Katie and Woody gave her a beginners kit. She agreed to submit an entry to the Puyallup Fair from her leather projects. We had a big turnout with 32 members. I want to welcome back Don Floyd and Tom Matheny.

After the meeting, Bill gave a demo on beveling. The members were delighted to

see Bill give his demo. Katie really had a great time. She received the beginners kit from the co-op and lessons from the master. I think she will fit in like one of the guys. This picture says it all.

And for those who were at the meeting know that Jana Stobaugh ex-Tandy manager was at the meeting. She came up to this area

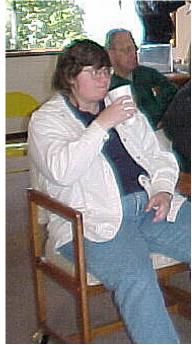
and decided to come and see the group. She seems to be doing well and still into tooling leather. It was good to see her again.



**Dusty Wert** 

(On a side note from Bill --Here is a little on Jana. She is now working for a company in Colorado. Home to see friends and relatives. This brings up a funny story.

When General and I were first starting PSLAC we were trying to put Applications in different stores. A lot of Managers got free lunches, including Jana. Afterwards when we put the applications in her store, she said, 'You didn't have to buy lunch, but thanks'. She was the first manager of any company to advertise PSLAC.)



#### Thanks!

Thank all of you soooo much!!!! The boys enjoyed themselves very much! Not only did our den enjoy but to also have the elder sibling want to stay is unusual.

That is all my son has talked about today. Cartoons were preempted this morning for the leather work catalog! He wants to do more - NOW!

I am looking forward to the next one with the younger boys - should be exciting.

Thanks so much for your time and efforts on 2/23/01, it was enjoyed by everyone!.

#### Karen Hart

#### **PSLAC NEWS**

Just had to say something now, can't wait till Sunday. Those that went to the last den demo know we are going back to do another den in may, that in itself is great. However I made an offer that I may be taken up on to instruct some of the boys in leather work which may lead up to help with Fair demo and entrees in the children's divisions. I also just got back from the Auburn Library and we have a shelf in June to display our craft, plus I set us up for July 14th 10 A.M. to Noon to do a demo involving Dusty's game and making book marks with 3-D stamps. They are going to have a sign up sheet and I stuck my foot in it saying we could do around 20 from age 7 and up. Be prepared to be asked for HELP! I'll talk more at the meeting but just had to get this out now.



Woody Collins Woodysleather@cs.com



Photos by Dusty Wert

Pack 294 Den 4 (Front row left to right is Rick, Ben, & Tim. Back row is Eric, Chris, & Ed with Debbie Gist as the leader.)

#### **Ken Imus Demo**

This is Pack 45, Den 7 from the Snohomish School Dist Nanette Holmes the leader. Starting clockwise with the boy hiding his mouth. Connor, Daniel, Joe, Ashton (Ken's Grandson) David and Eric.

Ken Imus gave the demo 2/12/01. Ken was so proud of his grandson and I have to agree he is a fine looking boy. I hope that he has his grandpa's talent.



March 2001 -- Hide Side 8

#### **Tips-Tips-Tips**



#### Tip #1 Using Only Part Of A Craft Aid Design

When using only part of a craft aid design, cover the unwanted portion of the design with two to three layers of masking tape. TRIM the tape to desired size and ensure no part of the sticky side of the tape touches the leather.

#### Tip #2 Sharpening/ Stropping Swivel Knife Blades

Use a sharpening jig such Tandy's "Keen Edge Sharpener #811800". It makes fast accurate work of sharpening. Ensure you have the proper angle and use a quality stone. Always sharpen by pushing the blade forward. Do not sharpen by pulling the blade backward.

Stropping removes a small almost microscopic burr from the edge of the blade. Strop by dragging the blade backward only across a stropping board. A stropping board can be made from a 3 x 5 file card glued to a hardwood board or hardboard glued to a hardwood board. Wipe on some oil (I use vegetable oil) to the card or hardboard and rub in jeweler's rouge.

#### Tip #3 Acrylics Over Dried Spirit Dyes

One can use acrylics over dried spirit dyes but do not use spirit dye over acrylics. The alcohol can dissolve the acrylic.

Tips by:



Fred Nachbar Chengpch1@aol.com

# Future Leather Workers Complete Basic Course at RTC

The winter class just had their last session the 10<sup>th</sup> of Feb. The class was made up of 6 students: **Orville (Tiny) Campbell, Robert Clark, Amy Harmala, Cheryl Jensen, Brett Martin and Jonney Miller.** In 12 hours instruction time they were all able to work on the basics by carving the traditional Half back pattern and carving and coloring a cartoon animal figure wearing clothes.

A lot of territory was covered, brief demos were held to wet their appetite in Belt making, embossing, sewing, where to find and how to make patterns. One of the Students (Cheryl) had taken the Fall quarter class and hopes to take the Spring Quarter one. It looks like the others will be coming back for more and start working on individual projects. One Leather Crafter did leather work 40+ years ago, but had to stop. He showed me two wallet backs that he had stopped working on at that time. Both were discolored with age and slight mold. That gave me a chance to show a way of cleaning the leather to save it. As they all watched the wallet back came back to life. When I was done and it was dried I put some neatsfoot oil on it. All during the cleaning I noticed the great swivel knife work and stamping and like I told Tiny this is wall hanging material for display. He is going to finish it now. We should be seeing him at a future meeting. Teaching like this has given me the opportunity to meet some very gifted people who share my love for leather

**Woody Collins** 

# Woody's Ramblins

Well another month has passed and a lot has been accomplished. By the end of February we will have done seven Cub Scout Demos. That is more then we did all last year and we still have dates for 13 more during the next few months. I think I can speak for all of those who have done these Demos when I say they are a lot of fun and personal fulfillment when you see a child's face after making a rounder knowing that they can do it. We have been invited to attend a Webelos weekend in March. On the 24th the Co-op will run an all day workshop for anywhere from 140 Webelos and 50 Scouts to possibly more. We will be helping the Webelos scouts to get their craftsman requirement by making a neckerchief slide, rounder and maybe some conches using 3-D stamps. The boys will be in 4 to 10 scouts per den and we need to run them through in just under an hour for each session. At this writing I have 5 volunteers, counting myself, and can use more. The more stamping stations the quicker it will go. Plus with enough help we might even get a break or two. Please feel free to contact me at 253-735-8998 or email: woodysleather@cs.com if you would like to get in on the fun.

I received a letter from the focal of the Marvelous Monday we did for 4-H in January. They were very pleased with our workshop and are looking forward to having us do at least two next year. I didn't know that the group was going to evaluate us and the results were good. They gave us 8.5 on a scale of 1 to 10 on our teaching team with special notes on Jeff Bement, (great job Jeff) and from a starting point of 3.4 at the beginning of class to a 7.8 at the end for knowledge gained. For myself I feel very proud.

Judy will hold March's demo. We will be doing her embossing technique. At the end of Feb.'s meeting I had 18 people signed up. The demo/class is free we just need to know how many so Judy can prepare the leather. For those who are going to do the demo we will start at 12:30 the day of the meeting, March 25th. Anyone who is interested in attending who couldn't sign up at the meeting contact me at 253-735-8998 or email: woodysleather@cs.com at least a week prior so I can let Judy know.

The Feb. meeting itself was a lot of fun,

we gained another new member and I believe another rejoined. Bill brought in his Stage Coach replica for all to see, (if he is interested I can make him a great deal on a scale model of a rifle). There were quite a few items for show and tell, which Dusty has covered so I won't go

everyone at the June meeting.

Well that's enough for this month; I'll let some of the others fill in with what I probably forgot. See ya next month— woody to pay the shipping. We want to tell them how much we appreciate their gift. We are getting low on the leather. We are looking for donations. We have a lot of demos to do. The word is getting around and they are wanting to sign-up for a demo into May. Our calender is getting filled up.



# Last Demo of the Month

Pack 577 Den 2, 2/27/01

This is the last demo of this month. The funny thing about this den was -- there were more leaders then there were Cub Scouts.

Front row left to right Todd, Sean and David. The back row is Jeff and Cathy Meagher and Teri and Jeff McGee.

I have been going to demo's with the guys for a month. **Jeff Woody, Harry and Dave** they are great bunch of guys. I am learning a lot from them, about giving demos, teaching leather to a group. Jeff warned me to never ask Woody to count to 21.

**Dusty Wert** 

into them here. However we were able to give out a Leather starter kit to our first budding artist of the year. Her name is Katie Berge and by the looks of a hand stitched leather bear she had already made the rest of us are in for some stiff competition. I can't wait to see what she will enter into the fair and look forward to viewing her work at future meetings.

On another note, we will have a shelf, (12 feet or so) at the Auburn King Co. Library to display work from our members. The display case was booked for the year but in June the library is doing the display and has granted us the space. They have my name for when they start planning next years so we will get the whole case then. The Co-op will also be doing a leather bookmark workshop there on a Saturday in July-should be the 14th from 10 A.M. to noon. They will preregister the kids and I said we could handle at least 20 but wouldn't turn anyone down. So all you volunteers keep that date open, as I will be contacting

#### **Leather Donations**

Woody wanted this picture to be published because we got a bunch of leather from Weaver Leather for free. All we had



March 2001 -- Hide Side 10

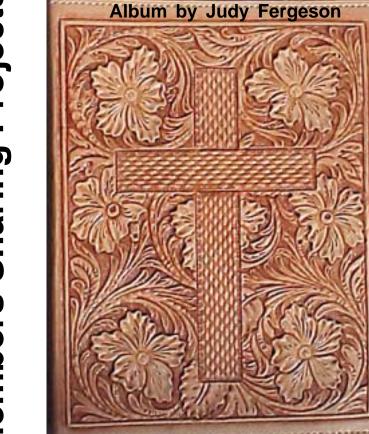














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#### <u>This Months SPOTLIGHT on PRO-CARV — Working and Tooling Leather Formulation</u>

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.

NO CASING IS NECESSARY

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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Co-Founders: Bill Churchill &

General Seymour

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#### **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.

# From the Dusty

## DUSTY'S COMPUTER AGE LEATHER PATTERN MAKING



WELL WE ARE IN THE COMPUTER AGE. WHEN WE HAVE ANOTHER TOY TO PLAY WITH WE SHOULD ADAPT IT TO OUR



OWN ADVANTAGE. WITH THAT IN MIND......I SEE DRAWINGS AND PICTURES THAT I WOULD LIKE TO PUT ON LEATHER. TRACING JUST ISN'T MY STRONG POINT AND THERE IS THE PROBLEM OF MAKING A SMALL PICTURE OR DRAWING BIGGER. HOW TO DO THAT? BEFORE THE COMPUTER WE HAD THE PANTOGRAPH. HAVE YOU EVER TRIED ONE OF THOSE?? @#!&%\*# THAT IS THE ONLY WAY TO DESCRIBE IT.

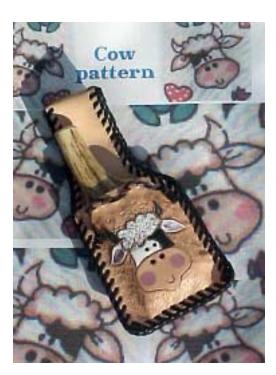
NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH ALL OF THAT ANYMORE WHEN YOU HAVE A 'COMPUTER' AND A 'SCANNER'. THE PROCEDURE OF GETTING A PATTERN ISN'T THAT HARD TO RETRIEVE FROM A BOOK, COMIC, OR EVEN A PIECE OF CLOTH. I BOUGHT SOME MATERIAL TO MAKE A TABLECLOTH. OF COURSE IT HAD A CUTE COW ON IT. I THOUGHT THAT THE COW

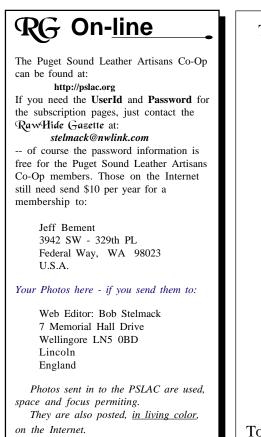
WAS SOMETHING THAT I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW, BUT NEVER DID AND AS

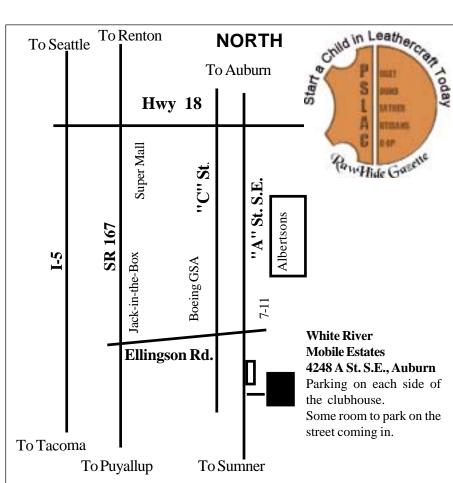
FOR THAT PANTOGRAPH I WENT NOWHERE WITH THAT.

WHEN YOU COPY AN ITEM BE SURE TO CHECK "COPY RIGHT" LAWS BEFORE YOU TRY TO SALE YOUR LEATHER PROJECT.

DUSTY WERT
DUSTYTOY@NWLINK.COM







#### **PSLAC**

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