

# 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 7, Issue 4

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

July 2001

## Hide Highlights

- ☐ Life Time Achievement Award for Bill Churchill
- ☐ Fred Nachbar is "On-the-Mend"
- ☐ Peter Main's Next Class
- ☐ Get Ready for Puyallup Fair
- ☐ PSLAC at the Library
- ☐ Your Leather Project Pictures Needed
- ☐ PSLAC Bar-B-Que 2001
- ☐ Help PSLAC Attract New Members
- ☐ Tips-Tips-Tips ---Cutting
- ☐ June Meeting Sharing
- ☐ PSLAC 2001 — Leather Yard Sale Tables
- ☐ Recipe of the Year
- ☐ Next Fair Entry
- ☐ If you could only own 12 stamping tools...
- ☐ Fish Wallet
- ☐ Sharpening a Headknife
- ☐ Scout Hut Opening
- ☐ Making a Dye Block

## Meeting Announcement

**SAD NEWS**  
**Bill Churchill passed away, July 5th, 2001**  
(see page 2)

## Life Time Achievement Award for Bill Churchill

The plaque says: "*Life Time Achievement, Presented with great pleasure to Frederick William Churchill by the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op in recognition of your lifetime dedication to the advancement of the leather arts*" signed by the President of PSLAC, Ken Eriksen on June 10, 2001.



Photo by Dale Buckenberger

## Fred Nachbar is "On-the-Mend"

Fred became ill and was taken to the hospital. He has experienced a heart attack. He had a blood clot which they were able to dissolve. He was conscious and able to answer questions. They did an echocardiogram and determined that the attack was a mild one.

He remained in the hospital for several days. The expectation is that he will do

fine and will have a vacation from work, but in time will be able to return to all previous activities.

It looks like Fred will have a forced vacation. I know that he is thinking of things he will be able to do (leather work) to keep busy during recuperation. NO MORE DITCH DIGGING!

**May Adams**

(Fred is back home and Dusty provided the flowers on behalf of PSLAC)

# Bill Churchill



**"Uncle" Bill**

> yesterday and it looks that Linnell  
 > doesn't have to buy the Steak after  
 > all. They don't think Pendleton (Octo  
 > ber) is in the Picture. I have  
 > hopes for Puyallup Fair (August to put  
 > Projects in) but They were pretty  
 > frank. The Fair itself (Sept) is IFFY) If I  
 > find out more (GoodNews)  
 > i'll let you know. Bill  
 > —  
 > Bill Churchill

We all have lost a great friend today. Bill died July 5, 2001 at 5:00 PM. The family wishes no flowers or cards. If you want to send a contribution, send it to Hospices in Bills name.

We will all miss him and will feel a great loss.

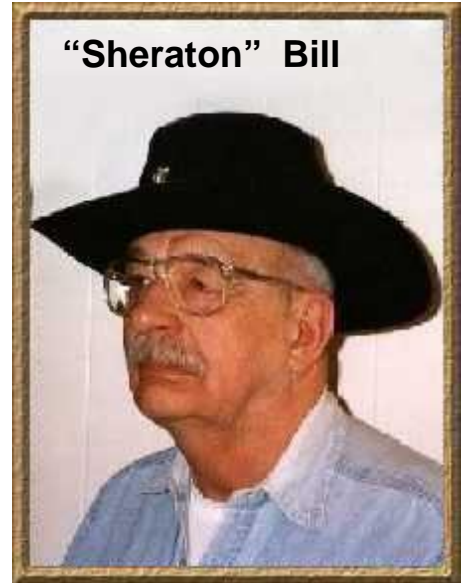
**Dusty Wert**

—o—

Pages could be filled on what Bill has done, but I will keep this brief. Bill has been my friend, teacher and mentor. Through him I have found what I want to do with my life, he gave me the courage to help others discover what I have – the satisfaction of working with leather as an art. I only hope that I can carry on what



July 2001 --HideSide 2



**"Sheraton" Bill**

*Photos & Logo by Dale Buckenberger*

he has taught me and pass it on to future leather artisans. He will never be forgotten. All I know I owe to Bill and hopefully when we meet again he will be able to say Good Job —

**Woody Collins**

—o—

I am so very sorry to hear about Bill. My heart just broke... for him, for the family and for us all. He will be greatly missed. He did leave us all a great part of himself behind... his leather work. Dusty sent me a wonderful picture of Bill. The only pictures I have of him are 20 years old when he gave me away at my wedding in 1977. If you see the family, please pass along my condolences since they don't want cards or flowers sent. Could you, if you know, please tell me of Bill's last few weeks... hospice was mentioned so I assumed he died at home. Which was the best for Bill, aka "My Sweet William". :-)

Was he conscious and able to talk with friends/family up to the end? Hearing about his last days will help me to put closure to his passing, no matter what his condition was. Please, if you know. Did he have any more surgeries other than the ones he sent emails about?

## Bill Churchill Passes Away

*(ed. note: Some words about Bill)*

General Seymour called me this evening with the news. Bill Churchill passed away at home at around 5 PM. General was there at the time. He said that Bill went peacefully. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to:

Providence Hospice Seattle  
 425 Pontius Ave N  
 Seattle, WA 98109-5452

**Dale Buckenberger**

—o—

All,  
 I'm sorry to tell you that this e-mail from Bill will be the last one that you get:

> Sent: Wednesday, May 16, 2001 10:30  
 > AM  
 > Subject: Small Up Date

> This will be short and straight to the  
 > point. I was with the Doctor's



When did he find out he was terminal? I was hoping he would be able to make it to the Puyallup Fair... that was one of the first things I did when we went to the fair every year, was head for his display to see what he was doing and what was new! I have so very many wonderful memories of Bill when I worked for him at Tandy in Burien in the late 60's early 70's. We have remained friends for many years. I have a rawhide mallet that he wrote "the plague" on because I drove him nuts wanting him to teach me how to work the leather like he did. We just moved and in putting everything away I came across the mallet on the 3rd of July, which made me really think about him.

Your Friend,  
**Jeannie Harper**

—o—

There has been a thought nagging at me for the last week. It had been some time since I had heard from Bill. Today was the day I was going to e-mail you for news. All I can say is that I am devastated to have found him again for such a short time. He will always be in my heart and in my mind especially every time I touch a piece of leather.

**Kathy Ashley**

—o—

Bill was one in a million!!!

I met him in 1977 in the first couple of weeks into my new job at Tandy Leather. I knew him as a fine leathercrafter and fellow employee. He taught classes at the store in Tacoma and after I retired I took classes at his home. He always gave me good information and encouragement on my projects.

I admired him and his leatherwork. He was such a great guy and I am really

going to miss him.  
PSLAC.....**Dusty**

—o—

I've got a little piece of my heart missing today. One-in-a-million friends like Bill are hard to find, so I'm not sure I will be able find that missing piece.

If you or PSLAC are planning anything special to honor Bill, please let me know. I want to be a part.

I



Photo by Dusty Wert

intend to have me a big steak and drink a cold beer at Pendleton this year and remember a bunch of great times had with the old fart. I plan on buying one extra and I'd be honored if you would join me. I would add to this that any PSLAC members attending Pendleton are welcome to join us.

**Jim Linnell**

—o—

We knew this was coming eventually, but I know we were all hoping it wouldn't be this soon. I will miss his constant, positive support for PSLAC, for the "kids programs" and his encyclopedic knowledge of leather working and the whole

leather industry. I am thankful that Bill's passing was peaceful. We have indeed lost a good friend and one of the guiding spirits of this group. I choose to believe that he is still here, to guide and help us, just not now in person.

**Ken Eriksen**

—o—

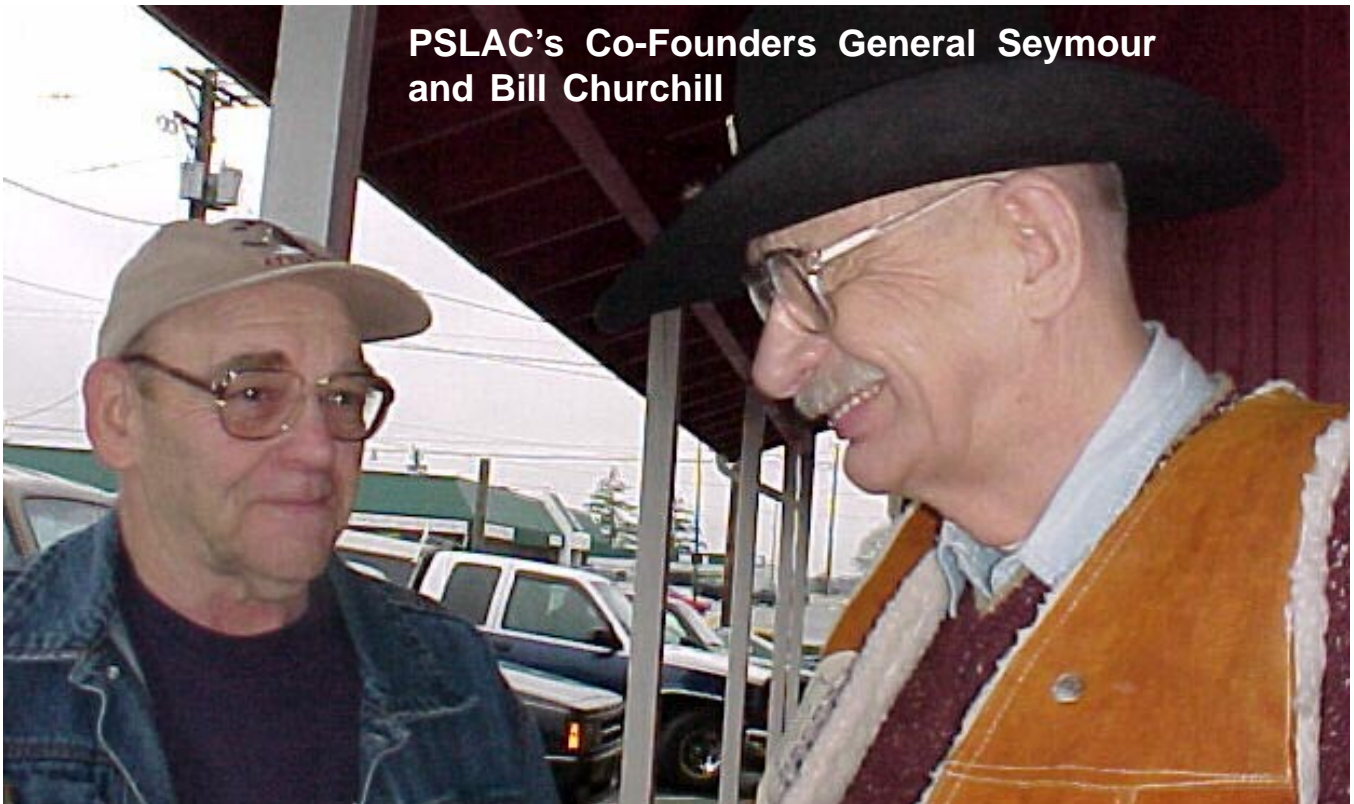
Frederick William Churchill (Bill), friend, teacher, and along with General Seymour, the original foundation for Puget Sound Leather Artisan's Co-op.

I met Bill one Saturday morning while visiting Larry Riekema, manager of Tandy, Tacoma store. Larry invited me to go with him and Bill to have breakfast. That was the start of an 11-year friendship. For years the Saturday breakfast was usually Larry, Bill, General and myself. Occasionally Dale Buckenberger, Doug Woods and Roy Luxton would join us.

From this beginning the concept of a co-op sprang. The nucleus came from Bill and General and I sort of fell into the fever. It is amazing how from an idea hatched around scrambled eggs, sausages, and hash browns that the firmament of PSLAC as an organization and its rapid growth took place.

Bill and General, but especially Bill, were adamant that PSLAC was not to become or even be referred to as a guild. This stemmed from a guild that they were in. It seems that internal politics destroyed the cohesion of that organization and Bill was bound and determined not to have that happen to this organization. He was RIGHT! Here we are, a strong club with a firm mission, great contacts, authors who

## PSLAC's Co-Founders General Seymour and Bill Churchill



*Photo by Dusty Wert*

contribute to both the "Rawhide Gazette" and the "Leather Crafter's and Saddler's Journal". We have many stout members who show up month after month to meetings and an ever growing membership both here in the Puget Sound area and through the Internet.

...all of this because of my friend, Frederick William Churchill.

We miss you Bill! Via Con Dios

### **Fred Nachbar**



Just a footnote to all the wonderful thoughts that have been shared about Bill. I had stopped in at Bill's on Tuesday, July 3rd, on the way home and helped tear out some old large Azalia bushes from the back garden that Carol and Pat were trying to spruce up for Segrid. While recovering from the digging, Sigrid mentioned that she felt like she and the girls were like vultures standing around Bill's bed, and Pat said, "No mamma, we're his angels watching over him right now." How very true those words were. I learned from Carol of Bill's passing about 6:30 on

the way home Thursday, and the only thought that stayed in my mind was that we have all lost an good friend, father and husband but we have also gained an angel. Bill is up there now watching over all of us, and I know that he's looking down at me as I write this saying "You got something ready for the Puyallup Fair? God Bless you Bill.

### **Chuck Carlson**



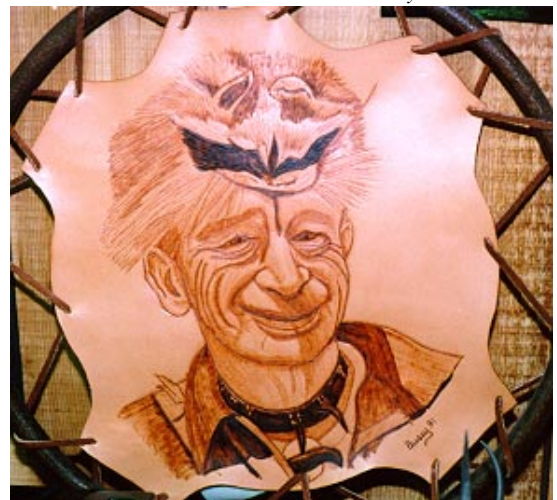
I thank all of you for keeping me up to date on our very special person, Bill. I feel very blessed to have known him as a dear friend, and I would like to share one very special time I had with Bill and his lovely wife. In January when I was in the hospital recovering from back surgery, I was so very surprised to see Bill and his wife walking into my room to wish me well. He walked into my room with the BIGGEST grin on his face, very pleased that he had surprised me so! Tho our contact was usually

thru the Fair (Hobby Hall), I appreciated all that he has done to promote the leather craft he loved. He was a very loyal advocate for his craft, and I am grateful that I had the opportunity to know and care for him. Thank God for the gift of memory, Bill holds a very special place in mine.

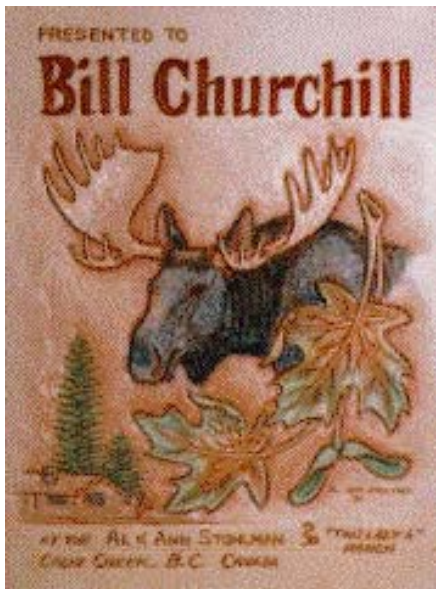
### **Marilyn Fankhauser**



*Photo by Bob Stelmack*







## Bill's Reminiscing (reprint)

*(ed note: Back in May 1996, Bill went through his first surgery and at that time he had written the following article for the RawHide Gazette.)*

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), Crouner (veiner), and a home-made 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



July 2001 --HideSide 5

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

*(ed. note: Bill taught many classes and here is how one of those classes started)*

*“Leather Art takes many forms, but the part we are concerned with is FIGURE CARVING. Everyone in this class can carve the Basics and they can actually do Figure carving, but most people do not realize it. If you can do Basic carving YOU HAVE THE SKILL TO DO FIGURE CARVING - and you can do it well.*

*What I will attempt to teach is “C.O.P.I.”*

- “C” Confidence
- “O” Observation
- “P” Practice
- “I” Imagination

*Using your knowledge of Basic Carving and the skill you are not quite sure you have, with the above four ingredients, you can become a figure carver without equal.”*

*Bill Churchill*



**Start a Child  
in Leathercraft  
Today**

## Meeting in Memory of Bill Churchill

**Come celebrate the accomplishments of Bill Churchill and the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op Group that Bill and General Seymour started.**

**Date: Saturday, July 21st**

**Time: 2-4pm**

**Place: Woody's Place  
White River**

**Mobile Estates**

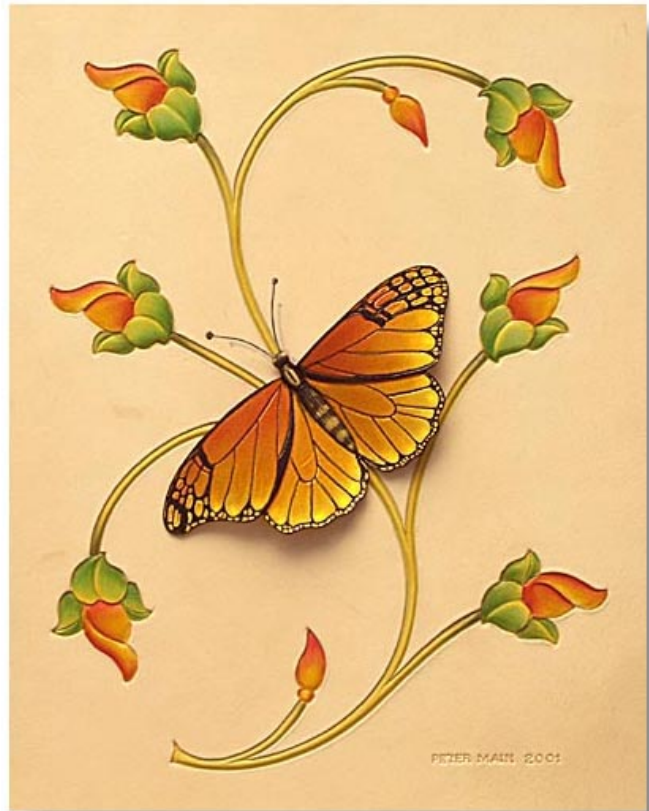
**4248 A St. S.E., Auburn**

**(see map on last page)**

**Bring snacks -- if desired. Casual dress. Please, no flowers or cards. If you would like to make a donation to the hospice that helped Bill, make your donation to Providence Hospice Seattle, 425 Pontius Ave N., Seattle, WA 98109-5452 in Bill Churchill's name.**



## Dusty Wert and Fred Nachbar



## Peter Main's Next Class

I have another project for a two day class at The Leather Conference in Brisbane. This is a **Queensland Butterfly** on scrolls — an embossed applied 10" x 8" picture.

All the inverted background design is cut and modeled only (the butterfly too). No stamping tools were used. The butterfly has a small sculptured plug under the body area and the wings hang free. I have used 1mm (I guess this is 2-3oz) Herman Oak leather for both the butterfly and background. Herman Oak leather will be used for all the Conference workshops to be held.

The coloring is all spirit dyes and only four colors (yellow, green, orange and red) were used and of course, black for butterfly detail.

**Peter Main**



### PSLAC Membership Application

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

**YOUR NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY, STATE, ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PHONE NUMBER:** (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Send this form along with \$24.00 (\$10.00 for Internet Membership) your first years dues to:*

**Jeff Bement**  
3942 SW - 329TH PL  
Federal Way, WA 98023  
U.S.A.

*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.*

# Get Ready for the Puyallup Fair

The important dates to shoot for to enter your project into the Puyallup Fair:

- ◆ **Entry Dates:** August 24, 25, 26, 9:00am - 4:00pm each day
- ◆ **Pick-up Dates:** September 25, 9:00am - 8:00pm and September 26, 9:00am - 5:00pm

More details as we get closer to the entry date, but start that project NOW!

The Puyallup Fair, September 7 - 23, 2001

## PSLAC at the Library

Jeff and I just got done putting up a display of leather items from **Fred, Bill, General, Jeff** and myself at the **Auburn King County Library**. That's the one next to Big Daddy's in South Auburn. We only had one shelf in the case this year but will most likely get the whole case next year. It has to be booked a year in advance. This will run for the month of June.

In July we are doing a **Leather Book-mark Session** for kids on the 14th. They have got us in their program and gave the credit to **PSLAC** for being the sponsor. I will have a copy of their handout at the meeting for those who may wish to see. If you have the time drop by in June and look it over. Its not as good as **"The Thing"**, but if we get the whole case, the items on **"The Thing"** would make a fantastic display

Woody Collins

## Your Leather Project Pictures Needed

You, of course, have heard of the **Com-**



plete **RawHide Gazette on CD 2000** and sales of that CD continue strong through **Hidecrafters**. Well, planning has started for a second CD for 2002. This CD will feature something quite special -- **YOU!**

That's right. Every member who would like their own web page designed and placed on the new CD will have a chance for this new CD. All it takes is your pictures, a few words and your web site will be designed and built for you at no cost. Here is your chance to become a living part of the **PSLAC Complete Raw-Hide Gazette on CD 2002**.

Details -- just send pictures of your leather projects and some description to:

**Ken Eriksen**  
16918 25th Ave. S.E.  
Bothell, WA 98012  
USA

...or email them to:

stelmack@nwnlink.com

...or bring them to the meeting in September and have our **Official RawHide Gazette Photographer, Dusty**, take pictures of them for you.

**The BIG BONUS** -- *your web site will also actually appear on the Internet and will be accessible by the world.*

**Brettun's Village Shops**  
*Offering a 10% discount to the PSLAC members*

**Come on now!** Send in those pictures and information and see your web site on the Internet.

Don't miss out on a chance of a lifetime, **free web design** and become a part of the digital age.

**Bob Stelmack**  
Wellington, UK





Photos by Dusty Wert



Jeff was the chef for the day. Rich has done that job for years and was very happy to let Jeff play chef. Jeff did a wonderful job with the hamburgers and hot dogs. The members did a great job with the potluck. We had a good assortment of salads, one crockpot of beans and a bunch of desserts.

CUPCAKES GALORE! Wondering where they got that idea. Hmmm, that is one of life's many mysteries. :- ) There was no business meeting. *The next meeting will be in September. Have a nice summer.*

## PSLAC Bar-B-Que 2001

I always love the June meetings. The barbecue is always been fun.

This year we added a new look to the usual BBQ we had a **Yard Sale!** **Jeff Bement** was selling for himself as well as for **PSLAC** with hardware and books, **Woody Collins** had buckles and conchoes, **Len Madison** had marble slabs, **Dave Wallen** had tools, **Phil O'Neill** had kits, **Ernest Aoki** had furs and snakes, **Fred Nachbar** had kits and buckles, **Dale Buckenberger** had tools and I, **Dusty**, had a leather store — a little bit of everything with leather and tools. It was like turning back the clock for me and I was at **Tandy Leather** once again. Only I didn't have a catalog to tell me the prices and so I could make-up the prices. I gave my camera to hubby **Rich** and went to work. The time flew. I want to do that again. It was a blast.

**Dusty Wert**  
dustytoy@nwlinc.com

**Hide Crafter Productions**  
*Offers a wholesale discount to PSLAC members*



# Help PSLAC Attract New Members

You can help make PSLAC a growing, vibrant organization. You can make an advertisement like the one pictured here and place it in a library, craft store, hobby store, or any place where people gather that might be interested in leathercraft. There are two URL's (web page links) that have the tear off sheets for PSLAC membership information and the large 8.5 x 10 inch RawHide Gazette poster.

**It is simple** — Just print the tear off sheets and cut into quarters, punching the top with two holes. Then print the poster (looks best on yellow paper) and glue the poster to a stiff piece of plastic or cardboard, (e.g. like the cardboard found in a three ring binder) and finally punch holes in the poster and screw on a nut and bolt to hold the tear off sheets.

With some of these placed around the town and even placed on **“The Thing”** people will have a chance to take away the information to make a decision to join PSLAC.

If there isn't one in **MacPhersons Leather**, I plan to bring one to them in July to ask for some space to display. You can see it pictured here.



TIPS



Bob Stelmack  
Wellington, UK

## Tips-Tips-Tips



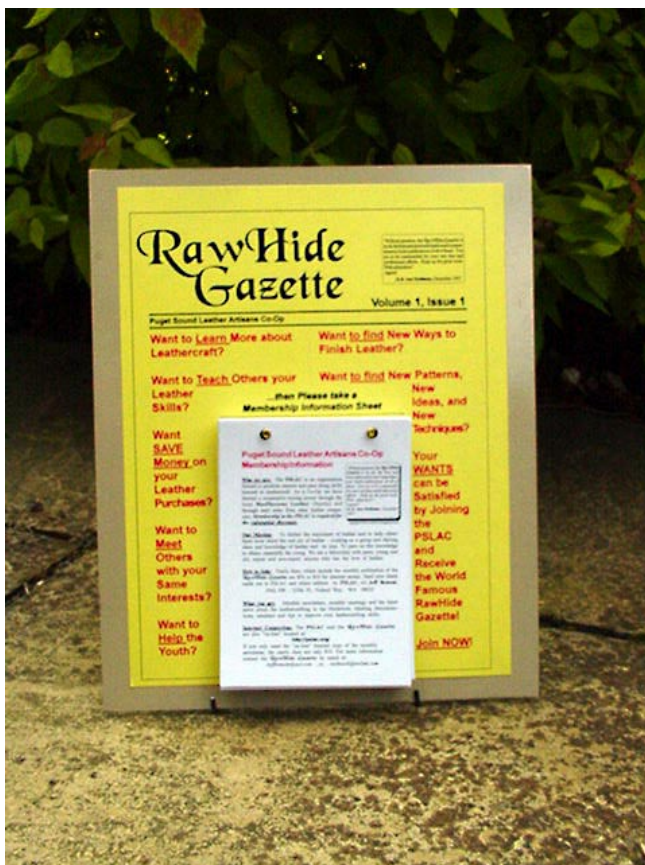
**Bill Churchill** has a tip that, quite literally, can save you painful injury. Bill has taken a section of rubber backing and has adhered a slightly smaller piece to the bottom of a masonry tool. This tool is then used to hold and cut leather.

**CLPW Leather**  
*10% Discount for PSLAC Members*

Notice how the hands are up and away from the cutting edge.

**Bill Churchill**  
Federal Way, WA

**The Leather Factory -- Spokane**  
*Offering a wholesale discount to the PSLAC members*

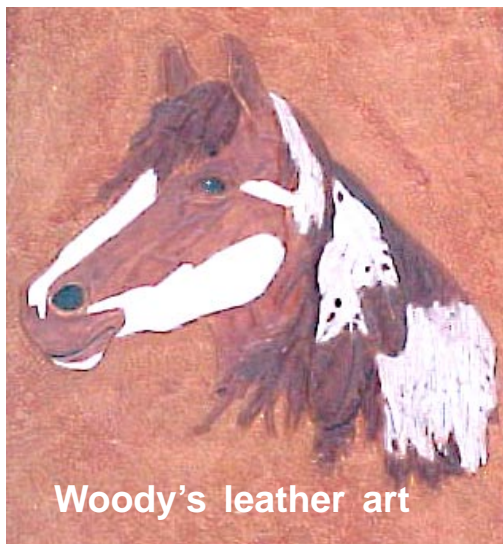


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[http://pslac.org/public/PSLAC\\_membership\\_card.pdf](http://pslac.org/public/PSLAC_membership_card.pdf)



Dave Wallen's leather art work, done with a scroll saw



Woody's leather art



# June Meeting Sharing

Woody's leather art



Woody's leather art



# PSLAC 2001 — Leather Yard Sale Tables



Phil O'Neil

Dusty Wert



Ernest Aoki



PSLAC Sale



Woody Collins



Dave Wallen



*Photos by Dusty Wert*





## Recipe of the Year from the PSLAC Bar-B-Que

May and I elected ourselves a "Committee of two" to determine which dessert was the best at the barbecue. You will have to realize the great sacrifice that May and I made in testing all of the desserts to find the "best". **Genny and Tiny Campbell** made this wonderful recipe and it is truly amazing:

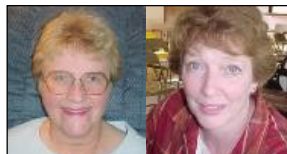
- 1- layer of a yellow cake.  
(In other words 1 layer of a 2 layered cake)
- 1 - can crushed pineapple
- 4 - ounces cream cheese
- 1/3 - cup powdered sugar
- 1 - large Cool Whip
- 1 - box vanilla pudding mix  
(follow directions on box-  
refrigerate)
- 1/2 - can Eagle Brand milk
- 2 - tsp. vanilla
- 1- can cherry pie filling

When cake cools break 1/2 into pan. Mix 1 can crushed pineapple, 4 oz. cream cheese, 1/3 cup powdered sugar and 1/2

large container of cool whip pour over cake. Put the rest of the cake broken up on mixture. Mix large box vanilla pudding according to recipe Let set in refrigerator until set add 1/2 can Eagle Brand milk 2 tsp. vanilla to vanilla pudding , mix and pour over cake. Let set in refrigerator 1/2 hour. Spread the rest of the cool whip over mixture and top with can of cherry pie filling.

**The Leather Factory -- Portland**  
*Offering a wholesale discount to the PSLAC members*

Reported by:



**Dusty "Dessert" Wert and May "Sweet Tooth" Adams**

## In Search of the Perfect Stone (cont.)

A few weeks ago the wife and I made a trip into Seattle, she just had to visit

**Daniel Smith's** for more painting supplies. We'll after we got out of there we decided to go to West Seattle for dinner, after crossing the Spokane viaduct we exited on to Harbor Ave. Just after turning the corner I spotted a pallet full of granite squares with a big FOR SALE sign in front of them. Well I just had to stop and check this out. I met **Bernard Warren** owner of **Expert Marble & Granite**. He told me that he takes his left over stone and cuts them into 12 x 12 squares and sells them for \$4. After the earth quake he had more scrap then he wanted. Most people use them for walkway paving in their gardens. I told him about PSLAC, and how I was going to use them for teaching kids, and he sold me 3 granite squares. His address is:

3400 Harbor Ave. SW, Seattle  
Phone: 206-938-7662



**Jeff Bement,**  
Email: Jeffbement@aol.com

## Next Fair Entry

My summer vacation plans have finally come together, I have decided to attend the **English Saddle Building Course** in Thompson, OH. This is being held at **Windmill English Saddle Supply**, for the last several summers they have retained **Ms. Malan Goddard of Cambridge, England** to teach the ten day course. Ms. Goddard is a Master Saddler, and has taught and lectured at the **Cordwainers College** in London for 14 years. I am looking forward to learning to make a "proper " saddle. I will be leaving on July 18 and returning on July 29 with my new saddle that I will have made in the class. I guess Bill and Woody can figure out what one of my Puyallup Fair entries will be...

**Jeff Bement**

# If you could only own 12 stamping tools...

...which ones would you have? Just one more caveat -- you mainly do figure carving.

Asking around I found some good ideas. Custom made tools are higher in price

**The Leather Factory -- Billings**  
*Offering a wholesale discount to the PSLAC members*

than the mass produced budget tools and I am planning to invest in some custom tools and wanted my money to be spent wisely.

So, here is what I've discovered so far:

## ...from Dave:

I bet this is going to set off a flurry of responses. Politics, religion, gun control, and which tools should I buy are all subjects guaranteed to generate debate. First off, I'd ask **Bob Beard**, since he is a fantastic carver. In one class of his I took he said that you can do any kind of carving with 15 tools. Which 15 tools depends on the type of carving you're doing. You'll also be thrilled with the tools Bob makes. They are top notch.

I thought about which tools I use the most when I'm carving. Yes, I make most of my own tools because I like messing with them. These are the tools I would buy if I had to start over. I've bought a couple of Bob's tools and love them. As I can afford to, I'll probably buy more of his specialty tools. I'll probably continue to make my own bevelers, shaders, and other simple tools because I like doing it.

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BTW, I've insured my own tools so that if the house ever burns, I'll be able to replace them with Bob's pro tools. Bob, put down that lighter and gas can! You're busy enough as it is!

Seriously, if you have a large investment in tools, talk to your insurance agent and make sure you have them covered if anything should happen.

**Dave T.**

## ...from Frank:

I'd go for figure bevelers B1, B2, B3, B4.5 in smooth and B3, B4, B4.5 in checkered styles A grass blade tool (GB2 or GB3, depending on your size preference). The GT3 grass and bush tool, foliage tool (a.k.a. "Squished spider"), and a smooth pointed beveler (F902 style, but Bob's are far superior!). A bush tool, and a pine tree tool PV1 sure make life easier too. That's twelve. I'd add a **Peter Main** modeling tool, a hair blade, and a good swivel knife and you can carve just about anything.

**Frank Zaharek**

## ...again from Dave:

Great minds think alike? ;)

Actually, that is about the set of tools that Al Stohlman recommended in his figure carving books. I went for the smaller figure bevelers because I really like the way they work and the versatility. You can use smaller tools to do big jobs, but it's really tough to fit a big tool into a small spot.

The small pointed beveler is a great tool. You can do all kinds of grass and tree effects with it. Combine with some smaller figure bevelers or matting tools and you've got all the tools you need to mat around foliage, grass, hair, etc.

If I could add a few more tools to the list. I'd add a foliage matter, a couple different foliage tools, and a set of pointed bevelers (the larger sizes). Maybe a couple of

the dedicated matting tools, or some of Bob's super matter/beveler tools.

That pretty much fills out a good basic set of tools that should be able to handle any kind of carving.

Dave T.

## ...from Bill:

As for your tools. My likes are a little different. I would suggest tools such as (I will use Craftool Numbers) B935 or B936 — Smooth and checked, B200 or B701— Smooth Or checked. Before I go any further, I prefer the Checked, but there are times that you will need Smooth. F895 (Also I understand that Beard has the checked version. It is Not easy to use — I have an old Craftool version) A lot of people like the F890 and F891. I do not. I used B936 instead. See the Article on Modifying Tools. I use B60 quite a bit, but only after modifying.

It is up to you on the "Grass and Hair" tools. Mainly I use swivel Knife for that.

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Modeling tools are the most important. Modify them, when you need a certain size or shape. You will need no more than 6 to 8 modelers.

Also, stay small, and get a small plain Pear Shader and small checked Pear Shader. Then if he does not have, see if he can make a SMOOTH small matting tool, same as the old Tandy Craftool smooth one (Small and next to small)

Do not get Bevelers that you already have, and naturally it would be best if you could try the tool first. Say like when you come back to the States and go to a show. Hope that all this helped.

**Bill Churchill**  
Federal Way, WA





## Fish Wallet

I thought I'd share my latest project with the group. I just finished this wallet for my son who loves to fish. It is from **Craftaid™ 2125**.

Each color was brushed on with the dry brush technique. I used multiple coats to get the depth of color I wanted. The large fish has diluted green and brown in varying strengths to get it just right.

The colors are all Tandy ProDye™ diluted 50:1 with Tandy solvent. The only exception being the air bubbles and the large fishes eye, which are Deco Art Americana Titanium White Acrylic paint diluted 3:1. Also the black dot in the eye was done with a black Sharpie™ marker.

Eyes are difficult. Patience and practice help a lot. I learned the technique used in the **Al Stohlman** book **Figure Carving Finesse**.

Most everything I know about leather work came from Stohlman books. The rest comes from reading suggestions, and ideas I see in art books and art programs on cable. Yes there are a few on cable. They don't get publicized enough.



**Bob Bock**  
Email: robertcbock@earthlink.net

## Sharpening a Headknife

May I offer this on sharpening a head knife? I was taught that the entire blade should be worked when sharpening, so that the angle of the blade remains as near to its original form. To maintain this, it is best to work the entire blade on a sharpening surface. When I sharpen a blade, I use a sheet of 600 wet or dry metal finishing paper laid flat on my marble block. The blade is then worked in a circular motion on each side, always keeping the blade flat. This then maintains the taper of the blade. After using the paper, I then work it in the same circular motion on my leather strop which I have worked jewelers rouge into.

In my dealing in leather tools, I have acquired way to many round and head knives that have been worked on various wheels, from grind stones to the paper wheels.

There is just no way that you can hold the blade to keep the taper as it started. You will eventually round the taper causing the edge of the blade to become thicker. This rounding of the blade then makes the knife cut hard. To do your cutting with a round knife, the blade should be thin and sharp, so that it slides thru the leather, with ease, rather than being thick and blunt, and have to be

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forced thru the leather. Also, the wheels create heat that can disrupt the temper of the steel that was used in the blade. I have had knives that have had the temper pulled due to the grinding wheels having been used on them. If you are going to spend the \$75.00 and up for a round knife, it should be taken care of and it will last a lifetime. I currently am using several knives that were made over 150 years ago. They are still in excellent condition and will continue to provide good use to someone, after I am long gone.



**Ron Ross**  
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# From the Dusty Workbench

## Email Conversation

**Dusty:** "Mike, I want your opinion. Would you read my first article in the April 1996 RawHide Gazette and tell me if it is good enough to put on my page. Let me know OK?"

**Mike:** "The article sounds great. Are you putting on the antique stain with the dye block?"

**Dusty:** "No, just the dye is on the dye block. I just apply the antique with a sponge or pour it on and spread with a paper towel."

**Mike:** "Someone gave me a tip the other day. They said that **Johnson's Floor Wax** makes a good flexible, water resistant, shiny finish for leather work. Haven't tried it yet. Any ideas?"

**Dusty:** "Yes, I have heard of this technique with good results".

**Mike:** "Just finished a wallet back. I think my tooling is getting better with practice".

**Dusty:** Remember when I first e-mailed you?? I told you ..... PRACTICE - PRACTICE - PRACTICE.



Dusty Wert

## Making a Dye Block

### Materials:

- 1" x 2" block of wood
- 4-5" long, flannel, stapler

### The Dye Block:

1. Cut flannel the same width as the block is long.
2. Wrap the flannel around the block nice and tight. Ending the wrapping on the narrow side so the staple (see step 4) won't scratch the leather.
3. Fold the flannel under so the edge won't fray.
4. Staple (or thumbtack) the flannel on the side of the block.

### Using the Dye Block - Dusty's Style:

1. Case the leather lightly with water (Don't get leather too wet. You may have to practice because leather can take in just so much liquid)
2. To use the dye block, take the block and put on top of the dye bottle and tip the bottle so the dye is applied to the dye block.
3. Rub excess dye off on newspaper (you can always add more dye - you can't remove too much)
4. Apply lightly around the edge of the project and just a light, quick once over the middle. (Use circular motions and don't over dye because you will use the



- dye block again.)
5. Apply Tandy antique stain in a circular motion, all over the project.
6. Wait about 3 minutes (approximate)
7. Remove excess antique stain with a paper towel and re-apply as necessary (project looks pretty ugly at this point).
8. Repeat steps 2, 3, & 4 (more dye block on edges than middle)
9. Apply Leather Balm with Atomswax and wipe off in side-to-side motion (this strips off excess antique stain).
10. Let project dry.
11. If not dark enough - re-apply the dye with dye block. (If too dark you left the antique stain on too long or applied too much dye block - in either case the project is finished and as Fred says: "There are no mistakes in leather craft.")

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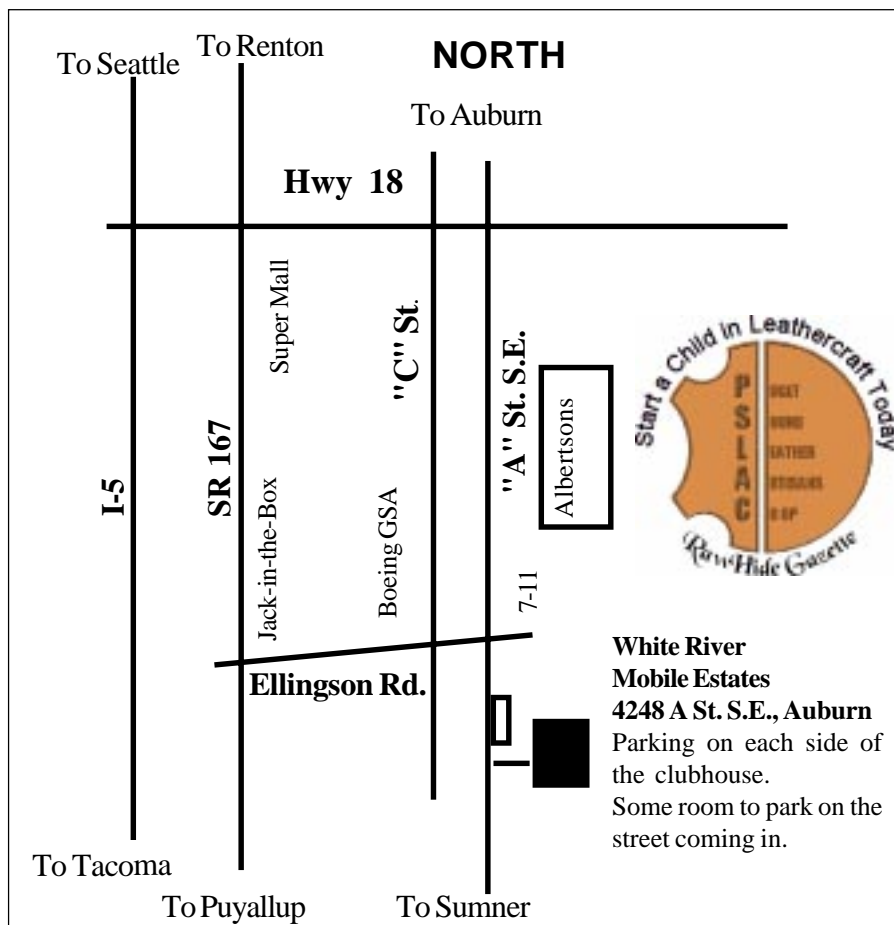
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