

# 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 9

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

December 2001

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## PSLAC and PayPal

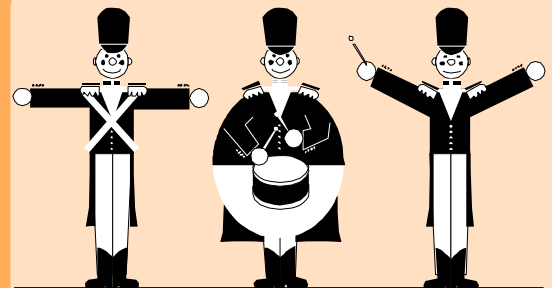
Jeff, our esteemed treasurer, has set of a PayPal account so we now can accept credit cards for membership payments over the Internet. Since Pay Pal charge PSLAC a fee of 2.9% plus 30 cents (59 cents for \$10 Internet Member or \$1 for the \$24 Postal Mailing Member) we would ask that the member bear the convenience of the Pay Pal costs by adding 50 cents for the Internet Member or \$1 for the Postal Mailing Member. You can always just bring or mail a check to Jeff and avoid the additional costs, but last time I was in the USA it was damn near 35 cents just to mail a check.

Anyway, this would make it easy for people outside the USA to join and support PSLAC.

Future information will appear on the PSLAC web site at:

<http://pslac.org/>

...on the "How to Join" page.



Remember Bill's Figure Carving Classes and the home work assignment to make a fancy carving from an alphabet letter? Well here are some letters of the season -- for the kids.

## Thanks from Carol

I just looked up the November Gazette and read that you had that steak dinner in Daddy's honor at Pendleton. You also honored him by making a nice memorial with his leatherwork. I can't begin to tell you how much that means to us. We miss him terribly, but knowing that he left behind such a legacy gives us much peace in our hearts (*and I know Daddy would have loved what you did -- we all know how much he wanted to be there*).

Thank you.

Pat Churchill

### Meeting Announcement

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**Len Madison's Demo**  
**on the Turks Head Knot**  
**Workshop: 12:00pm**  
**Meeting time: 2-5pm**  
December—16th  
at 4248 A St. S.E., Auburn WA  
(see back page for map)





## Notes from Woody

Just a few notes to let you know what's happening in the World of Leather.

**Our December meeting will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup>, (that's the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday).** This is a first for the Co-op and **Len Madison** is going to have a hands on **Demo** doing the **Turks Head Knot** starting at noon with the meeting to follow at 2pm I believe he ask those that have them bring a lacing fid or small screwdriver and a piece of dowel about the size of a Broomstick.

This last November **PSLAC** did their first **Demo** at the **Chief Seattle Pow-Wow** held

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in **Kent**. We didn't get booked in time to run classes like we do at the Twin Harbors Council that **PK** arranges each year, but we did have a spot on the midway. For those who are unfamiliar this is a Scouting event for training the leaders. It was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> at Meridian High School and ran all day. **Jeff** assisted me at the table and did a great job talking up our Cub Scout demo program. **Barbara Lourdes** came in and also did a fantastic job. From that session we have 6 or 7 demos already set starting in December. A couple are up towards the Totem Lake area. We will need more volunteers to help with future demos, so if you have a 1-1½ hours during the week you can spare once in awhile let me know. I am only going to be able to take demos that we have volunteers to do. At the last meeting **Paula Marquis** spoke up and she will be going with Jeff and myself to one in

January. We have the basic program set as to how to run the demo and it would be no problem to show you how.

Big Plus at our last meeting! We had two young gentlemen come with their mother to the meeting wanting to learn leather-work! **Grant** brought his younger brother **Blake** and his mother **Glenna** to the Sunday meeting. Jeff and I had met Grant at the Big 4-H event that Jeff, **Dave Jensen** and I attended on the Saturday prior, (December 17<sup>th</sup>) Jeff will talk more about what went on there. I volunteered **Dusty** to go in the other room with them and start them on leather, soon I noticed more members going back to help out, kind of addictive showing someone how to work leather -- huh! Both boys will be coming to the meetings for lessons and I wouldn't be surprised to see more in the future.

Also had a teacher from Bonney Lake drop by, **Jim Jennings**, wants to learn the craft for himself and do simple projects with the kids he works with. Future member here!

Len Madison is heading up the proposed visit from **Robb Barr**. This would take place in April on the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. He teaches a class on embossing that he has developed. As of this writing the subject is open to what the picture would be. Len said that the cost would be \$200, however there is a \$25 discount if you sign up 30 days prior. Contact Len for more info and any details you may want

Mark your calendars! Unless something happens, the Co-op meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month starting in January.

See you all at the next meeting—



Woody Collins

## Saddle Class Request from Norm

PSLAC Members,

Well I have been bugging **Verlane Desgrange** about a **saddle making class**. It didn't come off last year, because not

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(15% on leather)*

enough students signed up, but this year it will (I hope).

I wonder if we spread it around that she will offer a class this summer, for 3 weeks, on saddle making. It will be at **Spokane Falls Community College**. We need at least 10. Dates to be arranged in consultation with the students.

Thanks,

**Norm Wear**  
Email: [thenorm@nwrain.com](mailto:thenorm@nwrain.com)

**MACPHERSON Leather Company**  
*Offering a 30-40% off retail discount  
to the PSLAC members*

## Engraving Patterns for Leather

Have you ever looked at engravings on rifle, shot gun or pistol stock? You will be surprised to find those old familiar leather patterns of swirling leaves and flowers. Go to your local library and check out some gun books and take a look.

**Bob Stelmack**  
Wellington, UK



## Sister Rachel Kiefer's Leather Biography

In approximately 1960 Sister Rachel was working at a school for handicapped children. She bought a leather kit, read the book and started her first leather project. For a time she taught basic leather to students.

Five or ten years passed before she checked it out again. She moved to Spokane and started to do little things such as key fobs, key cases, etc. She was working with elementary and junior high students at the time and began teaching mini-courses during class and in the afternoon.

Sister Rachel later moved to Seattle where

### Tips-Tips-Tips

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### Practice...

she became a member of the first leather guild under **Bob Meyer**. This was long before **Bill Churchill** and **General Seymour**.

She continues to make and sell billfolds, key cases, card holders, etc. at craft shows (*along with her famous apple butter*).

She says that she enjoys the hands-on classes, where members of **PSLAC** share their leather expertise.

**May Adams**

different. The finish I use depends a lot on what I'm doing. For ALL my finishes that will be subject to abuse, I learned the

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hard way to rub them in. I don't do this on pictures, but all my wallets, belts, etc. get finish rubbed in with a piece of shearling, trimmed very short. Just about as short as I can cut the fleece and still see it. I never use a dauber any more. For water based finishes I lightly dampen the shearling before starting.

For most of my projects I follow one of two finishing methods. The first is **Ron Ross's Sheridan Finish** (See the details on Ron's website:

<http://www.rosaddlery.com>

Neatlac resist, antique (paste or liquid acrylic) then TanKote. For colored items I normally use leather sheen, again, rubbed in. For uncolored I almost all ways use Neatlac, rubbed in. Some items, if rubbing would take off paint, I'll use spray leather sheen.

The real trick is that rubbing it in. That keeps it from sitting on top of the leather, where it will get damp and peel off. Hope that helps.

**Dave T.**  
moongazer@imbris.com

I will share with you how I do the finish on my leather goods. If I want the item to be light colored, I first apply a very light coat of pure neatsfoot or silicone lanolin

**Brettun's Village Shops**  
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## From the Email Bag:

### Finish and Sewing

Two questions. When was taught to do leather the only finish I was taught to use was sheen. After a month or so of use thing like billfolds clutch purses and belts the sheen wears off and leaves and ugly spot. Please Help! Second question I have only used wax coated nylon thread in color black I would like to use white in sewing my belts. I hand sew every thing can someone give me some suggestion on what type of thread to get and where.

**Steve Caine**  
Email: mistleathersmith@yahoo.com

Steve, you just opened the biggest can of worms....

Seriously, finish seems to be like swivel knife sharpening, it brings out the religious fervor in people. Not that I'm any

saddle oil. This is to restore the oils that are lost in the wetting of the leather when casing and during the stamping process. Then, after the oil has set well, usually at

least two hours, but preferably, overnight, I then apply several light coats of TanKote. When applying, I use a piece of sheep wool scrap and a very small amount of finish. I will place the wool

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

skin over the open end of the bottle, turn the bottle just enough to dampen the wool, and then wipe the excess into the bottle. With this small amount of finish, I have enough TanKote to finish a wallet or checkbook cover. For larger projects, I work an area and then repeat the process of applying the finish to the wool. I use a circular motion when applying the finish so as to prevent streaking. The circular motion also insures that there is good cover to the finish.

On hand stitching, I only use natural linen thread, usually 4 cord, which I wax myself. On my web page:

<http://www.rosaddlery.com>

you will find a pictorial, "How I Hand Stitch", that will take you through the procedures that I use to hand stitch. I have noticed that many people tend to use to heavy of thread in hand stitching. I believe that part of the cause of this is that the kits that are made up for hand stitching of the article has the holes pre-punched, which are much too large and the thread furnished is much too heavy. For most small items, such as wallets, checkbook covers or belts that are hand stitched items, a stitch that is longer than 7 stitches to the inch is usually to large and gives the item a crude look.

These items will look best when sewn at stitch length from 7 to 9 to the inch. If you are stitching larger items, such as photo albums or portfolios, you can use about 6 stitches to the inch. For holsters and gun belts or rifle scabbards and such, a stitch of 5 to 6 will look good and you can use a 5-cord thread for these items, which gives a stronger stitch. I hope this

information is what you were looking for.

**Ron Ross**  
rosaddlery@aol.com



## ...and the Most Unusual Email Request to PSLAC.ORG

*(ed. note: The following was recently received from the mail box at the PSLAC web site. How should we respond?)*

Subject: Catalog, Mouse pad with logo  
Date: Tue, 04 Dec 2001 19:12:20 +0300  
From: Alexandr.Azhermachev @p24.f80.n5005.z2.fidonet.org  
Organization: (C) Alexandr Azhermachev  
To: info@pslac.org

Dear Sir or Madame.  
Please send me a Catalog, Mouse pad with logo

My information:

Title: Mr.  
Name: Alexandr Azhermachev  
Company: AAN  
Country: Russia  
Area: Siberia  
City: Tomsk  
Address: str. Munnikha 36-41.  
Zip: 634059  
E-mail:  
Alexandr.Azhermachev @p24.f80.n5005.z2.fidonet.org  
Fax/Phone: 382-276-4171

Before Thanks!

With best regards,  
**Alexandr**



## Overdue Thanks

*(Remember my page (October 2001) about the class boy in the wheelchair? The teacher wrote a thank you note -- Dusty)*

Giving new meaning to the term "better late than never" . . . I want to thank you (Dusty) very belatedly for sharing your brother Bob's photos of my students at the Hobby Hall.

If you saw all that goes on in our classroom, you'd understand how your note (and along with it your address) got buried under a pile of materials. You'd then realize that the tardiness of this note has nothing to do with a lack of gratitude on our part! In fact, the photos themselves are already in our class scrapbook, in a spread on our field trip to the Puyallup Fair, and enjoyed daily by the students. They had a great time creating their leather stamp souvenirs, so the photos are a fun reminder!

So please accept my belated thanks, and pass them on to your brother as well. Have a blessed holiday season . . .

**Lanita Miller**  
Meeker Elementary  
Email: LMiller@puyallup.k12.wa.us





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Dear International Leather Crafters League Member,

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Remember, your past or present 3 year subscription carries with it many benefits. Besides valuable offers from leatherworking companies, you enjoy bonus premiums when subscribing for another 3 years, elimination of lapsed subscriptions and relief from pesky renewal concerns.

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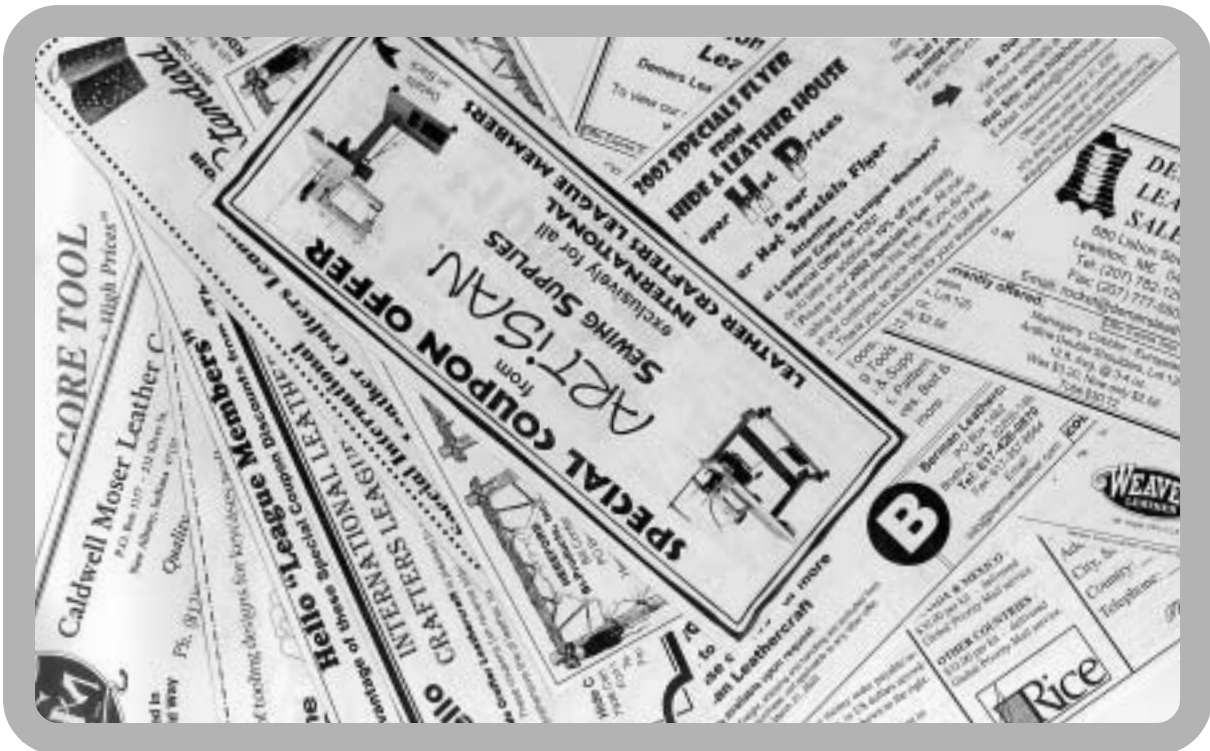
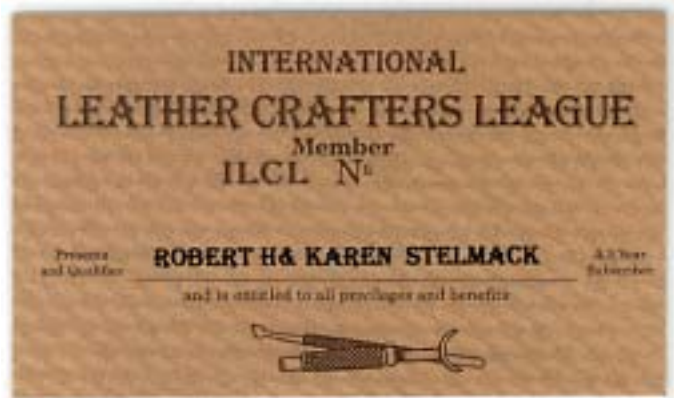
*Bill & Dot Reis*

The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal

## Nice Surprise in the Mail Today

I received an envelop today with several good valued coupons for many leather and leather related companies from the Leather Crafters and Saddlers Journal. Along with the coupons was my **International Leather Crafters League** Membership Card. All this, for my 3 year subscription to the LC&SJ. Just thought I would pass along this information.

Cheers, **Bob Stelmack**



# Authentic Major League Baseball Leather



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415 Addison Ave. Suite 2  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83303

Sales questions contact:  
captcurt@costarz.net

Shipping and Handling questions contact:

don@costarz.net  
Don Johnson

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Vice President/Operations Manager  
Costarz International Inc.  
415 Addison Ave. Suite 2  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301  
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## Notes from Jeff

On November 17th, PSLAC hosted four workshops for **King County 4H's Super Saturday**. I had signed us up to do four classes of 30 each, but at the end of the day we had 150+ come through our class.

**Woody, Dave** and myself had a lot of fun helping the kids, and adult leaders learn about leather. We were the nosiest with all that pounding, but also the most fun. There were a few repeats in the afternoon of kids that had taken it in the morning, then went and signed up again.

We started each class out with a test, you should have heard the groans until they found out it was our famous **Hide**

Game.

Our second class was the most challenging, we had started with 30+ kids and adults when a leader from Seattle's inner city asked if he could bring a few more kids into our class. He said 7 but it was more like 15, it was a good thing the back wall of the class room was one of those foldable panels. So we ended up with two classrooms going with over 50+ students. So we were a little busy for the second class, then after a nice lunch hour we were back at it for two more classes.

It's funny to see the parents that just bring the kids to the classes, jump at the chance to make a project of their own. They always say: "I wanted to try this", or "I haven't done this since I was in school", and "it's so much fun thanks for letting me try". This was our first time at super Saturday, but they let me know that they do this again in February -- anyone else that would like to have fun with kids let me know.



Jeff Bement

The Leather Factory -- Spokane  
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## 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:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**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.

# From the DUSTY Workbench



Rich

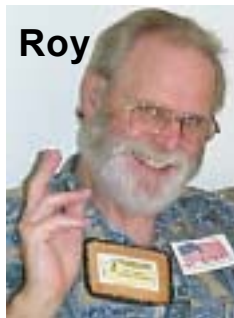
## Roy's Flag Holders

Roy Luxton volunteered to make nine flag pole holders for the **Retsil Veterans Retirement Home**. Roy asked Rich (somehow everyone thinks he does leather) if he could make a pattern for a flag pole holder.

Well, Rich took on the challenge and made a pattern in paper the shape of a "T". We put it together with some scrap leather and gave the paper pattern as well as the leather holder sample to him. The leather was thinner than the leather that Roy was going to use. Roy did something that I found was a mistake that a lot of crafters do. He made the project the same size as the pattern, but the leather sample was made with thinner leather. You have to enlarge the pattern to fit the thickness of the leather.

Well after that, Roy did a good job cutting out the holders and he put a eagle shield stamp on them and then antiqued the holders (figure 1). He was not happy with the antique, so he asked me what I would do to make them look better. Well, I told him to use the dye block and a medium brown dye.

While we were in **Pendleton**, Roy bought the dye from **Hide Crafters**. Roy brought them all over to my house on November the 7th and asked if I could help him dye



Roy

them and put them together. So we rolled up our sleeves and got to work. Since Roy had rolled the holder, we had to tape them down so we could use the dye block. I would of used double back tape and it would of really stuck to the table, but Roy showed me how he would do it (figure 2). He rolled the masking tape and that way we taped them down, but it was easy to lift them off of the table.

Then he introduced me to a new product (figure 3). Isn't it neat to be able to dye the edge with a roll-on bottle?

Then Rich helped put the holders together. All this took 8 hours and then found out that the Veterans Home needed them for Veterans Day on Sunday the 11th. Boy, that was close! Roy delivered them on Thursday the 8th (figure 4).



Dusty Wert



1



2



3



4

# Black Horse Leatherworks & Saddlery

Our newest PSLAC member, Carol Gessell from Monroe, Washington. I first met Carol at the Pendelton show and these were her first classes she had ever taken, everything she has done up till then was self taught. Check out her web site at:

[www.blackhorseleather.com](http://www.blackhorseleather.com)

I am amazed at her work, she does high end horse tack.

Jeff Bement



Makers of fine Horse & People Gear



# Making a Metal Shell Handle for a Briefcase

by Paula M. Marquis

## Materials Needed:

- Leather Round (See Fig. 1-A)
- Metal Shell (See Fig. 1-B)
- Inner Support (See Fig. 1-C)
- Glue- Contact Cement

## Tools Used:

- Hammer Knife
- Bone Folder Water
- Stitching Material (needles and thread) Edge Dye Edger
- Canvas for burnishing

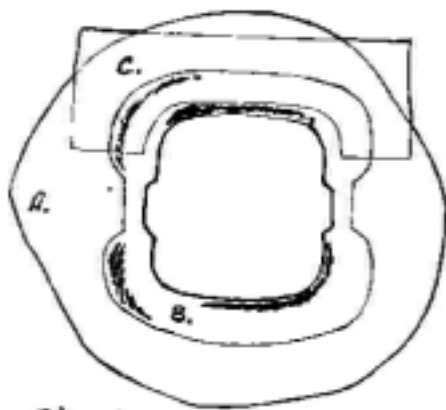


FIG. 1.

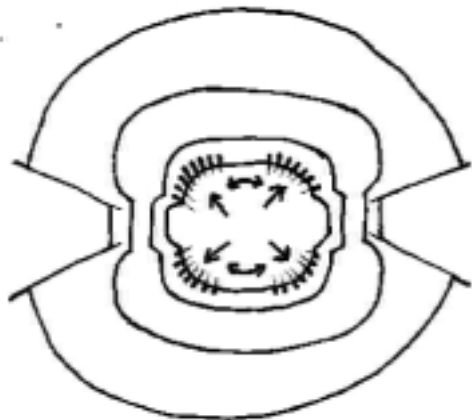


FIG. 2.

## Making the Handle:

The first job is to cut the leather round by laying the metal shell on the leather and rough cutting the round with approximately 1 inch clearance all the way around. Cut the inner support from Straw Board or 3mm vegetable tanned leather.

The leather round is cut from very thin leather (goat, pig, kangaroo are ideal), or cut from cow and skived very thin (approximately 1 to 1-1/2 mm).

The leather round is covered with glue first, on the flesh side, then the metal shell, on both sides, and laid on the bench inner side down, then the inner support, also glued on both sides, and leaned against a support to keep the glued sides free.

As the glue starts to get tacky, lay the metal shell, inner side up, on the centre of the leather round, cut out the centre, cut nicks into the four corners along the inside. (See Fig. 2).

Pick the assembly up and working from underneath, run the thumbs along the inside, pushing the leather smoothly up against the shell, turn the handle around and repeat the process on the other side. (See Fig. 3).

Once the leather is pushed up,

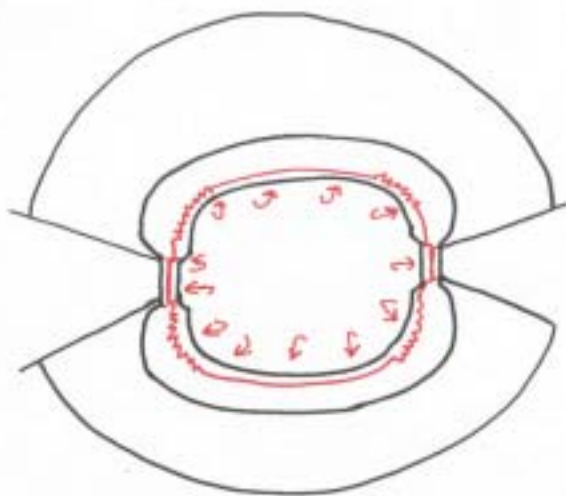


FIG. 3.

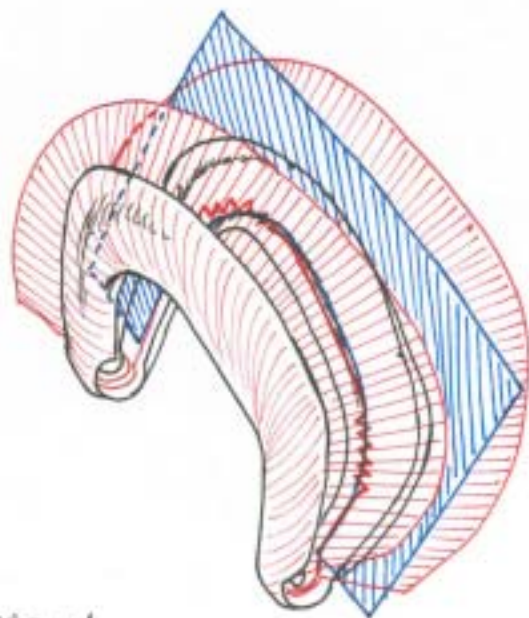


FIG. 4

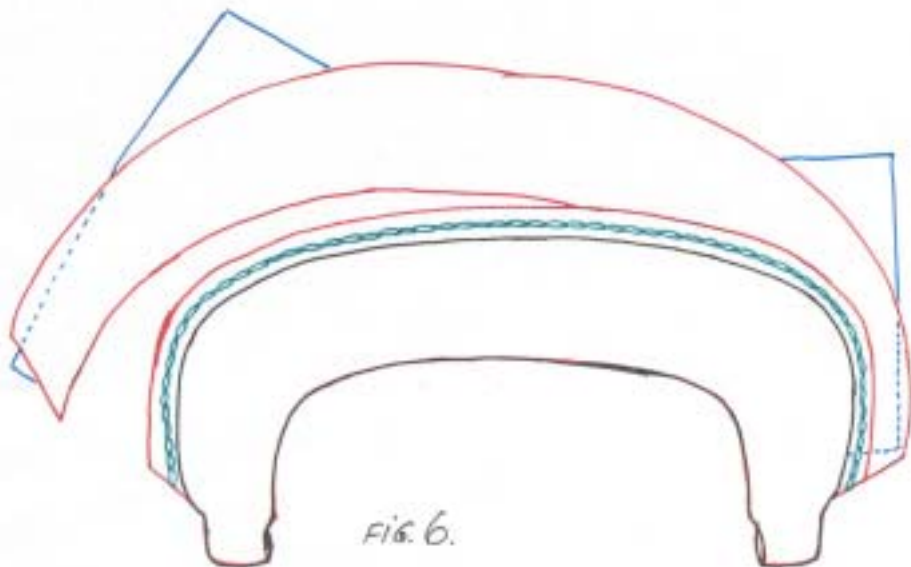
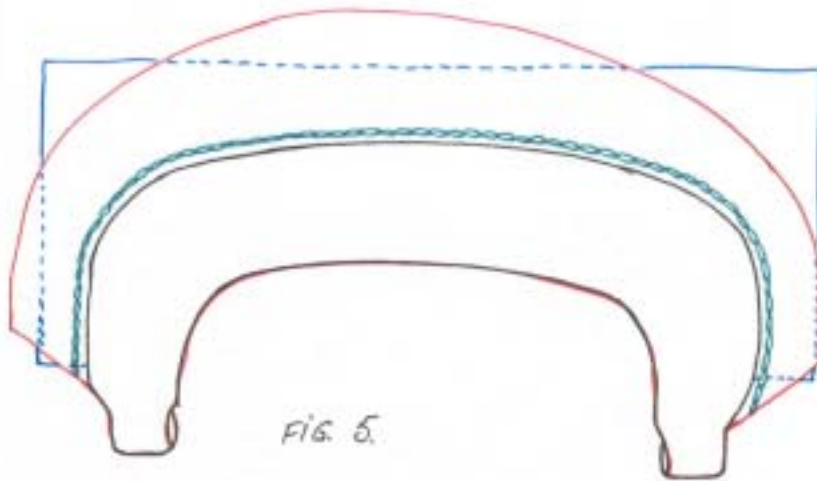
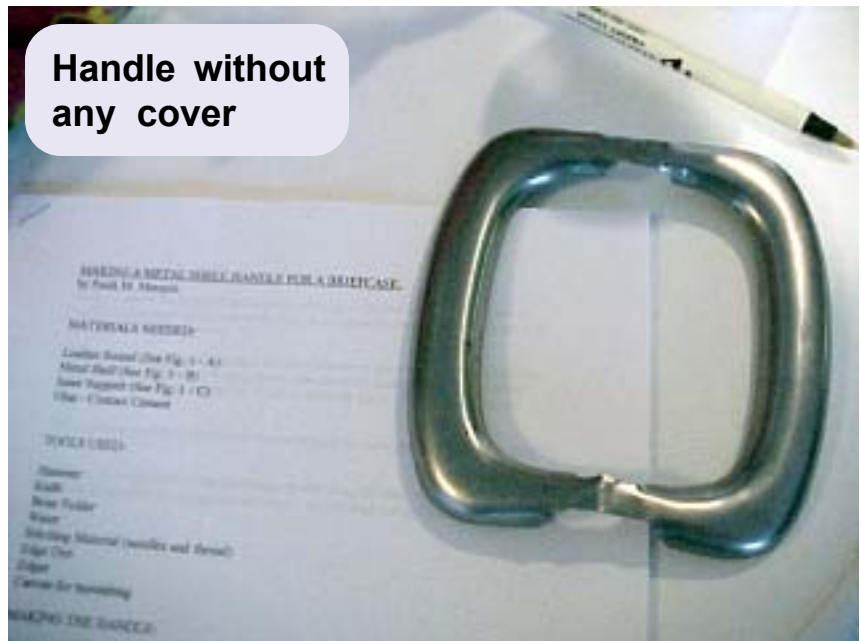
wrinkle free, (being careful to make sure that all wrinkles are rubbed out) along the inner area, turn the four corners over and glue to the inside of the shell as indicated in Figure 3.

Bend the shell to the almost closed position, checking to see that the bend is centralized and the leading edges meet evenly at the top. If not, open the shell and repeat the process until the leading edges are even.

Partially open the shell again and insert the inner support in the position indi-

cated and close the shell. (Fig. 4). Now with a bone folder, glue down the leather on both sides of the inner support and run the bone folder closely in along the metal where it joins the inner support. Sew as close as possible to the shell all the way around the outer edge of the handle. (Fig. 5).

Trim away the excess with a knife approximately 1/8" from the sewn edge. Trimming should be accomplished in a single cut to ensure a smooth edge for dyeing and burnishing. (Fig. 6).



## Dusty's Santa Workshop

I really am enjoying the demo's that we are having before the meetings. I want to thank Ken Eriksen because November's demo was going to be Ken doing braiding and he stepped aside so I could do a Christmas item demo. He will have his demo at the Janu-

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ary meeting at noon January the 13th. Matter of fact it gave him 2 more months to procrastinate :-}

I had about 7 or 8 members making Santa earrings. The guys and gals came to the demo all ready to have some fun and that they did. With simple instruction the earrings were so easy to make I didn't have to be there to help them. They made my job easy, they just got started and all of a sudden there was a pair of earrings in front of them.



## Dusty's Santa Workshop

I hope they make the earrings and give them to the ladies on their list. Better yet I hope they make a bunch of the earrings and sell them. I had a piece of calf approximately 5" X 7" and I had the makings for 14 pairs of earrings and if you sell them real cheap for \$5.00 that piece of calf, earring findings and cova color will produce \$70.00. That is good gross profit.

*Happy Holidays everybody.*

**Dusty Wert**



# November Meeting Sharing



1-Tiny with a belt he made

2-Paula with her leather book cover

3-Paula's hubby George holding a huge book, Paula made the cover

4-Paula's belt with raised braidwork



- 1-Ken Imus with finished embossed cowboy
- 2-Sleigh by Ken Imus (it is all leather)
- 3-Phil O'Neil door knob bell ringer
- 4-Paula made the cover
- 5-Clutch purse by Ken Imus



1 to 3-Newest member, Carol Gessell,  
with her horse gear that she beaded  
plus a belt that she beaded and incased  
with leather  
4-Door prizes  
5-Paula's braiding



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7936 Hwy 80 W  
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George Hurst, Manager  
email: hcrafter@flash.net



## Leather Factory Spokane

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#### RawHide Gazette

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

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Artisans Co-Op

The RawHide Gazette is published monthly (12 times a year). Address for information and correspondence: PSLAC, c/o Jeff Bement, 3942 SW - 329th PL, Federal Way, WA 98023, U.S.A.

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The RawHide Gazette is provided to the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op as a part of their membership benefits. Annual dues are \$24.00 USD per year.

All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. All articles submitted must be accompanied by name, address and permission of writer.

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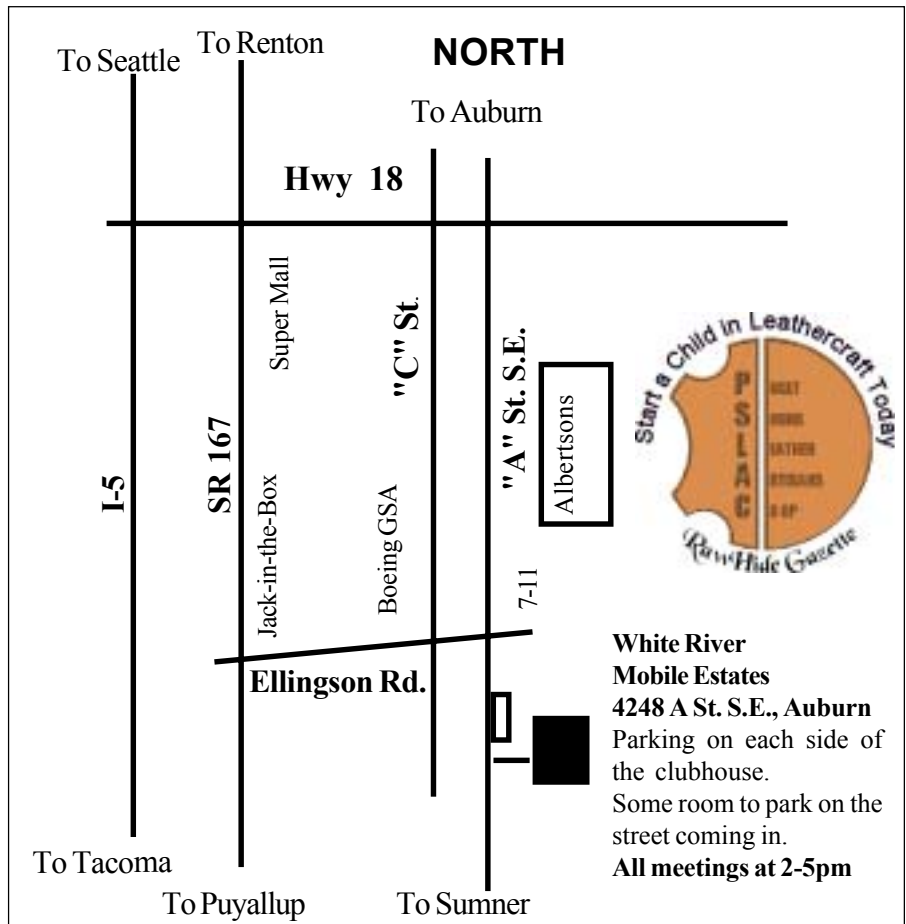
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