

RawHide Gazette

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“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 Stohman, December

Volume 8, Issue 9

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

January 2003

Hide Highlights

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- Leather Art Forum
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- Leather Coracles



Meeting Announcement

NEXT MEETING:

Meeting time:

12noon-5pm

February—9th

Pear Shading Demo**

at a NEWER location:

Issaquah Valley Senior Center

(see back page for map)

**Suggest -- Take a piece of leather mounted to backing board (6"x6") or larger to put your flower on and the tools to do it with plus a long pear shader.

NEW! Complete RawHide Gazette on CD – 2002

Back by popular demand—the Complete RawHide Gazette on CD and **completely revised!** This new CD has **ALL** the RawHide Gazette newsletters from 1994 through 2002 stuffed with tips, hints, projects and members sharing ideas for improving the craft of leather.

This CD even has the **Member’s Only Issues** that give in-depth project construction details.

Over 200 mega bytes of newsletters from 1994 through the end of 2002. This NEW improved CD not only has the additional newsletters from 2001-2002, but is loaded with other features.

Included on this CD is the **Stamping Tool Database** for all those past and present leather stamping tools complete with

stamped impressions. This is the same Stamping Tool Database found on the Internet for real-time searching. The Stamping Tool Database was a joint effort between two leather groups: **Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op**—PSLAC (pslac.org) and the **International Internet Leather Group**—IILG (iilg.org)

Along with the many features on the CD are the **leather merchants discount pages for PSLAC members** and an easy way to join PSLAC, on-line, to take advantage of the leather discounts.

We have some of the members own web sites including **Bill Churchill's** work.

A special page to show Bill's favorite **TomBow Brush Pens** colors and places to purchase them.

Also, there are some Microsoft® Excel™ **leather spread sheets** to help price your leather work for sale.

The **Al and Ann Stohlman** endorsement and so much more.

All this for only \$29.95 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

Get your order in to **Jeff Bement** and the CD's will start shipping in February 2003. Just send a check for \$29.95 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling to:

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http://pslac.org/how_to_join.htm

Bob Stelmack
Wellington, UK

Hide Crafter Productions
Offers a wholesale discount to
PSLAC members

Leather Art Forum

To all our friends,

Well this year has been a year full of positive changes. Closing our shop in Munich and running the business from home was the best decision we have made. It definitely has made our life a lot easier and less stressful. Also to put the main focus on postal order and Internet (web site and E-mail) has proven it self to be a sensible move. Many customers still come and visit us and prefer it out of town.

The unbelievable hassles, forced upon us by some of the German members of the **Leder-Gilde**, were a big disappointment and a painful experience at first, but have now turned out to be one of the best things that could have happened to us. The level of their ridiculous escapades here and abroad, their web site etc. show the direction and standard they have chosen and seem to prefer.

"The past always illuminates the present and offers invaluable lessons for the future". Anyway, now we have much more time to concentrate on our own things like the business, my artwork, exhibitions, teaching, travelling and the **Leather Art Forum** (LAF). One also needs time to develop new projects for teaching like the interwoven bowls, mask making and leather jewelry and of course the art projects. All this is, as many of you know, just as fascinating as it is satisfying.

It looks like the coming year will bring even more exciting events and happenings than the passing year. Most of you have heard about the adventures in the Canyon lands USA, Tenerife, Spain and also the small scandal at the exhibition here. With the seminars here and abroad, the membership in various cultural associations, the dealings with customers and suppliers, the co-operation and contacts with members of the LAF and not to forget our dogs and garden, we never seem to have a dull moment. Definitely no time for TV, and that is a real blessing if you ask me.

Rudi, our Rottweiler (second category fighting dog), passed his character test without

any problems. He only fights for affection.

The "highlights" for next year will be:

- The 2 week art seminar to 8 Lithuanian art college tutors. This visit to Munich will be sponsored by a special fund in Lithuania.



Leather Stone

- The 2 openings of the travelling exhibition of the Leather Art Forum here and in the Shoe Museum in the Netherlands with international visitors from Taiwan and USA. This exhibition is expected to travel for more than a year.
- The "Dimensions in Leather" conference in Brisbane, Australia.
- Leather mask making in Norway and leather jewelry seminar at the Raulan academy in Norway.
- The opening of our new atelier and exhibition room at our home in Deisenhofen.

Please visit our web sites for more details

and update information.

www.beargallery.de
www.leatherartforum.de
www.reneberends.de

We hope you will all have a beautiful Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

René & Doris

Christmas Plate

(ed. note: One of our Internet Members sharing a project and a seasons greeting with fellow leathercrafters)

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

I finally completed my wife's Christmas Plate. However, before I wrapped it, I thought that I would use it as a conveyance of my wishes to you.

I hope that you'll have a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas with a Prosperous and Happy New Year. And Peace for all men and nations. God Bless.

Carl Breidenich

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Leather Stitching Clamp on E-Bay

This stitching clamp is made from select hardwood with oak jaws. They sell at a local leather shop for \$49. They are 15" high with 3" jaws. Perfect for holding leather projects firmly for hand sewing with a stitching awl. The jaw depth is about 1/2 inch. This clamp is made tight enough that you can spread the jaws by hand to hold the project in place for easy positioning prior to applying the cam lock. The contoured handle on the adjustable cam locking mechanism can apply just the right pressure as not to mar the leather while holding the project firmly in place. The jaw design allows the awl to get in close to the seam. Nicely finished with linseed oil. Can easily be clamped into a bench vise or fastened to a seat board that you can sit on while working. Great for equestrian folks who repair saddles, bridles, etc. This clamp ships out at four (4) lbs. You

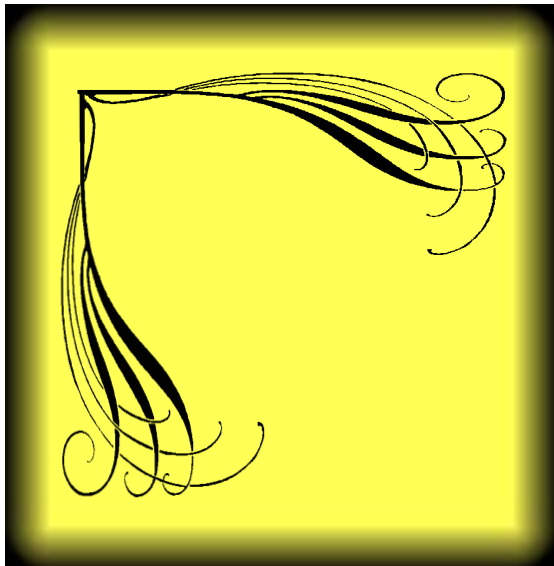
can go to <http://postcalc.usps.gov/> punch in my zip code 28712, your zip code and the weight to get actual shipping charges. I do not charge a handling fee. Custom size clamps are available upon request. Email me with your dimensions and specs. Once a style and price is established, If your into woodworking at all, you'll appreciate the effort and detail put into this item.

Frank Trozzo
Email: fetdc@citcom.net



CORNER

THE ART NOUVEAU



January Meeting Show-and-Tell

**Checkbook Sheridan Style
by Ken Imus**



Photos by Dusty Wert



Leather "mouse pad" by Paula (X-Ray film is sandwiched between the front and back for stability)

Tray by Paula made of leather that was molded and airbrushed to high gloss finish



Purse that Barb Lourdes' Grandfather made using two color lacing

Paula's coasters



January Meeting Show-and-Tell



Photos by Dusty Wert



- (1) Dusty's payment for making a checkbook. A box and hat made of leather from Turkey**
- (2) Ken Imus got a tool box from Len Madison. Ken is so pleased that he was able to put his tools in the new box. It did look nice and handy.**
- (3) Dale finishing up an old project**

PSLAC group members at the January Meeting





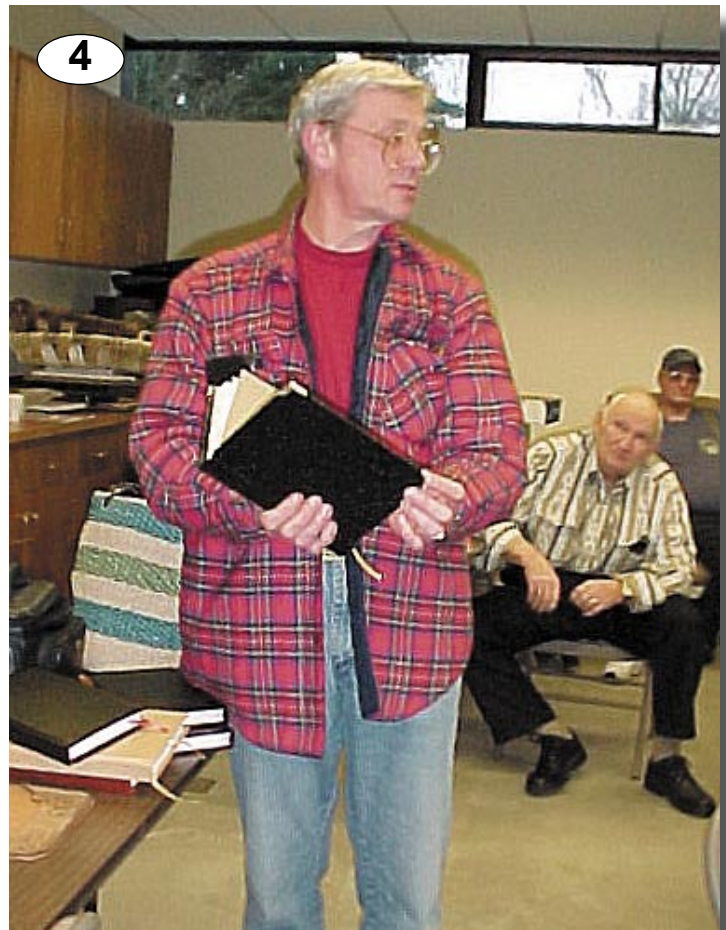
Photos by Dusty Wert



Bookbinding

- (1) All of the books, except Jeff Bement's, made in Paula's class
- (2) Ken Ericson's book from Paula's class he made his out of deerskin
- (3) Gold embossed lettering on Paula's book
- (4) Harry telling about his show-N-tell ...his book

Paula's Second Bookbinding Class held at Jeff's House



Unique Workbench Stamping Tool Holder

With all the stamping tools I have collected I find I only use about eight of them (mostly Bob Beard Tools), so I used an old leather box I made and punched eight holes large enough to hold my most frequent tools. Inside the leather box I put the other dozen tools I may use and my three swivel knives. There it sits on the work bench—ready for use.

Bob Stelmack
Wellingore, UK



Photos by Bob Stelmack



Tool Donation from Ron

Thank you **Ron Hanlin, of Rosedale**, for the wonderful donation of tools. It was fun to go thru the tools. One of them we had a guessing game and **General**, the co-founder of PSLAC, figured it out. I took a picture of him showing us it was a swivel knife.

Again thank you for the great gift you sent to the PSLAC Co-Op.

There was another bundle of tools, but I had taken this picture all ready and had picked up the tools that you see in the picture so I just put them all back into the box. Ken has them all. What a great assortment of good tools.

I think he is going to sort them to kids tools and the sharp tools or the working tools we will sell or raffle. I was impressed with them **Osborne** skivers and groovers with wonderful big handles and in A-1 condition.

Dusty Wert



Photos by Dusty Wert



Leather Stones by René Berends

The making of the leather stone is fairly complicated and very extensive to explain in writing.

It looks like I will teach this class in the USA some time in the future. It has already taken me to various countries here in Europe and to the conference "**Dimensions in Leather**" in Brisbane, Australia in July this year

I have copied a description of the seminar and part of a letter to my art professor in Oslo, Norway. I hope this will help you:

Leather Jewellery Seminar

In this 3-day seminar the student will learn many different manual techniques on how to make various pieces of leather jewellery like a necklace and a matching bracelet and broach.

With the necklace, broach and bracelet, the emphasis will lay on design and construction, making use of newly developed techniques (by René Berends), like the making and colouring of a **laminated "leather stone"**, the braided setting of this "stone", also a new way to make use of a very old kind of decorative braiding and the construction of a practical leather closure.

The "stones" are made of laminated leather (*in this case a complicated sequence of laminating and colouring techniques*) and look much better in reality.

I think I have discovered a whole new field to play around in. One thing leads to the other and there will always be a rest of uncertainty in the final look and colouring. This is what I like about leather; We will never be able to control it completely. It is almost as if the material has a mind of its own. It will sometimes tell YOU what it wants to do. I love this kind of co-operation and inter-action between the material and the artist. There will always be a rest of a surprise and tension left, especially with staining, wet-moulding and heat-treating. But this makes it so exciting and gives me the chance to experiment into new and endless directions.

The more I discover, the more I discover that I know very little. I have mastered many



Bracelets

techniques, but with every technique I am forced to start from the beginning again. A never ending story.

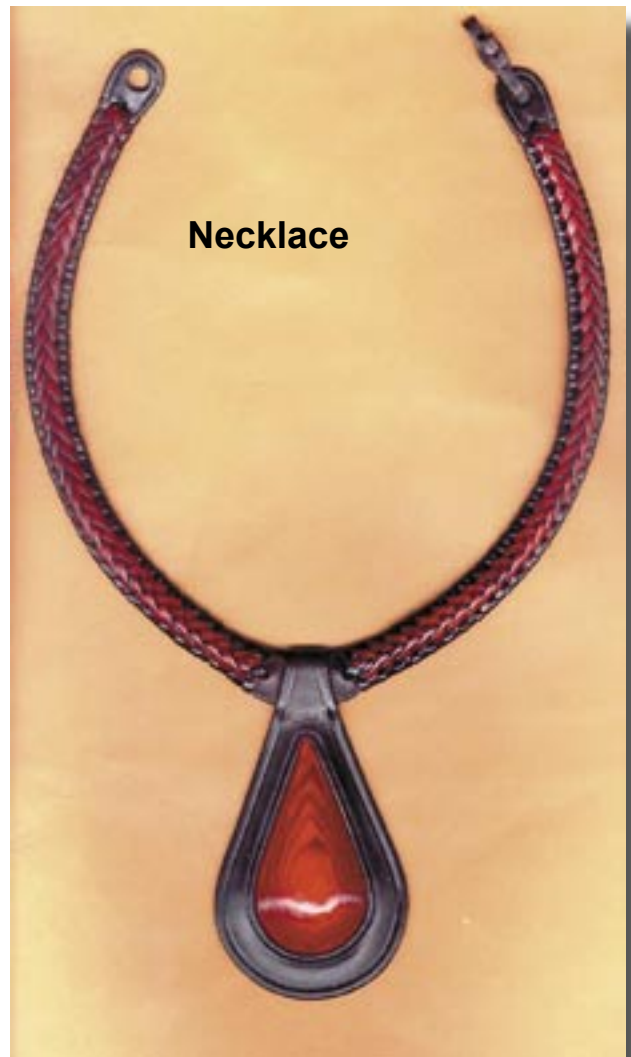
Now I am learning to control the colouring of the "stones" and then I can go really crazy with it. At the moment, making the "Stones" and designing the pieces is most of the fun.

Some really good ideas for designs are starting to happen now.

I love it!

René Berends

The Leathercraft Store
Offering a Discount to PSLAC members



Necklace

Leather Edge Buff Rag

Final edge slicking, to get that perfect edge and to keep it looking that way is easy with this canvas, wax and neats foot oil rag. Simply combine an equal quantity of neats foot oil, bees wax and carnauba wax and warm until melted.

WARNING -- *the mixture is flammable so heat without flame and warm only to the melting point, about 180 degrees Fahrenheit.*

Spoon the mixture over a clean, new canvas cloth, preferably a canvas without a color dye, and fold up. The mixture will harden almost immediately when spooned on to the canvas so try to evenly deposit it on the canvas. Don't worry too much since the next step will rewarm and redistribute the mixture.

When the canvas is finished, take the folded up buff rag and wrap in brown paper or newspaper and put in the microwave. Heat for about 40 seconds and abracadabra -- you have a leather edge buff rag.

WARNING -- *For safety sake keep the rag in an air tight metal container. (Remember--oily rags and spontaneous combustion!).*

The rag works wonders on final edge buffing and lays down a thin coat of wax and oil to beautify and protect the edge. Just rub the rag briskly on the edge and the fiction restores the edge and melts the wax and oil mixture to re-protect the edge.

Bob Stelmack
Wellington, UK



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The Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op can be found at:

<http://pslac.org>

If you need the **UserId** and **Password** for the subscription pages, just contact the *Raw-Hide Gazette* at:

stelmack@nwlink.com

-- of course the password information is free for the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op members. Those on the Internet still need send \$10 per year for a membership to:

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

Your Photos here - if you send them to:

Web Editor: Bob Stelmack
7 Memorial Hall Drive
Wellingore LNS OBD
England

Photos sent in to the PSLAC are used, space and focus permitting.

They are also posted, in living color, on the Internet.

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:

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U.S.A.

*If you would like to subscribe to *The Leather Crafters & Saddlers Journal* through the Co-Op and include an additional \$29.00 for a one year subscription.*

Leather Braided Reins Class

Jim Hurlbutt will be here on **February 21~23** to give a class on **Braided Reins**. These will be a two color, 8 string round braid, with a chrome work chap core. cost for the class will be \$175. The class will be held at Jeff and Teresa Bement's house in Federal way. the class will be limited to 10. If you would like to sign up please contact: **Jeff (253) 838-3702** or jeffbement@attbi.com



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SPOTLIGHT on PRO-CARV — Working and Tooling Leather Formulation

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.

Contact MacPherson's, Hide Crafters, Goliger's Leather, and The Leather Factory for any of the fine Bee Natural Leather products.

Advertisement



Clip Art Butterflies for Leather Patterns

PSLAC January Demonstration



Harry trying his lacing



Fred showing how it is done

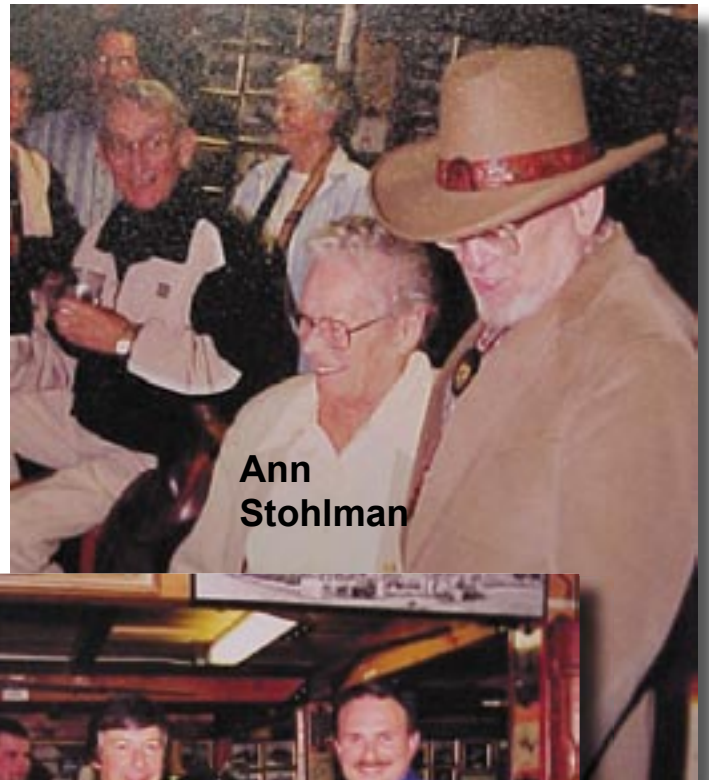
Fred's Two Color Braiding Demo

Fred Nachbar presented a two-color lacing seminar at the last PSLAC meeting. The class was attended by Debbie Evans, Lee Ann Stevens, Barb Lourdes, Len Madison and Harry Smith. Ken Erickson also participated (he picked up on the lacing quickly and moved on to conduct the meeting). Fred had all the materials ready and although everyone got off to a bumpy start within 15 minutes everything was going well. Everyone picked up on the procedure and was going fine until the first corner. After some fumbling, and Fred trying to straighten them out (Fred was a little rusty too) everyone made it around the corner and the following corners weren't much of a problem. All attendees stated they learned a lot.



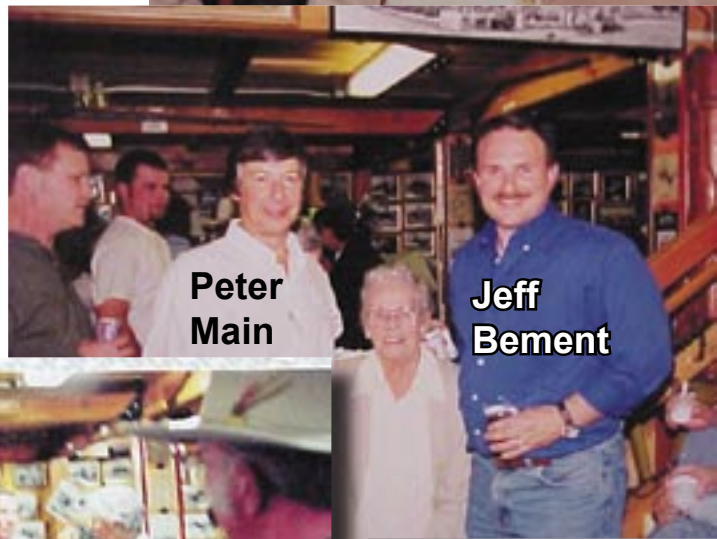


Photos by Dusty Wert and Jeff Bement



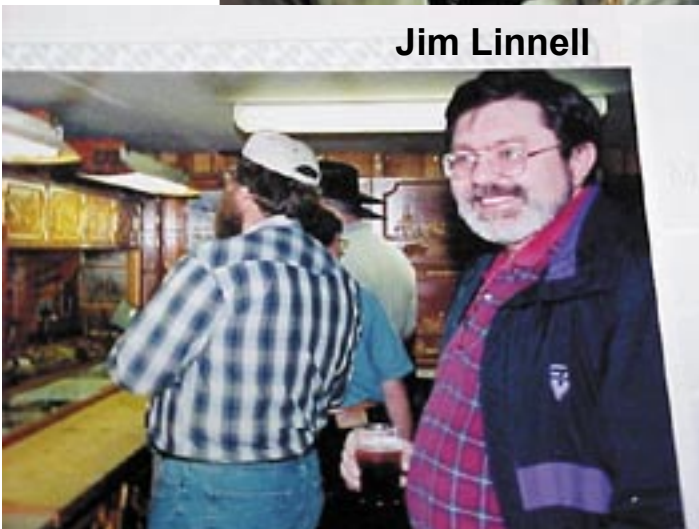
**Ann
Stohlman**

Jeff's Pictures from Sheridan



**Peter
Main**

**Jeff
Bement**



Jim Linnell



Kermit



Photos by Bob Stelmack

Leather Coracles

(ed. note: During the summer, while visiting a water fair in Lincoln, I was intrigued to see a small water craft made from reeds and leather.)

An old verse from:

<http://www.coracle-fishing.net/text-files/history.htm>

*Upon the glittering stream behold,
Those fishermen, of courage bold,
In numerous pairs, pursue their trade,
In coracles, themselves have made;
Formed of slight twigs with flannel cas'd,
O'er which three coats of tar are plac'd.
And (as a porter bears his pack)
Each mounts his vessel on his back.
1794*

Before the industrial revolution and rivers used as sewers, Britain had many salmon rivers including the Thames. Today coracle fishing is still practiced on three rivers in Wales, the Towy, Taf and Teifi.

The earliest record we have of coracles is from Julius Caesar who while fighting in Spain in 49 B.C. ordered his troops to make **wicker-work boats covered with hides** of a type he had seen in Britain some years previously. Some historians now believe he was referring to a

sea going craft.

In the year 1360 in the rule of Edward the third it was written by Froissart about the invasion army from England to France carrying a baggage train of more than six thousand carts in which **small boats of boiled leather** were crewed by three men who rowed and fished. Later in the time of Henry the 5th, Holinshead records in his chronicle of plans for another expedition to France (invasion) in 1414 of the provision of **“boats to pass over rivers covered with leather”**.

In Wales a collection of writings (The Mabinogion) dating from before the thirteenth century there are references to a **“leather bag” boat**. In the fourteen hundreds the Gododdin poem reads “He would kill a fish in his coracle”. Later poems in the next century recall a coracle covered in a **black skin from a black bullock** and waterproofed with tallow cake.



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RawHide Gazette

Editor / Publisher: Bob Stelmack
Co-Founders: Bill Churchill & General Seymour
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email: Jeffbement@aol.com

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.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to PSLAC, c/o Jeff Bement, 3942 SW - 329th PL., Federal Way, WA 98023, U.S.A.

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. PSLAC members are entitled to a 25% discount. Leather companies supporting PSLAC are given free Business Card size advertisement, additional space at regular rates.



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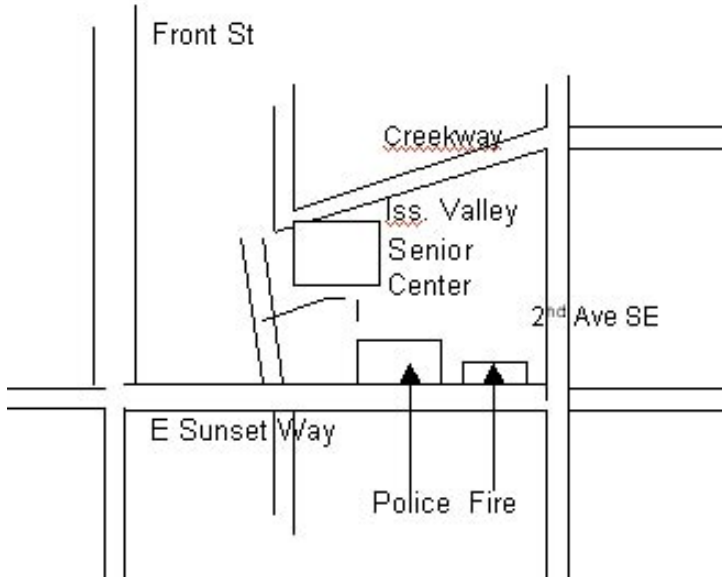
George Hurst, Manager
email: hcrafter@flash.net



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Churchill Barton, Manager

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Dusty Johnson

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Taking I-90

From Auburn: come north on Hwy167, or I-5, then I-405 north, then onto I-90, going east:

From Everett: South on I-5 to 405 South, or to I-90, going east:

From I-90 get off on exit 17/Front St., and bear right onto Front Street. At the third stoplight, turn left onto E Sunset Way, then see below:

Taking Hwy 18 from around Auburn to Issaquah

Get on Hwy 18 going East, from Auburn, it's about 12 miles to Maple Valley, then at about 2 ½ miles after Maple Valley, look for the turn off to Issaquah Hobart Rd SE, turn onto ramp 276th Ave SE and go 0.6 miles, bear left onto Issaquah Hobart Rd SE. It's about 8 ½ miles from there to Issaquah. Hobart becomes Front Street S, which takes you into downtown Issaquah. Turn right onto E Sunset Way, then see below:



After turning onto E Sunset Way:

go two blocks (past the Police and Fire Stations), turn left onto 2nd Ave SE, go past the old Senior Center building on your left, and a baseball field, then left onto NE Creekway, go almost to the railroad tracks. The new Issaquah Valley Senior Center is a brick building on your left, parking in front of it. There is also parking behind, from Sunset, turn left into the parking area, right before the Police Station (look for a large parking sign on your left), and follow it till you see a kids play ground. Tiny and I couldn't get in to see inside, but it's a brand new building and looks to have a great, large meeting room area and a couple of medium sized side rooms, one set up for crafts. Address: 75 NE Creekway, Issaquah, WA 98027 *(see another page for a detailed map of the building area)*

PSLAC

c/o Jeff Bement

3942 SW - 329th PL

Federal Way, WA 98023

U.S.A.

