

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 Stohman, December 1997

Hide Highlights

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2007 Bill Churchill Award Winner: Dave Jensen

Dusty Wert, a previous Churchill Award winner, presented the 2007 award to Dave-surprised, speechless member of the Puget Sound Leather Artists Co-op. Dave is that quiet “behind the scenes” person who supported and showed up at ALL the Puyallup Fair, Scouting and 4-H venues.

We hear that Dave has performed more Demos at the Fair than any one else.

Dave would be the first to tell you that he is not “that great a leather crafter”, but what he may lack in techniques, he more than makes up in supporting others.



Congratulations to Dave.

Meeting Announcement

NEXT MEETING

**September,
have a nice
Summer
Vacation**



Dave Puls

Dave Puls has a booth every Saturday in the summer at **Shelton**. The citizens of Shelton don't have many crafter's selling quality leather goods and stop and ask questions about the leather projects.

When **Bill and General** started the PSLAC one of the things they wanted to do is help others sell their leather goods. Dave is doing just that! **John Wickstrom** makes billfolds and Dave doesn't unless he has an order for them. So Dave agreed to put John's billfolds on his table.

It was great to see the quality work that these two members turned out.

Dusty Wert



Dave Puls has a booth every Saturday in the summer at Shelton, WA.



Editor Back from England

First--Many thanks to **Roger Kaiser** for stepping up and creating the **RawHide Gazette** for the past months while Karen and I packed up in Merry O'England and returned to the States.

Things started to happen quite fast when we arrived in Seattle. Within three days we purchased a car, got cell phones, gassed up and headed across the mountains to search for a home. Two weeks after arriving in the Tri-Cities area we made an offer and it was accepted on a new home. We moved

into the home after our household effects, that we had in storage for nine years while on foreign assignment, and kind of camped out. We had most of the basics to live in the new home while we waited for our household effects to arrive from England via the container ship.

We had a lot of duplicate things and soon we knew Goodwill and Recycling Center employees on a first name basis.

So, we really enjoyed our first PSLAC meeting in June and sold a lot of stuff at the **PSLAC Leather Garage Sale**. Much

of that stuff we had in storage for almost 10 years. Nice to see that others were able to make use of it. Hope to see some new projects at the meetings made from our storage stuff.

Hope you all can help this old editor with new informative articles to help keep the **RawHide Gazette** fresh and interesting.

Glad to be back.

Bob & Karen Stelmack
Richland, WA



Talented leatherworker keeps his craft alive

By Kristi O'Harran
Herald Columnist

(Reprinted by permission of The Daily Herald Co., © 1996-2007 by Lyn Iverson ref: Wed, 6 Jun 2007 19:27:57 -0700)

What a pity it would be, if future generations had no hand-fashioned leather wallets, belts or purses.

Edward "Ken" Imus, 73, said the art of leathercrafting is dying, particularly because it isn't taught in many schools anymore. At least some of his work, blue-ribbon work, will stand the test of time.

The Everett man's projects have been honored at the Stanwood, Evergreen State and Puyallup fairs. His three-dimensional stretched pictures are detailed down to hair on the head of a cowboy, and wrinkles on wizened cheeks.

Art that tells a story is art to treasure.

He's known hard work in his day, from logging to demolition jobs. He "took down" the old Everett Plywood Mill in the 1970s. After getting hurt on the job in 1978, Imus said he discovered sitting around wasn't much fun.

Working on a piece of leather he bought in 1952 became his hobby. Through the years, he collected an amazing array of tools to punch, stamp, dye, lace, braid, repair and carve on the hides of cows and ostriches.

His workbench looks like an overstuffed dental office, with row after row of tools from picks to pliers. He peers through a

huge magnifying glass to detail intricate work.

"Anybody who knows me can spot my tooling," Imus said. "I have my own method."

Some of his tools are so old, they're not sold anymore, he said.

Learning about his hobby and trade has never stopped for Imus. As a member of **Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-op** in Issaquah, Imus listens to speakers who come to teach. The co-op is able to purchase leather at a discount.

The mission of the group is for all ages to share a love of leather.

Imus' friend, knife collector **Len Madison** of Mukilteo, got into leatherwork to make sheaths. The retired Everett High School teacher, 62, said all his knives were for right-handed types, and he wanted opposite sheaths because he's left-handed.

"I've tried belts, pictures, whips, and even have a pair of shoes I made," Madison said. "It's not a dying art, but most of the best leather workers are my age or older."

Most young people who come into leatherworking have a ranching background, he said, or enjoy Civil War re-enactments or cowboy shooting. Japan has some amazing leather artists, he added.



Ken Imus' nephew, under Ken's tutelage, used some of Tandy's newest silhouette tracing patterns to produce this framed inverted, carved horse head. I'll bet you'll see this project at the Puyallup Fair in September!

Madison says Imus has a unique style.

"He uses a tool to make accent marks in his flowers," Madison said. "He does really good work and he sells things to people for less than he should."

One admirer, Steven Bryant of Everett, visited the Imus home to see about getting leather repaired. He saw a leather coffee table that earned Imus a "Grand Champion" ribbon at the Western Washington State Fair in Puyallup.

"It's outstanding," Bryant said. "I found it to be almost breathtaking."

Imus has a scrapbook, covered with decorated leather, crammed with snapshots of his work.

Born in Everett and raised in Stanwood, he married his wife, Elsie, whom he met at a party in Granite Falls. Their three children aren't interested in leathercrafting, he said.

Back in the day, Imus traveled to rodeos around the state to sell his wares.

"I can't do it anymore," he said. "It's word of mouth now."

The first thing he made from leather was a purse for his mother.

"When I look at it today," Imus said, "It's awful sad."

Most crafters would say that of their early work.

Work at his Everett home is marvelous, especially 3-D pictures. A basset hound has jowls. The cowboy had perfect hands with fingernails. Light switch covers in leather, with custom designs, would grace any home.

The co-op aims to keep leather crafting alive through the spirit of the members.

Each one, teach one.

Columnist Kristi O'Harran: 425-339-3451 or oharran@heraldnet.com.

Annual PSLAC Picnic

The time goes so quick, its hard to believe that its a year ago that I was lucky enough to be the recipient of the **Bill Churchill Award** and here it is again the Annual Picnic and Bill Churchill Award.

A very good attendance at the Picnic with lots of spouses and friends to make it a great day. Lots of good food too with two of **Roger Kaiser's sons** cooking the BBQ and an excellent job they did. If they are not careful, they'll get the job again next year!

This year's winner for the best dessert was **Judy Ferguson**. Good on you Judy. I think that's the second time you have won the best dessert. We might have to think about some sort of prize in the future.

Dusty was once again asked to do the presentation of the Bill Churchill Award. **Dave Jensen** was very surprised to receive the Bill Churchill Award, but, he is a very worthy recipient. As Dusty said Dave may not be the best carver and stamper we have in the Club, but, that is not always the most important criteria, and I heartily agree. When there are demonstrations to be done and help needed, Dave is always there willingly giving of his time and effort. He is at the **Puyallup Fair** almost every day, when help is needed at the **Scout Camporees**, etc., Dave is always there. When **Barbara** needs help with demos at the **Pacific Days**, Dave is always the first one to give a hand. He doesn't make much noise, but, when he's needed at the end, he's always at the front! **Congratulations Dave, a very worthy recipient.**

We kept the meeting short and got through the business as soon as possible, then on to more fun stuff, like looking at the show and tell items that were brought to the Picnic and then the Raffle. A really good raffle this year with **TANDY** (in Seattle) again generously giving many items for the raffle. Thank you **TANDY** and **Brett** (Manager). I think a visit to Tandy is imminent as I'm running out of some goodies.

Thanks to all those who came and made it a great day, see you all at the September meeting.

Paula Marquis
SASS

June Meeting Show & Tell

In addition to the colored cats, there were two guitar straps and one holster.





Meeting, Bar-B-Ques, Leather Garage Sale and Swapping Techniques

If you only get time to go to one PSLAC meeting a year, then June is the one to attend. The **Pot Luck Bar-B-Que** with the **award winning desserts** must not be missed. This year **Roger Kaiser's sons** did a bang up job cooking those hot dogs and hamburgers. No one left the meeting hungry.

The **Leather Garage Sale** offered everyone a chance to sell, barter or give away leather related items no longer required by their owners. Here is just a sampling:

A Tippmann Boss Sewing Machine, Stitching Ponies, Leather Sides, Leather Scraps, Tools, Dyes, Finishes, Lace Cutting Machines, and the list goes on. Much stuff that came in one car—went home in another!

All during the day, people were exchanging leather tips and tricks. There is always someone with a new idea or a different way to do something. My head is full of potential projects.

The business meeting helps set the temper of the next meetings, the workshops and the meeting demos. This PSLAC is a “*strange group*”, we seem to have differing ideas that blend into a common plan of action. No one seems to really run it. We have directors that move in the direction the people in the group want to see. If only our government worked so well.

Bob Stelmack
Richland, WA

Samples of the Cat Coloring Class given by Jackie Holiday (see article in this issue)



Jackie Holliday's fantastically colored portfolio cover.



We began by starting to layer the high light and shadow areas, determined by the light direction. Once these were established we moved on to the eyes. These are the focal point of any portrait, painting, sculpture, drawing, or carving. (Tip: When taking pictures of people have



Jackie Holliday's Cat Coloring Class

On Saturday, May 26 a small group of us met at General's house for the painting stage of the cat carving, which we began in March under the tutelage of Paula. Jackie Holliday ventured over from Idaho to teach the class. Those of us participating in the class were General, Paula, Ken Eriksen, Len, and myself. Woodie got Jackie set up and disappeared for most of the day.

them look over your shoulder instead of into the camera. I snap my fingers over my shoulder and tell them to look there. "Red eye" is caused by reflection of light off the retina back into the camera. By looking over your shoulder it changes the angle of the light reflection just enough that it doesn't show in the photograph.) We spent over 2 hours layering the several different coats of paint on the eyes.

First we outlined the eyes, then the shadow, and then started the various coats of different colors to build up and round the eye and set the iris. Colors used were 2 types of white, 2 shades of yellow, black, grey, 3 shades of red, and a couple I have probably forgotten. Glaze will be added after the paint has completely dried to add the gloss to the eye.

After finishing the eyes, it was time to re-





lieve the tension by partaking in another of Ann's lunches. She keeps coming up with different soup recipes, each one very tasty.

Now, it was time to go back to work. We



worked on layering the colors to bring depth and roundness to the carving. Then the darker colored bars added and blended in. More bringing out the high lights and shadows. Little touch of color on the nose and under the upper lip to add depth and separation followed. By now the carvings were pretty well complete, and just some final additions of highlights were added. No one had glaze on hand for the eyes, so this was left for later. After the paint dries a finish coat will be added and they will be ready for framing.

We enjoyed the class very much as well as the company of Woodie and Jackie whom we don't get to see very often. Thank you both



for making the trip over from Idaho.

Norm Lynds

and Debbie Kaiser, Carol Gessell and Don Ferguson. Hopefully I haven't left anyone out.

May North End Breakfast

The May North End Breakfast was honored this time with the presence of Jackie and Woody who had come over from Idaho for the dual purpose of Woody visiting family, and Jackie to teach the cat coloring class the next day. Also in attendance were George, Paula, Sister Rachael, Robb Gray, General, Ann, Norm, Letty, Dick Gerhart, Roger

For show and tell Dick had another of his hog poppers and some braided bracelets. Norm had his cat carving. Carol arrived with a stirrup and tapadero with a "Where's the rest of my saddle" look. It is a fully carved parade saddle, which she had shown in Sheridan. Said it was just too heavy, so she removed the stirrup and tap to bring. Said the whole saddle will be at the June





meeting.

We had a very nice visit, and went our separate ways, with Paula and Jackie headed for Daniel Smith Art Supply, getting ready for



tomorrow.

Norm Lynds



Upcoming Events

PSLAC Current Schedule

PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2007.

General Member's meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each Month, unless specified below.

Mini-Demos at meeting.

July/August - No meeting for Summer Months.

September - Luggage Tags with John Wickstrom

October - to be set.

November - to be set.

December - to be set.

All-Day Workshops.

June 30th - Braiding and Knotting with Robert Black from Oklahoma.

July 28th - U.F.O. Meeting to be at General's home. (Unfinished Fair Objects or anything else we need help with).

August 25th & 26th - Peter Main. Stamping and embossing floral corner and buffalo for CD case.

September 29th - ~~Tentative, Belt inset with strips of beading with Carol Gessel at Carol's Workshop.~~

October 27th - To be set.

November 24th - To be set.

December 29th - To be set.

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North breakfast >>> Last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM at Elmer's Restaurant at Lynnwood.

South breakfast >>> The 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM at Homestead Restaurant on South Tacoma Way.

Workshop Report

We have a few things to report on the workshops and we need a few ideas for future workshops. I know we have asked that before and seldom get any suggestions, but, if there is not enough interest or ideas, there may be fewer workshops next year.

The latest on the **Peter Main Workshop** in August. **Norm** is putting this workshop together and he says that it is now full. He is going to contact Peter and get him to send a tool and materials list of what we will need. Some students have not paid for the class yet, and as Norm is in the process of changing addresses, he said that he will send out notices after the 1st July to all those who still need to pay and will let them know his new mailing address.

Robert Black's class is full and will be held at General's on Saturday the 30th June. Robert will arrive on Friday afternoon.

Robert Beard's class has 5 people attending and Robert will come to Seattle, there is still room for a few more people if they wish to enjoy a good quality workshop. This year we will be doing the **Jewelled Scarab Beetle**, inset with an amber or turquoise stone. These stones will cost \$25.00 each, but, Robert has some other interesting items that can be inset for far less cost. The two day workshop will cost \$125.00 per person and is scheduled for Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th August. If you are interested in signing up, call me on (425) 438 1709. The workshop will also be at my home, the address is 4908 Harbor Lane, Everett. WA 98203.

There is a last minute alteration to the workshop schedule. Namely, in September we had **Carol Gessel** scheduled to do a belt inset with strips of beading. Due to extreme work pressure Carol is unable to do the workshop this year and we will be looking to schedule her in next year.

Len Madison
Workshop Co-Ordinator



Puyallup Fair Entry Information

I thought this would be good to put in the next issue for the RawHide Gazette. Need to start getting projects ready for the Puyallup Fair. PSLAC annual UFO (unfinished fair objects) meeting will be Held at General's home on July 28, 2007.

Barb Lourdes

DIVISION C:
LEATHERCRAFT
PLEASE NOTE CHANGES

You may drive to the Hobby Hall Department through the Service Gate at 5th Street SW on all three entry days or you may walk through the Gold Gate entrance off Meridian Street S. on Friday and Sunday. You may not walk through the Gold Gate on Saturday. Instead you may walk through the Blue Gate on Saturday, Aug. 25, only.

Entry dates for this Division are Friday, Au-

gust 24, between the hours of 9 am and 4 pm, on Saturday, August 25 between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm, or on Sunday, August 26 between the hours of noon and 6 pm. Entry forms will be filled out at the time of entry. Return dates are Tuesday, September 25, 9 am to 8 pm and Wednesday, September 26, 9 am to 5pm.

If you have WON the Grand Champion in this division within the last five years, you must compete in the Teacher/Professional Division.

All articles must be the handwork of the exhibitor and finished within the last two years. The "OTHER" class will only be used if the item does not fit within any other class in this division. Entries will be judged for design, technique, and overall appearance. No pairs or sets accepted.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS:

Grand Champion – Adult – Purple Rosette, plus \$100 premium
Reserve Grand Champion – Adult – Lavender Rosette plus \$25 premium
Grand Champion – Junior – Purple Rosette, plus \$25 Premium
Reserve Grand Champion – Junior – Lavender Rosette plus \$15 premium

JUNIORS (Under 16 years of age)
NO CLASS PROJECTS!

- 1800. PICTURES
- 1805. HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
- 1810. POCKET ITEMS
- 1815. WALLETS
- 1820. BELTS
- 1822. NATIVE AMERICAN STYLE ITEMS
- 1825. OTHER ITEMS

ADULTS (16 years of age and older)

- 1850. PICTURES
- 1855. TOOLED SPORTSMAN CARRIERS
- 1860. TOOLED CARRYING CASES
- 1865. TOOLED HANDBAGS
- 1870. TOOLED POCKET ITEMS
- 1875. ALBUMS, SCRAPBOOKS
- 1880. WALLETS
- 1885. BELTS
- 1890. HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
- 1895. STAMPED ITEMS
- 1900. JEWELRY
- 1905. WEARING APPAREL

- 1910. UNTOOLED ITEMS
- 1915. BRAIDING
- 1918. NATIVE AMERICAN STYLE ITEMS
- 1920. OTHER LEATHERCRAFT

DIVISION D:
LEATHERCRAFT
TEACHERS AND PROFESSIONALS
PLEASE NOTE CHANGES

You may drive to the Hobby Hall Department through the Service Gate at 5th Street SW on all three entry days or you may walk through the Gold Gate entrance off Meridian Street S. on Friday and Sunday. You may not walk through the Gold Gate on Saturday. Instead you may walk through the lue Gate on Saturday, Aug. 25, only.

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If you have WON the Grand Champion for two consecutive years in this division, you will not be allowed to enter this division for one calendar year.

All articles must be the handwork of the exhibitor and finished within the last two years. Entries will be judged for design, technique, and overall appearance. No pairs or sets will be accepted.

ADDITIONAL AWARDS:
Grand Champion – Purple Rosette, plus \$100 premium
Reserve Grand Champion – Lavender Rosette plus \$25 premium

- 1950. PICTURES
- 1955. LARGE TOOLED ARTICLE
- 1960. SMALL TOOLED ARTICLE
- 1965. LEATHER WITH OTHER MEDIUM
- 1970. WEARING APPAREL
- 1975. UNTOOLED ARTICLES
- 1977. NATIVE AMERICAN STYLE ITEMS

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A lot of my works are 'bespoke items', meaning, one of, individual custom requests, ranging anywhere from books and folders to rifle scabbards, holsters and golf bags, fully carved and stamped, and any and all articles in between, which also includes saddles and harness.

I like to make articles that are practical, such as all kinds of bags (including brief cases, bible covers, etc.), belts with a challenge, mouse pads, tissue box holders, knife and sword sheaths, 11th Century bottles (sealed so they can be used as wine carafes), to various types of boxes (both useful and decorative) and other artistic decorations including such things as moulded bowls and vases as well as framed pictures.

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Leather Big Book' Covers
(This list is a 2007 example of a leather cover. It is not a 2007 example of a leather cover.)

(IMPORTANT NOTE: These Leather Big Book Covers are only available in the United Kingdom and February 2007. They may still be available in the United States.)

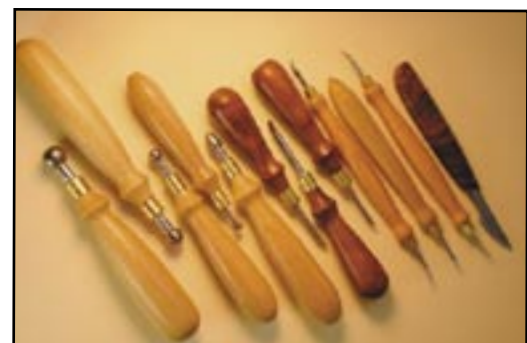
- Basic well Custom made to order All-Weather-Resistant Leather Big Book Covers for your Big Book.
- Each cover is handmade from various types of leather. Most are bound with vegetable tanned cow hide in black, brown or natural. The cover is of a 'zip-on' design, much like the old way, so need to cover one school book without up paper grocery bags. Most of the covers are chrome bound cow hide in many colors. Here are some samples of the basic Big Book cover.

- The basic Big Book cover is decorated with a name and address plate (and optional 'Owner's Print'), and bound as shown in these examples.

- Let your imagination run wild and have a custom Leather Big Book Cover made for you. These covers are 'one-of-a-kind' and are quite striking. Here are some samples to see your options.

- Click here for a complete web gallery.
- Click here for more 2007 information.

"Book Cover" Job
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Editor / Publisher: Bob Stelmack
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All submissions are subject to editing for clarity and length. All articles submitted must be accompanied by name, address and permission of writer.

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.

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

<http://pslac.org>

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J & W

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Offering a 10% off retail discount to the PSLAC members

"It never hurts to ask!"

Joseph & Wendy Noecker

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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. Address: 75 NE Creekway, Issaquah, WA 98027

**PSLAC
c/o Barbara Lourdes
PO Box 1144
Auburn, WA 98071
USA**

