

Raw Hide Gazette

"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

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Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

February 2011

Hide Highlights

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Next Meeting on Sunday February 13th at 2:00 PM

Meeting at MacPherson Leather Co.
www.macphersonleather.com

Side door open at 1:00 for browsing
with general meeting at 2:00.

519 12th AVE S. (12th & Weller)
Seattle, WA

Bill Churchill, Co-founder of PSLAC



While perusing the thousands of files sent to me by Bob Stelmack I came across the following autobiographies written by Bill Churchill outlining his passion of leathercraft. I thought it would be appropriate to reprint for new & old members. -rog-

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 homemade 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 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.



In 1958, while serving with USAF sitting on the "beautiful" SNOW bank of Goose bay, Labrador, it was either throw snowballs or take up a hobby. I hated snow, and a friend of mine was selling billfolds for \$8.00. So I

started Leathercraft. I found a picture in a photography book of a female nude and my billfolds were \$15.00.

From "The Goose", I went to Chateauroux, France. I soon found out that Leathercraft there was almost Non-existent. Among the GI's there the TR-3 sports car was the rage. The TR-3 had the perfect door on the glove compartment and I used a Ken Griffin pattern (The nude in the flowers) and paid the rent. This is also where I started Teaching Leather.

Next was Kaiserslautern, Germany. I was there quite a few years and I began to expand. I taught German Civilians, American civilians, as well as the Active Duty AF personnel.

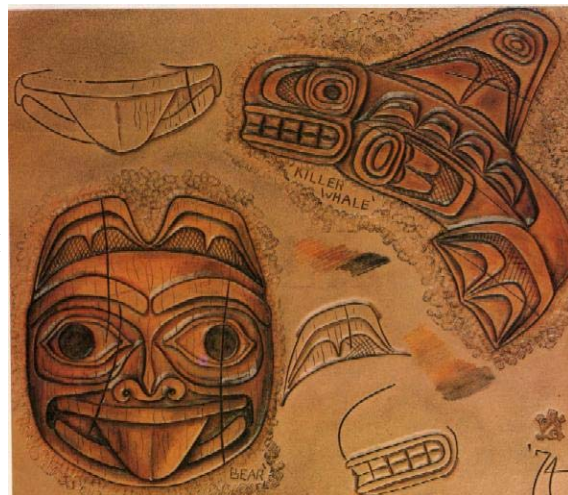
Making and selling became a sideline to teaching. The ARMY service club set up a special area at Vogelweh, Germany for my classes and demonstrations. I was fortunate enough to have a couple of complete pages in the European/Middle East "STARS AND

STRIPES", and then I was on German TV and Armed Forces TV. After that my classes really went into high Gear.

Then I was off to McChord AF base, Tacoma, Washington. "WOOD CARVING COUNTRY". I was at Tacoma for a couple of years and with the Help of Annabelle Bosch of Tacoma Tandy Leather, I soon became established in LEATHER ART. I was on about five TV stations (including two PBS stations) and had a 45-day show in the Washington State Historical Museum. Naturally I was always in Art Shows, time permitting from USAF Duties, and strange as it seems, my biggest competition was NOT woodcarving but Modern Art. This was 1964-65. I taught and demonstrated the whole time that I was in the state of Washington.

But Uncle Sam said that I was needed in Colorado Springs, CO. Piece of cake. "LEATHER COUNTRY". Teaching and then finally USAF Retirement. I then went to work for TANDY LEATHER COMPANY -- a wonderful relationship for 20 years. I was soon transferred, at my request, back to Washington State. Over the 20 years, I imagine that I have demonstrated and taught in almost every

school from Kindergarten to College in Western Washington and a big part of Eastern Washington. I found out that Tandy Managers learn more about Leathercraft BEHIND the counter than a person could



in front of the counter. The questions! As a store manager you HAVE to have the CORRECT answer. So you burn the midnight oil to find out.

After retiring from Tandy, I bought into a "Custom Leather Manufactur-

ing” business. “You needed 10,000 check book covers, you came to see us.” Then after two years I retired. Still teaching all of this time.

Then I started teaching in all of the Local Tandy Stores. <snip>

Then, the highlight of my leathercraft career -- General Seymour and I started Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op (PSLAC) and the rest is history.

Bill



Bill had quite a sense of humor - '88

Another fine example of Bills work



PSLAC East (December 2010)

Due to the editorial changeover some of the RawHide Gazette articles did not arrive at the correct e-mail address in time for Bob to publish. I'll attempt to publish those articles as I locate them. -rog-

It has been a hectic Christmas season. Woody Collins and I shared a table at the Spokane Lewis and Clark Gun Show while Stan McConnell presented the December PSLAC-East 2nd Saturday class at the Spokane Leather Factory. On Saturday morning, Woody taught a beginning leathercraft group at the Leather Factory, while I held down the fort at the gun show. Then he came to the gun show to help baby sit the table for two days. As for me, all I did was get into a world of trouble by taking pictures of some of the gun show booths. Apparently that is a very big no-no as some of the sellers worry about potential problems from the government, as well as, private interference. There was a sign stating that no cameras were allowed at the show, but I always entered through the back door and never saw the sign. Fortunately, after some delicate negotiations, a very nice, but firm show management lady decided to allow me to publish the photos where I received permission before taking a picture. I had to reassure her several times that the Rawhide Gazette was only interested in holsters.. I owe her a big thanks....

We are in the process of putting together the Summer classes at Rathdrum, Idaho. The only definite class scheduled is Chan Geer's Wallet Class. It will be held on June 10 - 12 with a possible 1 day class preceding it on June 9th. The wallet class is designed to make a wallet from scratch with several variations of the interior layout. The one day class is undetermined at this point.



Woody at our Gun Show table

Peter Main and Bob Beard classes are also under consideration. I asked Peter if he'd teach a class on making custom knife sheaths and he has indicated that he would like to come teach but we are still working on the dates. See article on page 7 with the updated schedule. Bob's class would most likely be after the Sturgis Rally and be on creating leather jewelry. Again nothing is definite for either of these classes and I will keep you informed as things progress..

As most of you know, Dave Torix passed away this fall and will be greatly missed. He helped us put on several PSLAC-East classes at the Spokane Leather Factory. Stan McConnell and I have been helping his widow, Sandra, inventory and sell his tools and books. We managed to raise a considerable sum via eBay auctions 2 weeks ago. Because of that success we decided to auction off some more. The remaining items will be offered for sale at the end of our January PSLAC-East class.

Ken Bush

Beginning students at the Spokane Leather Factory



A BIG Thank You

Bob, as one of the co-founders of PSLAC, I would like to say a big thank you for all the time and energy that you have put into the news letter and the rest of the club. The news letter would not have been the same with out your creative input. After all who would have thought of leather running shorts? Did you ever use them?

Well now maybe you will have some time to do your leather business.

Again Bob A BIG THANK YOU from me and all the members of PSLAC.

General



**Fly Wallet
Members Construction Article
coming soon**



New Editor - or “OMG what have I gotten myself into?”

Where to start...? I'm sure Bob has said that more than once in his many years of publishing the RHG! ;-)

A little about me: I have a wife (Debbie) & three grown sons (Alex, Kurt & Thomas), no Grandkids yet even though when I attended my 40th High School Reunion a couple of years ago I seemed to be in the minority in the grandkid department.... I'm an Assistant Scoutmaster for Troop 594 & been a “Scouter” for the past 20 some years. I work for King County (the Seattle area) as a Network Architect so I've spent my working life making computers communicate but occasionally seem to be challenged when it comes to using them. One of those challenges is desktop publishing, Bob & I use different software so his templates & the like are somewhat foreign. Have you ever heard the old adage “you can't teach...” well, I'm not saying I'm old or anything but rather just challenged! OK, maybe that didn't come out quite right either. I'm quite sure there will be some “bumps” along the way as I come up to speed on this new adventure (the lateness of this issue is sure to be noticed—sorry..!) so I'll apologize in advance for any shortcomings. Enjoy perusing the **RawHide Gazette** even if it's just to see where it takes us.

I've been involved with leathercraft on & off (mostly off...) since I attended a parks department summer leathercraft program in 1964. Since joining PSLAC I've rediscovered the joy of leathercraft & have become very active in the club. I strongly encourage everyone that can to attend the meetings & classes. I also serve as a Director for PSLAC & perform arguably the most important service any club requires... I make the coffee!

In any case my promise to you the reader is to do my best to live up to the high standards Bob has set for more than 14 years (his first issue was March 1996). I stood in for Bob for several months in 2007 while he relocated to the Tri Cities & can truly appreciate the effort he put forward to produce a high quality publication month after month.

I'll add my appreciation:

Thank You Bob from the *RawHide Gazette*.

-rog-

Roger Kaiser

Send articles or critiques to: webmaster@pslac.org or roger.kaiser@kingcounty.gov

Graycloud Knives

At the January meeting Robb Gray brought one round knife and four head knives which he has recently completed. As most of you know, Robb has been producing custom knives for the past couple of years and his quality and workmanship have increased tremendously. These first leather knives are no exception. Absolutely stunning.

All these knives are made of 440c stainless steel. These are cut and shaped on his belt grinder, then polished on a series of belts. After the polishing they are engraved and heat treated. After the initial heat treatment they are double tempered to instill some flexibility. After final polishing the blades are sharpened.

The stainless steel bolsters are peened into place. Next the handle materials are fixed, shaped, sanded, polished and buffed before any final engraving is done on the bolsters and handle rivet heads.

Many books have been written about what is mentioned in these very short 2 paragraphs. Then many hours of research into the various materials used, the equipment purchased and expertise gained in its usage are all necessary to obtain before this quality of work can be accomplished.

Now, for the knives. The first 2 are matt (stone washed or brushed) finished head knives with ResinWood handle scales. Robb has ResinWood produced for him. This is made of layers of FSC certified paper and impregnated with colored phynolic resin and cured with heat under tremendous pressure. Robb plans on producing this size and style as a production knife, with different selections of handle and blade designs.

The third knife, with the tan and grey handle scales is Robb's personal one. The handle material is stabilized California Buckeye. Stabilization is a process of impregnating the wood



with resins and curing it. Both this and the Resin-Wood are thus very wear resistant and water proof. This knife has a stainless steel bolster, with fossilized wooly mammoth ivory, and stainless steel spacers between the bolster and the handle scales. The blade, bolster, and handle rivets are engraved.

The green handled one is custom made for Chan Geer. This one has colored, stabilized maple burl handle scales with stainless steel bolster, and a red and white vulcanized fiber spacer. The blade, bolster, and handle rivets are engraved.



The fifth knife was custom made for Paula Marquis. This head knife measures 6 inches across from tip to tip. The handle is short and shaped to fit her hand. The blade is engraved on both sides, with one including Robb's maker stamp, and the other including Paula's monogram and the date.

The engraved bolster is stainless steel and the spacers are fossilized wooly mammoth ivory and Resin-Wood. The handle material is an Australian wood corrugata, also known as ribbed fluted mallee. The handle rivets are also engraved. Thirty seven hours went into the making of this knife. We were actually allowed to touch it. But, before Paula is allowed to use it, Robb will enter it into competition at an upcoming knife show.



Recently, Robb won the "Best New Maker" award at the Oregon and again at the Washington shows where there were approximately 400 competitors. Quite an accomplishment, and now he is entering a new arena, with leather working knives.

More of Robb's work may be seen on his web site: www.graycloud-designs.com
Norm Lynds



Paula's knife - There's a big grin behind that blade!



Paula's knife - Notice the intricate engraving on the blade

Paula's knife handle - More of Robb's engraving



Chan Geer's knife - Custom shape by Chan



Favorite quotes:

Don't look into the laser with the remaining eye.

-- *E-mail signature - mid 1990s*

"Would you like me to give you a formula for... success? It's quite simple, really. Double your rate of failure. You're thinking of failure as the enemy of success. But it isn't at all... you can be discouraged by failure -- or you can learn from it. So go ahead and make mistakes. Make all you can. Because, remember that's where you'll find success. On the far side."

--*Thomas J. Watson, Founder of IBM*

Notice

PSLAC Members Only and Leather Company Advertisement Pages will be updated soon.

Please contact : webmaster@pslac.org or roger.kaiser@kingcounty.gov with any copy, changes, updates, photos, etc.

PSLAC East

PSLAC-East had an overflow crowd at the Spokane Leather Factory in January when Stan McConnell presented a class on making a holster for a swivel knife. Fortunately Steve Camp showed up to help and I did my usual role of being a gopher, teacher and picture taker. After the class was over, we had an estate sale for Dave Torix's widow Sandra. It's amazing just how much "stuff" we collect over the years doing our leather-craft activities. Dave was no exception as we found when we went through his studio and boxes and more boxes. Lots of old tools, books and doodle pages. The older collectibles I put on eBay, including a single Masonic stamp that brought in a whopping \$100 and two Bob Beard mallets that totaled over \$300. The rest of the books and tools ended up in the estate sale. We were pleasantly surprised with the results, so thanks to everyone who helped with the sale and of course to those who took the time to shop.



Stan illustrating how the holster should look.



Three new participants and my shy granddaughter Angelica

As far as our Summer classes go, Chan Geer will be teaching two classes in Spokane (actually Rathdrum ID) on June 9 - 12. The first is a one day lacing class on June 9th where Chan will teach several different lacing techniques. The second will be a 3 day class (June 10-12) on making wallets from scratch with several variations on the insides. Cost will be \$110 for the lacing class and \$220 for the



Steve Camp answering questions.

wallet class with \$25 rebate if you take both classes.

Peter Main will be teaching a 2 day class the weekend of September 10 -11 on his embossing techniques featuring a green tree frog that can be mounted on an 8x10

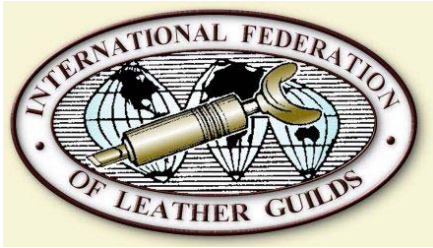
frame. The cost for that class will be \$255.

Ken Bush
White Rose Leather
11923 E. Fairview Ave.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
whiterosex@aol.com

This is the 2nd class for this young lady. We like returnees.



Bob Stelmack 2011 IILG Hall of Fame Awardee



<http://www.iilg.net/honor/iilg-hof.html>

A leather group on the Internet just awarded me the IILG Hall of Fame for 2011. It is "A Place to Honor Our Fellow Leathercrafters. The web page is to showcase remarkable people in the world of leatherwork. This includes people who have made substantial contributions to further the art of leatherwork, as well as those with remarkable skill and talent. "Hall of Famers" are chosen from leather artists worldwide by the IILG members through a nomination and voting process."

These are previous awardees:

- * Al & Ann Stohlman
- * Bill Boyd, Co-Founder of IILG
- * Thom Keach, Co-Founder of IILG
- * Ron Ross, ~2005~
- * Peter Main, ~2005~
- * Ben Hughes, ~2005~
- * Frank Zaharek Jr, ~2006~
- * Wayne Christensen, ~2007~
- * Cathy Schlim, ~2008~
- * Phil M LeDuc, ~2009~
- * Verlane Desgrange, ~2010~
- * Bob Stelmack, ~2011~

After notification of the award, I responded to all those who congratulated me with the following:

"Many thanks to those who have congratulated me on the a HOF (Hall of Fame) award for 2011. I am surprised, humbled and grateful. Looking at the previous recipients is just overwhelming. To be selected by your peers is the greatest honor and reminds me to redouble my efforts in carrying the

message and the craft of leather to others. I was blessed enough to have two gentlemen, the founders of the PSLAC (Puget Sound Leather Artisan Co-op) Bill Churchill and General Seymour, steer me to sharing leather tips, ideas and projects to all—especially the young. And for that I am forever grateful."

By-the-way, the picture they have on file for me is about 20 years old when I had more hair and the hair had color in it.

Bob Stelmack
Desert Leathercraft LLC
www.leatherbigbookcovers.com

Ed. Note: Just as I was putting the finishing touches to this newsletter I received this e-mail from Bob.

Well deserved Bob! Our congratulations -rog-



James—Grand Champion Junior Division 2010 Puyallup Fair

James is receiving his Tandy gift certificate from General for winning the Junior Division Grand Champion. He has been taking classes at the Seattle Tandy from Store Manager Andy Stasiak and is definitely becoming a skilled leather craftsman! Congratulations James!



Western Washington (Seattle/Tacoma/Everett)
PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2011

General Member's meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each Month unless specified below. 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM approx.

- Meetings held at Issaquah Valley Senior Center, 75 NE Creek Way, Issaquah, WA 98027 General meeting start at 1:00 PM followed by the mini-demos

Breakfast informal get-together locations:

North Breakfast >>> Last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM. Lake Forest Park Town Centre. 17917 Bothell Everett Hwy, Bothell, WA 98012 Bothell Way N, bordered by 170th N. & Ballinger Way N. Meet in the Third Place Books eating area
South Breakfast >>> 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 AM. Oscar's Restaurant, 8726 S. Hosmer St. Tacoma, WA

Eastern Washington (Tri –Cities) Desert LeatherCraft Group (DLG)
PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2011

Tri-Cities Desert LeatherCraft Group Member's meetings are on the 3rd Saturday of each month unless specified below:

- Informal meetings held at 2532 Banyon St. Richland, WA 99352 (Call Bob at 509-392-2589 for directions). Google map reference +46 16' 19.20", -119 18' 32.40"

Eastern Washington (Spokane) PSLAC East
PSLAC CURRENT SCHEDULE FOR 2011

PSLAC East Member's meetings are on the 2nd Saturday of each Month unless specified below. 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM approx.

- Informal meetings held at Spokane Tandy Leather Factory Store, 28 West Boone Ave. Spokane WA 99201 Contact Ken Bush for time, date (normally the 2nd Saturday) & details.
Ken Bush
White Rose Leather
11923 E. Fairview Ave.
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
whiterosex@aol.com
509.926.2087

All Day Workshops:

Chan Geer's Wallet and Lacing Classes

Dates: Lacing class: June 09, 2011 (Thursday) \$110. A \$65 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your spot
Wallet class: June 10 – 12, 2011 (Friday/Saturday/Sunday) \$220. A \$110 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your spot. Take both classes and the total cost is reduced by \$25.

Time: 8 AM to 5 PM Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 AM to 2 PM Sunday

Location: **Lions Club, 16114 N. Meyer Rd, Rathdrum, Idaho**

Peter Main Leather Embossing Class

Dates: Sep 10 – 11, 2011 (Sat/Sun) \$255. A \$125 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your spot. All supplies will be included in the cost. A maximum of 12 spots are available and the deadline for registration is Aug 5, 2011.

Time: 8 AM to 5 PM Saturday/Sunday

Location: **Lions Club, 16114 N. Meyer Rd, Rathdrum, Idaho**

PSLAC Members Only Advertisement Page

Any PSLAC Member can advertise leather related products or services, subject to approval. Just send your text, picture and/or logo to stelmack@nwlinc.com



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