

# 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

Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op

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November Special Edition 2013

## In Memory of General Seymour



General and Ann Seymour

## In Memory of General Seymour

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General Edward Seymour was born in Royston, Georgia on November 3rd, 1939 to the union of Mike and Eunice Seymour. He joined the United States Air Force, where he served as a Radar Technician obtaining the rank of Airman First Class.

In 1958 General was stationed in Iceland and worked to build one of the first Radar Bases there.

In 1960, General wed the love of his life, Ann Bentley from Othello, WA. They were long time residents of West Seattle, WA and most recently of Orting, WA.

He had a lifelong love of motorcycles and enjoyed riding touring bikes for traveling (when it wasn't raining!).

In 1965 General did a tour of Vietnam working in the engine room of tugboats delivering supplies to the troops. The tugboats he worked on didn't come back, but, General did!

In 1968, while testing a friend's motor cycle, he crashed it and ended up in hospital with a broken leg and hip. He was told he would never walk again, but, General being General was never one to obey and was up and walking again within a month.

General was a skilled technician and had a career at the City of Seattle primarily as a Signal Electrician. In addition to work, he enjoyed building and flying model airplanes, working with the CB Radio community, traveling, creating beautiful leather artwork, as well as spending time mentoring the young people in his life.

He retired from the City in 1992. Since then he'd just been having fun doing all the things he didn't have much time for while working.

General died unexpectedly in his sleep on Thursday, September 12th, 2013. He was preceded in death by his father, Mike and his mother, Eunice.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Ann and children: daughter Laura and son Bill (Ania) of Seattle, as well as his brother Wayne (Patty) of Dewy Rose, Georgia.



General, what can I say. He was a close friend and mentor to me when I started in the leather world, second only to Bill Churchill. General and Bill would invite me to breakfasts they had with other artists in various fields of craftsmanship and encouraged me to absorb as much as I could.

General was always willing to share with me his expertise in leather, critiquing my work and helping me improve my skills. He always believed in sharing his knowledge and was patient, always finding something good in every project, along with ways to help you make it better.

When Bill sponsored me as director to take his place, General was always there to help with advice and support. His role in PSLAC as director and member always kept the founding ideas of the group on track. As it should have been as he and Bill started it.

He supported everyone in the group and took classes that anyone that was willing to teach (even though he knew the technique and most likely could do it better). General and Ann opened their home numerous times for PSLAC classes and always put on a great lunch (Ann was always very busy getting it set up). General and Ann were always the most gracious hosts you could ever imagine.

I'm going to personally miss General and some of the talks we had. It will be hard to come to a class or meeting and not see him there.

We (as a group) and the leather world have lost a great man. I have few close friends and now that General is gone I have one less, except he will always be with me in my heart as is Bill and never forgotten.

Woody Collins



General was always a strong presence at our meetings even in the background. Here he is with Chan Geer (with his newly awarded Bill Churchill medal), Roger, and JohnGuo.



Learning from the master! Frdericka, General, Roger and JohnGuo talking leatherwork.



General was always ready to encourage younger leatherworkers. Here he is with JohnGuo.



# In Memory of General Seymour

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Here is my memory:

I remember General as the somewhat silent partner of the founders. General was the "ever present" man standing in the back. He let Bill be the mouth piece of their joint decisions and directions. I still chuckle when I got emails from Bill telling me that the "Directors" have made a decision and I know that Bill, and especially General, were the driving force behind the Coop.

General has strong opinions on the direction for the Coop and between himself and Bill built up a large active membership both in the Seattle/Everett/Tacoma area and the Internet.

The last time I saw General and Anne was at the Sheridan Leather Show and that is the picture I hold in my head.

Bob Stelmack

I worked at Tandy. One Saturday Bill Churchill came in the store and had a gentleman who he introduced to me by the name of General Seymour. Larry Bill Fred & Roy always went to a restaurant down South Tacoma Way. They took about a hour and a half and they always came back to with toothpicks in their mouth. A clue that they were eating breakfast. A tradition we still have.

I knew General for sometime when he started to tell stories. This one is my favorites:

When he was in the Air Force He and his buddies went downtown and they were having a good time and when they realized the bus had stopped running for the day. General called the base and said, "This is General Seymour and I need a car to pick me up"..... "Yes Sir there will be a car to pick you up right

away". General laughed that the driver was shocked seeing the Airmen standing where the General was suppose to be. When he realized there was no General there he might as well take the Airmen back to the Base. I notice that I'm not the only one who thought it was his rank.

Another of the stories that I like is ....When Bill Churchill was in Madigan Army Hospital they don't let anybody but a family members go in to see him or talk to him on the phone. Well General called and asked to talk to Bill Churchill and before they could tell him no one but family members he said, "This is General Seymour" ..... "Yes sir right away".

General .... I thought that was his rank.

Written with love.  
I'm going to miss him.

Dusty Wert





# Proud Recipient of the Bill Churchill Award

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General Seymour and Bill Churchill were co-founders of the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-Op (PSLAC).



### Memorial to General Seymour

General and Bill Churchill, with a small group, were the founders of the Puget Sound Leather Artisans Co-op. They came up with the idea of a leather hobby-type group, run by what they only partly jokingly called a “benevolent dictatorship” of some directors who would guide and make decisions on directions for the club, while avoiding some of the politics that apparently plagued a previous Seattle area leather guild effort. I heard about the Co-op group, and started coming to meetings about a year or two after they started. Their idea of a leatherworking group that encourages and promotes leather craft and art, both for adults and for kids, must have been a good one, as PSLAC has been going strong for close to 20 years now. One of the very first meetings of the group, in 1994, was at General’s and Ann’s newly purchased house in Orting. And we’ve had many great weekend and Saturday seminars there over the years, with General giving lots of valuable input to the group and Ann cooking up a storm for our lunches. Just to name a few, I fondly remember General teaching us the mysteries of the airbrush at several workshops, a last-less shoe workshop, a fun bookmaking workshop, there was a Japanese dye on leather, messy, but a lot of fun. We also had workshops at General’s and Ann’s put on by internationally known leather work teachers, such as Peter Main, Chan Geer, and Jim Linnell, to name a few. General’s support for the co-op has never wavered and he and Ann have been at almost every PSLAC meeting. We could always depend on him to have an opinion and to share of his years of knowledge about leather, leather working tools, dyes and finishes. We lost Bill some years back and, just recently, General also passed on. While the co-op hasn’t ever

depended on just one or two people, and will it continue on, General’s constant participation and guidance will be sorely missed.

Ken Eriksen, Director





# In Memory of General Seymour

## Remembering General Seymour

Although I joined PSLAC in 1999, I didn't get to know General on a personal level until I took a portrait carving class with him the next year. It was the last class that Bill Churchill taught and Ken Imus, General and I were the students. I remember being impressed that someone as skilled as General was, was still taking classes to enhance his abilities.

I got my first taste of General's many stories and his droll sense of humor there. It was a great class.

Through the years, General and his wonderful wife, Ann, have been the glue that held our club together. They have never missed a meeting unless they were taking a rare vacation. They are the only couple who faithfully attended both the north end and south end breakfasts. Most importantly, they opened their home to us on numerous occasions for classes. Ann always provided a delicious lunch for us so we didn't have to waste time ordering out. Although General is gone, I hope we have not seen the last of Ann.

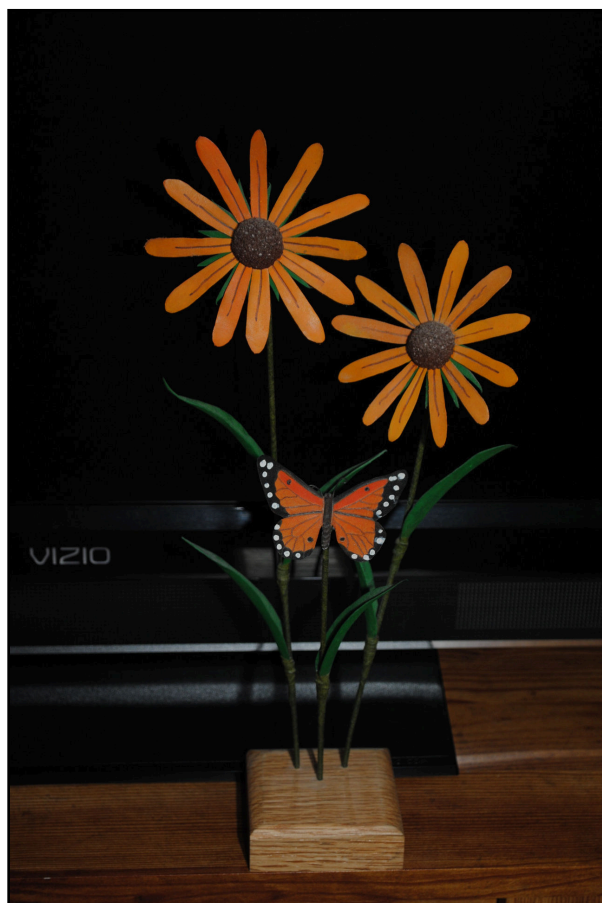
The last time I saw General was at our monthly PSLAC Meeting. Our skill building activity at the meeting was on carving and tooling bird feet, specifically, an owl's foot. General was our teacher. His knowledge of anatomy was impressive. When my carving was finished, I showed it to General so he could critique it. After giving me positive feedback on my overall performance, he showed me three areas where I could improve my carving. They were small things, but, they were the difference between good and excellent. His attention to detail was one of his strongest assets.

Less than a week

later, I was shocked and saddened to learn of General's passing.

He will be sorely missed.

Len Madison



# In Memory of General Seymour

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## My Friend General

I first joined PSLAC in September of 2001. Since that time George and I have become very good friends with General and Ann. It was a slow developing friendship, but, they are mostly the strongest and longest lasting.

Attending workshops together the friendship bonded as we found we both had similar outlooks and wacky senses of humour.

I started doing demonstrations at the Puyallup Fair in the Hobby Hall with Dusty and then started doing more demos and asked General to partner me, which he willingly did.

General and I knew how to egg each other on, he often came up with some wild idea and I'd try to make it work in leather. I'm still thinking about and working on his last idea, maybe I'll eventually make it work. George used to shake his head in pity at us and Ann threatened to disown both of us. We had a lot of fun.

General was a driving force in holding the Club together and it will be an uphill battle to fill his shoes, but, the Directors are planning to do the best they can.

We miss you  
General and wish you were still here.

Paula Marquis







This is an amazing purse!





# Some of General's Work

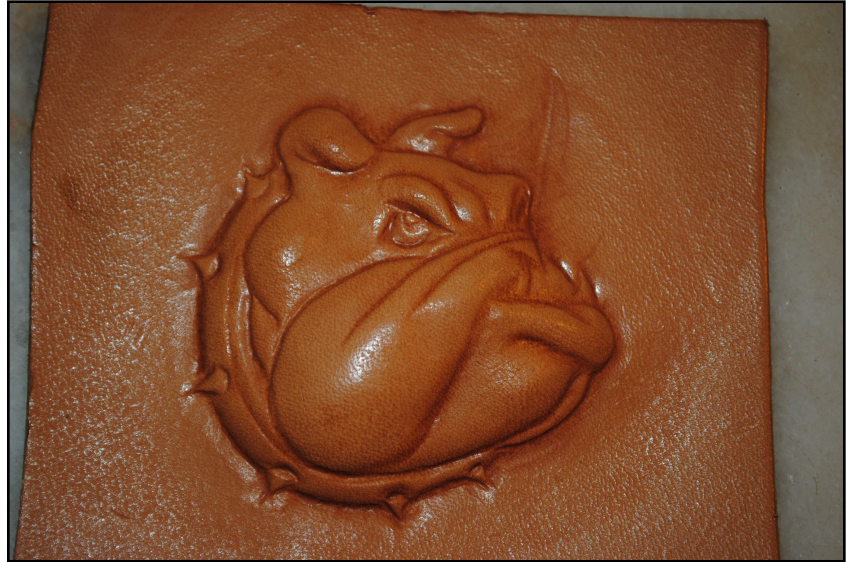
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# Some of General's Work

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## Some of General's Work

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Editor's Note: All the leather work in this Special Memorial Edition was done by General Seymour. Some are practice pieces some finished work but, as you can see, all were done by a highly skilled artist. We miss you General.