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**The 44th Annual
Canadian Society for Creative Leathercraft
by Betsy Rennie**

The 44th Annual at the Royal Resort on Balsam Lake, was a great success. Late afternoon on Friday, the tables were set up, ready for the Judging done by the Fellows. Meanwhile, the rest of the people met in the hospitality room.

On Saturday morning, everyone met for the Annual Business meeting. The new slate of Officers were passed for the next year. Dorothy Muma, Chairman of the Council of Fellows, presented the Weston Trophy to the Hamilton Branch with an 85.4% average. The five pieces winning the trophy included a Magnifying Glass case by David Windeyer; a Hinged Box by Muriel McKnight, an Oval Moulded Box by David McPherson; a Desk Set by Sharon Beasley; and a 5-Strand Braided Belt by Ruth Haig. This year there were two Associates awarded, Bruce White and Bill Whittingham. The Zalitis pin was awarded to Bill Whittingham having the higher average. The critiques were read by Betsy Rennie and displayed by Madeleine Mitchell, showing us the best qualities of the pieces. The business meeting ended and Lunch was served in the Dining Room.

The Demonstrators this year were Dorothy and David McPherson showing their Leather Mache. They showed us how to mould leather splits over ordinary objects like a rock and then to make something artistic out of it. Margaret Monteith showed us how to make Buttons and Jewellery using a combination of materials. Hilda Chynoweth showed us what she called "Weed Pots" to put dried flowers in, but they are in fact dainty and a pretty wall hanging.

Draw numbers were called at break time. The same people demonstrated, so that we could watch a different one. The afternoon finished off with buying leather and supplies from guild members.

After having a delicious meal at the Banquet, the Guest speaker, an OPP Officer, Mike Maybee spoke on his early experiences on working with fur by watching the Indian people. He speaks widely to youngsters in the area about his experiences. Later Emma Windatt gave us her poem on "The Cats" and "Her Green Eyes". These poems have been written by her and she often goes to schools to recite them to the children.

Dorothy Muma awarded the Salon and Craftsman Ribbons and Prizes.

Salon Awards

Sharon Beasley- 3 piece Desk Set
Nancy Durham- Maple Leaf Tray
Ruth Haig- Red Box, moulded with free form design
Della Howard-Large Flower Holder; small castle box
Jessie Little- Bookends
Lois MacPherson- Candleholder
Dorothy McPherson-Large mache bowl
Cliff McTavish- Card Case, pencil holder
Margaret Monteith-Earrings with red filigree
Bill Whittingham- Purse; a yoyo.

Craftsman Awards

Sharon Beasley - 3 piece Desk Set
Nancy Durham - Blue Moulded Box
Ruth Haig - Card Case, Maple Leaf Tray,

Craftsman Awards- cont'

belt.

Rick Fielding - Toronto Branch Logo
Della Howard - Pink Hinged box, Large
mache "Flower Holder"
Jessie Little - Bookends
Don Macleod - Black tool case
Dorothy MacPherson - Large Mache
Bowl, moulded box
Loreen Manuel - Royal Plaque Brass
holder
Lois McPherson - Candle Holder
Cliff McTavish - Card Case, Pencil Holder
Madeleine Mitchell - Small Red Bottle
Margaret Monteith - Pencil Holder
Betsy Rennie - Moulded Box with Star,
Credit Card Case
Beula Reynolds - 7 Strand Braided Belt
Bruce White - Small Spirit Drum- bear
paw; Bell Bag, Tray
Bill Whittingham - yoyo, Owl Mirror,
Purse

Special Awards

Irva Ford Award - Best moulded work to
Ruth Haig for moulded box with black
design on lid.

Bob Muma Award - For Best tooled
and/or coloured piece to Jessie Little for
the Bookends.

Best in Show - Cliff McTavish for
the Carved Pencil holder.

I would like to thank Kay Cloughley for
drawing the sketches to go with the
Weston Trophy pieces.

Weston Trophy Commentary by The Fellows

Hamilton 85.4%

Magnifying Glass Case: 81% The top of
the case is dished in. The inside is nicely
finished.

Hinged Box: 84% The box has a nice
finished on it. The lid fits well but the
overall design could be improved.

Oval Moulded Box: 84% There is an
intriguing insert in this box. The dye job
is nicely done. The join on the box is
poorly done.

3 Piece Desk Set: 92% The set is nicely
done, but the pen wobbles a bit.

5-Strand Braided Belt: 86% The tone
braided belt is pleasing to the eye. The
lacing is rough on the back and would be
better if it were grooved.

Toronto - 69%

Tray: 69% The design looks to artificial.
The edges are quite lumpy.

Book Ends: 62% The basic design is quite
interesting. The back should be covered
in leather and the bottom of the book
ends need a something sturdy.

Purse: 75% It is pleasing to the eye. The
lacing id punched too deeply.

Wall Plaque: 80% The carved design is
nicely done. The overall plaque is well
done.

Torn Leather Bowl: 59% The work has
sturdy construction but it isn't
proportioned.

Woodstock: 78.6%

Book Cover: 75% The embossing is a
nice design and well done. The cover is a
bit too small for the book with the glue
giving away.

Blue Box: 80% Outside is pleasing. The
lid fits fine abut the inside could be dyed
better.

Pencil Holder: 79% The design on the was done to make a complete circle and very well done. The seam was poorly finished.

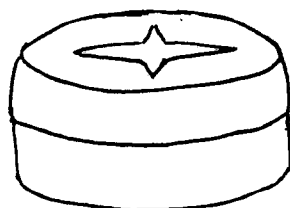
Royal Plaque: 84% The workmanship is very good and a substantial way to hang brass.

WESTON TROPHY ENTRIES (CONT'D)

WOODSTOCK - 78.6%



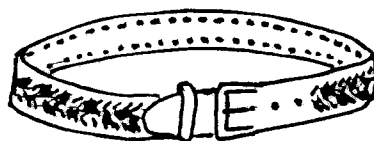
BOOK
COVER
MADELEINE MITCHELL



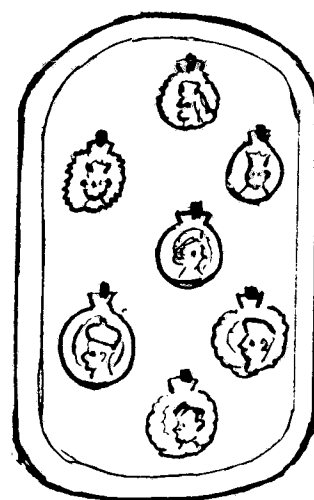
BLUE 'STAR' BOX
NANCY DURHAM



PENCIL HOLDER
MARGARET MONTEITH



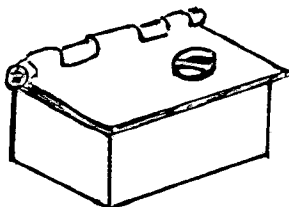
BELT - 7 STRAND BRAID
BEULA REYNOLDS



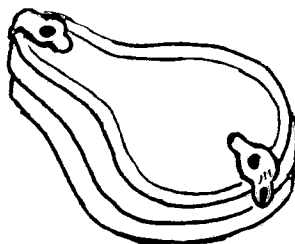
BLACK LEATHER
COVERED PLAQUE
FOR 'ROYAL' HORSE
BRASSES
LOREEN MANUEL

WESTON TROPHY ENTRIES

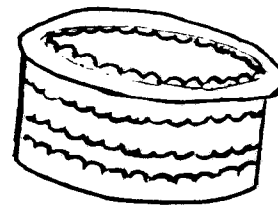
HAMILTON - 85.4%



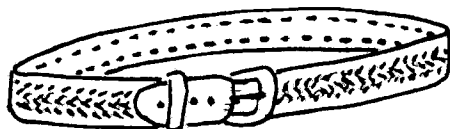
PINK LASTED BOX
MURIEL MCKNIGHT



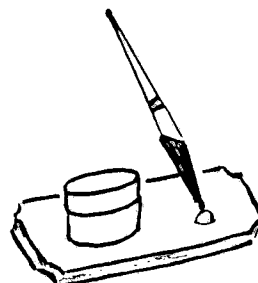
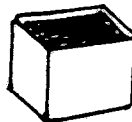
MAGNIFYING GLASS CASE
DAVE WINDEYER



BROWN BOX
DAVE McPHERSON



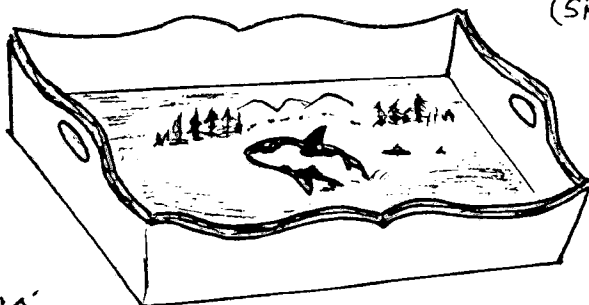
BELT - 5 STRAND BRAID
RUTH HAIG



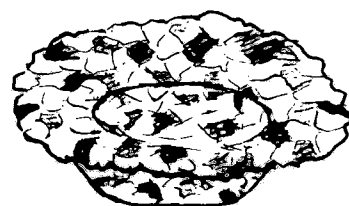
DESK SET - SHARON BEASLY

TORONTO - 69%

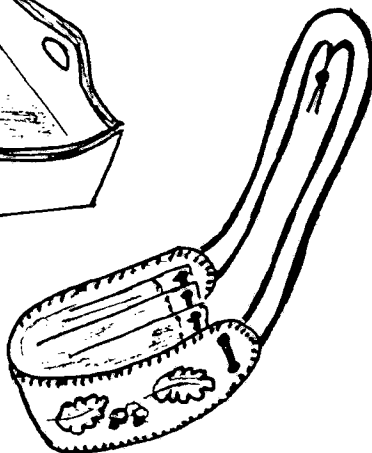
ALSO - A WALL PLAQUE
BY RICK FIELDING
(SKETCH NOT AVAILABLE)



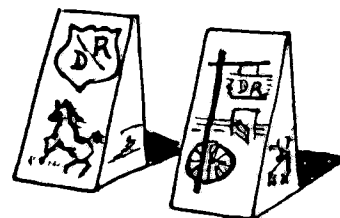
'ORCA'
TRAY - BRUCE WHITE



LEATHER MACHE BOWL
ALLAN FOSS



DRAWSTRING PURSE
HARRY WENDLAND



BOOKENDS
DAVE RAYBOLD

Filigree by Muriel McKnight

Choose an appropriate carving pattern for the article of your choice, e.g. a barrette, key fob, wallet back, key case back, belts, earrings, bracelets, or collars. The weight of leather will vary with each project.

The pattern must have a limited amount of background that you are able cut out with many western carving patterns suitable, and of course you can create your own. Too much cutting weakens the leather article.

STEP ONE: Wet or case the leather, trace pattern onto leather with modeller, proceed to carve your leather before doing the filigree cuts, omitting the background tooling.

STEP TWO: To cut out the background use a very sharp pointed, e.g. exacto or any thin pointed knife you have. When cutting, it is important to cut straight down through the leather (not at an angle to undercut). When cutting is complete, dye top and edges, apply finish coat.

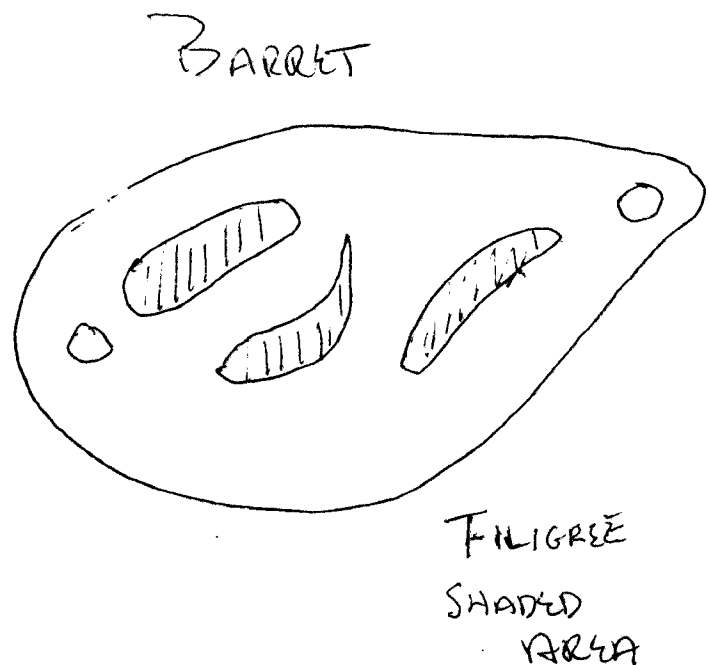
STEP THREE: Choose a contrasting colour for the underside, which shows through cut outs, cut same size as front. Apply white glue to back of filigree piece, carefully lay under piece (which is usually a skiver or thin morocco) and press until all the edges are secure.

BARRETTES: Approx. size 3 x 1, 1/4 to 3 1/2 x 1, or 1/4 inches. All different sizes and designs can be created for this project. If belting weight is used no backing is necessary, a lighter weight of leather such as 3 to 4 ounce will require backing. Used cased leather, mark design then cut using described procedure.

Out side edges should be bevelled

and shape the barrette with a modeller or bone folder to create a curve. Punch a hole on each side to fit a skewer or pick. Wood skewers should be dyed.

On the illustration of the filigree pattern, the outside edges of the design are bevelled. Shaded sections on pattern are cut out to form filigree, after carving is completed.



Cont'd from Page 7

We rivetted our patterned knife pouches at the top and pulled a thin leather thong through the stitch holes, and then doubled back all the way to the starting point.

Thanks to Carolyn and Jill, who often host Scout and Guide groups for one evening leather working courses, for a most rewarding evening. Too bad we leaders don't qualify to earn a specialty badge!

Scouts Learn Tradition of Carving Leather by Hand

This article is submitted by Kay Clougley. It is a column written by Brian Baker of the Huronia Sunday.

With the boys of our 1st Churchill Scout troop working for their troop specialty badge, we spent a recent evening making leather knife pouches at the Tandy Leather store on Anne Street in Barrie.

As we industriously worked table hammering our own individual designs into the leather, under the supervision of the store manager, Carolyn Strigley and staffer Jill Kovaks, we were conscious of the nostalgia aroma of leather that reminded us of being in an Old West harness and leather shop just like they show on the movies.

Choosing from 100 or more leather stamps including designs of maple leaves, scorns, horseshoes, moons, bears, a wolf as well as letters for us to put our initials or names on with, we all felt like instant professional leather workers.

Not quite so! Before pattern working leather, you must wet the surface with a sponge. One of the boys who put too much water on did not feel so badly when leader Brian did the same! We had to blot the excess off and wait before we could start hammering on the patterns.

If you have ever admired the patterning of leather work, it is really neat and exciting to watch your own patterns and designs developing on what started out to be a plain piece of leather.

If we had thought the only leather was from cowhides, we were mistaken. Carolyn showed beautiful furred pelts from the African Springbok, pliable deer leather used extensively for making leather clothing including sharp looking skirts, durable pigskins, lamb from

Australia and New Zealand, rabbit from Brazil, python snakes, as well as the skins of deadly cobras which, complete with menacing heads, are popular with some people for making belts.

"Most of our cowhides comes from the U.S.," Caroline told us. "That is because most tanneries in Canada have gone out of business, including Barrie Tanner, which used to be next to our original downtown store. There is one government-operated tannery in Winnipeg.

"Because most of our leather comes from other countries, we still measure leather in inches and feet, not metric."

"Depending on the various leather preparations procedures used, we can produce leathers for every imaginable purpose from shoes to bomber jackets, from lady's handbag and purses to yes, knife pouches just like you are making."

Most deer hides comes from deer shot by hunters in the fall. When Carolyn showed us one deer hide exhibiting the hole made through the side, one of our boys exclaimed: "Holy Cow, Man!!"

Chrome, caustic and salt are used in the leather curing process. Where the hair is required to remain, such as for some clothing or a calfskin rug, salt is used. Caustic removes hair. Dyes in reds, greens, blues, and yellow, and also metallic colours, are used to decorate the leather, along with tans for natural finishes.

Leather from colt hides is most commonly used to make leg pads for ice hockey goalies.

Continued on page 6.

3rd

International Assembly of Leathercraftsmen

Hotel Statler

Detroit Michigan

BULLETIN

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