

Gibson Hand Tools Leather Into Saddles

Local Shop Is Only One From Portland To Sacramento

By DON ROBINSON
Mail Tribune Staff Writer

Everett Gibson, quiet, bespectacled man in Levis, spends his days in a shop kitty corner from the Medford post office, making saddles.

His modest sign, "Saddlery," hangs above the sidewalk at 225 West Sixth st. Within Gibson west and carves leather. He is the only man between Portland and Sacramento to practice the art of saddle making.

Saddles formed by his hands are on horses of ranchers, rodeo riders and pleasure riders, in that order by popularity. Gibson customers come from Jackson, Josephine and Klamath counties in Oregon, Siskiyou and Shasta counties in California predominantly. But he has sent saddles to Canada and states east of the coast.

Little Advertising
He does little advertising, prints no catalog. Customers see a saddle he's made for someone, like it, and order one for themselves.

Gibson is a craftsman. He learned saddle-making at the old D. E. Walker Saddlery in San Francisco.

His history goes farther back than that. When his folks lived in Sierra Madre, Calif., he got a job at the age of 15 in the stable of a man who bred horses and raced some of them on California tracks. Gibson combined this with a "mail contract," motoring the mail back and forth between the Santa Fe line depot and the post office.

Depression Times
These were depression times, and as he puts it, "you had to scrounge." In his spare time, he started to work with leather. He made belts, then billfolds, and arranged with a Sierra Madre store to handle them.

Pretty soon he "got to thinking" I'd make me a saddle. He did, Gibson rode the saddle on his own horse for a year, then traded it off for the money to make another. Eventually he made a dozen. He liked the work, but decided if he was going to make saddles right he'd better learn how right.

He had married in 1935, a Pasadena girl, Catherine Nobles. She finished Pasadena Junior college, and they went in 1940 to San Francisco where Gibson was hired as an apprentice at the Walker Saddlery.

Concho Buttons
His first job was punching concho buttons, small leather discs. "They gave me two orange crates," he recalls, "and said 'fill 'em up.'" He moved from simple to more complicated leather work, and inside six months was making regular saddles.

The apprenticeship period was over in four years, but he stayed on as a Walker employee until 1945.

An old time salesman he met while in San Francisco had told him "Medford would be an awful good place for a saddlery." He kept this in mind, and he and his wife came to Grants Pass, where Gibson's parents had moved.

He set up a saddlery, and business grew. At one time in 1946-47 he was 35 saddle orders behind. Two years later, in 1948, he moved south to Medford, where he has stayed.

In Merrick Building
The first Gibson shop here was in the old Merrick building on North Riverside ave. In August of 1953, the shop moved to its present location on Sixth st., where Gibson set up business in the old "Carroll's Ladies-Ready-to-Wear" shop. A city license for "Carroll's" is still pinned to a back wall.

Nowadays, Gibson works 16 hours, six days a week in his stockfilled place. The shop itself is not large. Merchandise or the raw material for it drapes the walls and shelves and crowds the board floor.

Most of the work is done at three benches. The cutting bench is in a back room. It stands about 10 feet long and three feet deep, of scarred lumber. Inside the shop proper are a few smaller fitting and carving benches. The latter is a slab of granite, on which Gibson tools free-hand designs into the leather.

Only Machine
A sewing machine, the only machine used, sits by a wall. Fifty per cent of the stitching in a saddle is still done by hand, Gibson says.

Customers amble in and out the front door all day. Gibson waits on each, passes a few words, then returns to his benches. He admits he gets most of his work done after dinner, when he returns to work until about 9.

Business has grown every year he has been in Medford. Over time, he has averaged about 60 saddles per year. He now has a

one-day per week helper, Jack Burns, 1438 Spring st., a postal employee, but Gibson still does all the saddle work himself.

The busiest season is between April and August, rodeo time. This week, for instance, he has seven saddles on order.

Simplest Saddle
It takes 24 hours to make the simplest saddle; from 80 to 120 for more elaborate ones. Silver mounted jobs are few, and take longer and cost more.

The average price on a saddle leaving the Gibson shop is \$195. They range from \$170 to \$350, depending on the leather.

Leather for Gibson saddles comes in four-foot high rolls from the S. H. Frank tannery in Redwood City, Calif. One roll contains "12 sides" of saddle leather, and cutting the best parts, Gibson gets six saddles from a roll.

A saddle starts with a wooden "saddle tree." These are manufactured elsewhere. Leather parts are cut, soaked in water and cased (dried) to the correct degree. Different sections of the hide are cut for different parts of the saddle, according to stiffness and durability.

Essential Pieces
Each piece—and there are 15 to 18 essential ones—is fitted and attached to the tree. The leather surface decorative designs are part of the trade. Some saddle makers only put the saddles together, some leather carvers only cut designs. Gibson combines both talents.

A simple design, was a wild rose or a horse's head, will take from 16 to 20 tools. A more complicated one will involve three times that many.

The Gibson family, including Gibson, his wife, daughter, Linda, 12, and son, Clint, 10, lives on Sunnyside drive, route 1, box 164 Central Point. They keep two horses and are active in 4-H work.

Gibson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gibson, still live in Grants Pass. His father is a retired postal worker, who, according to the leather-craftsman son, "never had the least mechanical inclination." He does free-lance magazine writing as a hobby now.

Secure Future
All in all, Gibson has a secure future. The horse is still king in ranching, rodeos, and pleasure riding... none of which automobiles are likely to displace.

In fact about the main problem in the Gibson shop is a simple, yet bothersome one. He can't keep track of pencils.

One day last week a customer bought a hat and Gibson wanted to make out a bill of sale. He couldn't find a pencil. Finally he picked one out of a remote corner. Walking back to his customer, he turned to a friend sitting nearby and asked, "Hank, will you get me a box of pencils for Christmas?" Then he paused. "And put a bell on each one," he added, as an after thought.

House Appears Likely To Pass Trial Bill

Washington—The House Saturday appeared likely to pass this week legislation demanding an end to foreign trials of American troops. Sponsors hope to bring it to the floor Wednesday.

Only a major White House drive to line up Republican opposition can stop the congressional campaign against the controversial "status of forces" agreements on foreign trial of servicemen, sponsors of the measure said.

Members reported no sign of any such drive by the administration, beyond last Tuesday's statements by Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson and Undersecretary of State Christian E. Herter. Wilson warned that any attempts to renegotiate the agreements would fail, and denunciation of the pacts would result in the wrecking of America's overseas defense bases.

There was speculation here that no top level administration fight will be made to block the House passage of the legislation.

Actress Gail Russell Charged With Felony

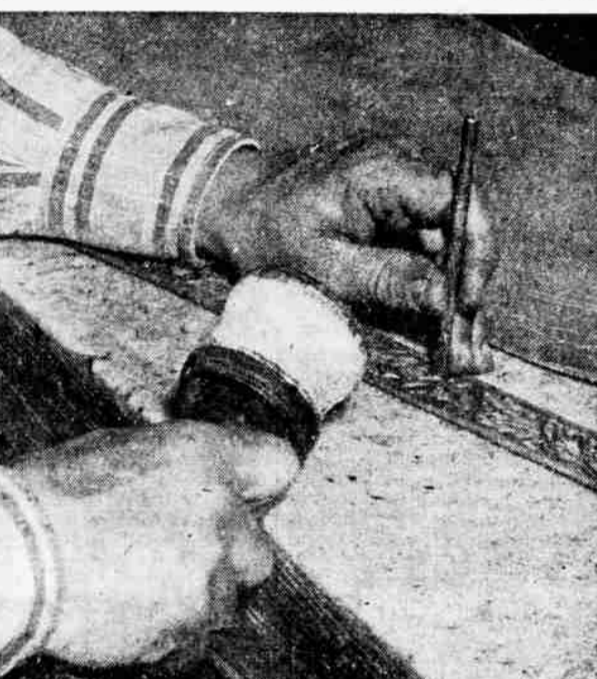
Hollywood—Actress Gail Russell has been charged with felony drunk driving as a result of the mishap Thursday in which she drove her car through the front window of a closed restaurant.

Deputy District Attorney Marshall Schulman issued the complaint Friday and bail was set at \$1,000. Miss Russell, 32, was originally booked on a misdemeanor drunk driving charge and released on \$263 bond.

The brunette "hard-luck girl" of movies was treated for facial cuts at the scene. Robert Reynolds, 21, a busboy at work in the coffee shop, was injured in with a fractured leg and numerous cuts. Police said Miss Russell insisted she had only two drinks. However, officers said, she failed to pass an intoximeter test.



INSIDE THE SHOP—A row of saddles leads up to the showcase and the front window in the Gibson shop. On the wall are bridles, bits, hats, horse blankets, and a picture or two of prize saddles. Gibson combines his work



CRAFTSMAN'S HANDS—The worn mallet, tool, and skilled hands combine to put in the background for a belt design. This is known as carving. Gibson tools designs into his leather free hand. Most of this type work the saddle maker does at this small bench on a slab of granite.



BIRTH OF A SADDLE—Proprietor Gibson scrapes the leather in the ground seat of a beginning saddle. The wooden form is a saddle tree, bought elsewhere. Leather parts are cut, soaked, and cased, then fitted and attached to the tree. About 15 to 18 pieces of leather make up essential parts.

Experiments Are Prepared To Crack 'Human Barrier'

Marietta, Ga.—Scientists are preparing experiments which will utilize human "guinea pigs" in an attempt to crack the "human barrier" to aviation's conquest of outer space and atomic-powered flight.

The experiments are scheduled to begin here next month and last through "early 1958." They will be conducted by a team of Lockheed Aircraft corporation scientists assisted by 10 specialists from colleges throughout the nation.

Lockheed officials, who announced the experiments, said handpicked U. S. Air Force personnel would be subjected to a small and almost weightless environment for 120-hour periods as part of the tests. The environment will be housed in a small "flight station" device presently under construction by the biophysics branch of the Air Force Aero Medical laboratory, Wright-Patterson Air Force base, Ohio.

Los Angeles Water District Opens Its Phase of Rights

By VERNON BAKER
United Press Correspondent

San Francisco—The Los Angeles Metropolitan Water District opened its phase of the case Friday in the legal fight between California and Arizona over rights to Colorado river water.

The district called as its first witness Samuel B. Morris, former chief engineer and general manager of the Los Angeles department of water and power.

Morris, a former dean of the Stanford university civil engineering department, was a member of the President's Water Resources Policy commission in 1951 and 1952.

Gilmore Tillman, chief attorney for the Los Angeles department, qualified Morris as an expert witness and then questioned him concerning topography and area served by Metropolitan water district.

3,500 Square Miles
Morris said that ultimately the MWD would serve 3,500 square miles of Southern California coastal plains. It now serves 3,000 square miles in five Southern California counties.

Earlier MWD general counsel James H. Howard told Special Supreme Court Master Simon H. Rifkind that "water is too precious a commodity, particularly in the arid southwest, to permit a paper right... and put such right in deep freeze, without making use of the water."

Howard said that "that sort of right does not exist under Western water law." He said the MWD would show it was "diligent" in putting Colorado river water to use since "we believe that diligence... is essential to the establishment of right."

The hearing continued Saturday in a special meeting called by Rifkind to compensate for the Fourth of July holiday.

Young Men Rescued From Lake Michigan

Chicago—Three young men, their boat swamped by waves 15 miles out in Lake Michigan, were alive Saturday thanks to an alert officer on an ore freighter.

Louis Muccianti, 21, and Otto Wimpffen, 19, both of Chicago, and Herbert Artelt, 19, struggled to stay afloat for five hours Friday before being rescued. Muccianti and Wimpffen, who kept their friend afloat for an hour when he became unconscious were released after examination. Artelt was kept at American Hospital, suffering from exposure.

The trio had cast off at the Wilmette, Ill., harbor early Friday morning, outward bound for a week end trip at Saugatuck, Mich., across the lake.

Frank Brewster Cited To Appear in Court

Los Angeles—Frank W. Brewster, Chairman of the Western Conference of Teamsters, has been ordered to appear for arraignment July 24, in San Pedro on a misdemeanor citation for running a traffic light. Los Angeles Municipal Court notified Brewster of the arraignment Friday. The violation occurred in Wilmington June 28, and resulted in a traffic accident, police reported.

Favorable Business News Sends Stock Market to New Year High

By ELMER C. WALZER
United Press Financial Editor

New York—A grist of favorable news on business sent the stock market to new highs for the year during the past week.

At the close on Friday, the industrial average was eight-tenths of one per cent under the record high set on April 6, 1935 at 521.05.

Valuation of all listed issues rose nearly \$8 billion and trading increased to a daily average of 2,314,355 shares from the previous week's 1,897,123, and was the highest since the week ending June 14.

This upturn came in a holiday week cut short by Independence Day. The market's strength and activity surprised the experts who had looked for a dull holiday week.

Holiday Bill Helps
The first push came when Congress passed a bill easing the housing situation. More than \$1.5 billion of federal money would be injected into housing and down payments would be cut under the bill, expected to become law.

Then in rapid succession came other market stimuli: Cuts in foreign copper output that may raise prices here; estimates that steel output for 1937 will be at least equal the 115 million tons of 1936; outlook for spurt in auto production late in the year or early in 1938; an iron age prediction that television production is set for a rise; a Senate restoration of \$1 billion to the defense budget; and a reduction in gasoline inventories.

The drugs got a lift when it was learned a group of drug companies had produced a drug to combat Asiatic flu.

Best gains came into the metals, steels, drugs, oils, building issues, chemicals, and office equipments.

Out of the 1,382 issues traded 891 advanced, best since Jan. 4 when 905 issues gained. There were only 329 losses and 152 issues unchanged. A total of 114 stocks set new highs while 118 set new lows.

International Railways of Central America was the widest loser—down 7 points. It won a case against United Fruit on rates charged for bananas, but apparently the verdict was smaller than anticipated and will be appealed anyhow, according to United.

Avco Rises
Avco, which received two Air Force contracts, got out of its lethargy and led the market in

Stop Order Put on Subsidy Cut Backs

Washington—Congress put a stop order Saturday in the path of administration plans to sharply cut back on soil conservation subsidies to farmers.

The administration wanted to drastically curtail the 1958 subsidies for certain conservation practices and drop others outright that would add to the already huge stocks of government-owned surplus crops.

But Congress reacted quickly after the administration's quietly-drafted plans came to light when a secret Agriculture department memorandum came into the hands of several congressmen last week.

A Senate-House conference committee, reporting on a compromise multi-billion dollar Agriculture department appropriation bill said "flood and drought conditions in much of the nation make it imperative that all 1957 conservation programs practices be continued."

The committee also had reached its agreement secretly a week ago. But it made the report public Friday following disclosure of the department memorandum detailing the conservation cut-back.

Ordering no changes in the program next year, the committee authorized 250 million dollars for 1958 conservation measures—the same as this year's level. The bill is scheduled for floor action Tuesday.

WEATHER
By United Press
Northern California: Fair Sunday.

Don't Say "Hello" Say - - - "FILTER-FLO"

turnover with sales of 308,700 shares. Bethlehem Steel came second with a gain of a point. Then came General Motors up 1; Chrysler up 3/4; and Standard Oil, N.J., up 2 1/4.

Superior Oil of California spurred 145 points and International Business Machines rose 27.

Wide gains in the general list included American Home Products up 10 in the coppers; Magma up 5 in the aluminums; Inland up 7 in the steels; Zenith up 6 1/4 in the TV group; Firestone up 5 in the tires; Minneapolis

Honeywell up 12 1/2 in the building equipments; Barber up 7 in the oils; Du Pont up 5 in the chemicals; Corning up 6 in the glass group; Foster Wheeler up 10 1/4 in the oil equipments; Great Northern up 4 1/4 in the papers; McIntyre Porcupine up 8 1/2 in the golds; and Brunswick Balke up 5 1/2 in the entertainments.

Haveg, which sold at 23 1/4 in February, hit a new high at 81 and closed the week at 76 1/2 up 9 1/2 points. The stock is regarded as a second Lukens Steel because of its small outstanding share total.

Missionary Surgeon Flown To Seattle for Treatment

McGuire Air Force Base, N.J.—A young missionary surgeon completely paralyzed with polio except for his facial muscles arrived here Saturday by military transport plane en route to home and medical treatment in Seattle.

Dr. Roy Saxton Cornell, 38, who forsook a prosperous practice two and a half years ago to run the one-doctor mission hospital in Benghazi, Libya, remained at the base hospital in near-by Fort Dix until today when he departed again by plane for the Travis Air Force base in Fairfield, Calif.

Arrives in Iron Lung
Cornell, who has three children, arrived here in the iron lung he has been in since May when physicians at Benghazi

British military hospital diagnosed a "common cold" for infantile paralysis.

Military air transport officials sponsoring the journey begun on Wednesday in Tripoli, Libya, say that Cornell is only able to turn his head slightly because of the disease.

He was reported resting "as comfortably as might be expected."

Last Lap of Trip
The last lap of the trip will carry him from the Travis air force base to Seattle, where he will receive treatment at the Harbor View hospital.

Physicians at the Fort Dix hospital refused to speculate on Cornell's chances for recovery.

Cornell, whose family remained in Libya, gave up his practice in Seattle Dec. 30, 1954, to become the chief surgeon in the Benghazi's Seventh Day Adventist hospital.

Returned from Break
He had just returned May 19 from a two-day break in activities there when he contracted what he told his family was a "common cold." Several days later physicians at the British Medical hospital saved his life when they administered a tracheotomy to allow him to breathe.

He was removed to Tripoli in the last week of May after the disease was diagnosed and he had telegraphed the Nile Union mission in Cairo that he had infantile paralysis.

His family will follow him to the United States as soon as possible, an air transport spokesman said.

Man Charged in Fatal Accident

Ontario—A six man coroner's jury late Saturday returned a finding of involuntary manslaughter against Richard Newland who was involved in the two car crash that killed five persons near here Wednesday.

The warrant for Newland's arrest was prepared by Malheur county coroner George Beechler asking the Malheur county sheriff to place Newland in custody.

Newland is in an Ontario hospital suffering from injuries he received in the accident.

The jury finding charged that Newland did "unlawfully and feloniously while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, and on the wrong side of the road, collide with a car driven by Olaf Berg resulting in the death of five persons."

Killed in the accident were Berg, and his 58-year-old wife both of Seattle, Charles Martin Baker, 40, Salt Lake City, Utah; Eifred Johnson, Vancouver, B. C.; and Nancy Logan, 20, of Payette, Idaho.

Dairy Science Group Will Meet July 14-17

Pullman—The American Dairy Science Association will hold its annual Western Division meeting here July 14-17, G. C. Anderson, Boise, chairman of the division, said Wednesday.

Anderson said the Western Division of the American Society for Animal Production also will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the dairy science meet.

142 New Cases of Polio Reported

Washington—The U. S. Public Health service said Saturday that 142 new cases of poliomyelitis were reported during the last week of June.

They brought to 876 cases the number since the "polio season" began on April 1. Last year there were 257 cases during the comparable week in June and 1,587 cases from April 1 through June 30.

The service said 42 of the latest reported cases were paralytic, 87 were non-paralytic and 19 were not specified. Since April 1, there have been 350 paralytic, 423 non-paralytic and 103 unspecified cases reported.

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