

13329 US HIGHWAY 16A | CUSTER, SD 57730

TO: Chris Nelson, Historic Preservation Specialist, SD SHO

FROM: Matt Snyder, Black Hills Regional Supervisor

DATE: March 6, 2023

RE: Permitted Cabin Tepe Napa #1 (referenced as the Galena Creek Schoolhouse)

TO: Ted Spencer, State Historic Preservation Officer, and Director of Historic Preservation

FROM: Matt Snyder, Black Hills Regional Supervisor

DATE: May 5, 2023

RE: Permitted Cabin Tepe Napa #1 (referenced as the Galena Creek Schoolhouse)

The following is in regard to a meeting on March 28, 2023, with Sean Blanchette, Lydia Austin, Jenna Carlson Dietmeier, Liz Almlie, and myself to discuss the recent notification that the permitted private cabin to Kenneth C. Hargens located in Custer State Park (referenced as the Galena Creek Schoolhouse) has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. Park staff believe the information provided by Mr. Hargens to support the application are not correct and it is the desire of the Department of Game, Fish and Parks to have the cabin delisted from the National Historic Register.

Due to past interactions with Mr. Kenneth Hargens making inaccurate claims and statements, park staff have done extensive research on the cabin site located within Custer State Park. We would offer the following information to clarify areas of speculation and Hargen's Family oral history that are not accurate based on the documentation we have discovered. Custer State Park staff have previously attempted to share this information with Mr. Hargens, but he simply walked out stating we were wasting each other's time.

Below, is a list of information that counters some of the documentation located within the application for the National Register of Historic Place. (Please Note: Attached to this letter is a short summary of the Private Cabins within Custer State Park.) Park staff have researched this information and tract of land extensively and have produced verified documents and a timeline of details below, please keep in mind that the details are numerous, so the below information is provided as a summary snapshot for your records.



- Page 1: Name of Property Galena Creek Schoolhouse
 - Custer State Park has extensively looked into the reference of Galena Creek Schoolhouse. According to park archival records, maps, and letters there is no reference that such a schoolhouse existed, Park staff has found references to schools in Otis, Bakerville and Custer but no reference to a "old School House" along Galena Creek, in Custer Co., exists.
 - O In March of 2016 Custer State Park staff requested a search of all schools located within the park by the South Dakota State Archives. This search produced the information that 2 schools were located in the #2 Palmer District (Custer State Park), both listed as Frame House. 1
 - Maps of the Custer Game Preserve and State Park do not show a building located within the Township where the Galena School House is allegedly located. ²
- Page 9 Section 8: "Period of Significance"
 - Please clarify how 1877-1872 period of significance is determined for this report.
- Page 9 Section 8: The Galena Creek Schoolhouse was built in c. 1877
 - Reference to a second school, also in Custer City (approximately five miles west of the Galena Creek Schoolhouse) Records search of US Geological Maps² do not show a schoolhouse or any structures within the area that the Galena Creek Schoolhouse is stated to be located.

¹ Historical Archive search complied by Virginia Hanson, Archivist, SD State Historical Society. March 29, 2016

² Maps: 1884 Custer County Surveyor Map. 1898-99 USGS Topography Map by A.F. Dunnington of Hermosa Quadrangle

^{3 &}quot;Black Hills Doc 1892-1945" by C.W. Hargens, MD. Page 90

⁴Maps: State of South Dakota, Dept School and public Lands, Custer State Forest, 1912. Land Status State Park, Scovel Johnson, 1901-1912. Private Property Owners in Custer State Park, November 1934, National Park Service.

⁵ Homestead Certificate NO. 3030, Application 5927, Timothy Downen, July 6, 1906

⁶ Warranty Deed, State of South Dakota, Custer County. Timothy Downend and Lainada A. Downed to Sarah E. Hare.

⁷ Warranty Deed, State of South Dakota, Custer County. Sarah E. Hare.to James Hare.

⁸ Warranty Deed 9076, State of South Dakota, Custer County. James Hare to South Dakota State Department of School and Public Lands.

⁹ Term Occupancy Permit issued by the Custer State Park Board for a Henry L. Braun dated March 13, 1925.

¹⁰ Term Occupancy Permit issued by the Custer State Park Board for a Mrs. H.G. Hargens dated 1941.

¹¹ Personal Letter Send from H.G. Hargens asking about fees for permitted cabin dated July 24, 1945

^{12 &}quot;Our Yesterdays 1870-1970" Produced by the Eastern Custer County Historical Society. Page 758

¹³ Land Patent - Charles W. Hargen. Document #06525. Issued 2/13/1911

^{14&}quot;Black Hills Doc 1892-1945" by C.W. Hargens, MD. Page 141



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o In this section the application states "In Pioneers and Custer State Park (1994), local historian Jesse Sundstrom recorded "(Dr. Charles W. Hargens) purchased an old schoolhouse near legion Lake and used it for a summer cabin for many years. After extensive research through Custer State Park Archives, Custer County Archives and Deed office, SD State Historical Archives, and the Bureau of Land Management Records, we have found no official record of Charles W. Hargens purchasing land within Custer County. Nor does the Hargens name appear in the book "Our Yesterdays 1870-1970" Produced by the Eastern Custer County Historical Society. This book preserves the history through biographies of those living in Custer Co. during its first 100 years. The Hargens names also does not show up in "Custer County History to 1976" written by the Custer County Historical Society which also details the early stories of the County.

Note: Charles W. Hargens does have a Land Patent for 161.40 acres in Fall River County issued in 1911. 13

Note: Jesse Sundstrom book was written in 1994 and did not have access to the technology to perform the current research.

- According to the "Black Hills Doc" by C. W. Hargens M.D. there is only one reference to Doc Hargens spending time within the boundaries of what is now Custer State Park, and that was due to a logging accident on the Fleur de Lis Ranch.³
- Maps of Custer County, Custer Game Preserve and Custer State Park do not show and private inholdings belonging to the Hargens Name.

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- Page 9 Section 8: Handwritten Bill of Sale
 - O Within in this section it states that Kenneth Hargens retains a handwritten bill of sale that states. "On this Saturday of September 3, 1904, sold to Doctor Hargens the Old Galena Schoolhouse and the teacher room with the little stable. The piece of ground inside the horse fence goes with this agreement and the price is \$125." Tim Downen and C.W. Hargens both signed this document. It goes on to state that this has been registered with the Register of Deeds. Park staff have inquired about this document and while registered with the Deeds Office it has not been validated as an official document.
 - Maps of Custer County, Custer Game Preserve and Custer State Park do not show any private inholdings belonging to the Hargens Name. ⁴
 - According to the Custer County Register of Deeds, the SD State Historical Society and Custer State Park Archives, the history for the track of land within Township No. 3 South, Range No 6 east of the Black Hills Meridian, So. Dak. Section 30, Lots 3 and 4.
 - 1906 Timothy Downen officially applies for ownership of this land through the Dakota Territories office in Helena, Montana. 5
 - 1906 Timothy and Malinda Downen sell to Sarah E. Hare. ⁶
 - 1908 Sarah E. Hare sell to James Hare.
 - 1918 James Hare sells to Sate of South Dakota School and Public Lands 8
 - 1925 Henry L. Braun entered into a cabin permit lease for the old log building on site #2 of TePee Napa. Located within the Township No. 3 South, Range No 6 east of the Black Hills Meridian, So. Dak. Section 30, Lots 3. 9
- ¹ Historical Archive search complied by Virginia Hanson, Archivist, SD State Historical Society. March 29, 2016
- ² Maps: 1884 Custer County Surveyor Map. 1898-99 USGS Topography Map by A.F. Dunnington of Hermosa Quadrangle
- 3 "Black Hills Doc 1892-1945" by C.W. Hargens, MD. Page 90
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- ¹¹ Personal Letter Send from H.G. Hargens asking about fees for permitted cabin dated July 24, 1945
- 12 "Our Yesterdays 1870-1970" Produced by the Eastern Custer County Historical Society. Page 758
- ¹³ Land Patent Charles W. Hargen. Document #06525. Issued 2/13/1911
- 14"Black Hills Doc 1892-1945" by C.W. Hargens, MD. Page 141



- 1941 Mrs. H.G Hargens entered into a cabin permit lease for #2 of TePee
 Napa.¹⁰
- 1945 H.G. Hargens contacts park about past fees.¹¹
- Pages 10-11 Section 8: Family history says the school was operated on the conscription method amongst local families with children assessed a teacher's fee. It also states that local families erected the log cabin as a schoolhouse.
 - Prior to Downen homesteading the area in 1906, there was no structure or families living within the two sections of this township.
 - Maps of the Custer Game Preserve and State Park do not show a building located within the Township where the Galena School House is allegedly located.
 - Kenneth Hargens, Dr Hargens' grandson, recalled that in 1953 a women stopped by the schoolhouse, which by that time was being used as his family's residence. She was 93 years old and had once taught at the school. Kenneth believes she was related to the Hesnard family.
 - The Hesnards were a ranching family in eastern Custer County. According to Doane Robinson's History of South Dakota, the Hesnards came to Custer County in 1881.
 - Hesnards did live in the eastern part of Custer County arriving in 1882 from France settling in the Hermosa area. They homesteaded along Battle Creek and likely would have attended school in the Hermosa area.¹²

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- It was also earlier stated that the school was closed in 1882 in Section 8, Page 8 of the National Register of Historic Places Registration form.
- Kenneth also recalls that a Mrs. Spargur told him that her grandfather attended school in the building. Mrs. Spargur was around 80 years old when she relayed this to Kenneth in 1987.
 - Mildred Spargur's Grandfather was James Hare born in 1848 Pottsville, PA. Showed up in the 1890 census in Custer at the age of 42. In 1877 he would have been 29.
 - After research through Custer State Park Archives, Custer County Archives and Deed office, SD State Historical Archives, and the Bureau of Land Management Records, we have found no official record of Spargur living within Custer County. Nor does the Spargur name appear in the book "Our Yesterdays 1870-1970" Produced by the Eastern Custer County Historical Society. This book preserves the history of through biographies of those living in Custer Co. during its first 100 years. The Spargur names also does not show up in "Custer County History to 1976" written by the Custer County Historical Society which also details the early stories of the County.
- From about 1892 until 1950, Dr. Hargens and his family used the cabin occasionally for hunting, fishing, and vacation purposes.
 - Prior to 1920 there is no structure associated with the property per Custer County Archives and Deed office, SD State Historical Archives and the Bureau of Land Management Records and Maps of SD. ^{2,4}
 - The Hargen's family did not start leasing the cabin until 1941.

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- In the book "Black Hills Doc", C.W. Hargens references that much of his hunting and fishing were in the limestone areas of the Hills.¹⁴ The cabin in discussion is located in the granite geology of the hills.
- Around 1950, Kenneth Hargen's family built the addition and lived in fulltime.
 According to Hargens, by the late 1940s or early 1950s the state considered it a vacation home and required a lease fee to Custer State Park.
 - Cabin leases within CSP including this cabin started in 1922.
 - The current private cabin permit originated in February 1925 when Henry L. Braun entered into a cabin permit lease for site #2 of TePee Nopa.9
 - In 1941 Henry Braun's cabin permit was transferred to Mrs. H.G. Hargens. 10
 - The addition was built in 1952.
- The Galena Creek School was constructed approximately twenty years after the first school was established in what would become South Dakota.
 - At this time, we have found no records in the Custer School Historical Archives of a Galena Creek School. 1,2
 - Glen Erin School is the first official schoolhouse (1883) within the Custer School District per Custer School Historical Archival records.¹

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Please feel free to reach out to Lydia Austin or myself with any follow up questions or clarification. As I stated this is a snapshot of the history, we have on this particular private cabin site. Though this private cabin has a long history within Custer State Park, we do not believe it merits being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Matt Snyder | West Regional Park Supervisor

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

Ill W Engle

13329 U.S. Hwy 16A | Custer, SD 57730

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Custer State Park Private Cabin Site Permits

Private cabins have existed within Custer State Park since 1923. At the peak, there were a total of 54 cabins. Today, 35 cabins remain at different locations in the park. The cabin permits are issued by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) for the cabin, the state of South Dakota retains ownership of the land.

The cabins' maintenance and physical condition vary widely.

The cabin owners are issued 5 year permits and assessed an annual fee which is adjusted every five years by utilizing the 5-year average of the Consumer Price Index. Cabin owners may sell their cabins to new owners based on mutually agreeable terms subject to the GFP Commission's approval of the transfer of the cabin permit to the new owner.

In 1967, the GFP Commission made the decision to terminate these cabin permits and end the private, exclusive use of State Park property effective December 31, 1982. The cabin owners challenged the Commission's decision which led to multiple court decisions and extensive litigation. In 1989, the cabin owners and GFP Commission reached terms in a Settlement Agreement which defined the amount of time the cabins would be allowed to remain within the park. The significant terms of the Settlement Agreement are as follows:

- On December 31, 2029, the cabins site permits shall automatically expire without any further action by either party.
 - o Permits shall be issued on a 5-year, renewable term until 2025.
 - In 2025, a final, non-renewable permit is to be issued for the five year period from 2025 to 2029.
- In calendar year 2029, the cabin owners must inform the Department in writing whether they plan to remove their cabin from the Park or leave it in place.
 - Owners electing to remove their cabin from the Park have until May 15, 2030 to do so.
 - Owners electing to leave their cabin in place must vacate them by December 31, 2029.
 - Ownership of any cabins left in the Park will revert to GFP.
- During the remaining term, cabins can be sold subject to the Commission's approval of permit transfer. Buyers are required to acknowledge in writing that they have been provided a copy of the Settlement Agreement and understand the terms and conditions.
- Cabin owners may also approach the Department to negotiate the sale and/or termination of the permit. There is one instance where a sale was successfully negotiated to the resort company.















March 29, 2016

Lydia Austin Custer State Park

Dear Lydia,

Thank you for contacting the SD State Archives. Marked below are the sources I consulted to answer your research request. Any enclosed materials were found during my research.

Subject searched: History of a log school house, Dist #2, Custer County, (Custer State Park)

Federal Census: 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900_ X _, 1910,
1920_ X , 1930, 1940, Indian Agency Census, various,
State Census: 1885, 1905, 1915, 1925, 1935, 1945,
School Census Records_X, County/Town HistoryX_,
County Atlas_X_,
Newspapers, Biographical File, Telephone/City Directories,
Vertical File, WPA Cemetery Records, Photograph Collection,
Naturalization Records, Government Records_X,
Manuscript Collections, South Dakota History,
South Dakota Historical Collections,

The records I've found are enclosed. See notes on next page.

irginia Hansi

Sincerely,

Virginia Hanson, Archivist

South Dakota State Archives

SD State Historical Society

900 Governors Drive

Pierre SD 57501-2217

(605)773-3804 front desk

(605)773-3616

virginia.m.hanson@state.sd.us

Perhaps township name

· School District minutes

Any documentation is listed on the back if not obviously on the front

Other sources checked;

*1935 Atlas

no info

*1884 Atlas

no info

*Book, Pioneers and Custer State Park: a History of Custer State Park and Northcentral Custer County, Sundstrom

no info found

*Book,

Custer County History to 1976

no info found

The following information was not copied but transcribed below and on the back of the 1917 information.

1894-1895, Superintendents Annual Reports,

2 schools in #2 Palmer District

(no description of the buildings)

Chairman LE Parrish of St Johns

M V Irwin of Otis

Treasurer Robt Edw. Bale of Hermosa

1897-1898 Superintendents Annual Reports, 2 schools in #2 Palmer Dist

Both listed as Frame Houses.

Copies enclosed;

*1900-1902 Superintendents Annual Report, one school for #2 This page shows that the school was/is a log building. School officers and teachers are listed on the back of the page.

*1908-1909 Superintendents Annual Reports, showing 2 schools in the district.

1916-1917 Superintendents Annual Reports,

*Single page showing there are 4 schools in the district.

*Two pages that show school officers and teachers for the area.

There are also notes of other years on the back of this page.

I also have a few notes on the back of these pages.

1920-1921 Notes only, #2 Palmer District with a total # of schools as 4. And 37 students.

1923-1924 Notes only, listed only one school with 6 students. A note that 2 schools in the dist were not used.

*1924-1925 Superintendents Annual Reports, See notation under last column indicating no school so no teachers Listed

By 1942 only 4 districts and no #2 listed. Dist 4, 9, 10, and 25 along with Custer City.

*1904 Plat map Custer County showing School Districts for that time.

The school districts do not coincide with your T-R-S information.

I'll let you compare and double check any boundary changes. That may affect future research.

*I did a search in the Federal Census for some of the folks in School Dist #2 just to confirm some names and locations. 1920 Federal Census 1900 Federal Census

Township board - minutes

*Last document is out of a county history book. Since the district was called Palmer School Dist, which names are usually after land owners in the area, I did a search for the Palmer family. This is what I found. The two county history books did not have much for school history or records. Possibly further search under other families in the area may have more information.

Fourther research check the

township board school board for the school dist

for their minutes. They will have recorded

the let date of school the cost of building t type

the lat students.

We don't have these records so hopefully

the Center Co, auditor will still have there

for coal

grade vds

Each little siched

Keyn Tugas

CUSTER STATE PARK BOARD

SOUTH DAKOTA

TERM OCCUPANCY PERMIT

je bruary 1925.
Permission is hereby given to Henry L. Braun,
of Hot Springs,, S. Dak, hereinafter called the permittee, to use the following described
lands for a period of One years from date hereof:
Site No. 1 of "Tepee Napa" cabin site, known as old log school buildir
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for the purpose of corrections occobined & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & &
Control of the Contro
subject to the following conditions Custer State park School District, or to
1. The permittee shall pay to the Secretary of the Custer State Park Board of South Dakota,
in consideration for this use, the sum of Ten dollars (\$10.00)
annually, in advance, from Jan. 1, 1925, besides making repairs to said log cabin.
2. The permittee shall comply with the regulations of the Custer State Park Board governing the State Park, shall observe all sanitary laws and regulations applicable to the premises, and shall keep the premises in a neat and orderly condition and dispose of all refuse and locate outhouses and cesspools as required by the Park Engineer or Park Board.
3. The permittee shall construct all improvements in a neat and sightly manner.
4. The permittee shall take all reasonable precaution to prevent and suppress forest fires.
5. Within ninety days after the cancellation of this permit either for cause or by expiration of its term, the permittee, if all rental charges due the Custer State Park Board have been paid, may remove all structures which have been placed on the premises, but upon failure to remove the structures within that period they shall become the property of the State of South Dakota.

- 6. This permit may be transferred with the approval of the Custer State Park Board.
- 7. No timber may be cut or destroyed without first obtaining a permit from the Park authorities, and the barking of trees is strictly forbidden.

Kigh toget

CUSTER STATE PARK BOARD

SOUTH DAKOTA

TERM OCCUPANCY PERMIT

February , 192.5
Permission is hereby given to Henry L. Braun,
of Hot Springs,, S. Dak, hereinafter called the permittee, to use the following described
lands for a period of one years from date hereof:
Site No. 1 of "Tepee Napa" cabin site, known as old log school building (Accurately describe by metes and bounds the land to be occupied)
that all additions and improvements that may be made to said building shall become the property of the school district or state.
subject to the following conditions Custer State park School District, or to 1. The permittee shall pay to the Secretary of the Custer State Park Board of South Dakota, in consideration for this use, the sum of Ten dollars (\$10.00) annually, in advance, from Jan. 1, 1925, besides making repairs to said log cabin.
2. The permittee shall comply with the regulations of the Custer State Park Board governing the State Park, shall observe all sanitary laws and regulations applicable to the premises, and shall keep the premises in a neat and orderly condition and dispose of all refuse and locate outhouses and cesspools as required by the Park Engineer or Park Board.

- 3. The permittee shall construct all improvements in a neat and sightly manner.
- 4. The permittee shall take all reasonable precaution to prevent and suppress forest fires.
- 5. Within ninety days after the cancellation of this permit either for cause or by expiration of its term, the permittee, if all rental charges due the Custer State Park Board have been paid, may remove all structures which have been placed on the premises, but upon failure to remove the structures within that period they shall become the property of the State of South Dakota.
 - 6. This permit may be transferred with the approval of the Custer State Park Board.
- 7. No timber may be cut or destroyed without first obtaining a permit from the Park authorities, and the barking of trees is strictly forbidden.

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CUSTER STATE PARK PRIVATE CABIN INFORMATION

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Mr. H. G. Hargens 7670 N. Interstate Ave. Portland 3 Oregon

Dear Mr. Hargens:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of July 24 inquiring as to the rental due on the former H. L. Braun cabin site in Guster State Park.

On checking our records, we find that there is due the sum of \$40, covering the years of 1942-43-44-45.

Trusting this will give you the desired information, I am

Very truly yours,

E. L. Burns Acting Supt.

ELB hs

Portland Oregon July 24, 1945 **Forest Service** Custer So. Daka. Dear Sir, I was advised by the Co. Treasurer in Custer to write to you people in regard to this matter. Several years ago, 1941 I believe, I purchased the Henry Braun Cabin on the Galena Creek just below the Legion Lake Camp. I have paid the taxes to the Co. Treasury at Custer for this cabin and land but have never paid any rent to the Forest Service or Park Board or who ever receives the money. Can you advise me just who I should make this payment to and how much it is? I live in Hot Springs and have all my life. I'm working out here but will be back as soon as this war is over. Am including a stamped envelope for a reply. Thanking you in advance for your trouble and time. Yours Truly H.G. Hargens 7676 N Interstate Ave Portland Oregon.

How much land comes with this cabin?

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to the Co. Trepsing at Custer for this realign and land fut have never paid any rent to the forest, service or Park Brand or who in receives the muny. Can your advise me Just Autro Should make This payment to and how hutch stie I like in That Apringe and have all mind life by working out as soon as This war is an inclusing a

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was a tough old nut who had lived all his life close to the soil and who survived with no particular thanks to his doctor.

Sam Harris was a brother to D.M.Harris, editor and publisher of the Missouri Valley Times in Missouri Valley, Iowa.

Dr. Wheeler and I once took a call to the Fleur de Lis ranch on French Creek, about twenty eight miles north. The patient turned out to be a sheepman who had been chasing a covote from horseback. He had set the hammer of his .45 in contact with a cartridge, lost the coyote and had stopped at a creek for a drink. Forgetting the gun was loose and ready in the holster, he stooped over to get his drink, the gun fell out of the holster, struck a large flat rock and discharged. The bullet entered low on the right side of the man's neck and passed upward, smashing the angle of his jaw then passing out through the mastoid process, crushing it. The man had bled much but the wound was barely oozing when Dr. Wheeler and I arrived. The patient had been placed on a cot in the carpenter's shop near the main ranch buildings and the nearby work bench had been cleared for an operating table.

As we proceeded to clear the deeper portions of the wound there was a terrific gush of blood. Investigation revealed that a spicule of bone had enteredt the carotid artery and had been held in place by some of the damaged tissue. It was evident that only ligation of the common carotid artery could stop the hemorrhage but neither of us knew what the result of such a procedure would be as neither of us had ever known this to be done. However, we proceeded, did other repairs and the wound was sutured and drained.

The patient did not regain consciousness until the fifth day after he had been removed to the hospital; we assumed this to be the result of interrupted circulation to the brain caused by ligation of the artery and were concerned at the prospect of possible permanent brain damage. However, the man was fully conscious by the ninth day, at least as much as a sheepman ever is, and was discharged from the hospital soon after.

What followed taught me a lesson I never forgot.

Of course, by the time we arrived at the scene of the accident there were several other persons present, among them the victim's brother. The brothers were partners in the sheep ranch and I had asked the brother in the presence of his neighbors if he would assume responsibility for the medical expenses. The brother said he would and I knew the sheepmen were well able to pay their bills.

In later attempts to collect the sizeable fee, I failed, and my lack of knowledge of the law led me to institute a law suit to collect. Eventually there was a trial at which the judge ruled I should have had the promise to pay in writing as a verbal contract was not binding. The brother

Hesnard History

As a background of the Hesnard story, the beginnings in France may be told. Two traits came with them; love of growing things and teachers of youth. The brother, Ferdinand, lived his life as a Frier, and taught his school of boys in France. The mother of this original family of Hesnards was Josephine D'Aunay, from the military line and aristocracy in France, though her immediate family did not believe in the collaboration of church and government, who were bleeding the peasants. The father, Theodore Ferdinand Hesnard, both brothers carried the Ferdinand name, was a militant leader in the French senate for peasants. His family of peasant lineage, many teachers and factory workers. Freedom from oppression by the Church and government, plus advertisements on the factory walls telling of free land and gold discoveries in the Black Hills of America, prompted the family to move to America. They left the woolen mills and their acreages of vegetables, fruits, and vineyards, and in 1882, the father and the oldest son, Emile, sailed for America. The mother and 3 small children came 2 years later. A nephew, Victor, came to join the family in Hermosa. He looked out on the blizzard of 1886 and the summer of drought, hardships, and grasshoppers and said, "Ugh, sit on soap box, eat beans, drink water." He just finally disappeared and no one ever heard from him. It was believed he went to South America. The following are dates of family members. Father, Theodore Sr., was born in 1845, and died in 1920, at the age of 75. Mother, Josephine (Sr.) D'Aunay Hesnard, was born in 1848, and died in 1932, at the age of 86. The children born in France were Emile E. Hesnard, born in 1868, and died in 1929, at the age of 61; Emelia Hesnard Hanlon, born in 1870, and died in 1956, at the age of



Theodore and Josephine Hesnard, Sr. at their home. 1910

86; Arsene Theodore Hesnard, born in 1872, and died in 1932, at the age of 60; Mathilda Maria Hesnard, born in 1880, and died in 1966, at the age of 86. The children born in Hermosa were Edward L. Hesnard, born in 1884,

and died in 1944, at the age of 59; Theodore Gustavous, born in 1886, and died in 1945, at the age of 58.

Summarizing the carrying on of the original traits, one could say Emil carried on with growing of large gardens and orchards, Ed with horses and Hereford cattle, while Arsene, Theo, and Tillie gave part of their lives toward the teaching profession. Arsene gave some of his years to politics, but from 1909 to his death in 1932, his life was in banking and supervision of ranches with his brother, Ed. It was known as Hesnard Bros. Barter in the earlier days was necessary to even exist. Social life amounted to visiting, quilting bees, and hoe downs with a fiddle, at the school or a home. They always went by horseback or buggy and there were no large crowds.

So, from the land of fruit and flowers, namely Fleurs, Normandy, France, the Theodore Ferdinand Hesnard family came directly to prairie country to the Ed Stenger Ranch on lower Battle Creek, now known as Western Land Co. They built a cabin on 160 acres. There was a large fireplace for cooking and general family living. Two years later Mother and children, Emelia, Arsene, and Mathilda (Tillie) arrived, after being held up for sometime at Pierre, and nearly not arriving at all. One of the earliest recollections of the older children was the thankful reunion of the family before that fireplace. They had carried in their laps through all the perilous travel, the Italian marble Madonna and Child, which is now in the Irvin Evans family. The mother looked with amazement at the little shack on this prairie wasteland and said, "This is home?" Hard times forced them to try gold panning on a claim on upper Battle Creek that a son, Emil, had filed on, where there was water, trees, and gold panning facilities. The old sluice boxes and tunnel, used for searching for gold, still remain on the old Homberg place. One can see a few foundations, etc., where Hanlon's home and the original home of Hesnard's stood, Gold panning was so unstable that father said to Arsene, "Come, my boy, we will get more land and raise the cattle. With gold we are rich one day and poor the

Emilia Hesnard married Jerry Hanlon the same year next." that Bye Ferguson married. The Hanlons, with six children, moved to Canada in 1911. Nine more children were born to this union, but only six are now living. Names familiar to Custer County friends are Ed, Laura, Arsena,

A section on Arsene might well be inserted at this time. Emile, Tillie, and Addie. As a man and a true gentlemen, I would say that Arsene Hesnard, was not only the backbone and pillar of his brothers and their families, but the Dr., Lawyer, advisor, and friend to all the country from Folsom, Fairburn, and Buffalo Gap, to the surrounding country side of Hermosa and vicinity. He lived for that friendly helpful day at the bank, and the day was so full, that by nighttime in his latter years, he was glad to drive his little car or ride his favorite pony out on the ranches. He lived with his mother from 1920, until his and her deaths in 1932, only three weeks apart. The mother's death was just before Thanksgiving and his was at the Hermosa Bank, with a heart attack a few days before Christmas, 1932. Their birthdays were both on Oct. 18.

The Hermosa Bank was started by Arsene in 1910. The

and the Mysteries of Life. It was a beautiful night with a full moon, no clouds in the sky and the sounds of thousands of ducks all around us.

Our wit, Dave Kimball, disturbed the quiet by speaking

to us.

"Say, Doc, do you hear them ducks?"

The silence became more impressive as we all knew, including myself, that Dave was stirred by some unpredictable spirit.

I replied, "Yes, Dave, I hear them ducks."

"Well, Doc," he said, "Do you know they are calling you?"

"How the hell do you know they are calling me more than
anyone else around here?"

Then Dave spoke slowly and with great feeling, "Quack,

quack, quack!"

He played another trick on me that took a year to

develop.

We camped usually on the Reshaw allotment. The Reshaws were a prominent Indian family and I had made their acquaintance in a professional way. One day the mother of the family, accompanied by a striking-looking daughter, called on me at the camp. Unknown to me, Dave took a picture of the ladies, dressed in their finest regalia, as they visited. He later presented a copy of the picture to me and gave one to each of the ladies.

The following Fall, the women again called on us, accompanied at that time by a toddling child. Dave again took pictures, with the child in a prominent position, and combined the prints with those of the year before, labelling them "Doc Hargens, Medicine Man" and "His Work, One Year

Later".

These Fall hunting trips were always followed later in the season by deer-hunting trips to the limestone regions of the Hills. My companions on the deer-hunts were my gambler friends, Dave Kimball, George Turner and George Goulding. Some looked askance at their occupation but men of better character and more satisfying companions never existed.

This was the pattern of our recreation until about 1926. At this time the Indians had mostly sold their allotments and the land had been fenced in by cattlemen, thus

restricting access to the former hunting areas.

Druggist Highley, a pioneer hunter named Hancock and myself purchased a large area of deeded and state school lands, enabling us to control the eastern outlet of the marsh and the surrounding shoreline for one and one-half miles west. In this purchase was an open water area of about fifty acres and a vast swamp in its primordial state.

We erected buildings, an ice house, horse barns, boat house, auto garages and a cow barn. A dam was built to regulate the flow from the marsh to obtain the best maximum and minimum water levels to benefit the resident wildlife. Several thousand trees were planted. The Hancock family