

## Home Country

# To whom it may concern...

March 12, 2010

U.S. Census Bureau  
Capture Center  
Phoenix, AZ

Dear Census Bureau:

You can't imagine my thrill as I drove up to the gate yesterday at my cabin in the middle of nowhere and found that you'd left me a census form to fill out for the place, addressed to S. Navajo Loop, Belen, NM. This was accurate, by the way, since my little cabin (designated "red cabin" on the envelope) is the only one on S. Navajo Loop. Your designation of red cabin is only half correct, though, because the other half of the cabin is painted yellow. And when I get more yellow paint, I'll finish the job. The cabin is called "The Birdhouse," as Bird is the nickname of my buddy who gave me the cabin. This doesn't mean that very many birds live there, however. In fact, the only resident birds I can think of nest under the house and hatch some babies every summer. I don't expect them back from winter quarters for maybe another month though. They are brown and nondescript and could probably be classified as dickie birds. They are only seasonal residents.

As for permanent residents, there is one very long-legged jackrabbit who is usually seen in the yard when I drive up, but runs off when I let the dogs out of the truck. I have no idea whether or not he got married and had pups recently. He doesn't stink around long enough to ask.

Now for serious permanent residents, I'd have to include the prairie dogs. My acre and a half has three permanent prairie dog towns. Not too big... more like prairie dog villages. As for race... well, they're a sort of nice New Mexico tan, and for religion, I'd have to say vegetarian, as they worship my baby trees and hope I continue to plant more.

There used to be frequent visits of diamond-back rattlesnakes, whose existence was terminated by me as quickly as possible. That is why God made shovels. However, last summer I spent all season without seeing a single one. This is thanks to one of my dogs, a Treeing Walker coonhound named Rocky. On Rocky's fre-

quent visits to The Birdhouse, he has taken on the task of making certain every rock, every fence post, every bush and every prairie dog hole gets at least a squirt and a half of his attention.

The large water dish on the cabin's porch is so Rocky can reload when necessary. Rattlesnakes being what they are, they don't care for the smell of ammonia, so they have steered clear of the place quite nicely.

But of course there is never a clean victory in anything good because this also means the snakes steer clear of the prairie dog villages, so Mr. and Mrs. P. Dog are multiplying and replenishing the place at an astounding rate. This is fine for the population of prairie dogs, but plays hob with the population of Slim's baby trees.

As for human residents, there are none. If there were, it would be me. I am 67, Protestant,

Anglo, occupation newspaper columnist, don't make enough money, dislocated my shoulder this fall while goose hunting, and must wear corrective lenses. But while The Birdhouse (whose official address is actually 6 Gobernador Street) is a hideout for an aging writer and cowboy who sneaks off as often as possible from the burdens of electricity and running water, I'm not really a resident. I live in Albuquerque with my lovely wife, Catherine, and we're looking forward to filling out one of your forms when we get one here at the house. We have a mailbox.

I noticed on the envelope you left for me it says "Your Response is Required by Law." Hey, I'm a law-abiding guy who loves his country. If you should have any more questions about the population down at The Birdhouse, you have only to leave me another note by the barbed-wire fence. And thank you, by the way, because in the eight years I've owned the place, this census form was the first mail I've ever received there.

Yours for a happy court of happy Americans,

Anthony V. "Slim" Randles



**Slim Randles**

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152.84 ACRES OF HIGHLY IMPROVED EASTERN  
CHARLES MIX COUNTY LAND WITH  
4+ BEDROOM RANCH STYLE HOME &  
MACHINE SHED

## AT AUCTION

Wednesday, March 31st • 10:00 a.m.  
Located: 7 miles East of Wagner on US Highway 46; 29668  
402nd Avenue.



OPEN HOUSE: Saturday March 13th, 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.  
LEGAL: The SW1/4 of Section 35-96-61-62 West, less H-2,  
Charles Mix County, South Dakota. 152.84 taxable acres.  
2009 taxes are \$1,952.

#### TO BE OFFERED IN 3 OPTIONS

**OPTION #1:** Approximately 10-acre building site with beautiful ranch style home with a 26x28 attached 2 car garage, built in 1978 with 3000+ sq ft of living area. Main floor consists of kitchen with cabinets, electric range, side by side refrigerator, built in dishwasher & microwave; living room, dining room, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Home has a full finished basement with large family room, den with fireplace, 2-bedrooms, storage room, and a full bath. Home is equipped with central air, propane furnace, cement board siding, 500-gal LP tank, rural water and steel roof. Also there is a 10x32 deck. This is a very well kept home and acreage. Also included with this acreage is a 52x120x14 steel machine shed with partial concrete floor; 2 livestock barns and 2 shelters. NOTE: This is a very nice acreage that is located close to Wagner and only minutes from Fort Randall Dam.

**TERMS on Option #1:** \$10,000 non refundable down payment due day of auction with balance on closing of May 3, 2010. Possession on the acreage is June 1, 2010. Taxes will be prorated to June 1 on the building site. Correct legal and acres to be determined by survey if needed.

**OPTION #2:** Approximately 142 acres. This farm has 58 acres of row crop land that is under a 2010 lease at \$45 per acre. The remainder of the farm has approximately 40 acres of alfalfa with the balance into grassland, shelter belts & a stock dam. Possession on the balance of the land will be May 3, 2010 at closing. There is currently 2 acres into CRP trees with a payment of \$138 per year until 2018. New buyer must agree to finish out this contract. FSA Office shows a corn base of 51.6 acres with a CC yield of 87bu and a bean base of 37acres with a CC yield of 23bu. Predominant soil types included HmB and HoB. Cash rent payments on row crop are due on April 1, and October 1.

**TERMS on Option #2:** \$30,000 nonrefundable down payment due day of auction with balance due on closing of May 3, 2010.

**OPTION #3:** This will be a combination of Options 1 & 2. If the property is sold in its entirety, the non refundable down payment will be \$40,000 day of auction with balance due on closing of May 3, 2010. If sold as one unit, no survey will be provided. Seller will pay all the 2009 taxes. Title insurance and closing costs will be split 50/50 between buyer & seller. Lisa Rothschild, attorney is the closing agent. Auctioneers are acting as agents for the sellers.

NOTE: This is a much diversified farm that Greg & Susan have been striving to make into a great hunting habitat for pheasants, turkey, & whitetails. If you are a sportsman, make sure you check this out. You are also only minutes from some of the best fishing in the state. Make plans to attend the open house or contact Cuka's of (605) 384-3278. A great property for recreation along with a yearly return on your investment. Visit [GirardAuction.com](http://GirardAuction.com) to view several pictures and maps.

### GREG & SUSAN CUKA, OWNERS

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## Large Farm Equipment

# AUCTION

Sat., March 27<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.

Located from Avon, SD: 8 miles north on 406 Ave. and 2 miles west on 294th St. or from Wagner, SD: 8 miles east to 46 & 50 jct., then 3 miles north on 403rd Ave. and 1 mile east on 294th St. or from Tripp Livestock Market: 4 miles west on Hwy 18, 8 miles south on 406 Ave. then 2 miles west on 294th St.

#### TRACTORS, LOADERS

1999 C-IH MX200 MFD, 18 spd., Power shift, 18.4x46 axle mt. duals, 3950 hrs; 2008 Koyker 2785 loader, grapple, joy stick; 1999 C-IH MX135 MFD, 5.9 Cummins, new trans., 10,250 hrs; 1976 J.D. 8430 quad. Duals, 1000 pto, 4x4; 1999 C-IH 1845-C diesel skid loader, 4700 hrs, 1000 hrs on engine; AC 180D; Ford 2N

#### TRUCKS, TRAILERS, VEHICLES

1999 Volvo 610 semi, Volvo D-12 425 hp, 10 spd., air ride, sleeper, new drive shaft, front differential, comp. and computer, 865,000 miles; 1994 Volvo 610 610 semi, Cat 3406B 425 hp, 13 spd, air ride, sleeper, all alum rims, new wet kit, 322,000 miles; Dorsey 53'x 96' comb. drop deck trailer, spread axle, beaver tail and ramps; Reitnauer 48'x96' alum. flat bed trailer, spread axle; 1986 Tempte 42' hopper bottom alum. grain trailer & tarp; 1978 Chevy C-65 cabover truck w/Knight 350 manure spreader, elect over hyd. sloop gate; 1962 Ford truck w/14' box & hoist, needs eng. Work; 1949 Chevy truck, 5 window cab; 1987 Chevy Celebrity; Bull Mobile 6x16 GN stock trailer; 6x16 bumper stock trailer; 2001 Honda Foreman Rubicon 500cc 4wd ATV, recent overhaul.

#### HAYING & FEEDING EQUIPMENT

2003 Hesston 4760 3x3 big square baler, 29,000 bales; 1999 C-IH 8575 3x3 big square baler, 28,000 bales; 2 Hesston 4720 5 bale accumulators; 2003 Hesston 8450 18' windrower, c-p-h, super crimper, preservative applicator, 2150 hours; Hesston 16 wheel V rake, 3 years old; J.D. 800 windrower, cab, swamp cooler; J.D. 800 for parts; NH 456 9' pull type mower; J.D. 37 9' pull type mower; OMC 590 roto baler; IHC 3650 baler, needs work; 7 & 9 wheel racks; big square bale fork for skid loader; large Roorda 6x17 feeder wagon; Gehl 7190 5x12 2 auger feeder wagon; Heavy duty 4 wheel hay railer; 24' slant bar hay feeder.

#### HARVEST, PLANTING, TILLAGE & MISC. EQUIPMENT

C-IH 1640 combine, 2470 hours; MF 1163 6RN cornhead, Bish adaptor; MF 750 & 410 combines, need work; MF dummy head; MF heads for parts; FarmKing 960 8' 540 pto snowblower, used 2 seasons; White 5100 12RN hyd. Fold planter; Yetters; J.D. 7000 4RW planter; 1986 Hagie 8250 high boy, 500 gal. 60'4wd, cab, Cummins 4 cyl.; Raven 440; GT 580 bu. Propane batch dryer; Feteri 10x76 auger, hyd. Swing hopper; Kewanee 22' rock flex disc, new front blades; J.D. 235 24' disc; MF 18' tandem disc; WillRich 2500 24' pull type field cult.; IHC 24' pull type field cult., 7 sect. drag & hyd. Cart; 8' 3 pt. Tandem disc; C-IH EZ Guide 250 light bar, gps upgraded antenna; Porta seeder; 2-250 bu. Gravity wagons; 2 Roorda wagons; Flare box wagon; 45'3 pt. 300 gal. sprayer; plus machinery and iron for salvage.

#### SHOP & LIVESTOCK EQUIPMENT

5-275 gal. totes of Strike Out, (generic Roundup); Daniels self catch cattle working chute w/palpatation; manual catch cattle working chute w/palpatation; 12x16 calf shelter; 2 feed sheds; round bale feeders; misc. cattle gates; comb. Panels; 8-8' & 8 1/2' tire tanks; 16 uncut 6' tires; Ritchie waterers; 1100 gal. poly tank; transfer pump; 8' flatbed for Ford pickup; 24 balls of 350-4000 plastic twine; 25'x54' hay tarps; several semi load straps; binders; 11x24.5 truck tires; assorted tires & rims; pickup box 2 wheel trailer; 16 Yetter trash whippers; quick hitches; large self contained hyd. Press; air comp.; LB White heater; pickup tool boxes; screw in aerators; 18x34 & 38 clamp on duals; 12v sprayer; Lincoln elect. Grease gun; Gas Boy barrel pump; new security lights; elect. Fencers; fencing supplies; telephone pole jacks; 12v batteries; pto adaptors; hand tools; plus more.

#### CONSIGNED

1990 Vermeer 605 Super J big round baler

Here is one of the few opportunities you will have this spring in this entire area to purchase clean, well maintained equipment right off the farm at auction. Hope to see you there!

**Dennis & April Powers, Owners 605-491-0519**  
For complete listing and photos, go to [sdauctions@sdauctions.sdcom](http://sdauctions@sdauctions.sdcom)

### PETERSON AUCTIONEERS

Glenn Peterson - RE #234 - 605-369-2638 - Springfield, SD  
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Terms - Cash or personal check accompanied by photo ID. Lunch by Sparky's Chuckwagon. Not responsible for accidents.