



Submitted Photo

THE HUGGINS barn, Geddes, is being made into a bed and breakfast.

Old barn salvaged

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GEDDES — On a gravel road, a half-mile east of the Geddes cemetery in a quiet valley with a grove of trees, the Geddes Peace Creek runs through the land of opportunity owned by Glen Huggins. Glen purchased this 200-acre parcel in 1985. It is here that the structure referred to as "The Barn" stood for many years. This old barn was built in the 1920s and included surrounding corrals and a grain silo. The barn was used for milking cows and raising calves and horses. Later on when Glen owned it the barn was used to raise hogs. The 38 foot by 52 foot barn stands 35 feet tall at the peak. The second-floor hayloft stored tons of hay in its day and the silo stored the grain.

In October 1998, Glen's sons: David, Sturgis; Tim, Oxnard, Calif.; Pat, Geddes; and Ben, San Diego, Calif., were all home for the annual pheasant season. It was at this time that the boss said now is the time to burn down what was left of the old house, tear down corrals, rip out fences, feed-line bunks and clean up the yard. After this major evolution was completed, there remained "The Barn." None of us wanted to burn it down or tear it down; however, it would take a great deal of work to save it. Here stood possibilities if you had vision and a good imagination.

Wishful dreams and brainstorming resulted in two objectives. The first was to fix up the barn to have a place where the Huggins families, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, and future generations could come and visit, keep in touch, enjoy life and be part of the legacy. The second was to design it to be used as a bed and breakfast.

Goals were then set and priorities planned. Glen's sons got together several times throughout 1999 to keep their vision on track. The roof was tinned, the barn was raised to replace the sill, the hayloft cleaned of 40-year-old hay 4 feet deep, then the

hayloft floor replaced and we began pouring cement. All of these activities before we even began designing the internal architecture. Although reaching a consensus on the layout is challenging with so many innovative ideas, we have had a lot of fun sharing thoughts and still continue to make improvements to our dynamic blueprints. The present floor plan reflects three stories with eight bedrooms and seven bathrooms, the second floor being used mainly for socializing and entertaining with a wood burning stove and glass doors leading out to a large patio deck.

During the October 1999 barn-raising phase, "The Barn" was christened the "Hugg-Inn." The next phase happens at the end of February where the bottom floor will be almost complete including cement, electricity, water, heating, four bedrooms, two baths, shop, utility room, and a gathering room. Although still two years away from the grand opening, we plan to have the first floor fully completed and livable for the pheasant season this year. Having the connecting land allows for exceptional pheasant hunting and the Missouri River is only nine miles away for fishing.

When the subject of the barn arises in conversations in Geddes, people fall into one of two categories. Either the Huggins boys are crazy for taking on such a project or they are very lucky to have a family project that brings them together, having fun and meeting a goal. Although each of our wives may think the first answer is correct, I thank each of them for being patient and having the faith to let us follow our dream.

Glen typically makes a daily visit to the barn to sit, think and reflect on life and is often heard saying, "This is one of the most peaceful places on earth." Over the past couple of years this barn has turned hard work into many fond memories, stories and good times. We look forward to the day we can say, "Welcome to our barn."