

Charles Hargens

Date of Birth: 08/30/1893

Place of Birth: Hot Springs, South Dakota

Date of Death: 01/30/1997 (Age 104)

Place of Death: Carversville, Pennsylvania

Discipline: Painter, Illustrator, Photographer

Biography: An accomplished painter and illustrator, Charles Hargens was renowned for his scenes of the Old West.

Born in 1893 and growing up in the Black Hills of South Dakota, Hargens worked from first-hand knowledge of western life.

His oil paintings were painstaking in every detail, realistically capturing the era. "I want to depict that human element and what happens to these people," he said. Many of his paintings were commissioned for book covers and illustrations. He illustrated almost all of the Zane Grey westerns for Lippincott, worked for MacMillan and Doubleday, among others.

By no means limited to western art, Hargens designed the cover for Pearl S. Buck's book, *Portrait of a Marriage*, did numerous ads for Coca-Cola, as well as covers for the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Colliers*, *Liberty*, *Gentleman's Quarterly*, and *Boy's Life*.

He also designed posters for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for 10 years. In 1947, Hargens was recruited to act as scoutmaster to Troop 64, a scout troop in Carversville, in which he participated until 1980. In 1981, Hargens received the Community Service Award for Excellence in Art from the Central Bucks Chamber of Commerce.

In 1982, Hargens received an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree from Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, South Dakota. In 1993, the James A. Michener Art Museum honored Hargens with a special exhibition of his work to celebrate his 100th birthday. Hargens lived to be 103 years of age.

Artwork:

{gallery}hargens{/gallery}