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“Children of South Dakota” Photo Display at Cultural Heritage Center

PIERRE, S.D. – “Children of South Dakota” is a new photo display in the Education Room of the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre featuring 11 images of children chosen from the South Dakota Digital Archives collection of the South Dakota State Historical Society.

“These 11 images show various experiences of growing up in South Dakota,” notes State Archivist Chelle Somsen. “The display includes children with their toys, a makeshift band, photos with siblings, kids with farm animals and a photo taken alongside the family car.”

The majority of images date to the 1910s and 1920s.

The South Dakota Digital Archives, an online resource launched in January 2012 by the South Dakota State Historical Society, provides researchers digital access to unique historical records.

There are currently over 50,000 photographic images, from throughout the state, available for viewing by visiting www.history.sd.gov/archives and clicking on the link to the “South Dakota Digital Archives.”

The photograph digitization project is funded by private donations and grants. If you are interested in sponsoring a photograph collection, please contact the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fund-raising partner of the State Historical Society, at (605) 773-6001.

The Cultural Heritage Center is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CST, and Sundays and holidays from 1-4:30 p.m. There is no fee to view these images, but standard admission fees apply for visitors wanting to go into the museum galleries. The Education Room is occasionally rented or in use and the exhibit may be unavailable for viewing. Please call ahead at (605) 773-3458 for availability.

Standard museum admission fees are as follows: Child (17 and under) and Society members, free; Adults, \$4; Seniors (60 and over), \$3. Special discounts apply for AAA members. There is free admission to the galleries for all visitors the first Sunday of the month.

Editor's Note: This image of children playing on a makeshift teeter-totter is one of the 11 images, from the South Dakota Digital Archives, featured in a new photo display in the Education Room of the Cultural Heritage Center. (Photo courtesy South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives)



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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.