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State rogues topic of next History Book Club meeting

PIERRE, S.D. -- South Dakota's rogue-rich history will be explored during February's History and Heritage Book Club meeting.

The book club selection *South Dakota Outlaws & Scofflaws* tells of pioneer bandits, horse thieves, con artists and scoundrels who felt they needed to break laws to claw out a living on the prairie. The book is a new publication from *South Dakota Magazine*.

South Dakota Magazine editor and publisher Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton will discuss why South Dakota stories matter and why *South Dakota Magazine* collects such stories in his talk to the History and Heritage Book Club. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. CST on Tuesday, Feb. 12, at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. It is free and open to the public.

"All stories are important, even if they are about outlaws," Hunhoff said.

The less-than-desirable element of society played a big role in South Dakota's pioneer history, he said. Those who currently make South Dakota their home are not far removed from those who settled Dakota Territory, Hunhoff has learned. In his travels throughout the state, Hunhoff said he often runs into people who tell him tales about their pioneer grandparents.

"The mission of the South Dakota State Historical Society is to collect and preserve South Dakota's history," said Jay D. Vogt, director of the South Dakota State Historical Society. "Bernie, through *South Dakota Magazine*, also collects and preserves stories of the people and places that define South Dakota."

The SDSHS Press and the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation co-sponsor the History and Heritage Book Club. The foundation is the nonprofit fundraising partner of the SDSHS.

Hunhoff started *South Dakota Magazine*, headquartered in an historic building in Yankton, in 1985. He and the publication's staff receive many suggestions about subjects and sites for stories.

"We can't do them all, but we do listen to them all. Some stories have been in the works for years," Hunhoff said. "We just keep collecting information on them. The great thing about a magazine is we can collect information for years and it's still relevant."

His favorite tale in *South Dakota Outlaws & Scofflaws* is about Jack Sully. Once sheriff of Charles Mix County, Sully acquired a good herd of cattle without buying a cow. He

was considered by some to be the Robin Hood of the Rosebud, stealing from wealthy cattle companies to benefit his poorer neighbors.

“He’s a character,” Hunhoff said of Sully. “He had a sad ending, but he also lived a long and colorful life.”

South Dakota Outlaws & Scofflaws, South Dakota Magazine and other books published by *South Dakota Magazine* are sold at the Heritage Stores at the Cultural Heritage Center and Capitol. Book club members receive a 10-percent discount, and SDSHS members receive an additional 5-percent discount, when they purchase the book club selection at either Heritage Store.

For more information about the History and Heritage Book Club, call (605) 773-6006.

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The South Dakota Historical Society Foundation is a private charitable nonprofit that seeks funding to assist the South Dakota State Historical Society in programming and projects to preserve South Dakota’s history and heritage for future generations.

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.