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**Survey Markers, Valentines, SDSU Ice Cream at
Cultural Heritage Center Feb. 1**

PIERRE, S.D. -- Visitors can enjoy making clay survey markers and Valentine decorations on "Museum Activity Day" at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre from 1-4 p.m. CST on Sunday, February 1.

South Dakota State University Dairy Bar ice cream will be served. There is no cost to participate in the workshop and admission fees are always waived on the first Sunday of every month.

Visitors can decorate their clay markers however they wish. They can also make Valentine decorations from wire, pipe cleaners and other materials. All ages are welcome and young children should be accompanied by an adult. Materials are provided with no cutting, gluing or measuring needed.

In 1891, surveyor Charles H. Bates and his crew battled weather, sickness and mosquitos to complete the surveying and marking of the "quartzite border" between North and South Dakota. The placement of the granite stones every half mile along the 360-mile border took two years.

Of the original 720 markers, it is believed that about half of the original markers remain in place. Many are found in museums in North and South Dakota. One marker is now part of the landscaping at the Cultural Heritage Center, resting near the flagpoles at the base of the front entrance sidewalk.

The quartzite markers all had "N.D." engraved on the north side, "S.D." on the south side and "½ M" for one-half mile or "M" for one mile on the east side.

"The original stone markers were seven feet long, 10 inches square and weighed 800 pounds," said Museum Director Jay Smith. "The clay models will be much more manageable – sized to be taken home in a zip lock bag. This event will be fun for children and adults alike, and any chance to serve the famous SDSU ice cream is a treat."

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About the South Dakota State Historical Society

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 history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.