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State Historical Society Donation Features 1920s Tourism in the Black Hills

PIERRE, S.D. – One of the latest donations to the collection of the South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives is a scrapbook of photographs documenting a Nebraska woman's 1920s vacations in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Alice Jesse Lowe of Alliance, Neb., took vacation images while traveling through the Black Hills in the summers 1926 and 1927. She collected more than 200 of her photos and placed them in a leather-bound photo album.

The Knight Museum & Sandhills Center in Alliance released the photo album from their collections and donated it to the State Historical Society-Archives.

Of particular note are images of President Calvin Coolidge when he vacationed in the Black Hills at his summer White House in 1927.

The cover of the photo album has the following inscription: "South Dakota – Loveliest state of them all: blue waters, sweet flowers, trees massive and tall, land where the sky turns from blue to bright gold, and all nature forgets the way to grow old."

Lowe photographed a number of Black Hills events from the mid 1920s, including the Deadwood-Days of '76 Parade, the Tri-State Roundup in Belle Fourche and the Gold Discovery Days Pageant in Custer.

Town scenes from the album include Deadwood, Rapid City and Hot Springs, along with additional Black Hills tourist attractions such as Sylvan Lake, Gordon Stockade, Needles Highway, Harney Peak, Latchstring Inn and various Black Hills monuments.

The State Historical Society-Archives is located in the Cultural Heritage Center at Pierre. It is open Monday-Friday and the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CDT. Contact the archives by phone at (605) 773-3804 or e-mail at archref@state.sd.us

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism and State Development and strives to help the state meet the goals of the 2010 Initiative by enhancing history as a tool for economic development and cultural tourism. The society 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.