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State Historical Society, OaheTV sending DVDs to South Dakota nursing homes

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota State Historical Society and Pierre-based cable station OaheTV are working together to send a DVD featuring three recent Pierre programs to more than 100 nursing homes throughout South Dakota.

The three programs on the DVD include an Archives Month activity -- “Songs of World War I,” the 2009 Christmas at the Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony and the 2009 Parade of Lights in Pierre.

OaheTV filmed the programs, made them available on their station, and provided the DVDs for the mailing. OaheTV is a public, education and government cable channel serving the City of Pierre, City of Fort Pierre and the Pierre Public School District.

The first program, a State Historical Society-Archives Month production, is titled, “Songs of World War I.” The program featured 22 pieces of World War I-era music sung by Pierre-area vocalists.

“Our World War I program featured songs that were written some 90 years ago. This is an excellent opportunity to have our Archives Month program seen and heard by individuals who both appreciate and remember these songs,” said Chelle Somsen, state archivist. “We are thankful to OaheTV for both filming the presentation and for providing the DVDs that will be mailed to the nursing homes.”

The World War I music was donated to the State Historical Society-Archives and is part of its collection, located in the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, Somsen said.

The second program features the “2009 Christmas at the Capitol Tree Lighting Ceremony” held on Nov. 24 at the state Capitol. The 45-foot Black Hills spruce featured in the rotunda was decorated by members of the South Dakota Florist Association. The Capitol Christmas tree display is open to the public from 8 a.m. -10 p.m. daily through Dec. 27.

The final program is the “2009 Parade of Lights” held on Nov. 27 in Pierre. The event was organized by the Parade of Lights Committee and the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce. The parade included a number of lighted floats from local businesses and organizations.

The State Archives is open Monday through Friday and the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CST. Contact the archives by phone at (605) 773-3804 or e-mail archref@state.sd.us

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