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State Historical society seeks donations from 'recent' past

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota State Historical Society is requesting collections from the “recent” past, defined as any items dating from the 1950s to 2000s.

“Items do not need to be ‘old’ to be historically relevant, nor does historic importance have a defined starting point,” said Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society. “The State Historical Society’s mission is to collect materials of South Dakota’s irreplaceable past, whether the time period is from the 1860s or the 2010s.”

Archival and museum items from the recent past are collected, preserved, and made accessible at society headquarters at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. They are held alongside collections dating from the 1860s to the 1940s, as well as items predating the formation of Dakota Territory.

Some examples of archival materials from the recent past include:

- Wilbur A. Weiland’s photographs of the Korean War
- A South Dakota Drivers Manual from 1950
- Dakota Territorial Centennial Scrapbooks from 1960-1961
- Marin Jared collection of Boys State materials from 1967-1970,
- Irene Cordts collection of photographs throughout South Dakota from the 1970s through the 1990s
- South Dakota Chess Association newsletters from 1997-2007

Examples of museum materials from the recent past include:

- Items from the war memorial dedications in Pierre
- Toys such as Transformers and a Lite Brite
- A 1980s Aberdeen Central High School letterman’s jacket
- A beaded bracelet and moccasins from the 2000s
- A cell phone
- A 1990s gear box made by Hub City, Inc. in Aberdeen
- A Wall Drug Cafe paper hat
- The South Dakota Pearl Harbor Survivor’s Association collection

To donate items from the recent past, or any materials relating to the history of South Dakota please, contact Dan Brosz, museum curator of collections, at (605) 773-6013, or Matthew Reitzel, manuscript archivist, at (605) 773-3615.

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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.