



Department of Tourism and State Development

December 21, 2006

Dear historical society colleagues,

This past fall the South Dakota State Historical Society had a very positive experience hosting TRACES' BUS-eum 2 at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. With very little effort, we attracted nearly 100 visitors to this traveling exhibit and related program in a period of less than four hours. We are now looking at expanding our involvement with this on-going programming in 2007.

TRACES is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and telling the stories of the men and women from America's Heartland, and from Germany and Austria who encountered each other during World War II. One of TRACES' educational projects is their two BUS-eums. These museums on wheels currently feature two exhibits: BUS-eum 1, *Behind Barbed Wire: Midwest POWs in Nazi Germany*, and BUS-eum 2, *Vanished: German-American Civilian Internment, 1941-1948*. We were part of the *Vanished* tour, and are exploring the opportunity of teaming up with other organizations and states to utilize the *Behind Barbed Wire* tour to reach out with expanded programming next fall.

If you are not familiar with TRACES, I invite you to visit their web-site [www.TRACES.org](http://www.TRACES.org). You can view their BUS-eums, and their permanent museum in the historic Landmark Center in Saint Paul, MN, as well as their other programs and resources. I encourage you to consider working with TRACES, too, as they travel the Midwest with their unique, yet timely stories.

Sincerely yours,

Jay D. Vogt  
Director  
South Dakota State Historical Society

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