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Vintage coffee merchandising memorabilia on display at the Sioux City Public Museum

(Sioux City) – For a century, Sioux City was one of the primary food distribution centers of the Upper Midwest. Unique merchandising artifacts from this era are showcased in the Sioux City Public Museum’s new exhibit, *Vintage Sioux City Coffee Memorabilia*, opening Saturday, November 28.

More than a dozen wholesale grocery dealers were based in Sioux City from the 1870s to the 1970s, distributing food products to retail stores in Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota and Minnesota. Many of these firms imported, roasted, ground and packaged their own brands of coffee. The business left behind an array of tin containers, paper bags and wood shipping crates marked with the logos of the wholesalers and the brands of the coffee they sold. These artifacts are tangible evidence of a food distribution business that was a major driver of the local economy for a century. Sioux City wholesale grocers represented in the exhibit include William Tackaberry, C. Shenkberg, O. J. Moore, Tolerton and Warfield, Pratt-Mallory, Robb-Ross and many more.

The exhibit, which draws from private collectors and the Museum’s collection, will be on display through February 28, 2021. Protective masks/face coverings and social distancing are required in all City buildings by members of the public. Hand-sanitizing stations are available. The Sioux City Public Museum is located at 607 4th Street in downtown Sioux City. Admission is free. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call 712-279-6174 or visit SiouxCityMuseum.org.

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