

# Statue takes its place on city sidewalk

■ Prairie Edge opens its doors today.

By Dan Daly  
Journal Staff Writer

Standing 9 feet, 9 inches tall, the bronze sculpture titled "He Is They Are" towered over Friday morning shoppers and dominated the corner of Sixth and Main streets in Rapid City.

The sculpture — a dramatic depiction of a standing Indian man, head bent and hands bound — was cemented into place Friday morning on the sidewalk in front of the newly renovated Prairie Edge building.

The new 25,000-square-foot Native American arts and crafts gallery, retail store, fine art gallery and framing shop officially opens for business today. More work, mostly on the second-floor offices and the metal cornices on the front, should be finished sometime before February, according to officials at TSP, the architectural firm whose designs restored the 1886 downtown building.

"He Is They Are" is the work of Santa Fe, N.M., sculptor Glenna Goodacre. Her other work includes the Vietnam Women's Memorial, dedicated during a Veteran's Day ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 11.

"The Native American appears from the front to be in a thought-

ful, serious meditation," according to the Prairie Edge description of the piece. "When the viewer goes around to the back side of the sculpture, there's the startling revelation that his hands are bound. The statue leaves the viewer wondering — something to consider and contemplate."

A plaque at the base of the sculpture bears this inscription in Lakota and in English, "The Sioux and the Plains Indians were moved from their homelands and placed on reservations. Though their 'hands are tied,' the dream of their homeland remains."

Inside the Prairie Edge building, staffers were busy setting up the second-floor gallery while artist Paul Goble signed prints of his work. Prairie Edge is the exclusive marketer for Goble's poster prints.

The arts-and-crafts side of the building's first floor has been open for months, but the trading post, which sells everything from books to small craft items to craft supplies will open today along with the galleries.

Dale Jahr, Prairie Edge spokesman, said the trading post had probably the world's largest collection of Italian glass beads — the same type of beads brought by white traders for some 200 years.

The second-floor art gallery will feature original and reproduction art of all kinds, from paintings to furniture, Jahr said. Seventeen of the 29 artists featured in the new fine art gallery are South Dakotans.

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