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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARCH 27, 2007

New “Railroad Era” Exhibit Debuts at Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum

Lester Spell, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce, and the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum dedicated the NEW “Railroad Era” section of the Museum today with the assistance of the Jackson Society of Model Engineers. The new exhibit features 3 different scale models depicting the historical significance of railroads to agriculture, the importance of safety at Mississippi rail crossings, and a representation of thousands of man-hours of volunteer effort by members of the Jackson Society of Model Engineers.

The models represent different eras of railroading from steam locomotives to modern transport trains. In Mississippi, major commodities have benefited from rail transport over the years. Cotton, timber, and grain commodities have been mainstays on the rail system, and as markets expand, railroads will continue providing the needed transportation nationwide.

Exhibits portray the “Avery Loop” in Jackson, forested areas of South Mississippi, and row crop areas of the Delta. Replicas of the Gulf Mobile and Ohio (GM & O), the Illinois Central (IC), and the Kansas City Southern (KCS) train lines are showcased in these exhibits. The “Railroad Era” exhibit features over 100 railcars and more than 25 miles of prototypical miles. The exhibit will be operated, maintained, and expanded upon through efforts of the Jackson Society of Model Engineers.

Please come enjoy this interactive Mississippi historical representation being brought to life and see how important the rail system is to not only Mississippi’s #1 industry, Agriculture, but to our everyday way of life. The Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum is located at 1150 Lakeland Drive in Jackson. The Museum is open Monday – Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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