

*Remarks for the
The Alluvian Hotel Ribbon Cutting
May 1, 2003*

- Recognize Fred Carl and Dale Persons
 - Also Mayor Smith, Robert Moore,
Donnie Brock

- Often we think of history as focused on events and individuals
 - So much of history found in structures,
in bricks and mortar

- Buildings speak to us, to our history
 - History found in humble buildings and
massive structures
 - This building we open today speaks
volumes

- State capitol, which observes 100th anniversary this year, tells its own stories of our state's history
 - Famous and infamous legislators and legislation

- So many other buildings around the state with a story to tell as well

- Important to recognize not just the history but the value of these structures and resources to who we are as a people and as a state
 - Protect them as best we can
 - Preserve them for future generations

- Structures like the Alluvian are tangible, living history
 - We learn from them
 - We owe it to future generations to protect them

- Like the Delta blues and great literature, this building is part of our image
 - Important to preserve this history and image while moving ahead

- Perception of Mississippi is changing
 - Old question of “why Mississippi?” not asked anymore
 - Question now is “why not Mississippi?”

- Image of Mississippi has changed
 - Image of a state moving quickly into the 21st century
 - State competing and leading in the global marketplace
 - State setting new standards in education and economic development

- Looking to future of Mississippi and charting where we want to go
 - End goal is to build on promise and potential
 - Build a state based on good schools, good jobs and good communities

- Image of Mississippi in 2003 unlike anything anyone could have imagined
 - Image of people working in highly-skilled, well-paying jobs
 - Image of children in classrooms equipped with the technology to bring the world to their desk

- And now, the image of the Alluvian Hotel with its carefully chosen mattresses and Voss brand of bottled water
 - Definitely a different image of the Mississippi Delta
 - Proud of the hard work that's been done to make this day possible

- Thank Fred Carl for his leadership in this project
 - Recognize General Manager Jondi Brackeen
 - Confident that any traveler will remember the Alluvian fondly

- Will Rogers: Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there
 - No one's been sitting around here
 - Greenwood and Mississippi on the right track and moving fast