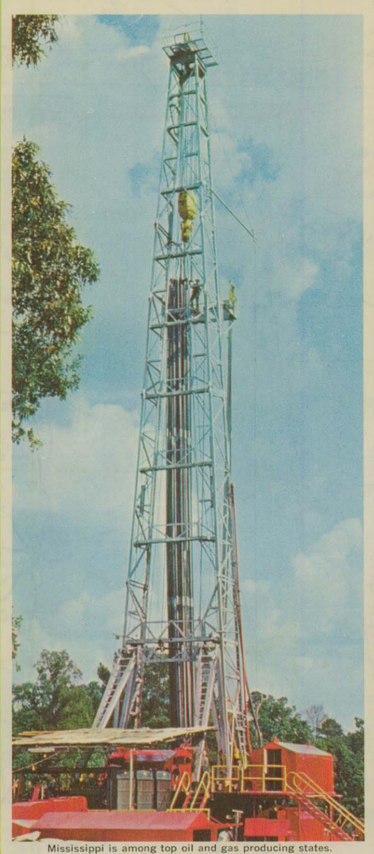
1970

# Mississippi

## MISSISSIPPI

RICH IN BEAUTY
AND
ABUNDANT RESOURCES

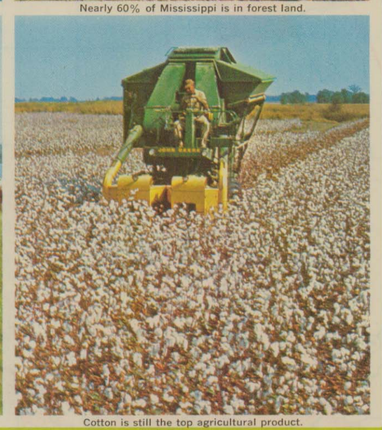


Mississippi is among top oil and gas producing states.

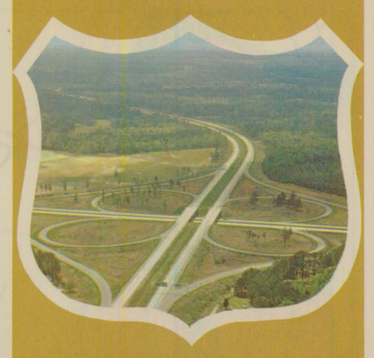
Commercial fishing is big business.

Nearly 60% of Mississippi is in forest land.

Livestock is a major source of Mississippi's agricultural income.



Cotton is still the top agricultural product.



## ENJOY MOTORING IN MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi's fine highway system will take you quickly and comfortably to a wide variety of recreational and educational attractions in every corner of the State. A large part of this system is four-laned.

There is something interesting to see and do along nearly every mile of Mississippi highways so make your trip a leisurely one.

Mississippi's highways are for your enjoyment and convenience. Help keep our highways safe by careful driving, obeying all traffic rules and thoughtful consideration of others.

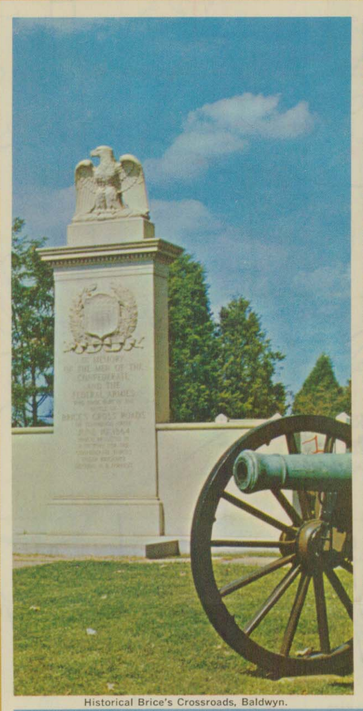
Prepared by

MISSISSIPPI STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

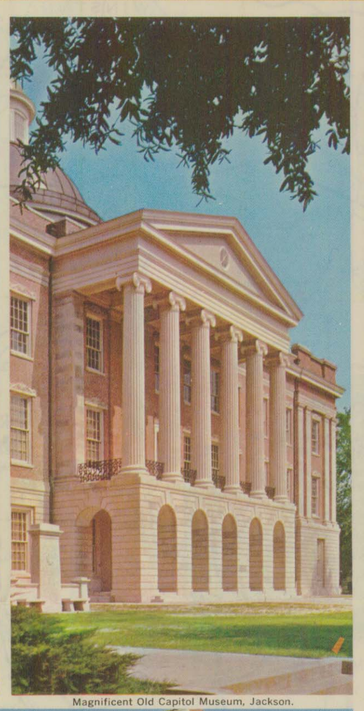
Jackson, Mississippi

## MISSISSIPPI

HISTORIC SITES
IN EVERY SECTION



Historical Brice's Crossroads, Baldwyn.



Magnificent Old Capitol Museum, Jackson.

"Little Red Schoolhouse", site of the founding of the Eastern Star.

Beauvoir, home of Jefferson Davis, Biloxi.

Mississippi State Capitol Building, Jackson

# Welcome to Mississippi...

## *"The Hospitality State"*

### MISSISSIPPI'S HISTORY

Mississippi's past is a romantic one, dating back to 1540, when Hernando DeSoto and his soldiers marched through what is now Mississippi in search for gold. Instead he discovered the mighty Mississippi River.

Since that time seven flags have flown over the State. The flags of Spain, France, England, the United States, the Republic of West Florida, the Confederate States, and the Mississippi State flag have been unfurled overhead.

In 1669, d'Iberville, a Frenchman, founded the first permanent settlement in the lower Mississippi Valley at Old Biloxi. The purpose was to gain control of the Mississippi River which was felt to be the key to the control of the North American continent.

In 1716 the French established Fort Rosalie at Natchez as an outpost of their coastal colony. Mississippi was ceded to the British by the Treaty of Paris in 1763. In 1781 the Spanish returned to Mississippi and set up their government at Natchez.

Mississippi became a territory of the United States in 1798 with Natchez as the capital. Washington, a village near Natchez, was the capital between 1802 and 1817. After the War of 1812, Mississippi petitioned for statehood. On December 10, 1817, Mississippi became the twentieth state of the Union. Natchez again became the capital but in 1820, the seat of government was moved to Columbia and then later to Monticello. In 1821 the legislature selected LeFleur's Bluff on the Pearl River as the state capital and changed the name to Jackson in honor of General Andrew Jackson. Prior to settlement by the white man, the principal Indian tribes inhabiting Mississippi were the Choctaw, Chickasaw and Natchez. After a series of wars and treaties, these tribes scattered or became extinct with the exception of a small band of Choctaws remaining at Philadelphia. From 1830 to 1850 Mississippi grew into a great, wealthy cotton empire bringing new people and commerce to the river cities, the Delta and Jackson.

On January 9, 1861, Mississippi became the second state to secede from the Union. During the War Between the States, Mississippi played a pivotal role in the western campaigns. Grant's campaign for Vicksburg, and important battles at Iuka, Corinth, Holly Springs, Chickasaw Bayou, Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson and Champion's Hill blazed a trail of death and ruin across the State. Then came Brice's Crossroads and Harrisburg, then surrender—and after the war, "Reconstruction."

In 1890, Mississippi's present constitution was adopted. The State pioneered in school consolidation, moved forward economically, and, in the middle 1930's, constructed a highway system second to none.

During this surge of progress, vast timber and soil resources were recognized, oil was discovered, and industry became the watchword. Tourist attractions, historic charm, virgin fishing and hunting lands, and sunny beach resorts, came into their own.

Today, Mississippi says welcome to industry with a vast resource of raw materials and manpower; to the tourist with a year-around variety to appeal to every taste.

### A FRIENDLY WELCOME

Visitors are cordially welcomed to Mississippi by its more than 2,000,000 friendly citizens.

Thousands of miles of modern highways have been built to make travel fast, efficient and pleasant to motorists.

The responsibility for building and maintaining this fine system of roads is delegated to the Mississippi State Highway Commission. This Commission is a three-man elective body operating under authority granted by the State Legislature.

Mississippi's present highway administration evolved over the years as highways and highway transportation grew in importance. In the early years, all roads, bridges, and ferries in the State were under the jurisdiction of the County Board of Supervisors. It was under this system that the first concrete highway south of the Ohio River was built in Lee County in 1912.

In 1916, the legislature created the State Highway Commission, authorizing it to work with the County Boards of Supervisors in an advisory capacity in the construction of roads. A 1920 law broadened powers of the Commission, and in 1922, the State's first gasoline tax was levied.

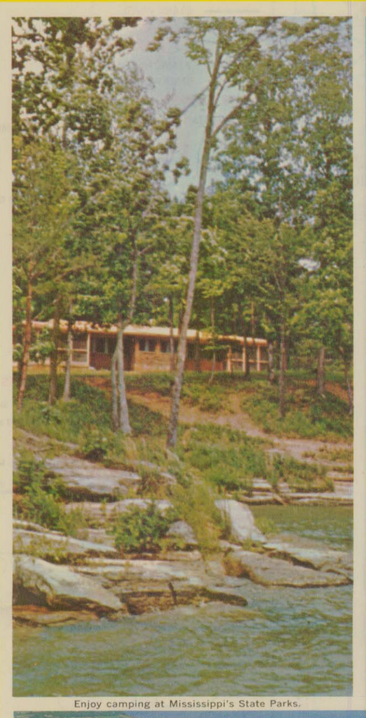
Mississippi's present system of roads and highways began taking shape in 1924 with a constitutional amendment permitting the legislature to designate highways for a state system and placing them under the jurisdiction of the Highway Commission.

There are more than 9,600 miles of highways on the State Highway System, with more than 9,100 miles paved. Present construction schedules include heavy outlays for further improvement of primary, secondary and urban sections of the system. Extensive construction of the new Interstate Highway System is underway in many areas of the State.

The members of the Highway Commission, representing each of the State's three Supreme Court Districts, pledge to Mississippians, and to the countless thousands of visitors who come from every section of the country, a continued policy of sound planning and administration. It is their wish that Mississippi highways will always provide a pleasant invitation to the tourist, a convenience and source of economic strength to Mississippians.

## MISSISSIPPI

A FUN-FILLED
VACATION LAND



Enjoy camping at Mississippi's State Parks.

Sailboating on Mississippi's lakes and reservoirs.

Water sports on the Reservoir near Jackson.

Beautiful sand beaches on the Gulf Coast.

## MISSISSIPPI

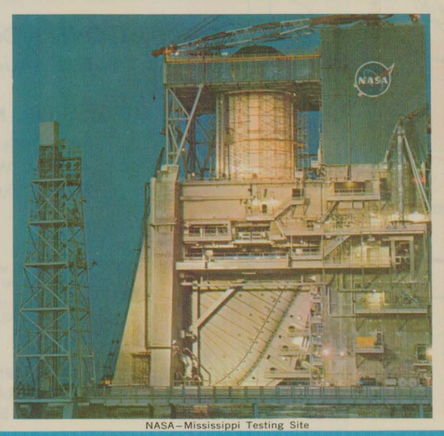
MILES OF MODERN,
BEAUTIFUL HIGHWAYS

Typical highway scenes in Mississippi.

## MISSISSIPPI

NEW INDUSTRIAL
FRONTIER

Modern industrial plant in Central Mississippi.




NASA–Mississippi Testing Site

Bustling barge traffic on the Mississippi River.