



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2007

Contact: Arnie Lillo Jack Koblas
507.278.3671
alillo@hickorytech.net jkoblas@gmail.com

THIRD ANNUAL JESSE JAMES THEME PARK EVENT

Dust off your boots, pull on your hat and get ready to step back in time. Join us as the Wild West comes to life in southern Minnesota with the 3rd annual Arnie Lillo's **Jesse James Theme Park** just minutes from Mankato on **Saturday, June 2nd 2007 from 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.**

The Jesse James Theme Park is the first ever of its kind in the nation. It is hand crafted by Arnie Lillo with life size individual metal cut outs of the many 1870's horses and characters, and tells the story of what happened to Jesse and Frank James and the Younger brothers gang in this area of Minnesota in Sept 1876. From riding into Northfield, to robbing the bank, to leaving town, killing of Charlie Pitts and the capture of the Younger brothers, the full story is told precisely as Minnesota history knows it to be. But uniquely illustrated in life size metal artwork.

The Jesse James Gang was credited with over 25 bank robberies during the years of 1866 and 1881. Although, it was hard for the gang to openly admit to being involved in any activity that might result in their legal detainment, history has been able to piece together over \$270,000 in robberies from Missouri to Minnesota, Alabama to West Virginia, Kentucky to Mississippi. From the passengers' point of view, you may not have returned with your possessions, but at least you had a story to tell that you were robbed by the best - the infamous James - Younger Gang.

Don't miss this one of a kind historical event, and the many other activities going on at the Arnie Lillo Hobby farm during this event. **Jack Koblas**, President of the United States Jesse James Club, will be on site for a book signing. John is author of numerous books on Jesse James, such as *The Jesse James Northfield Raid*, *Faithful Unto Death* and *Jesse James Ate Here*.

Entertainment by **Yodeling Ron**. Lunch stand and refreshments will be served on the grounds all day.

Les Johnson will be on hand to narrate the failed Northfield Bank robbery to the Younger Brother Capture near Madelia.

This event is FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Enjoy the picturesque Minnesota countryside and scenes of Madelia and Northfield from 1876.

Directions from Mankato: Located at the Arnie Lillo Farm 56634 177th Lane, Good Thunder, MN 56037 Take Highway 22 South to right on Co Rd 90 West. Go 3 miles to left on Co Rd 16 South. Go 3.5 miles to right on 177th Street (which is the first gravel road past Co Rd 35). It's ½ mile on your right.

Media is welcome at this event; please contact Arnie Lillo at alillo@hickorytech.net or 507.278.3671.