

stage each days from San Antonio to San Diego there were stations at these springs, and at Comanche Springs (Ft. Stockton), at Leon Springs 9 mi. west of Ft. Stockton, in Limpia Canyon and at Ft. Davis and on westward. An old stone wall runs down the hill by the Yuna Springs. Over on the meadow the old stone stage station is visible from the highway. In 1847 when the Indians were approaching the Texas shore to disembark and perish after missing the mouth of the Mississippi River a company of Comanches, priests and Indians under Modoczo and from below El Paso killed their first killed Comanche at Springs. The treaty following the Mexican War of 1847 required the United States to prevent the northern Indians from invading Mexico and the missions were planted at these watering places from San Antonio to San Diego. Seventy years previously the Spaniards planted a string of presidios and missions near the Rio Grande and westward to California as their northern fortifications against the Indians. The old advertisement on the inside front cover of this Travelog shows the travel route that developed from San Antonio to San Diego after the Mexican War. The Old Spanish Trail traverses this historic and remarkable territory along essentially the same route except for minor changes due to modern day needs. The old trails to Chihuahua, Mexico, crossed the Pecos River above Camp Lancaster and continued on at Leon Springs, Ft. Stockton, and thru the Paisano Pass to the mouth of the Conchos River on the Rio Grande. From this Ft. Stockton country a trail led to the Connelly trail of 1839 led to Arkansas. The Indian raids into Mexico ran from 1820 to 1890 led chiefly by Comanches, Apaches and Kiowas. Watering places on the raiding trails were the Yuna, Comanche and Leon Springs.

## INFORMATION AND SERVICE

Sheffield Garage. Drive-in Sta. All night service, all repairs, fireproof, Jerome Lackey.  
Hale Garage. Drive-in Sta. All night service, all repairs, fireproof, dining camp, ladies' rest room, C. E. Hale.

1167.9----- FT. STOCKTON, TEXAS -----1649.1  
Zero at Post Office.

53.6 mi. Gravel, some Graded Dirt.

Pop. 1297. Elevation 2948 ft. Tourist Camp—At Comanche Springs, dressing room, electric lights, swimming pool at springs. Hotel Stockton, OST Councilors, James Rooney and Dr. D. J. Sibbey.

"The Springs City of Texas is a bit of country made fertile by irrigation from great springs. The springs in the West Texas country were the "water-roots" and stations when the trail of the pioneers traveled between San Antonio and El Paso and on to San Diego. The army planted its frontier posts around these springs. More anciently they were points of meeting or contest and the Indian and Spanish conquerors, adventurers and missionaries struggled for mastery. Comanche Springs, now in the center of Ft. Stockton, irrigates 60,000 acres of alfalfa, barley, wheat, fruits and vegetables. 18,800 tons of alfalfa were shipped in 1924. West 9 mi. are Leon Springs with 3000 acres under cultivation and Leon Lake covering 700 acres. Ft. Stockton is developing a country club at the lake, with fishing, hunting and other privileges. Northwest 35 mi. are two irrigating canals. The water of the Zimmar and the Zimmerman districts watered from the Pecos River in the Permian District now farms 10,000 acres; the Imperial District, 12,000 acres. Efforts are in progress to build a Red Bluff dam across the Pecos and make one possible for a total of 60,000 acres. Stock with supplies, water, etc. No settlement along the way.  
West. 12.8 mi. are Ocotilla. A well of interesting Ocotilla cactus. Oil and gas 17 mi. E. of Balmorhea.

## INFORMATION AND SERVICE

Stockton Pharmacy. Drugs, kodaks, fountain, confections.  
Rooney Mercantile Co. Complete department store, Camp and auto supplies.  
Hotel Stockton. Largest, best equipped hotel between San Antonio and El Paso.  
Gray's Cash Grocery. Near Hotel Stockton. Standard brands of provisions. Like to help tourists. F. A. Gray, P. Ace Auto Co. Authorized Ford sales and service. Tourist headquarters. Geo. B. Pace.

1114.3----- BALMORHEA, TEXAS -----1702.7

25.4 mi. Gravel, some Graded Dirt.  
Pop. 400. Elevation 3200 ft. Tourist Camp maintained by OST Filling Sta. Shade, shower, clean lights, cabin, protection. Hotel Balmorhea. Clean restaurant. OST Councilor, B. W. Yuna Deren. Balmorhea is named for the founders, Balcomb, Moore and Ohea. A green valley of irrigated farms along the painted Davis Mts. with 12 mi. of the OST thru the valley and new fields at every turn. The water is from the San Solomon Springs 4.4 mi. west from the hotel and from Phantom Springs 8.2 mi. west and from flood waters from the mountains. The springs and from Ft. Hancock gals. daily. The reservoir covers 625.6 A. and cost \$125,000. There are 20.5 mi. of main canal, 32 mi. of service canals, three diversion dams, and many miles of local roads among the intensively cultivated farms. 23,400 tons of alfalfa were produced last year. 12,900 A. under cultivation.

Balmorhea is becoming one of the inviting spots on the OST. Its people have fought the battles all pioneers fight. The figures reveal their achievements. The reservoir affords good fishing, you may bathe at several places, camp by the cavernous Phantom Springs, or make trips into the mountains and feel the joy of life. Stock with supplies, water, etc. A desert country is being crossed.

## INFORMATION AND SERVICE

Hotel Balmorhea. Home cooking, clean, C. M. Linton. OST Filling Station. Garage, repairs, supplies, auto camp, shade, shower, cabin lights. John B. Coffey. Hi-Way Garage. West end fireproof, all repairs, all night service. Ice water. Crenshaw Bros.

1088.9----- McELROY JUNCTION, TEX. -----1728.1

49.0 mi. Gravel.

Elevation 3950 ft. The Bankhead Highway from Ft. Worth joins OST. Gomez Peak to the southwest 77.7 ft. high. OST Councilor, E. C. McElroy.

West end is desert and mountain peaks. Stock up carefully. At Kent, 10.6 mi. W. a store, gas and oil. Water westward at 14.7 mi. and 18.8 mi. Also at Boracha station 21 mi. W. and Plateau station 31.4 mi. W. and Wild Horse station 40.1 mi. W.

## INFORMATION AND SERVICE

Davis Mt. Filling Sta. Gas, groceries, free camp, cabins, spring water, all night service. E. C. McElroy.

1039.9----- VAN HORN, TEXAS -----1777.1

33.3 mi. Gravel

Pop. 614. Elevation 4010 ft. Tourist Camp—Shelter and ovens. Country hotels and good water. Western entrance to Davis Mountains. Cattle and desert country set with mountain peaks. Allamore sta. store, gas, oil 10.9 mi. W. and Eagle Flat sta. 18.8 mi. W.

1006.6----- SIERRA BLANCA, TEXAS -----1810.4

34.7 mi. Gravel.

Pop. 723. Elevation 4512 ft. Tourist Camp—A camp house in case of emergency. Palace Hotel, OST Councilor, A. B. Pascal.  
Sierra Blanca means "white mountain." Junction of S. P. R. R. and T. P. R. R.  
Ebbelon sta. 4.5 mi. W. and a railroad tower about 10 mi. further W. Finlay sta. 19.1 mi. W. McNary 30 mi. W.

## INFORMATION AND SERVICE

Borderland Auto Co. Drive-in Sta. Storage, all repairs, good mechanics, genuine Ford parts. Free drinking water. Williams & Brown.  
Palace Hotel. Clean. Reasonable. Home cooking.

The Old Spanish Trail is the only transcontinental highway open all the time. It is thru the land of perennial sunshine; the eastern sections are termed "perennial and winter by the Gulf of Mexico and the trade winds from the Gulf; in the western sections the trade winds elevations and dry atmosphere combine to make an agreeable, all-year climate.

971.9----- FT. HANCOCK, TEX. (Rio Grande) -----1845.1

23.6 mi. (11 mi. Gravel, then Paving).

Pop. 34. Elevation 3519 ft. Clean, comfortable hotel accommodations.

The highway now follows the course of the Rio Grande into and beyond El Paso. The town and the remains of the fort (abandoned 1888) are a mile north of the highway. Travelers should stop over and see the irrigated farming development down along the river for many miles. Irrigation, old and new, is along the Rio Grande here and there all the way to Brownsville and the Gulf. From Ft. Hancock much can be learned and from Ft. Hancock westward to El Paso and northward into New Mexico greater irrigation works will be seen. The mountains to the south are in Mexico.

## INFORMATION AND SERVICE

Ft. Hancock Mds. Co. General store, hotel, restaurant. Q. A. Harce.

948.3----- FABELAS, TEXAS (Rio Grande) -----1868.7

16.6 mi. Paving.

Pop. 500. Elevation 3612 ft. Small hotel and garage.

931.7----- YSLETA, TEXAS -----1885.3

12.7 mi. Paving.

Pop. 2025. Elevation 3827 ft. Interurban to El Paso. This is the "Water Canyon" following the course of the Rio Grande. This tree-shaded highway, the irrigating canals, truck gardens and country homes are a refreshing picture. (See El Paso for the valley's old history.)

## THE DESERT NOT DESERTED

Varied and Interesting—Irrigation and Mining Developing its Riches—Cities, Mountains and Mystery adorn it.

"Desert is the right word topographically for the arid region of high tableland comprising adjacent territory of the bordering States of Texas, New Mexico, old Mexico, and Arizona. Descriptively it is a misleading, a wrong word. To the conventional imagination it calls up aching areas of dust and endurance, dead-level expanses of sandy Sahara deserted by every animate thing—

So lonely 'twas, that God himself

Scarcely seemed there to be.

"The American desert is not deserted. It is redeemed sporadically by green alluvial valleys with their human and vegetable life richer than the oases of Biskra or the garden spots of the Arabian desert; while its remaining areas, unredeemed in a commercial sense, carpeted with the olive green of mesquite, low-growing yucca and yucca, cheered by the lemon-yellow palo-verdes, the rose-pink of ironwood blossoms, and the scarlet flame of ocotilla, need only the magic touch of water to prove their latent agricultural wealth of soil. Their very desolation reveals the outcroppings of a well-nigh inexhaustible mineral treasure; agriculturally that same desolation is less barren than fecund, not dead but unborn and coming to birth. And in other ways than material, hard to describe in words how thickly peopled are these high open places! Memories and traditions and tokens of vanished peoples who lived and built, made war and loved, here long ago! The very coming together of all undefinable celestial glory! The dwelling-place of the Great Spirit!

"Stricken dumb after leagues of tumultuous mountains, where man and his perceptive dwindle out of sight and his motor car becomes an insufferable impudence, the pictured worshipful serenity of the solitary Indian comes to mind with a sense of peace and relief; standing upon his mountaintop and fronting the west across the beauty and the vastness and thrilling loneliness he knows so well but cannot understand, silently with arms outstretched lifting his face to the quiet sky."—George Marvin in The Outlook.

919.0----- EL PASO, TEXAS (Rio Grande) -----1898.0

Zero at Hotel Paso Del Norte.

19.6 mi. Paving.

Pop. 77,560. Elevation 3762 ft. Tourist Camp—Camp Grande, Alameda Ave., east end on OST. Fine accommodations for both private and general.

El Paso del Norte, the Pass of the North. Gateway to Mexico and the new Southwest, keypoint to a veritable empire. Cabeza de Yaca and his companions passed here in 1528. Spanish settlement made in 1659. Named point on El Camino Real (the King's Highway) from Mexico City to Santa Fe. City of importance, modern in its architecture, manufacturing and distributing center. In heart of rich irrigated farming, cattle and mining districts. Ft. Bliss, one of the most important military and air bases in the United States, is located at El Paso.

The pass thru the mountains extends from the city some three miles north to the big smelter. The road from El Paso follows the Rio Grande northward to Mesilla Park, 40.7 mi.

During the great Indian rebellion of 1680 around Santa Fe the Spaniards retreated to the church at the Pass (Juarez) and the real settlement of Paso del Norte began. The church at Juarez was founded 1659. The valley missions Ysleta, San Lorenzo, Green and Socorro were mothered by this church. Irrigation brought prosperity to the churches and colonists; the valley towns of Ysleta, Socorro and San Elizario grew in importance. The first settlement, the name Juarez is new. The present El Paso came into existence after Texas Annexation and the Mexican War 1846-7. The valley there now was developed on both sides the river. Above the Pass were the flourishing towns of Mesilla, Las Cruces and Dona Ana.

The approach to El Paso for 60 mi. from the East is thru an irrigated section, some of it established in Spanish times, where cotton, alfalfa, vegetables, dairy and fruits are produced. Canals carry the water. Elephant Butte reservoir (the largest in New Mexico) is located up the Rio Grande in New Mexico 110 mi. north of El Paso—largest artificial lake in North America. This reservoir covers 40,000 A. and impounds water to irrigate 200,000 A. in the Palomas, Rincon, upper and lower Mesilla, El Paso and Juarez valleys. Travelers should stop at El Paso and see the development in progress. This is another great area like so many developing along the OST to supply fresh products to the winter tables of the Nation, and another area of opportunity for the settler and builder. Elephant Butte dam is 306 ft. high, 1574 ft. long. Lake is 45 mi. long with 206 mi. of shore line.

## HOTELS

Hotel Paso Del Norte. Leading hotel between San Antonio and California.  
Hotel Sheldon. "In the Heart of El Paso." Auto Club headquarters. Moderate prices. Cafe, garage.

## JUAREZ

Ciudad Juarez across the Rio Grande, pop. 15,000, is the largest Mexican city on the border in population, exports and imports. Characteristically Mexican it is visited and enjoyed by more travelers than any border city. The El Paso Chamber of Commerce will give tourist passport free or ask your hotel.

## INFORMATION AND SERVICE

El Paso Automobile Club at Hotel Sheldon.  
Chamber of Commerce for passports to Juarez and general information.

Camp Grande. Accommodations for all needs, tents, cabins, cottages, community kitchens and laundries, baths, recreation hall, parkway, stores, restaurant, garage, all sanitary provisions and personal attentions.  
Camp Grande Garage. Inside the camp. All repairs, tires, parts, inspection, service, greasing, oiling, etc. Goodyear and Firestone service Sta. Experienced mechanics.

## IN JUAREZ

In Juarez go to O'Brien's Downtown Cafe or Riverside Cafe—two places where Jimmie O'Brien, Joe Moggi, prop. Free parking, follow green signs or take trolley.