

lives of ranches--now a super-highway is being constructed through that "wilderness" of the Southwest. The New Mexican and South California borders, however, are not so "wild" and "barbaric" as they once were. And with these industrial and agricultural activities are the cities and towns which are the lifeblood of the Southwest. The Spanish Borderlands are an unusual country.

Southern Gateway for Civilization

Probably nowhere in the United States have the people shown a finer sense of history and values than have the southern people in their efforts to lay this Old Spanish Trail through the lands rich in Old Spanish history. And probably nowhere in the United States has the capacity for achievement been better exemplified than here in this land where they battled and worked together until their diverse and complex problems were solved and a unified civilization was born. These people have shown a new Anglo-American civilization in their building of cities of refinement and interest, and in their creating a great country.

The Spanish Southwest

Across the southwestern United States are interesting cities and smiling valleys nestling in fertile deserts. Early in their history the Spanish settlers were in the El Paso Valley, and up the Rio Grande and throughout New Mexico, and into southern Arizona at Tucson and Nogales and the adjacent northern Mexico and down the Gila River to Phoenix. The Spanish Trail they called that country. . . . they were across the Gulf of California and maintained many stations on that remote peninsula they named Baja California. . . . that they found ways to sustain themselves while they crossed the desert sands and formidable mountains to occupy the California, the present California.

The Spanish loved that strange southwestern country, as many love it today, and their works there were extensive and notable. Spanish history, tradition, romance and almost overgrown the country. The western men battled for the highway across long distances and, like the crusaders of the East, they also won their victories. But only a few of them, a very few, are members of that band that battled for the transcontinental Old Spanish Trail, and that battle printed so much travel literature and old history to enlighten and popularize it. But western section has had many promotions. Today they call it the highway of America and they seek to keep travel moving to their country over the northern wind and new swift routes that travelers used before the Gulf of Mexico country was opened.

Gulf Country and Old Mexico now Protected

Now the sun-baked lands of the South are easily accessible from any northern point. Old New Mexico is quickly left behind and the country of outdoor sports

is entered. The southern roads and bridges are among the finest in the continent. At San Antonio, travelers find Old Mexico open and inviting, with many miles of paved roads and a lure equal to that of Europe. . . . and in Mexico are Spanish works that surpass those of the West.

* *

The Old Spanish Trail is a gift to the Nation of the southern and the Texas people! When all dreams come true, it will be a gift that will lure travel to all the lands of the Spanish conquistadores, colonizers, padres and empire builders!