

NATIONAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED  
United States Highways Adopted and Numbered

In keeping with the foregoing resolutions the Joint Board was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture as head of the Federal Road Bureau. This Board, through recommendations from the 48 states, adopted a system of interstate or national travel routes to be known as "United States Highways" to be built and maintained to carry overland travel properly at all times, and to be numbered and marked "U. S. Highway No.-----." These United States Highways will be through routes; the confusing routes so extensively promoted and marked will not have any official standing. The Old Spanish Trail route and the United States Highway designation are the same, so regardless of conditions elsewhere those complications as to name and number do not arise in our case.

We have been advised the minutes of this Joint Board show the attempt was made to eliminate all names and fix numbers only, but some of the established national routes are too important for this action to prevail. We have also found some highway officials still confused on this subject.

The Lincoln Highway Forum article, reproduced on the inside cover page, discusses these questions and the problems and reactions that are arising. There are undoubtedly localities and prominent highways not so easily adjusted to this movement as the Old Spanish Trail.

Thos. H. Mac Donald, Chief of the Federal Road Bureau, makes very clear his understanding and attitude that the names are not to be arbitrarily eliminated. Our work now should be to plan and put into effect the Old Spanish Trail marking and signing for the good of this South country without concerning ourselves with the problems in other sections.

Mr. MacDonald's letter follows:

UNITED STATES BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 13, 1926.

Hon. Earle B. Mayfield,  
United States Senate.

My dear Senator Mayfield:

At the first meeting of the Joint Board appointed upon the request of the American Association of State Highway Officials to consider the uniform marking of important interstate highways, consideration was given to the matter of the named trails and highways. It was the opinion of the Board at that time that the naming of highways was a matter entirely within the jurisdiction of the States, and if the individual States desired to perpetuate the names there would be no interference on the part of the Joint Board, nor would any action taken by the Joint Board prohibit the continuance of these names.