

Burlington Hotel  
Washington, D.C.  
June 5, 1922

Mr. R. O. Riddle,  
Chamber of Commerce,  
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Mr. Riddle,-

Here is a word of interest about the "Lone Star Highway." The AAA files show a map dated January 1, 1922 of this "Highway" from Chicago to St. Louis, to Little Rock, to Lake Charles, to Houston, to Brownsville. I cannot speak for this "Highway" north of Lake Charles, but from Lake Charles to Brownsville it is on our lines and in our territory, and in this district it has no existence, and no chance for existence. From Houston to Brownsville is a section where the OST and the Texas Highway Commission and the federal engineer have been planning for a long while to scout and lay down a highway. The country is so primitive that planned trips have again and again been postponed. When the highway is decided upon in that section it will be thru this official cooperation, and will be built, as a carefully selected trunkline for the OST around the Gulf to Mexico.

The AAA has shown this "Highway" on a map it is just issuing, except that it has not duplicated its numbering on the main line of the Old Spanish Trail.

I have told Mr. Eldridge of the activities and markings of the "Lone Star Highway" in southern Alabama, southern Georgia, and then on the OST in Florida in an effort to get to Jacksonville. I have also stated to him that I am certain this "Highway" has no connection, ~~or logical connection~~, across Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana to connect with the claimed "Highway" to Lake Charles. There is no trunkline of importance possible across that section of country.

Apparently this is but a repetition of a familiar practice of getting a "highway" shown on maps of some national organization, then attempting to capitalize this by operating in some distant section where the real truth is not easily known. The "Mississippi River Scenic Highway" practiced this. Rand McNally Co., show them on the OST lines in West Louisiana to Houston, and from Mobile to South Florida. The AAA helped to stop their operations. I have asked Mr. Eldridge to write to you and obtain confirmation of the operations of the "Lone Star" in your section, for both Mr. Eldridge and the AAA are desirous of doing their full part to keep this highway work on a sound basis.

You are to be congratulated on your insight and consequent refusal to give these "Lone Star" people recognition in Jacksonville.

Sincerely,

Managing Director Old Spanish Trail.