

and San Elizario (El Paso Valley) about 1683....El Paso del Norte (Juarez), 1659....
Sante Fe' and other settlements northward, beginning 1598....Tucson (San Xavier del
Bac Mission), 1700.....San Diego de Alcalá, 1769.

There were many other settlements in this Old Spanish Trail country and down in
Old Mexico and now accessible by automobile. Missions and colonies were extended
out into all fields. Both France and Spain pioneered in Old Louisiana.

VII

FRENCH AND SPANISH PLACE-NAMES, LANGUAGE AND CUSTOMS Most of the rivers that are
crossed and many other geographical places carry Spanish names or Spanish rendering
of Indian names except in Old Louisiana (Mobile, Alabama to Lafayette, Louisiana)
where French names prevail. French language, customs and architecture give Old
Louisiana its colorful touches. Spanish language, customs and architecture clothe
other sections with charm. In the Old Louisiana sector French and creole cooking
is enjoyed. Along the western sector are the Spanish-Mexican restaurants with their
tamales, tortillas, chili con carne, enchiladas, frijoles and other foods. Old
French peasantry is still seen in Old Louisiana, and old Spanish-Mexican in the West.

VIII

THE EASTERN TRAIL Along the Gulf of Mexico the settlements were at the Gulf
harbors; then overland trails developed to connect those settlements. By 1718 an
eastern trail (camino real in Spanish) connected Saint Augustine, Pensacola, Mobile,
Biloxi and New Orleans.

IX

THE MIDLAND TRAIL Between New Orleans and San Antonio the modern highway is
built across South Louisiana and South Texas thru New Iberia, Lake Charles, Beaumont
and Houston but the old trails were farther north. The French established one of
their outposts on the Red River in northwest Louisiana, founding Natchitoches in
1714. The Spanish had previously, in 1690, established a mission among the Tejas
(Texas) Indians west of Natchitoches--but abandoned in 1693. In 1716 this mission
and five others were located there to protect Spanish territorial claims against the
French; one was within 15 miles of the French Natchitoches and there in 1721 a
presidio was also built and that settlement, Los Adaes, is now Robeline, Louisiana.
The midland trail therefore developed between New Orleans and San Antonio thru the
French Natchitoches and this Spanish mission group. In Texas it became the noted
Old San Antonio Road.

X

THE WESTERN TRAILS In Mexico and the West, Spanish trails (camino real--king's
highway) progressed northward from Mexico City as missions and settlements were
established....the one thru eastern Mexico and San Antonio to Nacogdoches, Los Adaes
and the other East Texas missions and settlements....another thru Central Mexico
and El Paso del Norte to the Santa Fe' missions and settlements in New Mexico....
another thru western Mexico to the missions and settlements of the Nogales and Tucson
country of southern Arizona. From Tucson country a trail followed the Gila River
down to its junction with the Colorado River at the present Yuma, Arizona, and from
there to San Diego, California, and to the other California missions and settlements.
A western trail developed eastward--westward connecting the settlements from San
Antonio to San Diego. A Spanish trail developed along the Pacific Coast connecting
those twenty-one missions of California. Others of those primitive highways came
into service as settlements spread about; in history, the camino real of the respec-
tive localities.

XI

THE MODERN HIGHWAY An organization to foster the construction of the modern
highway was formed at Mobile, Alabama, in 1915. The national headquarters was
transferred to San Antonio, Texas, in 1919. In 1922 the Washington Declaration
gave the project national recognition and importance. The new highway was dedicated
at Saint Augustine, Florida in 1929 as a completely opened travelway. The monument
and the three days' dedication pageantry cost Saint Augustine \$16,000. The Spanish
Government sent Don Rafael Casares Gil as representative of the King of Spain. A
motorcade to the dedication ceremonies, led by a large delegation from San Diego,
California, crossed the continent averaging 271 miles a day for 11 days, keeping to
schedule like a railroad train, thereby establishing before the world the progress of
the great construction work connecting the two oceans across the big rivers and bays
in the East, and the princely cattle ranches of Texas, and the mountains of the West.

The date commonly given is 1718. In 1709 the San Pedro Springs were named. In
1715 families were settled; in 1716 a mission was located; in 1718 the mission pro-
posed along and a presidio were established and the importance of the settlement firmly
established.