

GADSDEN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

QUINCY, FLORIDA

January 11, 1922,

Mr. H. B. Ayres, Managing Director,
Old Spanish Trail Association,
Mobile, Ala.

My dear Mr. Ayres:

I enclose some clippings, which will show you that the American Automobile Association is trying to practice just what has been condemned in others---to route motorists a new road, unless communities take memberships in the 'A. A. A.', or so it would appear from the newspaper articles? I hope you can work fast in Alabama and Mississippi and up to New Orleans, so the memberships will come into the OSA Association treasury. You need not worry about Florida: I feel sure that Florida will take great interest in the Trail, a little later on when money is easier in this section,--when the early crops have been sold. This being an agricultural section--practically the whole State is that--there is not much money until after the general crops and citrus crop have been marketed,---except where the 'tourist crop' brings money to towns, away down on the East Coast and in south Florida.

The State Road Department will have the Trail hard-surfaced from Lake City to the Duval county line, as fast as the road can be worked; Duval county is paved with brick. Madison county has voted \$750,000 bonds; so the next section to be hard-surfaced will be Madison and Suwanee counties, to connect on the east with the Lake City improved highway. I am using every opportunity to talk "up" bond issue for Gadsden, Leon and Jackson counties---to get the tourists coming into Florida at Jackson county (Marianna) and go east through Quincy, Havana and Tallahassee to other Florida points. It will take several meetings, and I think we can begin them about March. You will likely get over here in April or May, and could address a meeting? I have planned to get up a picnic mass meeting at Victory Bridge on the Old Spanish Trail, at Apalachicola river, and can have this in the spring, or whenever you get this far east. If the bridge is ready for dedication, we can have a big time then? I will keep you posted, so you can try to strike the psychological moment here. It will pay you best and help the Trail most to complete the section between New Orleans and Mobile, before coming to work Florida, is my honest opinion; but, of course, this is between you and Mr. Marsh.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly,

F. R. S. Phillips

Florida State Rd. Dept. meets
at Tallahassee Jan. 18; if there
is anything you want Mr. Marsh to present, write him?