

Wester

A NARRATIVE OF THE SAN DIEGO---ST. AUGUSTINE MOTORCADE

Including the remarkable dedication festivities at St. Augustine and a sketch of the return of the San Antonio delegation. The Californians separated at St. Augustine, returning by various routes.

The Californians left San Diego March 23, 1929. The Motorcade reached St. Augustine April 2nd. The San Antonians reached home April 11th.

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Harrel Ayres joined the California party at El Paso. It was a well organized party---Packards, Pierce arrows, Cadillacs and Buicks were the prevailing cars. In the party was the president of the San Diego County Board; a captain of the California traffic police, detailed by the State, who traveled in full uniform and with all the authority California could invest in him; and an eminent speaker the San Diego Chamber of Commerce retained for that three weeks; a vice-president of the Bank of Italy; a wealthy representative of the Merchants & Manufacturers association; an official representative of the automotive industry; an official representative of the Chamber of Commerce Highway Bureau and numerous other representative people.

The motorcade was frequently met by citizen escorts, police escorts and entertained at complimentary dinners, banquets and receptions. The Californians on several occasions stated in their public utterances their money was no good after they left El Paso. These courtesies and attentions continued until the San Antonians returned home.

The El Paso Chamber of Commerce entertained the party at Juarez. The city traffic officers met them at the New Mexico line.

The people of Balmorhea, Texas, served a complimentary dinner in the community house. The fraternal greetings at Balmorhea were sincere and delightful. The greetings of the whole trip will never be forgotten.

Two hours later at Ft. Stockton Hotel the party sat down again to coffee and pie and were told to take the nicely wrapped sandwiches in the car. Twenty-five Ft. Stockton people joined in this coffee luncheon.

A heavy rain had fallen and the road was slippery and messy on the way to Ozona. This is the only time the motorcade was really off the schedule; this is the chief weakness between the Atlantic and the Pacific discovered by the motorcade.

The Ozona people had prepared a banquet for 100 which included 70 of their people but the party was three hours late due to the storm. Many were still waiting and stayed until midnight. The following morning the room and bath rate was but \$1.25.

The mud continued until the gravel was reached at Sonora. The party, therefore, dropped behind schedule on the drive from Ozona to