

MOBILE, March 31, 1928

Mr. R.O.Riddle,
Managing Director,
Automobile Club Jacksonville.

Dear Mr. Riddle,-

Your letters 29th to me and to Marsh received. Frankly, they are rather pleasing. I like the punch in them.

I did not know I was lacking in clearness in former letters. I have nothing against Jacksonville. I think possibly I could have a rather pleasant time if I would bull along in this highway work, as so many "highwaymen" do, but I am trying to get problems solved and the highway built. It is one of the few basic highways of the United States and the most difficult in its problems.

I want a conference in East Florida, as I have said before, but one where earnest men will get together and go after the problems constructively. Many advise against the big cities; they are too formal and the convention bureaus seek crowds for commercial reasons. I found this argument in Florida against Jacksonville. Yet here in Mobile we had a wonderful Meet and the papers are still carrying items and editorials as a result. But it took three months of work by me. I studied conditions in all directions as an expert and gave them a big, comprehensive program. They saw its constructive intelligence. With the same sort of cooperation the same thing could be done in Jacksonville. It would cost me not less than a month in time and the expenses. Your letter helps me to believe you and your people there would personally interest yourselves and help work out questions in a big and basic way.

I am glad to note in your letter your interest in the OST. I think you will find in my former letter a discussion of questions in Florida we ought to try together to work out, for they mean much to Florida. The enclosed PROGRESS OF THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL gives you some angles in my mind.

You mention my being at Tallahassee. This meeting at Mobile is the outgrowth of that trip. I found things slipping, and the unity of the work was threatened. Now all this section is wonderfully welded and working. Three months ago this bridge question was hopeless and highway work had already started to work around by Montgomery. It seems incredible, but it's true.

Just let me close this by saying I would like to work out sympathetically with you there the eastern destination of the OST. I believe the OST should end at St Augustine and the east coast of Florida be allowed to the Dixie Highway, altho I am still bound by the vote of a previous convention. I believe too we