

Speech delivered by Governor Pat M. Hoff, at San Antonio, Tex., on the afternoon of March 27th, 1924, at the Dedication of the Zero Monument of the Old Spanish Trail.

Everything within the grasp of human intelligence must have a starting point, and that which indicates the beginning may well be called a zero marker. Sacred and secular history is punctuated with well-established periods.

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" is the Biblical account of the establishment of the first great zero monument. From this beginning on the highway of time, the world is measured chronologically, geographically, and historically. The second great marker was the Cross of Calvary, erected on Golgotha's Hill, near the Garden of Gethsemane. From this sacred zero point diverge the highways of man's obedience and man's disobedience which finally separate the respective travellers thereon as far as the East is from the West.

From these two great fixed and designated points on the highway of progress, the human race, by slow and toilsome journey in search for political liberty and religious freedom, has paragraged its history with enduring markers. The people, in their onward climb through the long stretches of history, marked their triumphant journey here and there with zero monuments, as guide posts for succeeding generations to follow.

They erected historical markers at Marathon, at Tebæ, at Waterloo, at Lexington, and here at the second Alamo, where, by their blood and energy, Texan patriots unfurled the flag of revolution that ultimately extended the highway of civilization from the Sabine River to the Pacific slope.

Every engineering project, every map-making plan,