

adobe homes are distinctly foreign. The old valley, old towns and old irrigation lie around here; the Rio Grande is close. The Old Spanish Trail here is the "Valley Road" of El Paso; its old shade trees, irrigating canals, truck gardens and country homes are a refreshing picture.

***EL PASO.** El Paso del Norte, the Pass of the North, Gateway to Mexico and the Southwest, keypoint to an empire. Manufacturing and distributing center. In heart of rich irrigated, farming, cattle and mining districts. Ft. Bliss, one of the most important military and air bases in the United States, is located at El Paso.

The pass thru the mountains extends from the city some three miles north to the big smelter. The Old Spanish Trail from El Paso follows the Rio Grande northward to Las Cruces, 42 mi.

The approach to El Paso for 60 mi. from the east is thru an irrigated section, some of it established in Spanish times, where cotton, alfalfa, winter vegetables, dairing and fruits are produced. Canals carry the water from Elephant Butte reservoir of the U.S. Reclamation Service located up the Rio Grande in New Mexico 110 mi. north of El Paso—largest artificial lake in North America. This reservoir covers 40,000 A. and impounds water to irrigate 200,000 A. in the Palomas, Rincon, upper and lower Mesilla. El Paso and Juarez valleys. Elephant Butte dam is 806 ft. high, 1,674 long. Lake is 45 mi. long with 206 mi. of shore line. (Sec adv.)

HOTELS—PASO DEL NORTE, refined, well-liked, El Paso largest hotel; auto club headquarters in lobby. **SHELDON**, moderate, well located, cafeteria, tourist bureau. **HUSSMANN**, new, fine hotel.

CAMP GRANDE is one of the best auto camps in the U. S., all kinds of accommodations, attentions and comforts.

CIUDAD JUAREZ across the Rio Grande, pop. 15,000, is the largest Mexican city on the border in population, exports and imports. Characteristically Mexican, it is visited and enjoyed by more travelers than any border city. The Chamber of Commerce or your hotel will give tourist passport or information.

INF.—El Paso Automobile Club (AAA) at Paso del Norte Hotel. Also Camp Grande. Time changes here; reset your watch.

TEXAS-NEW MEXICO STATE LINE

Anthony, N. M.

NEW MEXICO—192 MILES

Road Conditions

Pavement El Paso to Las Cruces, then Federal Aid gravel across the State. Old trail west from Mesilla Park now replaced with new road thru Las Cruces to Deming. Maintenance across New Mexico is good.

Description of Country

Up the Rio Grande Valley to Las Cruces are irrigated districts of the Elephant Butte reservoir; Las Cruces is a commercial center for these sections and a nice little city. Most of the section westward from La Cruces is sandy desert relieved at times by mountain peaks. Some irrigation, not much. Some stock raising. Silver and copper are mined. Deming and Lordsburg are busy little cities. Travel conveniences are along the way. The drinking water is soft and good.

Old History

The Spanish trail of ancient days and the overland trail of pioneer and stage coach days crossed about as the highway of today runs. Spanish works were confined to the Rio Grande Valley, El Paso to Santa Fe. Their next important seat of effort was the Santa Cruz Valley in northern Mexico and then Nogales to Tucson.

ANTHONY. The business section in Texas; the P. O. and many residences in New Mexico. This is a section of the Camino Real (King's Highway) from Mexico City to Santa Fe and one of the oldest roads in the U.S. groups of the crude adobe and peasant houses of the Mexican laborers are seen along the way. Everything is characteristic of simple outdoor life. Numerous garages and service stations along the way.

MESILLA PARK. Supported by the A. & M. College. Two country hotels. Free camp space.

***LAS CRUCES.** The highway turns westward thru Las Cruces by new gravel road to Cambray to Deming. Las Cruces means "The Crosses;" it is the commercial center of the Elephant Butte irrigation in New Mexico. Three miles west is Old Mesilla; La Mesilla of the San Antonio—San Diego stage coach days and of the overland trail of the California gold rush and subsequent settlement of California; it was the capital of the Southwest Territory when that was a vast empire of legend and mystery and the county seat of Doña Ana County when that county was a Spanish and called arid. The Spanish conquistadors and the frocked padres traveled up this Rio Grande Valley to Santa Fe and that interesting New Mexico country, made their settlements and planted their missions before Plymouth and the Atlantic coast settlements were thought of.

CAMPBELL HOTEL is good; leads. Also **AMADOR** and **DON BERNARDO**, frequently fill early. Cottage camp \$1.00 and \$3.00, very complete. Free camp space. Inf.—Chamber of Commerce.

RIO GRANDE RIVER, crossed westward.

THE DESERT NOT DESERTED

In far West Texas and across New Mexico and parts of Arizona, and called arid, the sands are crossed by the Old Spanish Trail often referred to as deserts. They are not deserted. Cities of refinement reach hands across these lands for many love the mystery and life and sunshine of the Southwest while the soils need only the magic touch of water to spring into life as fruitful as the oases of Biskra or the garden spots of Arabia. Mountains rear their crests with friendly greeting and nature plays her undefinable colors on their rugged sides. The sands are redeemed by the graceful mesquite, the tangled vine, the bayonet shaped yucca and its bouquet of white bloom in spring, the cañal of a hundred mystic types and their delicate flowering, the ironwood blossoms, the flaming flower of the ocotillo that grow mysteriously and proudly among the rocks. Strangeness, mystery and vastness; it is the dwelling place of the Great Spirit!

Irrigation is spreading its broad mantle, joining with sunshine and fertility and the sands lead to life and send products of incredible variety to the tables of the frozen north. Ft. Stockton and Balmorhea, Texas, are gardens in the desert watered by great springs. The Rio Grande Valley thru Ft. Hancock, Fabens, Ysleta, Juarez, El Paso, Mesilla and Las Cruces is redeemed and enriched by the big Elephant Butte reservoir in New Mexico, 110 mi. north of El Paso, Southern New Mexico is still unredeemed but underground reservoirs reached by shallow wells underlie great areas. On westward Mormons are irrigating along the San Pedro River. Irrigation is around Tucson. Westward at Florence the great Coolidge Dam is building to transform more areas of hot sands into semi-tropical gardens of wealth. The Salt River Valley near Phoenix is green fields and colorful life breaks on the desert traveler like a benediction; the Roosevelt reservoir that mothers it all seems a distant sacrament. Over in California the sandy bed of the old Salton Sea is now the Imperial Valley growing green gold. The desert is not deserted. A great highway gives comfortable travel thru it and travel service is plentiful along the way. Soft, fine water, prevailing in this sandy country with but a few places not so fortunate.

***DEMING.** An interesting city in the midst of an apparent desert but those plains are underlaid with abundant water for irrigation and the sands are fertile. Mines, forests and cattle ranches are around. Three railroads. Pure, soft drinking water is characteristic of this country—and of most of the Old Spanish Trail territory.