

The Old Spanish Trail in its Larger Conception and as Divided by Natural and Historical Lines

In various states there are historical sections not on the Old Spanish Trail as now laid down. There is an increasing demand from such sections for identification with this highway. It would seem as though the present highway, as mapped, should be treated as the main line or backbone of a system into which all natural or historical sections could be linked.

Proposals will come before the convention to amend the constitution to carry out these projects. The following is a suggestion of historical and geographical divisions that are possible and natural. It will be used as a basis of discussion at the convention when these amendments arise. If adopted a Vice-President will be elected for each division.

I. SOUTH FLORIDA DIVISION, 600 MILES, MAIN LINES.

East Coast to Miami and West Coast to Tampa, and to include tributaries. Tampa is the ancient gateway of De Soto, De Narvaez and the early explorers. St. Augustine is the oldest city in the United States. All South Florida is rich in old Spanish history. Florida was Spanish until 1819.

II. NORTH FLORIDA DIVISION, 450 MILES, MAIN LINE.

St. Augustine to the Florida-Alabama line, thru Jacksonville, Tallahassee and Pensacola, and to include tributaries.

Pensacola was the ancient gateway of the Spanish in West Florida and Pensacola claims the most ancient history of any city in the land. The ancient trail of the Spanish connected Pensacola and St. Augustine. St. Augustine is the natural, historical terminus on the Atlantic seaboard.

III. MOBILE DIVISION, 90 MILES, MAIN LINE.

Includes Alabama and also Mississippi to the Pascagoula River, and to include tributaries.

First indefinitely Spanish, then a part of the Old Louisiana of the French. Mauvila was the ancient Indian Kingdom where De Soto's great expedition encountered disaster. That was the first decisive battle in the United States. Mobile takes its name from Mauvila, and the Old Spanish Trail had its birth at Mobile in 1915.

IV. NEW ORLEANS DIVISION, 400 MILES, MAIN LINE.

Includes Mississippi from the Pascagoula River and all of Louisiana.

~~First~~ indefinitely Spanish, then colonized by the French. Spanish at the time of the American Revolution, afterward again French, later sold to the United States by Napoleon.

V. HOUSTON DIVISION, 225 MILES, MAIN LINE.

From the Louisiana line (Sabine River) to Schulenburg, Texas, and to include tributaries. Galveston, with many touches of old Spanish history, and named for Galvez once Governor of Louisiana in Spanish time, should be embraced. The battlefield of San Jacinto where Texas won independence from Santa Anna is near Houston. Government under various flags was at times centered at the little settlement of Houston. The city has much of interest to develop and offer for the pleasure of the traveler.

VI. SAN ANTONIO DIVISION, 600 MILES, MAIN LINE.

From Schulenburg to Vanhorn, Texas, and to include tributaries.

Colonized and held by the Spanish when the French threatened Spanish dominion by occupying the Mississippi River territory. San Antonio is an ancient mission, military, governmental and social center of the Spanish.