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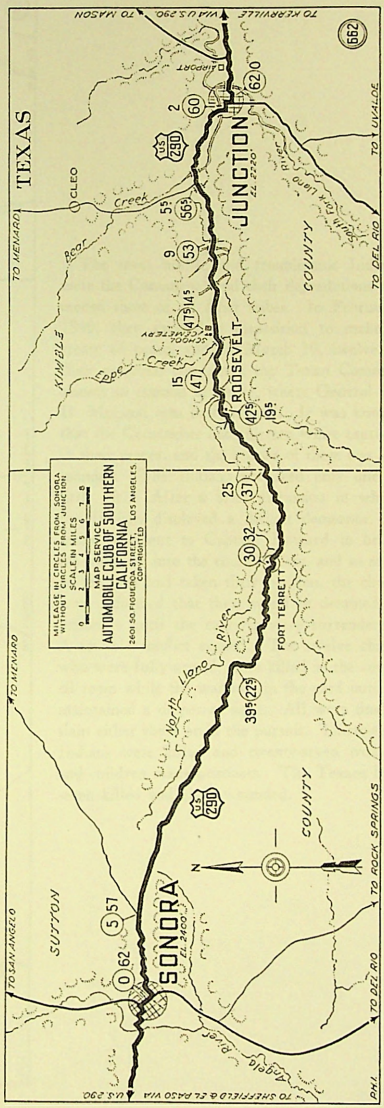
From San Antonio to San Diego, California, ruins and records of old forts will frequently be observed on or near the highway. The Old Spanish Trail is through one of the most historical frontiers on the continent. In Spanish days missions and garrisons guarded the northern Spanish frontier. After the Mexican war and the annexations it became the southern United States frontier. The gold rush to California made this the stage coach, freighters and emigrants trail, with San Antonio the great clearing house. Frontier posts protected the traveler. You visualize the bigness of Texas when you look at the length of its side which borders on Mexico. It has been said that "if you should tip the State up and drop it north, it would fall on St. Paul; tip it east and it would splash in the Atlantic; south, it would blot out most of Mexico." Its area is more than double that of the British Isles. You realize its emptiness, too, when you travel through some of its border regions where the population is less than two per square mile. No section of the border has seen so much of difficulty and turbulent activity as Texas.