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Etching conquistador
mounted 4

highway construction are proud that the soul of the crusaders is not dead.

¶ *Several*

~~Two~~ illustrations, ~~one from California and one from Florida~~, will show the enthusiasms of the early efforts, and of the pluck with which the groups fought their battles when they found that enthusiasm alone was not sufficient.

One of the first "triumphs" was celebrated in Florida with bands and barbecue when \$55,000 was ~~gathered~~ gathered together for a vital bridge. That bridge, over the Apalachicola River, was not opened until many years later, and then the cost stood at over \$800,000. In passing let me say that many eastern bridges and causeways were "financed" early for sums that then seemed fabulous, and were completed five to seven years later at costs that ran into millions. *Forty miles of bridges and causeways have*

been built.

¶ In West Texas a road had to be laid for 400 miles across the cattle ranches, threading thru pastures and outflinging a double line of fences to ^{protect} protect cattle and travelers. The ranchmen had little need for an expensive highway yet they provided it should go thru. The bonds they voted made a high per-capita tax. Then as individuals they built the fences. Now they are at work modernizing that rugged West Texas Hill sector.

San Diego had those sand hills and the Mountain Springs trail. When San Diegans carried lumber to those sand hills and built that plank road back in the early days they too were welding enthusiasms and pluck into a spirit that could not be defeated. So also when they passed the hat in San Diego to blast a trail through granite mountains, and again to help build east of Yuma, Arizona. They kept the way open and held fast until their primitive trails were paved by skilled engineers and an open corridor permanently laid to San Diego's doors.

¶ It is this crusading spirit in all these southern borderland States that keeps this country so interesting and that has now opened this automobile artery along the trails and thru the lands of the Spanish crusaders of past centuries.

¶ These modern pioneers ~~already~~ glow with pride as they contemplate the fruits of their hardships and struggles. I believe there has been behind this Old Spanish Trail something of that omnipotence that at times raises up men and drives them to conquer and achieve.