

today throught the United States. These thoughts were new when these women were called to this work.

In 1925 the United States highways were designated. The Old Spanish Trail thru west Texas was not included; the Del Rio road was designated. Falling to correct this in Texas, Mr. Ayres in April 1926 again went to Washington. There this question was reopened, then with the aid of Texas and Washington officials and Congressman Wurzbach the west Texas hill country route was designated and the Old Spanish Trail from Saint Augustine to San Diego became wholly a United States highway and subject to primary consideration of all officials.

November 17, 1923, a marble shaft fixing the Pacific terminus was dedicated at San Diego by an address by President Coolidge, read by Col. Ed Fletcher. March 27, 1924, a prehistoric boulder was placed at San Antonio's old Spanish center of trails, roads and surveys. The dedication address was by Governor Pat Neff. The Old Trail drivers reenacted their old time stage coach and freight wagon experiences. Finally at Saint Augustine, the beginning-point of the trail, the Exchange club erected a commanding monument.

April 2-3-4, 1929, at Saint Augustine the formal opening of the Old Spanish Trail across the continent was celebrated with old Spanish pageantry that cost those people \$16,000 and this monument was dedicated with national and international acclaim, for among the dedication speakers was a representative of the king of Spain. San Diego, California, organized a motorcade and sent eminent citizens that crossed the continent and brought various state delegations to the celebration.

The government of Spain had its representative at the Saint Augustine celebration and he delivered one of the addresses that dedicated the rail to the American people and in memory of the old Spanish fathers. Premier de Rivera cabled congratulations in the name of his majesty the king. And now comes to Manager Ayres, who has led this work thru these years, distinguished honor from the Spanish crown, and thru him honor and recognition to all that have done their part in this Old Spanish Trail work.

In 1528 a large Spanish expedition landed near the present Tampa bay, Florida. That expedition of Panfilo de Narvaez fought its way around to the present Tallahassee country. Indian

opposition was vigorous. At the bay south of Tallahassee they called San Marco they built cruises and sought to escape to Mexico. Some barges sank on the Texas shore. Narvaez's treasurer, Alvar Cabeza de Vaca, and three others, lived slaves to the Indians for six years, the only survivors of the expedition, then escaped across this part of Texas, passed thru or near the present El Paso, and in 1539, eight years after their proud landing in Florida, reached Culiacan on the west coast of Mexico.

Thus, may it be said, was the first Spanish trail blazed across the continent. During nearly three centuries following the Spanish carried their explorations and their mission works thru the southern part of the continent. Saint Augustine, San Antonio, El Paso and San Diego became Spanish capitals and centers for mission works. New Orleans was settled and developed by the French and for a period was ruled by the Spanish and their works were extended in that Louisiana country. In Arizona the Tucson-Nogales country in Arizona became an important mission center.

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