

when such thrilling history was associated with the Fall of the Alamo and the heroes that died there." They naively added that most of them were gentlemen and scholars. That epoch was great and vital but that Spanish century was a remarkable one and if a group can be held together until the broad basic history is told of that century, others will go on with the work just as many have kept spreading the old Spanish story of California since the basic history was published.

I am not unmindful of getting into the open the true story of Spanish effort in Texas but in sixteen different ways groups are working with me, and we are getting some good results....or I am very wrong in many conclusions. I have been able to draw forth some fine talent.

The Texas Centennial will be in 1936. I believe if we can get the story of the old trails, and their course, well told, that the whole story of those dynamic Spanish empire builders will be interesting to visitors. There are potential leaders in the Centennial movement who are thinking with me in this. People here think only of San Antonio and Goliad in the Spanish history direction; and in a small and stereotyped way at that. I am coming to believe that Laredo is an important cog in the Spanish history centers of Spanish South Texas.

The highway department should be thinking, and acting, in behalf of the Camino Real San Antonio southward, but not down into the brush and mesquite at Presidio del Rio as they are now commanded. Laredo should be thinking of this.

I am President of the Old Spanish Trail, Florida to California, but not much occupied with this now. I have however gathered for years Spanish history across the continent from St. Augustine to San Diego. I have been decorated by the King of Spain; an Comandador of the Royal Order of Isabel la Catolica. It happens that at that ceremony the representative of the King enjoined upon me to continue the development of the old Spanish history in this country. If I am consistent this means not a transcontinental Old Spanish Trail alone but that great Camino Real thru Texas and down to Mexico City. This information is merely interesting side light except it emphasizes reasons I have for the interest I take in this old history. Unfortunately I am not financially independent and much has moved slowly I would have liked to push faster.

If we can establish the history and course of this old trail, and can publicize its historic value, it will have important relation to the Centennial plans. And it will help get across the correct perspective regarding the building of the old historic trail by the highway department. I am not sure just what history information may be found in Laredo, I am hoping you may have some thoughts and suggestions you can write without such trouble. Whether there is information there bearing on the trail to San Antonio, I of course do not know. We can carry the study clearly to the junction south of Jourdanton, and I believe the old trail was down thru what became Ft. Woll in later years. I trust you will forgive so long a letter,

Sincerely,

GUNTER HOTEL