



OLD SPANISH TRAIL MEXICO-CALIFORNIA
 SUNNY SOUTH AND THROUGH THE GREAT SOUTHWEST
 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.



Handwritten notes:
 sent to
 County
 Commission
 Officials
 in
 Beaumont
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 Orange
 Mrs. J. H. Bennett, S. O. Tex.
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MEMORANDA RESPECTING ATTEMPT TO CHANGE NAME
 OF THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL IN TEXAS.

May 26, 1925.

Reports come from many sections that the people do not want any interference with the name or work of the Old Spanish Trail. Schulenburg has signed a position with 131 signatures; this is being mailed today to the Highway Commission. Other towns have sent word they will unanimously protest this action of the Highway Commission.

Press clippings from all over the State show that the newspapers, editorially and in the news columns, object to any interference with the name or work of national highways; these clippings also show a nice recognition of the value of the Old Spanish Trail, its name, its historical interest, and its importance to the State of Texas.

The Beaumont Enterprise published in connection with the Neches bridge opening:-

"Some idea of how the public resented the change was brought out during the course of the remarks made by H. J. Lucher Stark in introducing Governor Ferguson. When he deplored the action of the Highway Commission in attempting to change the name of the Old Spanish Trail, there was a rousing response from those who had gathered to participate in the exercises. It was very evident that there was not a single voice to sustain the Highway Commission in its recent action, whether it had been done largely through error, as was intimated by Mr. Smith, or intentionally.

"The enthusiasm over the name was apparently largely brought about by the fact that it has for its foundation an appealing history and the Trail through Texas and other states it traverses have adopted it in its entirety."

Junction, Sonora, and Balmorhea leaders have very positively said they want no change and that they will make their protest. Ft. Stockton Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to protest and decided among other things a delegation from the West Texas towns to Austin would be best. General J. F. Wolters, of Houston, thinks it best committees should call on Governor Ferguson and the Highway Commission; also that all who can should write to Governor Ferguson. The Galveston Auto Association unanimously opposes change.

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For many years a little group of women under the leadership of Miss Decca Lemar West of Waco have been pestering CST workers for permission or assistance to also mark the Old Spanish Trail as the Jefferson Davis Highway or to find some means to appropriate the project. They have never, so far as we know, given one dollar or one hour's time to the development of the project. They speak of the Lincoln Highway as a memorial in the North and close their eyes to the fact the members of that organization have spent over a half million of dollars to promote that work. They also ignore the fact that southern people have promoted the Lee Highway, and given extensively of time and money to do it, and that apparently this represents the South's attitude on this matter. They also ignore the fact that Old Spanish Trail members have spent over \$100,000 in money and ten years of work. Instead they dishonor womanhood by attempting a cheap piracy, and they dishonor the name of Jefferson Davis by attempting to fasten a label in his name or something to which they have no right. They would discredit and dishonor Texas by making us unfaithful to the other states that have trusted us to lead in this Old Spanish Trail work. They would hurt the industrial interests of Texas by tearing down a good will built by ten years of work and acknowledged in every state in the Union by editors, national organizations, schools, colleges, libraries, educators, map makers, tourist agencies, screen manufacturers, lecturers, auto clubs, and chambers of commerce (for our files show all this