

ROAD IMPROVEMENT PLANS

1. Paving with concrete or asphalt must be completed from Bay St. Louis to the Texas line; also across Baldwin county, Ala. Pavement then will be complete from St. Augustine and all East Florida to San Antonio, Texas-- and to West Texas-- and to the Mexican border and on the way to Mexico City. It will also be complete from New York and various northern points down to the OST at Mobile and other eastern points. Paved trunk lines are also coming southward through western states.
2. A federal standard road now prevails from San Antonio to California, except for two or three minor sections. It is 25% paved and constantly improving. Broad roads and easy driving prevails.
3. Improvements include proper routes through cities and towns; widening rights of way to a minimum of 80 ft.; making curves safer; widening culverts; replacing old bridges; increasing safety conditions generally.

COMMENTS.

MOST OF THIS PROGRAM IS NOW IN OBEYANCE UNTIL IT CAN BE DETERMINED WHETHER THE MISSISSIPPI COAST IS TO COOPERATE. THE REASONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

Sectional financing of the work can no longer be sustained.

Alabama and Florida cannot satisfactorily cooperate with the West if the Mississippi Coast is a blank in between.

Travelogs and maps cannot be continued, paid for by some sections and not paid for by others.

The motorcade cannot start from California to run to St. Augustine, nor preliminaries begun unless all sections are behind it. This motorcade totaled 635 cars at Memphis last year. If eastern interest is not established this motorcade will be supported from San Diego, to El Paso, to San Antonio, to Monterey, Mexico, to Hot Springs, Ark., returning by Carlsbad Caverns to California.

If the Old Spanish Trail marking is not put across the East the highway will gradually become colorless U. S. 90.

If the paving from Bay St. Louis to the Texas line is not promptly completed then that helps the West intrench the travel stream on the old established northern routes. Louisiana has organized a Louisiana OST unit and wants the co-operation of a similar unit in Mississippi.

IT IS REALIZED THE COAST HAS BUILT WELL ITS PART OF THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL. OUR TRIBUTE MUST BE PAID ALSO TO THE OTHERS THAT HAVE DONE SO MUCH TO OPEN THIS HIGHWAY ACROSS THE CONTINENT. IT IS ALSO REALIZED THE PROGRAM FOR DRAWING TRAVEL AND TRAVEL-DIVIDENDS IS NOT YET WELL UNDERSTOOD HERE.

MY STAY ON THE COAST CANNOT BE EXTENDED MUCH LONGER. IF A WAY COULD BE FOUND FOR THE COAST PEOPLE TO MEET AND TALK THESE QUESTIONS OVER EVERYONE INCLUDING NATIONAL OFFICIALS WOULD BE HELPED.

Great Southern Hotel
Gulfport, Mississippi.

Harrel Ayers,
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