

## LOUISIANA

# ZERO Milestones at San Diego San Antonio and St. Augustine

Nature gave southern Louisiana rare and appealing scenery. Literature and art have woven the spell of romance about it. The French, Spanish, English and other races by their explorations, conquests and settlements beginning 1699 have given the country an ancient historical background as alluring as anything on the North American continent. Now thousands of miles of gravelled roads invite you to drive and play, to fish and hunt, to visit and learn, and to settle and prosper.

### REMARKABLE NATURAL RESOURCES

Along the Old Spanish Trail are industries that rank as largest in the world—the largest sugar refinery and large sugar mills; the finding the bottom: rice fields embracing a half a million acres; sugar plantations conducted like industrial plants; the largest cypress mills; the largest brick yards; the rich acreage of early strawberries; the wild bird and animal preserves; the oil fields that have steadily produced for a generation; the prodigal forests of lumber; the "Little Holland" spreading over the lower delta of the Mississippi; and finally, the vast net-work of inland waterways, and the crowded array of Gulf coast inlets and bayous, where hunting, fishing, boating and cruising may be enjoyed amid scenes of endless charm and wildness.

### SCHOOLS

The school system is rated among the best in the United States, and new school buildings of commanding type are continually observed. Public improvements, public playgrounds and opportunities for relaxation are showing progressive development.

### BATHING AND HUNTING RESORTS

Bathing and resort beaches, camping and hunting grounds, on the salt and the fresh waterways, some of them developing national interest, have gravelled roads leading to them or building. These roads threading a country so well developed and interesting, and tying together two thousand miles of inland waterways and the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico, will open a land of unusual tourist attraction.

### THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASINS

In the eastern section, from the Mississippi state line to Morgan City, is the ancient Mississippi river basin, better known today as the basins of the present Mississippi river, of Bayou Lafourche, and of the Atchafalaya river. Anciently the mouth of the Mississippi river was far back northward and its channels formed these basins. Through this delta area is a web of bayous and lakes, and rich lands growing sugar, corn, potatoes, early truck and cattle, sustaining fisheries and fostering industry. Commanding the Mississippi Basin is New Orleans, America's most interesting city. In the Lafourche Basin are the basins of the Atchafalaya Basin. Morgan City and Patterson are the land, Thibodaux and Houma.

### THE EVANGELINE COUNTRY

West of these basins begin the highlands. From far up in Louisiana the Bayou Teche finds its way down to the Atchafalaya outlet. The Acadian exiles settled the Teche country. Evangeline lived on this land. The OST runs along the Bayou Teche, with the moss-draped live oak and the stately pecan and cypress shading the banks. Jeanerette and St. Martinville are cities of the Acadian country rich in legends of the past.

### THE CREST OF THE COUNTRY

Westward again, at Broussard and Lafayette, are the high elevations on the Old Spanish Trail in Louisiana. At Broussard is one of the big sugar mills. Lafayette is a coming capital of southern Louisiana. In that parish the lands of sugar, corn, cotton and rice meet and mingle, and beyond the domain of rice begins.

### THE RICE LANDS

Vast areas of rice extend over southwest Louisiana. The elevations drop a little, the lands are level and underlaid with reservoirs of water. The Mermentau river and its tributaries drain the area. The fields are irrigated by little levees, immense pumping plants draw millions of gallons of water from the bayous, and from levees 300 to 400 ft. deep, and send it thru thousands of miles of irrigation canals to flood the growing rice. This country is new. The cities and towns are new and attractive, built by a race of pioneers from Louisiana and the other states. Rayne, Crowley, Jennings, Welsh and Lake Charles are the rice centers.

### COTTON AND CATTLE

Southwestern Louisiana is also producing cotton and cattle. Cotton of the finest staple is promising to share with rice in the production of wealth for the section.

### THE SABINE BASIN

The Louisiana-Texas line is the Sabine river, another of the drainage basins of the southern part of the continent. Lake Charles, Vinton and the sulphur mines lie in this area, and across the line into Texas new types begin.

### ZERO MILESTONES

As the highway is built on its permanent location the mileage will be accurately surveyed and mileposts of historical significance will be placed. The Women's Department of Beautification is now inviting designs for these mileposts.

The zero stone at San Diego was dedicated 1923 by an address of President Coolidge read by Col. Ed. Fletcher of San Diego.

The stone at San Antonio was dedicated 1924 by Governor Pat Neff, city, state, federal and army officials, women's clubs and the Old Freighters Association.

The stone at St. Augustine was erected in 1921 to perpetuate Old Spanish Trail history locally and should serve as the zero monument for that terminal.

