

## Road Conditions

Pavement and oiled gravel, 146 mi. with remainder, 32 mi., decomposed granite. The Sand Hills, one of the real deserts and long a terror to travelers, now good pavement. The Mountain Springs grade with its steep cliffs now concrete.

## Description of Country

The Old Spanish Trail in California is close to the Mexican border for many miles. West from Yuma 7 mi. and 1½ mi. south on the border are the head gates of the Imperial Valley irrigation; the water comes thru Mexico. Across the line is Algodones, Mexico, with several saloons, one it is claimed costing \$47,000. South of Holtville and El Centro are the Mexican border towns of Calexico and Mexicali. In the Imperial Valley the traveler is 50 ft. below sea level in the bed of the old Salton Sea; shortly the mountains are crossed at 4,493 ft. elevation; thru the mountains are resorts and camps a-top the world; at San Diego and the sea are hills and valleys.

## Old History

San Diego is the end of the Old Spanish Trail and the beginning of the last works of the Spanish in the U.S. In 1769 the San Diego mission was founded—201 yrs. after St. Augustine. During the American Revolution the Spanish were building that great chain of missions up the California coast.

FT. YUMA. A settlement at the Yuma Indian Reservation. Officials here search your car and baggage to prevent entry of plant or fruit diseases. Cabin camp, 25¢ to \$1.25.

GRAY'S WELL. West from Yuma 21 mi., in the sand hill section. Good water from a deep well, phone, store. All night lunch, gas and other service at Peg's Place. Peg Hunt is said to know the highway situation in the southwest and he appreciates travelers stopping for any service.

HOLTVILLE. One of the Imperial Valley centers. Two hotels. Three cabin camps. good. A road south to Mexicali, Mexico. Inf.—Chamber of Commerce.

\*EL CENTRO. Commercial center of the Imperial Valley, one of the great irrigation districts of the world. A busy, prosperous city. HOTEL BARBARA WORTH leads, a fine hotel. OREGON HOTEL, remodeled, refurbished. Good cabin camp. Calexico and Mexicali, border towns, south. Inf.—Chamber of Commerce. Also Auto Club of Southern California branch.

MOUNTAIN SPRINGS. 35 mi. west. Store, garage, water. Established by Government in 1846. Devil's Canyon near. Splendid scenery thru these mountains. 7% grade, concrete pavement.

JACUMBA HOT SPRINGS. 44 mi. west. Mountain resort for Imperial Valley people. Elevation, 2,900 ft. Hot sulphur baths. Cold spring. Concrete pool, dance hall, etc. HOTEL VAUGHN, 65 rms. old. Jacumba, cabin camp, 25¢ to 75¢. Inf.—Bert L. Vaughn. Also old Jacumba (Ha-comba) with modern hotel. Mistletoe Lodge 1 mi. west and cottages.

BOULEVARD. Store and supplies. Summer resort. Camp. West to San Diego 70.5 mi. are settlements, mountain, valley and spring camping places, cabin auto camps, furnished cabins, small hotels, meals, etc. The mountain summit is passed at 4,103 ft. In Arizona. New Mexico and Texas higher elevations are reached. These are listed under Bisbee, Ariz. summit.

\*SAN DIEGO. This is the Pacific Terminus of the Old Spanish Trail. It was the beginning of the Spanish occupation of California. The first mission, San Diego de Alcala, was started in 1769, then followed those other sanctuaries "a day's journey apart" northward and beyond San Francisco, twenty-one in all. While the patriots

\*PHOENIX. Capital of Arizona, a winter health resort, commercial center of the noted Salt River irrigation district. Phoenix is growing fast. Americans are there from every state and are building a fine American city. There are 440 mi. of paved roads and streets in the valley. The fields grow all kinds of produce. The drives are a refreshing experience. Roosevelt Dam is 90 mi. east.

Hotels.—ADAMS leads. LUHRIS and SAVOY, moderate priced and good. Two cabin camps and one auto camp, east side; one cabin camp west 14 mi., good. Inf.—Chamber of Commerce and the Automobile Club of Arizona.

## THE GILA TRAIL

The general course of the Gila River is now followed to Yuma, where the Colorado and the Gila join and the Colorado was crossed to California. The bleak sands and their drab surroundings are a monotonous journey, but they are soils that only await irrigation to transform this desert as others have been. Down the Gila the barefoot padres plodded carrying their story to the Indians. Many missions were established; 48,000 Indians were reported converted. The Santa Cruz Valley missions below Tucson were their seat of effort; from and thru that section the conquistadores marched to conquer and settle California and the padres to plant the missions along the Pacific Coast. A Spanish expedition over this trail in 1739 settled San Francisco. Later the restless Americans flowed along this river trail in the gold rush and the pioneer days, and it was the route of the stage, coach and mule trains and Yuma a stage station. The Gila River was a thread of life across the desert. Gen. Kearny marched this way in 1846. John C. Fremont and Kit Carson traveled it. The amazing Mormon battalion passed this way from Missouri to San Diego. The Apaches fought with desperation and courage, but the West was conquered.

BUCKEYE. A valley settlement. The Buckeye and the Arlington irrigation districts are passed, watered from a brush diversion dam up the Gila River. CAMPBELL HOTEL. Free camp. Cabins \$1.00.

HASSAYAMPA RIVER. 9 mi. west of Buckeye.

GILA RIVER. Crossed at Gillespie Dam 20 mi. west of Buckeye; new bridge opened July 1927.

GILA BEND. Irrigation from Gillespie Dam now waters about 10,000 a. below Gila Bend; there is capacity for 80,000 a. STOUT'S HOTEL, well kept. Cabin camp \$1.00. Also free camp.

SENTINEL. A desert country. THE SENTINEL, small country hotel. Free camp, also cabin camp \$1.00. Keep stocked with water, supplies and emergency equipment. Aztec 14 mi. west; store, garage, meals, camp.

MOHAWK. Two stores, two garages, lunch. Free camp place; also cabins. Water is hauled.

WELLTON. Sandy mesa. Irrigation from wells a future possibility. Fred Hughes the active personality. Fred's WELLTON HOTEL, best between Phoenix and Yuma; 24 rms. restaurant all night. Fred's garage, good. Free camp and showers.

\*YUMA. Jct. of Gila and Colorado rivers. Gateway to Southern California. Ancient Spanish river crossing in the conquest and development of the Southwest. Today Yuma is a busy, growing city. Yuma Indians and their wives add a picturesque touch. Irrigation from Laguna Dam on the Colorado River; the cultivated areas 12 mi. south of Yuma. Time changes; reset your watch.

The DEL MING HOTEL leads; also HOTEL ARIZONA. HOTEL AIDMORE, upstairs rms., good. Several cabin camps with numerous cabins. Inf.—Chamber of Commerce.

## ARIZONA-CALIFORNIA STATE LINE

Colorado River