

There are several tributaries in South Texas with San Antonio as a center. With the settlement of San Antonio a new trail developed from Mexico City through San Antonio to Nacogdoches and then into French territory at Natchitoches and on to New Orleans and Mobile--the Old San Antonio Road (El Camino Real; the King's Highway) now marked every 5 ms. by the D. A. R.

When LaSalle landed on Texas soil and the French later occupied Louisiana, the Spanish worked up from Mexico to protect Texas territory, and if possible to prosecute her claims to the Mississippi Valley country. San Antonio and New Orleans started the same year (1718), each becoming the military seat of empire. San Antonio became the seat of Franciscan missions of the diocese of San Antonio. New Orleans became the Louisiana seat of the Jesuit diocese of Quebec. Nacogdoches was the Spanish military and mission frontier and Natchitoches was the French frontier post. Missions were also planted at Uvalde and near the old silver mine at Menard.

VII. EL PASO DIVISION -- 870 Miles, Main Lines.

Van Horn westward through and including New Mexico (336 ms.) and the Rio Grande Valley northward in New Mexico to Santa Fe (332 ms.). Also to include tributaries.

The oldest and most romantic works in the Spanish Southwest, Santa Fe is the second oldest city in the United States. The prehistoric Indian works and the old Spanish adventure and effort are an interwoven romance. This is all naturally a part of the Old Spanish Trail system.