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BULLETIN TO MEMBERS FEBRUARY 20TH, 1922

BIG CONSTRUCTION IN PROGRESS

This is to be a story of construction in progress. The OST has the reputation of having more building activity than any other transcontinental highway. This is due in part to the widespread faith in the Old Spanish Trail as a great highway, and in part to the fact that OST staff men are continually busy somewhere getting problems solved. The OST crosses the great drainage system of the continent at their worst—near the Gulf. It is a highway conquering difficulties for the service of the people, not one seeking easy courses.

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR IN THE EAST

Managing Director Ayres has been, since the first of the year, in the East. Mississippi, Alabama and Florida are soon to be marked, section maps issued and other data compiled for travelers. Many tourists are found who are having difficulty getting over this section. Divisional Conference too will be called in each state. The cities or towns to handle these conferences are to be selected. The people must prepare for increased traffic and provide for it.

THE TEXAS WORK

D. E. Colp, the Manager of the Texas District, is everywhere, working night and day. The work seems unending—that's the cost of getting right down with the people and getting things done. The President, Dr. Fred B. Johnston, has taken charge of Headquarters in the absence of the Managing Director.

FLORIDA CONDITIONS

Florida, with limited money for the whole state, is pursuing the wise policy of bridging the great waterways of the Old Spanish Trail thru North Florida and leaving the roads for a while to the counties. This will let traffic thru, for the roads can be made comfortable when the bridges cross the rivers. West of Jacksonville, thru to Lake City, 52.67 ms. jam with a bituminous top, and the remainder for 6 inch reinforced concrete.

THE FLORIDA BRIDGES

APALACHICOLA—to be opened in April; approaches to be extended gradually. To cost \$1,000,000.00; total length land and water structures, 5,500 ft. Classed by engineers as a "monumental structure."  
 CHOCTAWHATCHEE—Contracts let. 8,000 ft. including approaches.  
 BLACKWATER, at Milton—completed recently. Cement foundation, 48 ft. under water, piling 25 ft. deeper. The foundation so deep and difficult the state had to assume the work.

ESCAMBIA, 10 ms. east of Pensacola—financed. Federal aid for \$250,000 just allowed; \$250,000 additional promised for 1923. Escambia County has \$2,000,000 in bonds voted. Bridge to be 3 ms. long. Six months time in engineering surveys, the most complete engineering study of conditions of any highway project in Florida. Judge H. B. Phillips is Chairman of the Florida Road Department; J. D. Smith, Marianna and W. J. Hillman, Live Oak, are Commissioners on the OST. James Austen Mortland is the bridge engineer. With compliments to all of them for the type of work they are doing and the difficulties they are conquering.

PENSACOLA

The story of Escambia Bridge is also the story of great achievement by Pensacola—a place noted for its attraction since the earliest Spanish Adventure, and a city of destiny when the OST is open and other big works are completed. Fred W. Marsh, Vice-President of the OST, is one of the leaders in all this.

ALABAMA

Two counties project at the bottom of Alabama with Mobile Bay 8 ms. wide lying between, and the OST crosses the bottom of these. Mobile is on the west shore of the bay. On the east shore and extending to the Florida line is Baldwin County with 600,000 satsuma orange trees and great groves of paper shell pecans. Its Eastern Bay Shore is a delightful resort summer and winter. Baldwin County is another spot that will flower and fruit when traffic club in the East. With road holidays they are putting gets thru. Her people have organized the strongest OST their road in condition. A campsite has been opened at Daphne and others are planned. In a month the highway will be marked across Baldwin County. The women are intending to plant azaleas, japonicas and other flowering shrubs along the road-side. These shrubs are in bloom in that county now. Alabama has just voted \$25,000,000 in state road bonds. Senator John Craft, Alabama Vice-President of the OST, is the "Father of Good Roads" in Alabama and tireless in that work. He and the people of those two counties are now organizing to profit at once from this state program. Bridging the Bay is a part of the plan.



BIENVILLE SQUARE

On Bienville's Monument in this Square in Mobile is this inscription:  
 To Jean Baptiste le Moyne Sieurs de Bienville. Native of Montreal, Canada. Naval Officer of France. Governor of Louisiana and Founder of the First Capital, Mobile, 1711. Born 1680—Died 1768. With the Genius to Create an Empire and the Courage to Maintain it. Patient Amid Faction and Successful even in Defeat, he Brought his Settlement the Prosperity of True Civilization and the Happiness of Real Christianity. He Who Found a City Builds Himself A Life-long Monument.  
 By this inscription Mobile is credited with being the first capital of Louisiana. Others say Biloxi was the first capital.