

CONSTRUCTION OF THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL
A RECORD IN ACHIEVEMENT

The Old Spanish Trail has been one of the most difficult to finance and build of all the national trunk lines but something of the dauntless spirit of the padres and of the conquistadores flamed again for the men who knew this southern borderland country decided the old trails and the new should be welded together into the Nation's greatest travelway. Now it is the most complete arterial highway across the continent and the only one open all the year. Over \$70,000,000 have been spent for road, ~~and~~ bridge and paving construction. Twenty miles of bridges were completed during 1927 and seventeen miles more were completed the spring of 1928.

Until construction opened the way across the great rivers, bays and drainage basins in the East and the great ranges in the West only a series of unconnected roads offered doubtful chance to cross the continent. Ferries that in the past distressed travelers no longer exist. Two ferries remain, the Mississippi River at New Orleans and Berwick Bay at Morgan City, Louisiana, with efficient service and all-night schedules.

In the East the waterways are crossed at points where under-water foundations have been difficult or where floods spread rivers out miles wide. Two-thirds of the drainage waters of the continent are crossed by this highway near the Gulf of Mexico where the accumulated waters are a mighty force. In the West are mountains, vast ranches and plains---all strangely fascinating, but a country so sparsely populated there was little local need for a highway; the force of a national project had to be cultivated.

The engineers, highway commissioners and the men behind the work have risen to high achievement. The spell of the country is in their blood. They have connected Florida and California thru Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona---the country of the Gulf of Mexico and the Mexican Border. They have provided pleasures for the people every day of the year and they have opened the greatest frontier of the Nation to settlement and investment.