

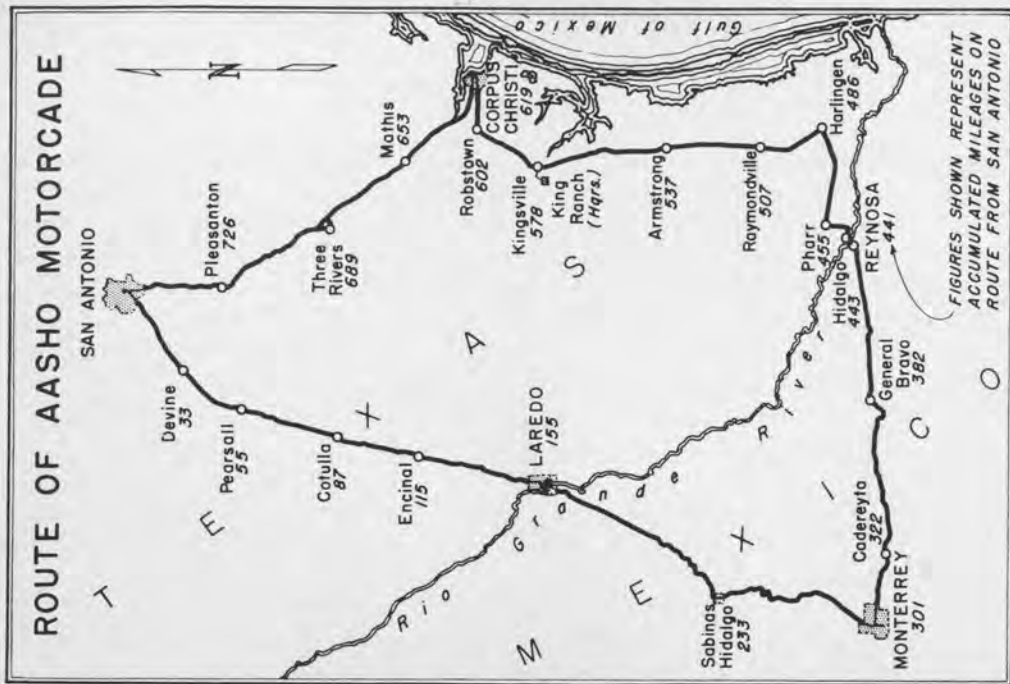
OCTOBER 14 THRU 17, 1949

Motorcade Travelog

- SAN ANTONIO
- LAREDO
- MONTERREY
- REYNOSA
- CORPUS CHRISTI
- SAN ANTONIO

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHWAY OFFICIALS





MOTORCADE TRAVELOG

This tour begins in the city of San Antonio and extends south to Laredo on the Mexican Border. Crossing the Rio Grande into Mexico, the motorcade continues south on the great Pan American Highway to Sabinas Hidalgo, sometimes called the Oasis of Northern Mexico. From this point, the motorcade begins an ascent over the foot hills of the Sierra Picachos and Mamulique Pass and on to Monterrey. Leaving Monterrey, the tour follows Mexican Route 22 east to Reynosa. Re-crossing the Rio Grande, the motorcade swings east up the old military highway through the heart of the magic Rio Grande Valley to Harlingen. From this valley city a northern route is followed through the vast King Ranch to Kingsville and on to Corpus Christi. From Corpus Christi, often called the Annapolis of the South, the motorcade takes a northwesterly route across south Texas to San Antonio.

This tour includes many historical points of interest. Diversification of terrain, customs and modes of living, plus the wide contrast of traveling in two great countries, make this route one of pleasure for the traveler.

HIGHWAY MILESTONES

Texas has a population of seven million people; her 254 Counties cover 263,644 square miles plus 3,695 square miles of water, with 370 miles of coast line on the Gulf of Mexico. She is bordered by parts of three states and the Republic of Mexico. No king or premier in Europe, with the exception of Russia, ever ruled over more territory than the Governor of Texas.

The evolution and development of Texas Highways has been as colorful and inspiring as the grand old State herself. Transportation and communication have played leading roles in helping the destiny which has become Texas today.

From the first Spanish trail blazed by Francisco de Coronado in 1540, on through the era of prairie schooners and covered wagons, there has been a constant evolution in our means of communication. Out of this has evolved our present network of hard surface roads and super-highways which criss-cross the Lone Star State.

As the first routes of communication began to spread slowly across Texas, there arose the necessity of a state control, finance and maintainance of a state highway system. The 35th Texas Legislature passed an act on April 4, 1917, establishing the State Highway Department.

Motor vehicle registration fees and a tax on gasoline along with Federal Aid made possible the construction of today's network of roads. Aside from the larger cities and towns being connected by modern highways the rural areas are being linked by well constructed hard surface roads. These lines of communication in rural areas are known as farm to market networks and like the super-networks are maintained by the State Highway Department.

Along with the evolution and development of highways in Texas, the State Highway Department organization has expanded. An increase in population plus the development of new sections of the state brought a need for more and better roads. This in turn increased the functions of the Highway Department. Texas Highway Department maintains a total of 32,600 miles of roads of which 31,700 miles are all weather roads. Motor Vehicle registration is now approximately 2,400,000 and we expect to reach a total of 2,700,000 by the end of the year.

Today the Texas State Highway Department has a personnel of 7,500 employed in 25 districts throughout the state and at central headquarters in Austin. Heading this modern organization is the State Highway Commission, made up of three members, appointed by the Governor. In direct charge of all operations throughout the system is the State Highway Engineer who is appointed by the State Highway Commission.

The steady growth of the State Highway Department is the natural result of the States' development and its increasing needs. We have traveled from the muddy and deep rutted roads of 20 years ago to the network of hard surface roads of today. These lines of communication have been indispensable in educating everyone regarding the resources and beauties of Texas and in adding interest and pleasure.



TEXAS COWBOYS

MOTORCADE TRAVELOG

MILEAGE

- 0 San Antonio, headquarters of the 35th meeting of American Association of State Highway Officials and gateway to Pan America. Founded in 1716 by Don Domingo Ramon. Its culture is predominately Spanish. Site of many early Spanish missions, the outstanding being the Alamo. U. S. Army centers such as Fort Sam Houston, Randolph, Brooks and Kelly Fields are located here. Distribution center for the great southwest, ranking 3rd in population in the State. Aside from being an industrial center, San Antonio is rich in Texas history and is one of the show spots of the Southwest.
- 4 Texas Highway District No. 15, office located here.
- 5 San Jose Mission, regarded as one of the finest missions in North America, was founded in 1720 by the Order of Friars Minor, commonly known as Franciscan Fathers of New Spain. It is a masterpiece of masonry and hand carved stone. The famous "Rose Window", sculptured by the great artist, Pedro Huizar, took 5 years of time and skill. The great halls, the old ovens and winery, the peasant huts, the huge granery and mill have all been preserved and the peaceful serenity of ancient times lingers. The mission is now a National Historic Site of Texas, administered by the Texas State Parks Board, Historical Groups and the Archbishop of Texas, and is preserved in cooperation with the National Park Service.
- 14 Von Army, located in Bexar County on the outskirts of San Antonio. Named for Count Von Army of Austria who settled here in 1886.



TEXAS HIGHWAY SCENE

MILEAGE

- 33 Devine, located in Medina County. Named for Judge John Devine. Town was established as a means of protection against Indian tribes shortly before the War between the States.
- 42 Moore, located in Frio County. Named for R. W. Moore who was scalped and killed by the Indians near the town site.
- 55 Pearsall, located in Frio County. Named for T. W. Pearsall a director of the I. G. N. Railroad. Population 5,000. Agriculture and ranching principal industry.
- 71 Dilley, population 1,200. Agriculture and ranching principal industry. Named for George M. Dilley. It is the northward range of white wing dove, a migratory fowl that moves into Mexico during the cold season.
- 87 Cotulla, county seat of La Salle County. Population 3,600. Town located on El Camino Real (The Kings Highway) better known as the Old San Antonio Road. Named for Joe Cotulla, pioneer ranchman on whose land town was founded. Agriculture and ranching principal industries. Nueces river at this point was one time boundary between Texas and Mexico. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848 established Rio Grande as Texas-Mexico boundary.
- 98 Artesia Wells, located in La Salle County. Name derived from flowing Artesian Wells located here. Agriculture and ranching principal industry.
- 115 Encinal, located in La Salle County. Encinal in Spanish means grove of oak trees. Ranching principal industry.
- 155 Laredo, often called gateway to Mexico. Located on north bank of Rio Grande River. Founded May 15, 1755, by Thomas Sanchez and originally named San Augustine de Laredo, after city in province of Santander Spain. Typically Spanish in construction and



MAMULIQUE PASS

MILEAGE

- culture. Laredo on the Texas-Mexican border has become an international City. Headquarters United States Immigration Service and Border Patrol and site of an international bridge.
- 157 Nuevo Laredo, located on the south bank of the Rio Grande opposite Laredo, Texas. First Mexican City on Pan American Highway. Mexican Customs and Immigration Service located here. City founded about same time as Laredo, Texas. Small manufacturing industry and tourist center.
- 217 Vallecillo, located on Pan American Highway in Northern Mexico. Population 500, altitude 900 feet. Ranching principal industry.
- 233 Sabinas Hidalgo, often called the Oasis of Northern Mexico. Population 6,000; altitude 1,000 feet. Located on Pan American Highway at foot of Sierra Madre range. Mining and ranching principal industries. Largest town between Nuevo Laredo and Monterrey.
- 301 Monterrey, capitol of the State of Nuevo Leon and leading industrial city of Mexico. Population 300,000; altitude 1,624 feet. Such industries as cement, steel, tile, shoes, glass, furniture, flourish here. Large tourist center, offering such attractions as good climate, scenic mountain ranges, bull fighting and colorful cabarets. Modern hotels and tourist courts along with these many attractions make this city a tourist's paradise.
- 382 General Bravo, located near the San Juan River in the State of Nuevo Leon, approximately 80 miles east of Monterrey on Mexican Route 22. Agriculture and ranching principal industry.
- 441 Reynosa, located on the Rio Grande river opposite the City of Hidalgo, Texas. Mexican Customs and Immigration Service here. Tourist center.



SNOW IN TEXAS

(This picture taken at the same time picture on opposite page taken.)



PICKING TEXAS ORANGES IN WINTER

(This picture taken at the same time picture on opposite page taken.)



MONTERREY

MILEAGE

- 443 Hidalgo, located on the north bank of the Rio Grande, opposite Reynosa, Mexico. Named for Miguel Hidalgo who launched a revolution to free Mexico from Spain in 1810. Entrance to the United States and Lower Rio Grande Valley. United States Customs and Border Patrol maintain stations here. Citrus, vegetables and oil, chief industries. Agriculture income in this area in 1948 exceeded 123 million dollars and oil reserves are estimated at two billion barrels, distillate at five hundred billion barrels, while natural gas deposits run upward of fifteen trillion cubic feet.
- 455 Pharr, located on highway constructed by General Zachary Taylor and known as "The Old Military Highway". City named for H. N. Pharr, an early settler. Originally planned as part of a 25,000 acre sugar plantation.
- 459 Alamo, founded in 1909, named by the perseverance of its early Spanish inhabitants. Citrus and vegetables chief source of income.
- 468 Weslaco, named from initials of the W. E. Stewart Land Company which promoted the development of this section of the valley. Founded 1920, population 10,000. Agriculture principal industry.
- 472 Mercedes, founded 1907, population 12,000. Floodway bridge at entrance to town provides relief to Lower Rio Grande Valley when Rio Grande River reaches floodstage. City named for the wife of Mexican President, Porifio Diaz in order that Mercedes inhabitants might receive concessions from the President. Agriculture principal resources.
- 486 Harlingen, founded in 1903. Population 13,000; named by Lon C. Hill pioneer settler for Van Harlingen, Holland. Near present town site battle of Resaca de la Palma was fought between General Zachary Taylor's forces and General Mariana Arista's Mexican Army, May 1846. Mexican forces defeated and Texas border established on Rio Grande.



PALM LINED HIGHWAY

MILEAGE

- 502 Lyford, named for Judge W. H. Lyford early settler. Located in Willacy County. Ranching principal source of income.
- 507 Raymondville, county seat of Willacy County. Founded 1904. Named for E. B. Raymond, one time manager of the vast King Ranch. Ranching and agriculture principal industries.
- 537 Armstrong, located in Kenedy County. Named for Major J. B. Armstrong, owner of the Armstrong Ranch. Kenedy County named for Captain Miffin Kenedy who was partner with Captain Richard King in steamboat business along Rio Grande. Both later founded King Ranch.
- 557 Sarita, named for Sarita Kenedy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Kenedy. Sarita in English is Sarah. Ranching principal industry.
- 578 Kingsville located in Kleberg County and headquarters of the famous King Ranch. City founded in 1854 and named for Captain Richard King. Old residence of Captain King, as well as race horse breeding stables are located on the King Ranch. Home of Bold Venture and Assault both Kentucky Derby winners. King Ranch covers 1,300 square miles; over 1 million acres spread through parts of Nueces, Kleberg, Jim Wells, Brooks, Kenedy, Hidalgo, Willacy and Cameron Counties of Southwest and South Texas. Hereford, Longhorn, Shorthorn, Brahma, and the new breed, Santa Gertrudias cattle are raised here. World's largest ranch being larger than the state of Rhode Island.
- 582 Celanese Plant on the West side of U. S. Highway 77 north of Kingsville. This is a very large plant and is owned and operated by the Chemical Division of the Celanese Corporation of America and is engaged in the manufacture of various acids and other chemicals from natural gas.



CORPUS CHRISTI SKYLINE

MILEAGE

- 592 Driscoll, located in Nueces County, named for Robert Driscoll, cattleman and land owner in this section. Culture Spanish. Ranching and agriculture principal industries.
- 602 Robstown, located in Nueces County. Culture Spanish. Ranching and agriculture principal sources of income.
- 619 Corpus Christi, located on the Gulf of Mexico in Nueces County. Founded in 1835 by Henry L. Kinney. La Salle on one of his expeditions touched shore at this point on Corpus Christi Day, a festival day for the Roman Catholic Church, hence the name Corpus Christi, Latin translation "Body of Christ". Ranking 12th in the nation, the port of Corpus Christi ships such items as cotton, petroleum, sulphur, lead, zinc and food products to all parts of the globe. Largest Naval Air station in United States located here. Corpus Christi, a city of industry and playground of the South.
- 653 Mathis, located in rich farm belt, approximately 23 miles northeast of Corpus Christi in San Patricio County. Named for Thomas E. Mathis, early landowner. Agriculture principal industry.
- 707 Campbellton, located in Atascosa County. Farm belt, cotton and small grain. Named for John and Mary Campbell, early settlers.
- 726 Pleasanton, located in Atascosa County an original county seat. Named for General Augustus James Pleasanton, United States Soldier. Farming, ranching and oil principal industries.
- 760 San Antonio — We hope your trip has been one of pleasure.
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