

Along the Sunset Route

SOUTHERN PACIFIC LINES



TEXAS and
LOUISIANA



VIEWS...

of TEXAS and LOUISIANA

SOUTHERN PACIFIC LINES

The Sunset Route

* * * * *

Made Exclusively for

THE INTERSTATE COMPANY

814 Washington Ave.

Houston 2, Texas

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FOR SALE ONLY ENROUTE ON
SOUTHERN PACIFIC LINES

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THE SUNSET ROUTE
along the line of the
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EL PASO

El Paso—"The Pass"—gateway to the colorful Southwest—is a spreading city perched on the north bank of the Rio Grande, natural boundary between the United States and Mexico. Its homes and buildings are built on terraces above the bottom lands, with the uppermost more than 200 feet above the river. The open valley, or pass, thru which the river here flows between two ranges of mountains, gave the city its name.

On the Mexican side of the Rio Grande directly opposite El Paso, is the city of Juarez. Pictured is the International Bridge over which throng tourists and pleasure-seekers to visit this fascinating Mexican city. Most of the houses in Juarez are constructed of adobe and covered with bright-colored plaster. Along the principal walks are set up rows of shops wherein may be purchased nearly anything, from a steaming tortilla to a set of earrings. Juarez' night life, too, is legendary, with dozens of cafes and cabarets providing music, food, drink and entertainment.





HISTORIC MISSION

A feature of the great southwestern country which centers around El Paso, Texas, are the venerable old missions constructed in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries by the Spanish padres who first carried the torch of civilization into this vast domain. Pictured is the Mission Nuestra Senora del Carmen, Ysleta, Texas, established 1680, a typical mission of this type near El Paso, similar in size and construction to many on both sides of the Rio Grande.

Many of these buildings, tho more than 200 years old, have successfully withstood the ravages of time and stand today in excellent repair and continuing use. The early-day padres builded well.

Typical construction featured walls of adobe—sun-baked mud—some nearly five feet in thickness, effectively insulating against the heat of a scorching summer sun and providing a haven of restful coolness. Massive overhead beams were hand-hewn of precious mahogany. Where they came from and how they were transported into this region—then a barren wilderness—has never been discovered.





DESERT BLOSSOMS

The desert near El Paso is a land of rare enchantment. At first glimpse it may appear to be a barren, lifeless waste, but closer inspection reveals that it supports an amazing amount of vegetation. And in season it offers a magnificent display of floral beauty.

Pictured is a Yucca plant in bloom. The Yucca, perhaps the hardiest of all desert plants in this region, has adapted itself to the dry hot climate and thrives under the blazing sun of West Texas. Proudly it displays its delicate white blossoms—banners signifying its conquest over an inhospitable soil.



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BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK

A popular side trip along the Sunset Route is Big Bend National Park, located on the inside of a big U-shaped bend in the Rio Grande—international boundary between the United States and Mexico. Our picture shows the quaint Mexican town of Boquillas, just across the river from the southeast corner of the park.

Big Bend National Park is a land of contrasts. Consisting predominantly of semi-arid plains characterized by gravel-covered slopes, arroyos and washes, this general landscape is interrupted by conspicuous mountain belts and by the winding river. Romantic interest is added by the close proximity to the peoples of Old Mexico, and by the colorful legends and stories of the country. Access by rail is from either Alpine or Marathon on the Southern Pacific.





SANTA ELENA CANYON

Among the more spectacular features of Big Bend National Park are the yawning canyons carved across mountain ranges by the erosive action of the mighty Rio Grande. Illustrated is the mouth of Santa Elena Canyon, near the western corner of the park.

Here, thru countless centuries, the rushing sand-laden waters have cut and gouged thru vari-colored rock strata, excavating the sheer cliffs, columns, spires and buttresses of the canyon. Many of the exposed strata were deposited bit by bit on the floors of ancient seas; originally sand and mud, these sediments were compressed and consolidated into rock. In certain places the sea and water was teeming with various types of life, and their fossilized forms are now preserved in the rocks.

These geologic features, augmented in grandeur by the ever-changing play of light and shadow, further enhance the scenic attractions of this spectacular canyon.





THE JERSEY LILLY

Judge Roy Bean, self-styled "The Law West of the Pecos," dispensed both six gun justice and six gun hospitality in his courthouse and saloon at Langtry, "The Jersey Lilly," named for the famous actress, Lily Langtry. His bar of justice was a barrel, his codes a single volume of the Texas Revised Statutes, 1876, his authority two old revolvers that hung ready to his powerful hands.

Only the last frontier could produce such a man. But where he pioneered in law enforcement, the law is still supreme. He may have ruled with his guns, but his standard and brand of hospitality have not changed. You can see it on the old sign nailed to the porch post. It is as popular now as it was when Judge Bean was uncapping the bottles during court recess of the Jersey Lilly.



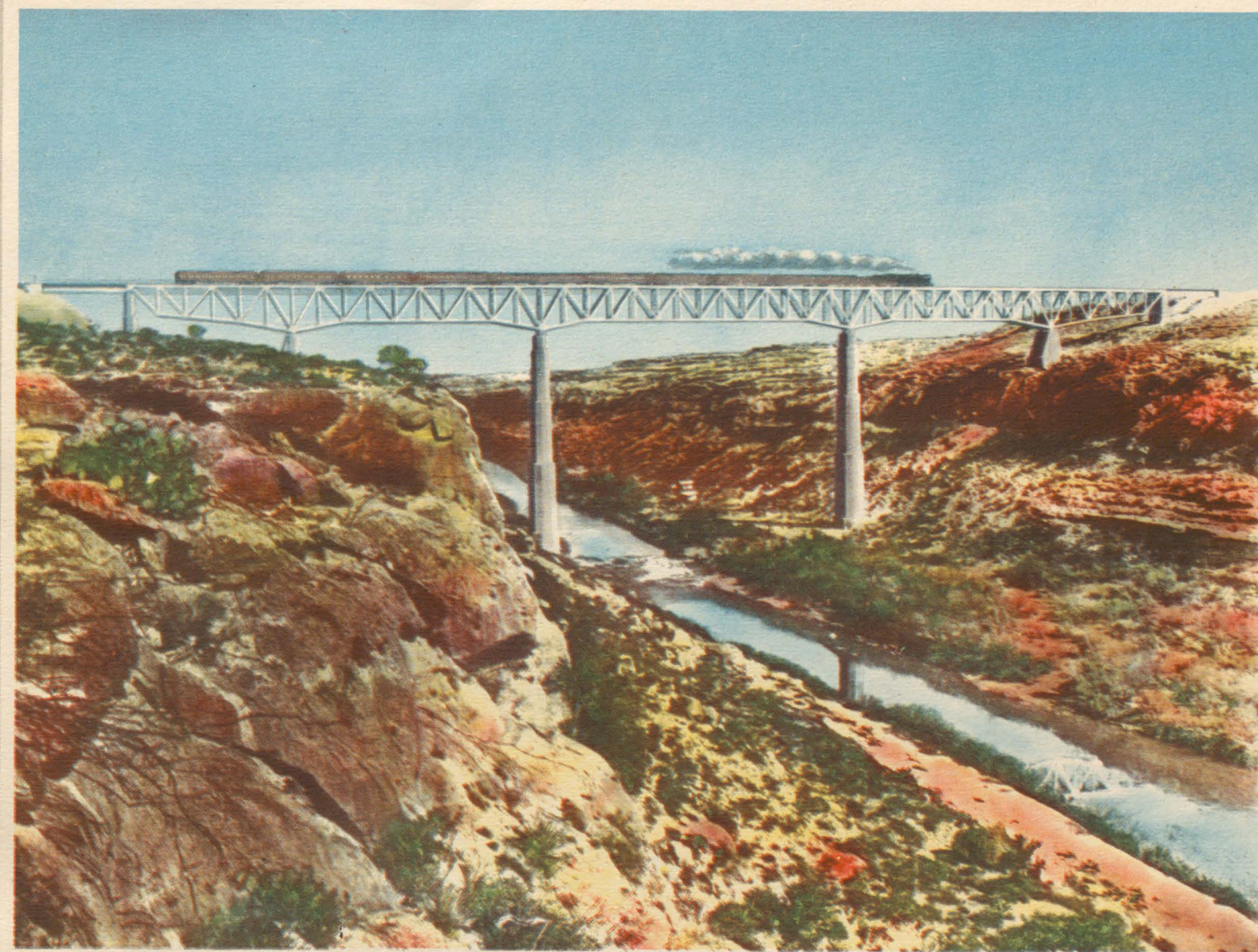


PECOS RIVER BRIDGE

The spectacular Pecos River Bridge near Comstock, Texas, spans the mighty gorge carved by this fabled river to carry Sunset Route trains into the historic "West of the Pecos" region.

First put into service on December 21, 1944, the construction of this breath-taking span was truly an engineering marvel—proof of Man's mastery over Nature. The weight of the steel used in the superstructure amounts to 2,650 tons; to support this Herculean load required 15,455 cubic yards of concrete.

The tallest of the two main piers—of hollow reinforced concrete construction—measures more than 257 feet from footing to bridge seat, and the height of the bridge above the water is 321 feet. Total length of the span is 1,390 feet.





RIO GRANDE CANYON

The Rio Grande—river of song and story—which originates in the high and rugged canyons on the eastern slope of the Continental Divide in Colorado and bisects the state of New Mexico from north to south, turns south-eastward at El Paso to form the southern boundary of the giant state of Texas.

Here the river takes on a new dignity; it becomes a placid, slowly-moving stream meandering lazily beneath the Texas sun on the final portion of its lengthy journey to the Gulf of Mexico. Along the north bank runs the Sunset Route—a modern steel highway traversing the historic route of the mission fathers to the west. Gentle slopes alternate with jagged cliffs to provide a constantly changing landscape.

Across the stream lies Old Mexico, the waters of the Rio Grande here providing a natural separation between the United States and our good neighbor to the south.





SPANISH GOVERNORS' PALACE

Nearly a hundred years before the Declaration of Independence was signed, a flourishing white civilization was centered around the present site of San Antonio, Texas, founded by the padres who came in the wake of the Spanish Conquistadors.

The picture shows the fabulous Spanish Governors' palace as it has recently been restored to its former magnificence, its ten rooms and loft furnished in the Spanish manner typical of early San Antonio.

The palace was originally used by the Viceroy of the King of Spain, who governed the region, and later was the seat of political control for the Mexican Governors. The keystone bears the Hapsburg coat-of-arms and the date 1749. Situated in the heart of modern San Antonio, it has been set aside as a reminder of the rich and colorful history of the region.





**CHINESE SUNKEN GARDEN,
SAN ANTONIO**

Modern San Antonio, Texas, a city of great natural beauty, has dedicated to the enjoyment of its inhabitants and visitors more than 2,000 acres of parks and playgrounds. One of these parks—Brackenridge—is world-famous for its Chinese Sunken Garden, a portion of which is pictured on the opposite page.

The beautiful pools in the Sunken Garden are filled with aquatic plants of rare beauty, which blend with the surrounding shrubbery to form an exotic picture within the rugged rock sides. Rustic paths wind in and out of the garden and across the quiet pools. Countless flowers of every hue are massed in a kaleidoscopic pattern to make the garden unique among beauty spots of the world.





LONE STAR CAPITOL

The great granite capitol of the Lone Star State—standing seven feet taller than the National Capitol at Washington—is located at Austin, center of a highly-developed agricultural, cattle and dairy territory, a popular side-trip from the Sunset Route.

Austin is primarily a residential city, with attractive home sites. Many beautiful drives wind thru the mountainous section west of the city, with numerous parks and bathing resorts in the immediate vicinity. Natural mineral water springs abound.

Ranking high as a cultural center, Austin is the seat of the University of Texas, largest in the entire south.





WEST POINT OF THE AIR

San Antonio is a striking contrast between the old and the new. Within the city are many reminders of a civilization which flourished more than two centuries ago, and memories of the past are still very much alive today. But also within San Antonio and its immediate vicinity are many buildings dedicated to the present-day Age of Aviation.

The picture shows the administration building of Randolph Field, towering 1740 feet above the South Texas plains. Aptly named, "West Point of the Air," Randolph Field is the Army's largest establishment for the training of pilots. Four other Army aviation fields, three airports and a number of private landing fields give San Antonio an enviable position as an aviation center.





SAN JACINTO MONUMENT

A glistening shaft, constructed of reinforced concrete faced with variegated golden-buff Texas limestone, today stands on the famous battlefield of San Jacinto, about 22 miles from Houston, Texas. There in 1836, General Sam Houston and his band of 800 tattered patriots put to route Santa Anna's Mexican army of twice the strength to win Texas' independence.

Towering 570 feet above the historic battleground, the monument is 47 feet square at the base and tapers to 30 feet square at the top. The 35-foot star at the top is symbolic of the "Lone Star State." Five rooms in the base of the shaft are used as a museum.

Also pictured on the same page is the Sam Houston Monument located in Hermann Park, honoring the man who led the Texans in their decisive battle, and for whom the city of Houston is named.



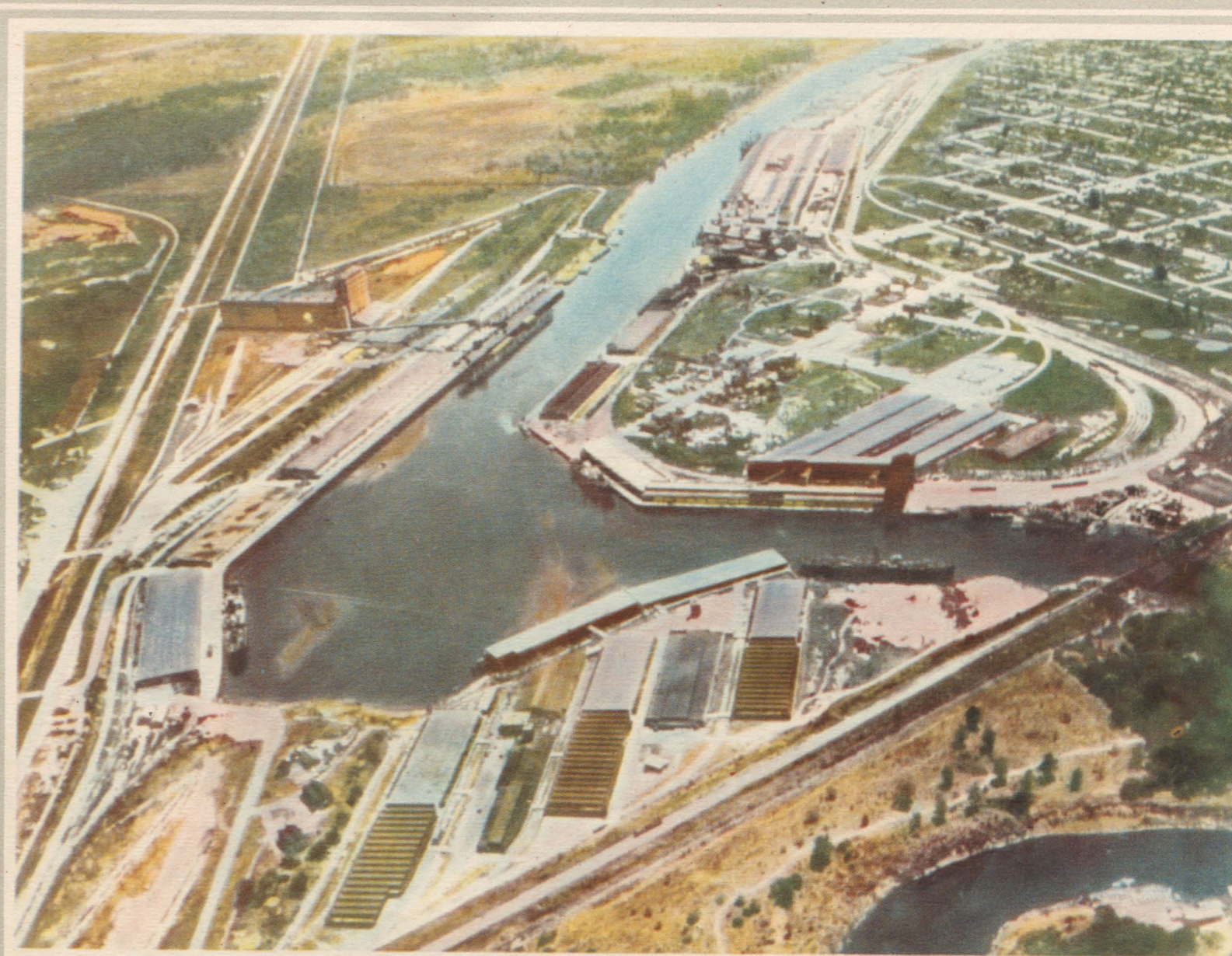


INDUSTRIAL HOUSTON

From a log-cabin frontier town on a sleepy bayou, Houston has grown in a little more than a hundred years to the leading industrial city in the Southwest and third largest port in the nation. Founded in 1836 shortly after the battle of San Jacinto, which freed Texas, and named for Sam Houston, hero of that battle, Houston is now a bustling city of a half million people.

The picture on the opposite page shows a portion of the industrial area and turning basin of the deep water ship channels to the sea which has given Houston its high rank among the nation's ports.

Into the city's commerce flows oil from some of the country's greatest fields; cattle come from the great domains of the state; cotton and rice play a large part in the city's industrial life. A friendly city with a romantic past; a city alive to modern comforts and commercial need, Houston is proud of its position as metropolis of the Southwest.





BUSTLING BEAUMONT

A hundred years ago a venturesome trader sat on the banks of the Neches river where a modern Beaumont is now located and bartered with settlers from up the river. The theme of commerce thus established on such a small scale is that which still prevails today, tho at an immeasurably accelerated tempo.

Today Beaumont is the metropolis of a trade territory with a population of over one-half million, embracing a large part of East and Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana—the commercial and financial capital of the Sabine-Neches district. Tho located 35 miles from the Gulf of Mexico, a 30-foot ship channel has made it one of the leading ports of the country.

The photo on the opposite page is an aerial view of the business district, showing the turning basin and the extensive municipally-owned docks, where more than 600 ocean-going ships call annually for cargo.





LAKE CHARLES

At the eastern edge of the great pine belt of Louisiana and Texas, your Sunset Route train stops at Lake Charles, a furthest inland of the Gulf ports. This thriving little city is snugly placed on the wooded shores of Lake Charles, as the picture on the opposite shore reveals. The flowers in the foreground are water hyacinths and a number of cypress trees are shown growing in the water.

The lake is a broad expansion of the Calcasieu River, which the train crosses just west of the city, and was the resort of slavers in the early days when the territory west to the Sabine River was neutral ground between Mexico and the United States. It is connected with the Gulf of Mexico by a 30-foot channel over 70 miles long. Through this man-made waterway is shipped more rice than thru any other port in the country.

Lake Charles is noted as a recreation center, with nearby forests and streams abounding in game, and with a summer climate tempered by mild zephyrs from the Gulf.



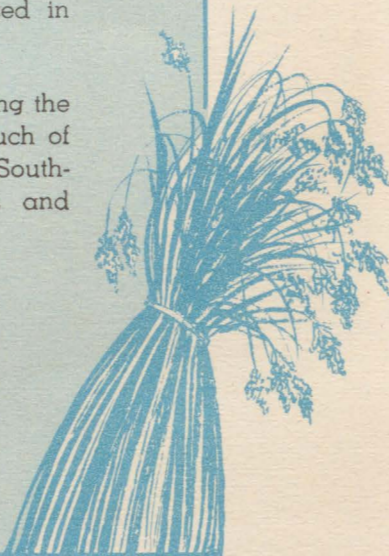


THE EVANGELINE OAK

Named for the heroine of Longfellow's immortal poem descriptive of the exile of the Acadians, the Evangeline Oak—perhaps the most famous tree in America—is the magnet which annually attracts throngs of visitors into the Bayou Teche country, bordering on the Gulf of Mexico in western Louisiana.

Here it was that a large band of the Acadians finally found a new home in 1765 after their exile from their native Nova Scotia and their perilous wanderings, and here today reside their descendants who still speak the language of their forefathers: a French patois used in their original Acadia.

In the four parishes (counties) comprising the Bayou Teche region are to be found much of scenic and historical value; quaint old Southern homes, wonderful jungle gardens and many wild life sanctuaries.





HUEY LONG BRIDGE

Leaving historic New Orleans, your Sunset Route train crosses the Mississippi—Father of Waters—on the longest railroad bridge in the world, a 4.4-mile span carrying railroad, motor and pedestrian traffic 135 feet above the water, completed in 1935 at a cost of 13 million dollars.

The most spectacular feature of the bridge from an engineering standpoint is the central pier. In order to find a solid foundation, it was necessary to rest the base of the pier on an unyielding stratum of sand 170 feet below the surface of the water. Total height from this base to the top of the superstructure is 409 feet, or the equivalent of a 36-story building.

The new bridge saves an hour's time for every Southern Pacific train entering or leaving New Orleans, and replaced the world's largest train ferry.



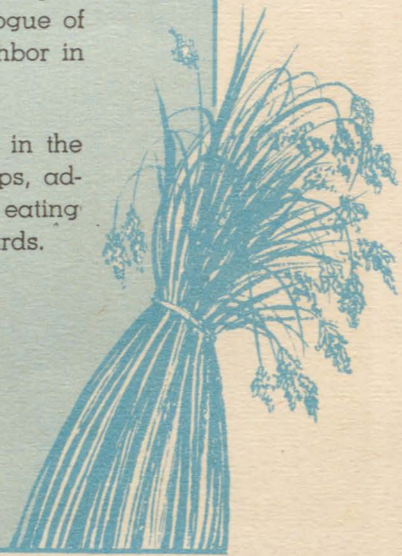


LACE IRON

A typical example of the lace iron balconies that are found so profusely in the French Quarter of fabulous New Orleans is shown in the picture on the facing page. Here in the "Vieux Carre de la Ville"—or Old Town—are found countless architectural records and relics of the eighteenth century.

The house illustrated is located at the intersection of Saint Peter Street and the Rue Royale, just a block from Jackson Square, heart of the French Quarter. The elaborate iron grill work of this type dates back to the days of the Creoles, and many unusual and unique patterns are to be found, for it was the vogue of the day to attempt to outdo one's neighbor in elaborate detail.

Many delightful hours may be spent in the Vieux Carre browsing thru antique shops, admiring examples of lace iron work, and eating delicious food in quiet open-air courtyards.



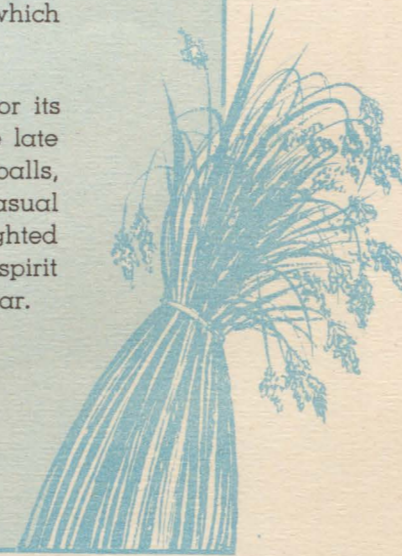


NEW ORLEANS

Pictured on the opposite page is a portion of the New Orleans skyline as seen from the Mississippi River. This historic metropolis of the south is located about 80 miles from the actual mouth of the Father of Waters on a graceful crescent-shaped bend of the river—hence its fabled name, "The Crescent City."

The original walled town was founded in 1718, and until it was acquired as part of the Louisiana Purchase, was under the successive rule of the Spanish and French. Each of these by-gone eras has left characteristic landmarks, and it is these historic monuments to which the visitor is first attracted.

New Orleans is perhaps best known for its great Mardi Gras, held every year in the late winter, when for several weeks parades, balls, and general fun are the rule. To the casual visitor, however, who tours the gayly lighted supper clubs and cafes, this carnival spirit seems to prevail at any season of the year.





Golden State Route from Chicago

Dallas

Fort Worth

Waco

Llano

Austin

Nacogdoches

Shreveport

Beaumont

Lafayette

New Iberia

From Chicago

From New York

New Orleans

Mississippi River

Gulf of Mexico

San Antonio

Houston

Lake Charles

Port Arthur

Galveston

Corpus Christi

Edinburg

Brownsville

McAllen

Kerrville

Spofford

Carlsbad Caverns Nat. Park

Marfa

Alpine

Big Bend Nat. Park Project

Rio Grande

Eagle Pass

White Sands Nat. Mon.

El Paso

Juarez

To Mexico City

To New Mexico
Arizona
California



