

December 2016 centennial reenactment of the second annual OST convention held in 1916 in Pensacola, Florida was again a successful gathering of over 100 highway enthusiasts from the eastern five OST states. We met more OST neighbors, gathered more ideas about preservation, restoration and promotion of the scenic highway looking forward to seeing each other again in May of 2017 in Tallahassee, Florida.

BOOKLETS WITH INFORMATION FOR THE DRIVING AND WALKING TOURS INCLUDED BELOW THE CONFERENCE AGENDA
Various Pensacola, Florida state, county and city entities and local organizations generously offered their resources to ensure OST100 could provide free events for the conference. Businesses and organizations sponsored materials, transportation, meals or receptions.

OLD SPANISH TRAIL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ASSOCIATION PENSACOLA OST100 CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 1, 2, 3, 2016

REGISTRATION EXTENDED FROM OCTOBER 15, 2016 TO NOVEMBER 20



PENSACOLA SCENIC BLUFFS U.S. 90 – A FLORIDA SCENIC HIGHWAY

WEATHER

Gulf Coast December weather was sunny and beautiful for the OST100 Conference weekend.

VENUES

Pensacola Grand Hotel

200 East Gregory Street
Pensacola, Florida 32501
850-433-3336

www.pensacolagrandhotel.com

The modern Pensacola Grand Hotel rises over the beautifully restored Louisville & Nashville Railroad Depot. The Grand provided special nightly conference rate of \$110 plus tax. 2016 local and state taxes were 11.5%. Free airport shuttle 6am to 10pm. Free parking.

Lee House Courtyard

Facing S. Alcaniz Street
400 Bayfront Parkway
Pensacola, FL 32502
850-912-8770

www.leehousepensacola.com

Thursday evening Welcome Reception site.

www.oldspanishtrailcentennial.com



Old Christ Church

400 S. Adams Street and

Museum of Commerce

201 E. Zaragosa Street

were the venues for lectures and exhibits as the University of West Florida Historic Trust and OST100 partnered to host this centennial reenactment of the 1916 OST Convention.



THURSDAY HISTORIC WALK and WELCOME RECEPTION

Thursday, December 1, 2016

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC WALK

2:30 - 4pm Fine old homes and businesses have graced downtown Pensacola and corridors of the OST from early in the 19th Century. Carter Quina, AIA led the walk from the Museum of Commerce to see downtown buildings that would have been seen by early OST travelers. Repeated Friday afternoon. Walk booklet posted below.

LEE HOUSE WELCOME RECEPTION

6 to 8pm The business, professional and political leaders of Pensacola, who strongly supported highway development with funds and lobbying efforts, held an evening "Smoker" during the 1916 OST Conference featuring cigars, libations and political decisions. Southern Cooking provided hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar for the 2016 evening reception in the Lee House Courtyard. Invited guests included visiting elected officials, OST100 host organizations and partners to welcome conference attendees and the lecturers, some who traveled great distances to educate us Friday morning on the challenges of spanning the continent with an auto highway. Pensacola Mayor Hayward received the "Official OST City" designation from Charlotte Kahl and presented OST100 with a proclamation of support for OST Centennial Activities.

FRIDAY OLD CHRIST CHURCH SYMPOSIUM, MUSEUM OF COMMERCE EXHIBITS and repeat of DOWNTOWN WALK



Friday, December 2, 2016

SYMPOSIUM

8am to Noon Old Christ Church Lectures. Speakers knowledgeable about early road building provided insight into the time period and the need for transportation infrastructure. All conference activities were filmed by OST San Antonio videographer Rene Lagunas and Pensacola news correspondent and photographer Julie B. Connerley.

- **8am – 8:20am** *Revitalizing and Preserving the OST*
Community activist Charlotte Kahl was appointed by San Antonio Mayor Ed Garza and Bexar County, Texas Judge Nelson Wolff to lead the planning effort for a decade-long centennial celebration of the building of the transcontinental Old Spanish Trail auto highway. After years of researching the OST, she now travels the U.S. Gulf and southern border states promoting centennial activities.
- **8:30am – 9:10am** *Bridging the Old Spanish Trail* Murphey family work conflict prevented John's attendance.
8:30am – 9:10am *Living the Changes to the OST*
The first Charles Fennell Gonzalez raised his family in a house at the foot of the bluffs of Scenic Highway in Bohemia on Pensacola Bay. Today's speaker Charlie Gonzalez IV, Geographic Information System (GIS) Manager for Escambia County,

past U. S. Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines, present board member of St. Michael's Cemetery Foundation enjoyed using old maps to help with the telling of stories about growing up hiking, biking and driving through the woods all along the Old Spanish Trail in Pensacola.

- **9:20am – 9:50am Saving the Atchafalaya River Long-Allen Bridge**
Since 2013, Frank "Boo" Grizzaffi has been the mayor of Morgan City located on the banks of the Atchafalaya River spanned by the Long-Allen Bridge. Mayor Grizzaffi shared the steps necessary, as this bridge became the topic of demolition, to preserve and restore, against all odds, this historic gem of the Old Spanish Trail corridor. During 2016 he also served on the boards of South Central Planning, Central Catholic High School, and as president of Louisiana Energy and Power Authority, while managing his oilfield rental, real-estate and restaurant businesses
- **10am – 10:30am 1916 Pensacola Auto Travel**
Dr. Brian R. Rucker (M.A., University of West Florida; Ph.D., Florida State University). Professor of history at Pensacola State College; Vice-President of the Gulf South Historical Association; has authored numerous articles and books on West Florida, including *Brick Road to Boom Town: The Story of Santa Rosa County's "Old Brick Road"*. He shared insights into Pensacola and the OST in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties during the early 20th century.
- **10:40am – 11:20am The Negro Motorist Green Book** Dire illness prevented Calvin Alexander Ramsey's attendance.
- **11am – 11:30am Pensacola Transportation History**
John Appleyard, Pensacola's most noted, dynamic and engaging story teller, delightfully outlined development of cart, wagon, railroad and paved highway routes through Pensacola during past centuries. Founder of public relations firm John Appleyard Agency in 1959, Mr. Appleyard, author of over 100 historic publications, in 2016 received University of West Florida Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters for his commitment to preserving various historic aspects of Pensacola and Northwest Florida.

EXHIBITS



10am to 4pm Historic Village Museum of Commerce was transformed into the Old Spanish Trail Exhibit Hall for the day. Greeted by University of West Florida Historic Trust Director Robert Overton and hosted by University of West Florida Archivist Dean Debolt, Visit Pensacola Tourism Manager Lori Coppels, and San Antonio OST100 Team member Paul Kahl, nearly 100 enthusiasts gathered to informally discuss their knowledge of the history of the Old Spanish Trail auto highway and the development of vehicles that ship the freight and carry the travelers along that highway. 17 exhibitors from the five eastern OST states took this opportunity to share their stories of OST corridor successful preservation and revitalization efforts. Complimentary light buffet meals from Apple Market were arranged by Scenic Byway Foundation Board member Mary Gutierrez and replenished throughout the day by Foundation volunteers. Meals were sponsored by Florida Black Chamber of Commerce and National Black Tourism Marketing Corporation. Judy Debolt, conference registrar had prepared and distributed name tags and materials all weekend.

1:20 - 1:40pm Plenary Session -- Official business meeting of the Old Spanish Trail Centennial Celebration Association (OST100) took place in the Museum of Commerce. This year's OST100 resolution was passed to encourage the 67 OST parishes and counties to save their old OST bridges – either for vehicle traffic or lesser impact recreational purposes. Deborah Desilets, AIA invited all to attend the centennial reenactment of the third OST convention next May in Tallahassee, Florida.

DOWNTOWN HISTORIC WALK

2:30 - 4pm Repeat of Thursday afternoon walk. Fine old homes and businesses have graced downtown Pensacola and corridors of the OST from early in the 19th Century. Carter Quina, AIA led the walk from the Museum of Commerce to see downtown buildings that would have been seen by early OST travelers. Walk booklet posted below.

SATURDAY DRIVE to MILTON, FLORIDA WPA BRIDGE and RECREATIONAL BRICK OST ROAD

Saturday, December 3, 2016

www.oldspanishtrailcentennial.com



MOTORCADE TO FLORIDATOWN AND MILTON

9am Eight horseless carriages and modern vehicles proceeded from the Grand Hotel L&N Depot north on Palafox Street to the Gadsden Street 1916 OST corridor and Scenic Bluffs Highway for about 30 minutes to Ferry Pass where drivers would have loaded their auto onto ferries to cross Escambia Bay to Floridatown or Mulat. Then proceeded another one-half hour over the new Escambia River bridge to meet 14 Crestview Spanish Trail Cruiser Club autos at the Floridatown docks in Santa Rosa County. Another 30-minute drive along U.S. 90 into the town of Milton where dedicated Santa Rosa Historical Society members have worked for years preserving the ambiance of the Old Spanish Trail, lobbying intensely to retain the Works Progress Administration concrete enhancements during restoration of the U.S. 90 bridge. The old brick roadbed has also been restored for recreational use through tireless efforts of the Society. Past Society President Vernon Crompton coordinated the Milton arrangements for the successful motorcade. San Antonio OST100 volunteers Tamra McWhorter and Konra Kahl provided a complimentary picnic lunch in the parking lot of Milton Imogene Theater where more autos of the British Car Club joined the motorcade. Hand sanitizers had been provided by Gulf Power. Santo Rosa County commissioner Bob Cole accepted the "Official OST County" designation before leading the 26 car motorcade, with one-day special permission from the county, on an eastward drive along the 1923 brick roadway. Booklet for the Driving Tour is posted below.



AMERICAN VOLKSSPORT ASSOCIATION WALK

Blue-ribbon winning American Volkssport Association program, "Walk the Old Spanish Trail across the United States" was drawing to a close. The December OST100 Conference was one of the last opportunities to obtain the *Walk the U.S.A. OST booklet*. One could join AVA, purchase the booklet and walk AVA 10 Kilometer (6.2-Mile) walks in fifteen OST cities during 2016 to receive the Walk the U.S. A. OST patch. For those already AVA members the walk box for Mobile Year Round Historic Walk is at the Pensacola Police Department, 711 N. Hayne Street, 36602

Although all OST100 conference activities were free, registrations were required, checking all events to insure adequate materials or foods would be available.

REGISTRATION WAS EXTENDED FROM OCTOBER 15, TO NOVEMBER 20, 2015.

Various Pensacola, Florida state, county, and city entities; and local organizations generously offered their resources to enable OST100 to provide free events for this conference. As a courtesy to organizers and event coordinators, those who registered and found they would not be unable to attend notified us before November 15. Business could sponsor materials, transportation shuttles, snacks, or receptions by sending in the SPONSORSHIP form.

Forms for Registration, Sponsorship and Exhibits were available on www.oldspanishtrailcentennial.com.

Questions about registration, particular events, exhibits, sponsorship, etc. (210)735-3503 or OST100Kahl@aol.com. Notes, media links, photos and videos of the conference were posted on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/oldspanishtrailhwy/> managed by Kristine Murphey and www.oldspanishtrailcentennial.com managed by Dusty Kahl.

EXHIBITS

Free small spaces were available in the Museum of Commerce from 10am to 4pm Friday, December 2, 2016 to share parish/county or city's accomplishments in preserving or revitalizing OST corridor roadway, businesses, or historic sites, coordinated with Charlotte Kahl (210)735-3503 or OST100Kahl@aol.com. SUBMISSION EXTENDED OCTOBER 15, 2016 TO NOVEMBER 20.

SPONSORSHIP

Conference sponsorship opportunities were available for entities that wished to partially or entirely sponsor buffet meals, snacks, social events, materials, shuttle service to tour sites, or general overall conference sponsorship with sponsorship questions contact: Charlotte Kahl (210)735-3503 or OST100Kahl@aol.com.

