

Don Ubarri's Speech  
Don Ubarri spoke briefly and in his native tongue. His remarks, as translated, were as follows:

Señor Herral Ayres:  
I come to this old and traditional city of San Antonio, responding to your gallant invitation, to present to you in my official capacity as representative of Spain, the worthy Condecoración of Comendador de Isabel la Católica, which his majesty King Alphonse XIII, my august Sovereign, has graciously bestowed upon you as a reward for your work, and its sympathy and unselfish remembrance toward Old Spain, thru your success after years of uniring activities in securing the construction of the highway which links the Atlantic with the Pacific (from San Augustine to San Diego), thru the lands of our ancient heros and conquerors: De Soto, Gálvez, Oñate, Menéndez, Cortés, Balboa, Coronado, the missionary fathers and others, and which the Americans have so fittingly christened with the name of "Old Spanish Trail."

The Spanish Government seldom bestows the high distinction that I am about to bestow upon you. It was created in memory of the great Queen of Castilla, Isabel I, married to Don Fernando the Catholic, rulers who lived in the XV century, and who, as well known in history, lent very active, financial and moral support to the distinguished Cristobal Colon, discoverer of America.

The Cross of Isabel the Catholic rewards those who, on this side of the sea, distinguish themselves in ways that contribute to the prestige and distinction of Spain. You, Señor Ayres, have shown, in this on the present occasion and it is for this that I have the honor of presenting to you, in the name of his majesty Alphonse XIII, these insignias, being certain that you will continue in the future to labor for the good name of your country where a great sympathy for the American people is entertained.

I also wish to acknowledge my gratitude to an illustrious lady, Mrs. Henry Drought, who not only helped in a very diligent way Señor Ayres in his efforts, but has also tendered her beautiful and stater home for this official act,

now so brilliantly displayed.

In closing I wish to salute the noted personalities here in the official group: Major-General Lassiter, Mayor Chambers, Judge Robertson, Consul-General Santhomas of Mexico, and the presidents of these civic organizations of this city, Colonel Dichmann, Walter Walthall and T. H. Etheridge, and my good friends Dr. Frederick Combe, Werner N. Beckmann and Prof. Trejino. To all of them I express my sincere thanks in the name of my Sovereign and my Government for the courtesies they have extended to me during my stay here, which will always make me remember delightfully my visit to this beautiful city of San Antonio.

Señor Herral Ayres: You are now declared Comendador de Isabel la Católica, la Ilustrisimo.  
I have spoken!

### Herral

Mr. Ayres' Reply  
Following the remarks which greeted the remarks of Don Ubarri, Mr. Ayres made a graceful response in recognition. He spoke as follows:

Señor Ubarri:  
The graciousness of his Majesty, your King, in honoring me with this Condecoración is deeply appreciated, the more so because it was wholly unexpected and because its high character and dignity shows recognition in your country of our efforts in this southern land to bring to life the story of the remarkable works of the Spanish fathers of that golden age of Ferdinand and Isabella and of the centuries that followed.

We have not been seeking to build merely a road. We have found the history and works of those centuries worthy of our veneration and we hope that from this great highway movement will come the spirit that will restore those old Spanish missions and other great works and preserve them as a rich heritage to posterity and will preserve the history of those days for the people of coming days. I give you assurance that in some sections this work of restoration is making progress and movements to revive the cultural aspects of that Spanish age are growing

in strength.

I believe I am primarily grateful for this Condecoración because it is a recognition for the men and women that have worked with me. Opening this as a modern automobile highway has not been easy. Many believed it impossible. It has been made a successful enterprise because groups in all sections along the way caught something of the vision and courage of the padre and the conquistadores of old and would not let difficulties discourage them. This gracious act of your King is a tribute to all these Old Spanish Trail people and I trust it may also be an inspiration to our people in the years to come to stand together for the continuance of this work that this Old Spanish Trail may forever develop, its attractions and its historical and romantic background and draw travelers from all over the world to it. The high resolve and the unexampled works of the Spanish forefathers are constantly becoming better understood and better liked by our American people.

For myself and for all Old Spanish Trail people I ask you to express to your Sovereign and to his Government, our gratitude and esteem. To you as the ambassador at this distinguished ceremony we all extend our warmest greetings for your charm and cordiality. May the blessings of life be with you and your country and His Majesty your King (thru all time!

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