

## ROYAL SPANISH HONORS FOR ASBURY PARK MAN

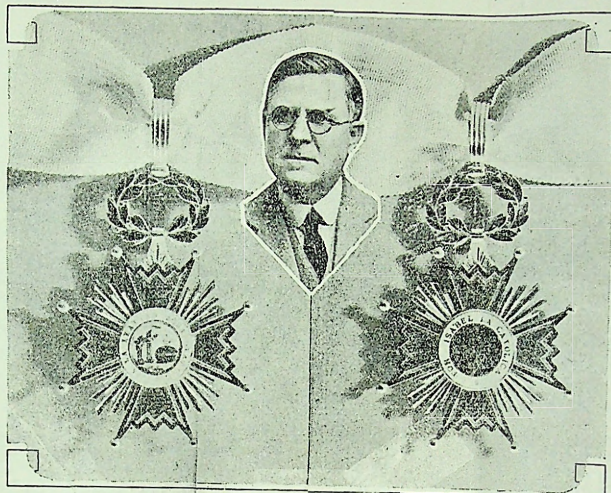
### Harral Ayres Gains Old Castilian Order

### Thus Signally Rewarded For Work In Building Highway From St. Augustine to San Diego, From the Atlantic to the Pacific.

### KINGLY DECORATION AND RECIPIENT

### Former Prominent Seashore Resident

### At One Time Served As Secretary to Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association and Directed Baby Parade Fetes Here.



At what is described as having been a diplomatic function with precedent in the United States, a distinguished honor was paid by the Spanish king to a former well known citizen of Asbury Park, Harral Ayres, now a resident of San Antonio, Texas, when he was invested with the decoration of the Royal Order of Isabel la Católica, with the title of Knight Commander. It is the most distinguished royal order of Spain, memorializing the golden age of Ferdinand and Isabella.

The event, which took place Tuesday evening, April 22, just passed, signalized the practical completion of the work undertaken 12 years ago to establish and open the Old Spanish Trail, which threads its way thru old Spanish lands across the continent from the old Spanish city of St. Augustine, on the Atlantic coast, to the old Spanish city of San Diego, on the Pacific coast. The honor was conferred upon Mr. Ayres in recognition of his work as managing director of the great undertaking. The trail is today the most complete trans-continental highway in the United States.

The investiture was in the nature of a formal reception participated in by Spanish, American, Mexican and Texas officials and over 100 distinguished guests. Don Pablo de Ubarri, count of Spain in Texas and New Mexico, representing the Spanish crown, presided at the consecration. Don Ubarri was in his gold-brocaded diplomatic uniform and chaparral.

The official guests surrounding Don Ubarri, consisting of state, county and city officials, civic club executives, the major general of the army and the consul-general of Mexico, were all in formal dress and diplomatic usage presided through.

The ceremony was in the nature of a noted San Antonio home where all surroundings were in keeping with the diplomatic function. Both Spanish and American music were played, and the addresses were read in Spanish and American, as etiquette required. All guests stood during the ceremony.

The condecoracion jewel is a double-sided cross and surmounts in the red and gold Spanish colors, two inches in diameter, surmounted from a laurel leaf. On one side are the names of the king and monogram. On the reverse side, the coat of arms and "L. Lealad Acotacion." Engraved in it, locally and merit. The title conferred is that of Knight Commander, highest appointment in the order. The highest title, Knight of the Great Cross, comes from promotion from a lower title, and complimentary title is "Illustrisimo" (illustrious). So carefully are the honors of the order awarded, this condecoracion cross was

married to Don Fernando de Catholic, rulers who lived in the XV century, and who, as well known in history, lent their name to America, 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, Senator Ayres, says the king, in the present occasion and it is for this that I have the honor of presenting to you, in the name of his majesty Alphonso XIII, these insignia, being certain that you will continue in the future to labor for the good name of my 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 Senator Ayres in his efforts, but has also rendered in her beautiful and stately home for his official act now so brilliantly displayed. In closing I wish to salute the noted personalities here in the official group: Major-General O. C. L. Lanier, Mayor Chambers, Judge Robertson, Consul-General Sabiniano de Mexico, the president of the United States, and the president of the great city organizations of this city, Mayor Edwin S. Walter, Walthall and T. H. Etheridge, and my good

friends Dr. Frederick Goebel, Werner N. Beckmann and Prof. Treston. To all of them I express my sincere thanks in the name of my country 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.

Senior Harral Ayres: You are now declared Comendador de Isabel la Católica in this-Italiano. I have spoken. Mr. Ayres Reply: Following the applause which greeted the remarks of Don Ubarri, Mr. Ayres made a graceful response in recognition. He spoke as follows: Senior Ubarri: The graciousness of his majesty, your king, in honoring me with this condecoracion is

dearly appreciated, the more so because it was well unexpected and because in such character and dignity shows recognition in your country of our citizens in this southern part of the world. I think it should be to bring to life the story of the remarkable works of the Spanish fathers of their 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 their old Spanish mission 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 age. I give you assurance

that in some sections this work of condecoracion 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 condecoracion because it is a recognition of the work of 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 of our American people.

For myself and for all Old Spanish Trail people I ask you to express to your countrymen and to your government our gratitude and esteem. To you as the sponsor and to the organizers of old and new would not let difficulties stand and overcome 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 own

people in the years to come to stand together for the continuance of this work that is important to the men and women who ever develop its attractions and its historical and romantic background from all over the travelers from all over the world to it. The high resolve of the Spanish fathers of the Old Spanish Trail may forever develop its attractions and its historical and romantic background from all over the travelers from all over the world to it. The high resolve of the Spanish fathers of the Old Spanish Trail may forever develop its attractions and its historical and romantic background from all over the travelers from all over the world to it.

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It has been 20 years since Mr. Ayres has resided in Asbury Park, but during his residence both here and in Ocean Grove he took a foremost part in civic affairs and is well remembered by a large circle of friends. When he was 19 years old, H. B. Ayres, as he was then known to his friends, became cashier of the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting association, in full charge of interests involving many thousands of dollars annually and the delicate duties of business requiring wide and successful management, as Dr. E. H. Stokes, president of the board, wrote two years later in a commendation approved by the whole association.

It was a responsible job for a lad of 19 but he proved equal to his responsibilities. However, after ten years he resigned because he had reached the highest position attainable in that work. Twice while he was refounded the association independently, reducing it from a 6 percent basis to 4 1/2 percent.

During this period he was a member of the school board and chairman of its finance committee. He built the Ocean Grove high school. He was also a member of the Asbury Park Wheelmen and refused appointment in 1904-05 to rent rooms for the club after a committee consisting of Charles A. Atkins and A. C. Twining had reported a club house could not be financed. The club then met in John Bartis' old piano store in 1905 and the League was organized. Instead of renting rooms the Ayres committee, after several stormy meetings, obtained permission to build a new club house, financed to stay for five years, as he reported, was ready in 1905 and the League was organized. When his 1908 carnival report was filed he announced his plan to leave and fight for his health.

For years previous to this he suffered serious illnesses during the winter, once he was confined to bed. For eight years after leaving Asbury Park he wandered about the country, at times continually ill. Doctors declared he was incurable. At 34 he was still unable to give up again and go away. A year later he went to New England. A year later he had so far as again he established his ab-

accountant and financier and among his labors was the liquidation of a \$90,000,000, taking Clarence E. Heitch, now mayor of Asbury Park, to New York for a period of this work. Organizer of Carnival. One of the important duties Mr. Ayres was entrusted with here was the directorship of the Baby Parade. He directed the parade with a wealth of original and poetic ideals which greatly enhanced its beauty and interest. The event had been struggling along for years, just a baby parade with trivial prizes. The late Chairman Ayres had his own ideas on the subject and he created the Baby Parade Carnival Association, the grand stands and pavilions of Queen Titans and the royal entertainment. However, the cost of events increased from 1901 to 1904 and in 1905 he was forced to resign. From 1901 to 1904 and in 1905 he was forced to resign. From 1901 to 1904 and in 1905 he was forced to resign. From 1901 to 1904 and in 1905 he was forced to resign.