

FLORIDA  
DATE

APR 21 1930

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## O.S.T. Director Decorated By King of Spain

Elaborate Jewel Will  
Be Presented  
April 29

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, April 22.—Harral Ayres, ten years leader of the Old Spanish Trail development, has received distinguished honor from the King of Spain. The Decoration of the Royal Order of Isabel la Catolica, with title of Knight Commander, has been conferred and on April 29 at a reception by San Antonio people the ceremonies of presentation will be held with Spanish Consul Pablo de Ubarri officiating.

The jewel of the Order is a double-sided Spanish sunburst two inches in diameter, suspended from a laurel wreath. On one side the name of the Order; on the other side, "La Lealtad Acrisolada," expressive of loyalty and merit. "There are three titles in the Order—"Knight of the Great Cross," and "Knight Commander," and "Knights."

When Harral Ayres accepted the Old Spanish Trail leadership in 1919 there was no travelable route across the Southern Borderlands. Automobiles found round about courses through mud, cattle ranches and deserts, and numerous long and undependable ferries. The Spaniards in the old days extended their princely explorations, missions and colonies from Florida to California with such difficulty that their centuries of effort have gone into history as a heroic age.

Today the Old Spanish Trail is one of the noted highways of the United States; the pioneer history of the Spaniards, most ancient on the continent, is attracting the people; Spanish architecture and atmosphere are being revived.

Progress reports indicate pavement will, in another two or three years, be complete on this highway from St. Augustine, Florida, to San Diego, Cal.

When the monument was dedicated at St. Augustine, April, 1929, the Spanish Crown was represented by Senor Don Rafael Casares Gil. On that occasion a motorcade started from California carrying an eminent delegation of San Diegans, joined by delegates from other states; they traveled from San Diego to St. Augustine, 2,750 miles, in 11 days, keeping to a schedule like a railroad train.

Harral Ayres



Harral Ayres, managing director of the Old Spanish Trail, is decorated by the King of Spain as a Knight Commander in the Royal Order of Isabel la Catolica in recognition of his long service in developing that highway from St. Augustine to San Diego. At a reception in San Antonio, Texas, April 29, the decoration will be presented by Senor P. de Ubarri, Consul of Spain for Texas and New Mexico.

TEXAS

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This Clipping From

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

APR 22 1930

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## KING OF SPAIN HONORS AYRES

Decoration of Royal Order of  
Isabel Is Conferred on  
O. S. T. Chief

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