

CLUB HEARS ROAD ADDRESS

H. B. Ayers Tells Progress and Problems of the Old Spanish Trail.

Four excellent speakers with four widely divergent, but interesting and timely messages were guests at the American Business Club luncheon at the Great Southern Hotel yesterday.

The first speaker introduced to the club membership by chairman Julius Brown was H. B. Ayers of San Antonio, Texas, managing director of the greta national military highway, the Old Spanish Trail.

For the benefit of the young men Mr. Ayres recited the history of the development of the Old Spanish Trail since 1915 when it was organized at Mobile, Ala. "It is not a promotion," he said, "but a development by the people to open and popularize all this southern borderland country. As evidence this Old Spanish Trail development is doing just this is shown by the millions in new investments and the volume of new settlers now coming in. This arterial trunkline across the bottom of the continent is essential to the trunk lines building from the north and it is the recognition of this fact that we stand today with \$45,000,000 spent on construction and know the remaining \$55,000,000 needed will be forthcoming."

Mr. Ayres told of the long struggle to make this highway a federal aid trunkline along its whole length. Now, he said, we have made it a United States highway; it will cease to be a state highway. He read from a letter by a high Federal official to a United States Senator showing how these United States highways are a part of the national effort to stop the numerous men who run around promoting "highways" and cumbering established highways with numerous names in order to milk the people of money. One set of promoters, he said, was given thousands of dollars by a Mobile organization, the city commission and others; they marked the Old Spanish Trail eastward and now the Florida road department wants those marks painted off and the waste of money stopped.

This national board, the letter states, "found in existence more than 250 so-called highway organizations. Of these only a few had earned the right to a continuing existence. These few had kept faith with the public; had succeeded in obtaining recognition for certain highways and worked with a definite purpose to put up markers, secure the interest of the people along the way in the improvement of their particular routes, and had built up pride in the communities in the improvement and care of the routes. The members of this joint board," the letter continues, "are all very familiar with these facts. There has been no act to interfere with these names and organizations. On the other hand, it is determined if possible to wipe out the promoter of trails whose numbers and activities in collecting funds from the public have been increasing rapidly."

Mr. Ayres closed with the statement

if the Old Spanish Trail is to go on to its destiny as a great travelway all must help; that the Mississippi Coast had not been carrying its share of the burden, and he hoped while here to aid the Mississippi people in understanding the problems and progress of the work.

Following this address, the chairman presented J. B. Gwin of Washington, D. C., representative of national headquarters of the American Red Cross, who is now in Gulfport attending the state convention of Red Cross workers that is being held here.

Speaking more particularly of the qualitative work of the Red Cross, but touching incidentally upon the quantitative work being done by the organization as a whole, he gave a number of interesting stories taken from real experiences, illustrative of the great good being accomplished by various local chapters in the family case work that is carried out by the executive secretaries and the workers in the various local communities throughout the nation.

Following the remarks of the Red Cross representative, Director O'Brian, of the Redpath Chautauqua, that is now playing in Gulfport gave a short timely and thoroughly instructive talk on salesmanship.

Frank Adams of the Mississippi Power Company was the fourth speaker and he gave the club members a brief outline of the plans of the National Safety Council for fostering a months observance of the "safety first" idea. It has been the custom to observance a week each year throughout the entire nation, but the plans, according to the speaker were to have a months observance this year. He closed his remarks with the request that the chairman appoint a committee from the A. B. Club to assist the promoters in the Gulfport observance. Messrs Kimbrough, Shelton and Tippin were accordingly named by the chairman on this committee.

A message from J. B. Howie, president of the Rotary Club, was read by George Murphy, calling attention to the observance of Boy's week by the Gulfport Rotarians, and asking the A. B. Club to take a part in the big parade that will be staged on Friday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock from the High school building to the baseball field. The reading of this letter resulted in the Club passing a motion requiring each member to see that some boy is entered in this parade and to render any other assistance necessary to make the day a pleasant one for the boys.

Rev. Earl Knobloch was the winner of the attendance trophy with P. Tippin as the donor.

The Faubel Entertainers, members of the Redpath Chautauqua, scheduled to favor the Club membership with a musical program owing to illness of one member of the troupe, the entertainment was led.

There were a number of lecturers, guests of the various clubs and the attendance on the affair of the membership was excellent.

Havana.—Members of the military police were seen with their pistols. Two weapons were seized when one congressman was shot. Other of provincially of shots, there was

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