

## Harral Ayres, Managing Director Of Old Spanish Trail Decorated by Representative of King Alfonso XIII

Harral Ayres, managing director of the Old Spanish Trail development, was decorated by the King of Spain Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. Henry Drought, 1215 North St. Mary's Street.

Spanish Consul Pablo de Ubarri conferred the Condecoracion of the Royal Order of Isabel la Catolica as the official representative of King Alfonso XIII of Spain. In military uniform, Ubarri marched at the side of Ayres to the position where the honor was conferred. A number of distinguished guests were at the reception and both sides of the hall were lined.

As Ayres and Ubarri reached the end of the hall they turned and after Ubarri had been introduced, the message of the king was read. Ubarri read the message in Spanish and concluded by fastening the ribbon of the medal about Ayres' neck. Ayres, responding, voiced the appreciation of himself and of those connected with developing the old Spanish Trail. He concluded his remarks by saying the people who had assisted in the work were equally appreciative because they were certain the Order had been conferred to all in the name of Ayres.

In the official party were Mrs. Drought, Maj. William Lassiter, commander of the Eighth Corps Area, and his staff; Enrique Santibanez, consul-general of Mexico; Col. H. M. Dickman, president of the San Antonio Automobile League; Werner N. Beckman, representative of the Old Spanish Trail Board; Dr. Frederick Combe, T. H. Etheridge, president of the San Antonio real estate board; Mayor C. M. Chambers, County Judge Perry S. Robertson, State Senator W. A. Williamson, Arnold Shanklin, former United States consul-general to Mexico, and Walter Walthall of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce.

Others present were Mrs. J. A. McIntosh, Miss Mary Bonner, Mrs. C. A. Bonner, Mrs. Rosamund

Niles, Mrs. J. B. Leewright, Mrs. Walter Walthall, Judge W. W. King, Mrs. Alice Adams, Mrs. J. Frank Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Drought, Mr. and Mrs. Geroid Drought, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Drought, J. Frank Davis, Col. and Mrs. Sterling Adams, Judge and Mrs. Perry Robinson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred W. Malley, Mrs. J. P. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. David Griffin and Col. and Mrs. H. M. Dickman.

The exceptional distinction was given to Ayres because of his service in opening the Old Spanish Trail. His title is that of Knight Commander with the complimentary title of "Ilustrisimo."

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### TEXAS Press Clipping Bureau DALLAS

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WELL-EARNED DISTINCTION  
FOR HARRAL AYRES

Recognizing his work in creating a most worthy and enduring memorial to the indomitable explorers, conquistadores and padres who centuries ago blazed the first trail across the North American continent, King Alfonso XIII of Spain has conferred upon Harral Ayres, Managing Director of the Old Spanish Trail Association, the Decoration of the Royal Order of Isabel la Catolica, with the title of Knight Commander.

Fittingly, the presentation—by the Spanish consul for Texas and New Mexico, Senor Pablo de Ubarri—took place last night in San Antonio, central point on the transcontinental highway, and for the past ten years headquarters of the movement to create this road and promote public interest in it. Most appropriate, also, was the holding of the ceremony in the home of Mrs. Henry Drought, a staunch friend to the Association from its beginnings and a leader in the re-

lated beautification, memorial and educational work.

Ponce de Leon, Menendez, De Soto, De Narvaez, De Vaca, Galvez, De Luna, Coronado and other brave spirits who followed the original Spanish Trail were lured by dreams of fabulous wealth or conquest, or moved by zeal for their church. Mr. Ayres and his associates also were led by an ideal. They had visions as splendid as those which the early adventurers raised, though far different in nature:

A new epoch had come—the Motor Age. Cities founded by Spanish explorers had grown far richer than the fabled seven in the Cibola of Coronado's dreams. But the bays and rivers which sped the conquistadores on their way were barriers to the motorist. So this little group of enthusiastic men and women—gifted with both imagination and a sense of history—conceived the idea of linking these cities together with a splendid highway, ultimately to be paved, across the continent. The Old Spanish Trail would be a memorial to the seekers after El Dorado, the mission-builders, and the founders of states. It would preserve priceless relics of the Spanish occupation, help awaken in Twentieth Century America a better appreciation of its glorious past, exemplify something of the Spanish tradition.

Under Mr. Ayres' direction and steady-going labors, overcoming many obstacles and discouragements, the movement largely has attained those objectives. The dedication ceremony in St. Augustine last spring, the march from sea to sea in the spring and the fall, strikingly called it, estimably worth-while success to public notice. By this honor to the Managing Director, King Alfonso shows appreciation of service rendered his country, also, through revival of its glories. Too, this is a service to the spirit of adventure, which is the well-spring of progress.