

Webster

Webster.

Honored By
King of Spain



HARRAL AYRES

DECORATION FROM KING OF SPAIN FOR HARRAL AYRES

Former Secretary of
Webster-Dudley Cham-
ber of Commerce to Be
Honored For Work on
Old Spanish Trail

AT SAN ANTONIO

Herral Ayres, formerly secretary of the Webster-Dudley Chamber of Commerce, and who will be remembered by hundreds of local people, is to be signally honored at San Antonio, Texas, Monday night, when the decoration of the Royal Order of Isabella the Catholic, conferred by His Majesty, the King of Spain, with the title of Knight Commander.

The presentation will take place at the home of Mrs. Henry Drought, and will be made by Senor P. de Barri, Spanish consul for Texas and New Mexico.

The event will signalize the completion of the work undertaken five years ago to establish and open the Old Spanish Trail from St. Augustine, Fla., to San Diego, Calif., of which Mr. Ayres has devoted his en-

ergies during that time, and has been made managing director of the movement.

The information concerning the decoration to be made on the former Webster secretary is contained in a booklet, received in Webster by former friends of Mr. Ayres, and contains an appreciation written by Mr. Ayres.

"The reception in recognition of the decoration of the Spanish Crown is gratifying, because it will also be a recognition of that enjoyable co-operation that has for so long been behind the Old Spanish Trail movement. A directing head is necessary but little is accomplished unless there is sincere cooperation. It is evident many have helped effectively or so much could not have been achieved. Some have given their time and their capacity for leadership—some have given money—the engineers and the highway commissioners have given an intelligence that has mastered difficulties; all have an important part in the Old Spanish Trail work.

"San Antonio accepted this important work as a trust from the people of these southern borderlands, and during these years their friendship and support have often been the bond that has kept us at our task. The memories of these years are a rich heritage to us for the service we have given and the success we celebrate has come from a devotion to this interesting enterprise by many men and women from Florida to California.

"With much respect to you for your many years of support, I am,
Sincerely, Herral Ayres."

The appreciation is directed to Mrs. Drought, at whose home the formal presentation will take place.

The booklet received gives a history of the trail from its start to completion, together with some interesting views and pictures of the monuments at St. Augustine, Fla., San Diego, Calif., and San Antonio, Texas.

TEXAS

Press Clipping Bureau
DALLAS

This Clipping From

San Angelo (Texas) Times

Date: MAY 23 1930

SPANISH KING HONORS TEXAS TRAIL MAKER

SAN ANTONIO.—In recognition of his work toward preserving and building an artery of communication along the route over which the Spanish conquistadors traveled centuries ago, the King of Spain has decorated Marrial Ayres of this city, managing director of the Old Spanish Trail.

The Old Spanish Trail is now an officially designated United States highway along the southern borderlands from St. Augustine, Fla., to San Diego, Calif. Mr. Ayres assumed leadership of the Old Spanish Trail organization in 1922. Last year Florida became the first state to complete paving of its section of the route.

BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

APR 23 1930

Date

SPAIN HONORS HARRAL AYRES

The royal decoration the Spanish government has conferred on Herral Ayres, for 10 years managing director of the Old Spanish Trail, is well deserved. King Alfonso and the Spanish government are interested in the work done by Mr. Ayres in promoting a transcontinental highway from St. Augustine, Florida, to San Diego, California, because of the part Spaniards played in the early history of the region traversed by the Old Spanish Trail.

Also, the opening of this new southern route across the continent has revived interest in Spanish customs, has left its impress on homes, business structures, public buildings and parks, scattered all the way from Florida to California. The Old Spanish Trail has permitted thousands of American tourists to view the remains of ancient Spanish civilization in the southwest, and has created an interest in Spain as well as Mexico that did not exist while the picturesque southwest was largely inaccessible to motorists.

Partly because of the improved means of transportation in the southwest, which could be visited formerly only by Americans able to pay railroad fare, but is now sought every year by thousands of motor tourists, relations between the United States and Mexico have become more friendly. Along the Rio Grande Americans to whom this region was formerly but little known have learned something about Mexico and the Mexican people at first-hand, while at the same time they have marveled at the energy of the Spanish conquerors and explorers who sent their priests, builders and colonizers as far westward as California.

Mr. Ayres has worked long and faithfully for the Old Spanish Trail. His reward consists of a most entirely of the knowledge that he has given himself to a great public undertaking made it a success. In 10 years, from August 1, 1919, to March 28, 1929, the Old Spanish Trail association paid Mr. Ayres a total salary of \$10,598.73!

Director of O. S. T. Group Is Honored By Spanish King

Houston Chronicle 4-30-30
Special to The Chronicle.

San Antonio, April 29.—Herral Ayres, managing director of the Old Spanish Trail organization, Tuesday received an honor from the king of Spain in recognition of his efforts toward developing the ancient highway across Southern United States.

At a ceremony, Mr. Ayres was presented the condecoracion of the Royal Order of Isabella la Catolica, with the title of knight commander. Officiating was Pablo de Ibarra, Spanish consul for Texas and New Mexico.