

SPANISH CROWN CONFERS DISTINGUISHED DECORATION

Spanish people have watched, apparently for a long while, this present-day development of the Old Spanish Trail and the revival of interest in the culture and works of the Spanish Fathers in America. It is known that historical publications of the Association have been sent to Spain by Spanish travelers, and in some instances used for teaching this history to Spanish children, and that important communications were submitted to Premier de Rivera and to King Alfonso by eminent Spaniards. The Spanish Crown sent Don Rafael Casares Gil as delegate to the Saint Augustine dedication ceremonies in 1929. But the extent of Spanish recognition was not realized until a communication was received from the Spanish Embassy at Washington informing Herral Ayres that the "Condecoracion of the Royal Order of Isabel la Católica of Spain" had been conferred. The evening of April 29, 1930 the ceremony of the investiture of this Decoration was conducted at San Antonio. The following from the "Texas Pioneer" magazine is the report of that ceremony, said to be unprecedented in the United States.

This distinguished recognition is the tribute of Spain to all the Old Spanish Trail people for their achievements in connection with this work.

(From the Texas Pioneer--June 1930)

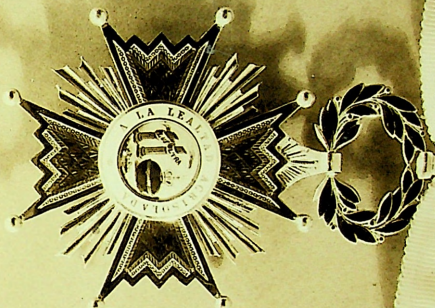
The most distinguished Royal Order of Spain, the Order memorializing the golden age of Ferdinand and Isabella, was conferred on Herral Ayres, April 29, at a formal diplomatic reception participated in by Spanish, American, Mexican and Texas officials and over 100 distinguished guests; ^{some from distant points.} Don Pablo de Ubarri, representing the Spanish King,

presented the Condecoracion of the Royal Order of Isabel la Católica in the name of His Majesty Alfonso XIII. Don Ubarri ~~was~~ ^{wore} his gold-brocaded uniform and chapou. The official group surrounding Don Ubarri, consisting of State, county and city officials, civic club presidents, the commanding general of the 8th Corps area of the army, and the Consul-General of Mexico, were all in formal dress and diplomatic usage prevailed. The distinction conferred on Herral Ayres was in recognition of his 10 years' leadership of the Old Spanish Trail ^{development}, today the most complete transcontinental highway in the United States, connecting Saint Augustine and San Diego through ~~the~~ historic Spanish cities from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The ceremony was in the art salon of Mrs. Henry Brought's home where all the surroundings were in keeping with the diplomatic function. Both Spanish and American music ~~was~~ ^{was} 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 sunburst in the red and gold Spanish colors, two inches in diameter, suspended from a laurel leaf. On one side the name of the Order and monogram. On the reverse side, the coat of arms and "la

Don Ubarri's Speech



THE CROSS OF KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL ORDER OF ISABEL LA CATOLICA OF SPAIN
Sector Herral Ayres, Comandador de la Real Orden de Isabel la Católica

by none for this official act,

that Spanish age are growing

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