

Palm Beach, Fla., April 25, 1930.

Mrs. Henry Drought,
1215 N. St. Mary's Street,
San Antonio, Texas;

Dear Mrs. Drought:

I have received the artistic invitation to the reception of that most excellent gentleman, Mr. Harral Ayres and regret exceedingly that I will not be among those present. If I was within one hundred miles of San Antonio, on Tuesday next, I most certainly would be glad to help honor Mr. Ayres and would go that distance to do so.

My adopted State -Florida- had a famous man, in the person of the late lamented Henry M. Flagler, who with millions of dollars at his command, in the 90s, became a real Florida booster by building railroads and hotels on the east coast of this State. He was a wonderful genius, but his great worth and the good he did for Florida, was not given acknowledgment in a public way, until last year, when a monument was erected to his memory by the City of Palm Beach.

You and those who gather to honor Mr. Ayres, on Tuesday evening next, with you, are real sincere people who appreciate a real man and a genius, for Mr. Ayres is a second Flagler and he has given the South a transcontinental highway that is the achievement of a great man. He may not receive public recognition of the wonderful accomplishment, now, but in the years to come, as his work is more and more appreciated, the people of the Southern States will be glad to honor the name of Harral Ayres. I am proud of the privilege of calling him a friend.

Respect.

J. Wadsworth Travers
Author of "From Coast to Coast in the Old South"