

Paris (Tex.) News

APR 8 - 1949

# Fort Worth Treats Non-Stop Fliers to Non-Stop Banquet

By WILLIAM C. BARNARD  
FORT WORTH (AP) — A non-stop banquet for the non-stop fliers. Fort Worth really put it on big Thursday night for Capt. James G. Gallagher and his crewmen who girdled the globe in a single 94-hour and one minute hop. For three hours the fliers — and Air Force officials — soaked up compliments and accepted gifts.

After the choice sirloins, mush-rooms, remouladed shrimp, whipped cream and strawberries and other extras had gone down the hatch, Mr. Fort Worth took over. Mr. Fort Worth is Amos G. Carter, fabled publisher, a big, strapping man, grey-headed and bright-eyed.

Carter was in rare form — even for Carter. His was a roaring, applauding, untiring audience of 500. He reminisced, rambled and never ran out of humor — but through it all he brought the sincere thanks of a warm, friendly city.

As he told the airmen: "Your gallant flight has been written into time — and with it has been written the fact that the flight started in Fort Worth and ended in Fort Worth. Fort Worth will not forget that — nor will it let anyone else forget it."

It was a plushy, top-drawer affair, sponsored by Fort Worth's Chamber of Commerce. Menus cost a dollar each to produce. The swank hotel ballroom was full of flags, flowers and beautiful gowns and the soft music of a smooth orchestra tantalized the air. The young fliers lolled happily at the head table.

At a reserved front table were their wives — the guest of Fort Worth. Each wife wore a gardenia corsage.

"I'm getting more of a kick out of this than I did out of making the big trip," said S-Sgt. Robert R. McLeroy of Alvarado, Tex. "And my dad — W. R. McLeroy of Alvarado — is out there in the audience, getting a bigger kick out of it than I am."

"This is Texas," Capt. James H. Morris of San Antonio said blissfully.

Carter presented the world-fliers and Air Force officials present with expensive, leather-bound scrolls, conferring lifetime citizenship in Fort Worth; fine wallets; and 14-karat gold medals commemorating the epic flight. In addition he promised them board brimmed western hats: "Just be careful where you leave those hats, boys."