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W. T. WAGGONER GIVEN GOLDEN DEED DOCUMENT

"Looks Like They Oversold Themselves," He Says Of Exchange Club

Paul and Guy Waggoner this morning presented to their father, 82-year-old W. T. Waggoner, a Golden Deed certificate, acknowledging the aged cowman, oil man and capitalist as Fort Worth's outstanding citizen for the year.

They told him of the praise which had been accorded him for his business ability, integrity and for his many gifts for the betterment of Fort Worth, including Arlington Downs, the \$2,000,000 racing plant.

Altho visibly affected, Mr. Waggoner gave a characteristic answer, terse and modest:

"It looks like they have oversold themselves."

300 Names on List.

The Golden Deeds certificate, with the scroll bearing the signatures of the 300 guests and lifelong friends who attended the Exchange Club's Golden Deed banquet last night were presented today because Mr. Waggoner was unable to attend because of his health.

Will Rogers paid high tribute to Mr. Waggoner as "Texas' greatest citizen," in a lengthy telegram, read at the affair.

Jesse Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and who was honored by the club in 1927, as an adopted citizen, also telegraphed high praise of Mr. Waggoner "as a citizen, friend and father."

J. H. Barwise, attorney and lifelong friend of the Waggoner family, praised Mr. Waggoner's integrity, in the chief talk.

"Many persons rate him as a great business executive because of his money. The truth is, he has made big money because he is a great business executive," Mr. Barwise declared.

Still a Cowman

"Mr. Waggoner still calls himself a cowman, and not a capitalist or an oil man. 'I'm a working man, not a loafer,' he once told me."

He pointed out that Mr. Waggoner has acquired the largest estate ever developed by one individual west of the Mississippi River.

Mr. Barwise said Mr. Waggoner had made large contributions to the Methodist Hospital, T. C. U. Stadium, Community Chest, and other charity institutions, and gave \$10,000 to send the Old Gray Mare Band to the National Democratic Convention at Chicago.

"This is in addition to the fortune he has spent at Arlington Downs," he added.

He said Mr. Waggoner also had the first skyscraper office building constructed here.

"Immediately after it was finished, he deeded it to his wife because it was the most beautiful building in Fort Worth," Mr. Barwise said.

Word as Good as Bond

W. E. Connell, chairman of the First National Bank board, who was honored by the club in 1931, said "Mr. Waggoner's word is his bond."

"This has been regarded as one of his most outstanding qualities. I do not believe a greater tribute could be paid a man than to have it said of him that 'his word is his bond'."

Frank Kell, Wichita Falls capitalist, who did business with Mr. Waggoner when the latter was operating his Three D Ranch, praised him as "one of the fairest dealing men I ever did business with."

"He used to be Texas' largest wheat grower, and I handled most of it for him; which is one of my most pleasant business memories."

T. B. Yarbrough, president of the First National Bank, who "pinched hit" for R. L. Moore, manager of Waggoner interests at Vernon and Electra, paid liberal tribute to Mr. Waggoner's business judgment.

"It was my privilege and the happiest part of my earlier life to have lived in Mr. Waggoner's home at Decatur, with his father, Dan. They had leased several hundred thousand acres of land, known as the Comanche Nation.

"W. T. a Leader"

"I learned that W. T. was more than a man, or a boss—he was a leader.

"He never told his cowboys to 'go ahead.' He always said 'come on,' and always took the lead," Mr. Yarbrough recalled.

"I think that I have seen him in every relation to his fellow-

men, as a devoted son to his father, a loyal and appreciative husband to a remarkable wife, a dotting, self-sacrificing father to his loved children, and to all of his kinspeople, maintaining a strong tie of relationship and helpfulness."

Other speakers, all of whom lauded Mr. Waggoner as Texas' greatest citizen, were: Guinn Williams, San Angelo; U. S. District Judge J. C. Wilson, Fort Worth; R. E. L. Knight, Dallas; Judge Joseph Murphy, general manager of Arlington Downs.

Guy Waggoner, in accepting the Golden Deed certificate from R. O. Dulaney, also honored by the club in 1930, said: "I thank you for the honor you have bestowed on my father. In my estimation, he is one of the greatest men in the world."

Paul Waggoner, in accepting the scroll, stood for a few moments in silence, then expressed appreciation for the tribute.

Amon G. Carter, toastmaster, who was the first to be honored by the club, in 1924, paid high tribute to Mr. Waggoner thruout the program.

"He is a man who has lived to bless mankind," he said.

Judge Walter Morris was chairman of the program, and Ben Eastman, club president, presided.

A beautiful floral horseshoe, with the Waggoners' Three Ds forming a centerpiece, was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Scott.

The High Flyers Orchestra, which furnished music for the occasion, played "The Races Are On," which was written by Mrs. J. L. Mims, 2220 Windsor Place.