

Civic Leaders Praise W. T. Waggoner as a Great Business Executive, Builder and Humanitarian

But He Prefers to Be Called Cowman

Named Fort Worth's Most Outstanding Citizen at Club Banquet.

W. T. Waggoner was pictured as a cowman, trader, modest benefactor and, lastly, as builder of the greatest individual estate ever amassed west of the Mississippi River, by speakers at the tenth annual Golden Deeds banquet of the Exchange Club Wednesday night at the Fort Worth Club.

Waggoner, named by the club as Fort Worth's outstanding citizen of 1933, was unable to be present because of his health but was represented by his two sons, Guy and Paul Waggoner. A plan to carry the words of the speakers to Waggoner over a special wire and amplifier also was abandoned for fear it might unduly excite him.

Messages of Praise.

Friends and associates of the pioneer rancher and capitalist were present from various parts of the State and others sent messages of praise and regrets at not being able to attend. Included in these were messages from Will Rogers, Jesse H. Jones and R. L. More of Vernon, manager of the Waggoner interests at Vernon and Electra. More requested that T. B. Yarbrough, president of the First National Bank, speak his tribute to Waggoner as "my boss."

Speakers, besides Yarbrough, were W. E. Connell, chairman of the board of the First National Bank; Frank Kell, Wichita Falls; former Congressman Guinn Williams, San Angelo; J. H. Barwise, R. O. Dulahey, Federal District Judge James C. Wilson and Waggoner's two sons, all of Fort Worth, and R. E. L. Knight of Dallas. Amon G. Carter, the first citizen to be honored by the club when its Golden Deeds plan was inaugurated in 1924, was toastmaster. Carter referred to his own choice as the club's "experiment" and said that since then the club had done better.

Great Leader.

Yarbrough said "Mr. Waggoner might be called a boss, and a great and good one, but in my mind he is more a great leader than a boss. He never told his men to do anything he was not willing to do himself. Most of the time his orders were, 'Come on, boys, let's go.'" Yarbrough also paid tribute to the memory of Waggoner's father, Dan Waggoner.

Connell said of Waggoner that "Every man, regardless of the size of the transaction involved, knew that when Tom Waggoner told him it was a trade he could absolutely depend on it."

Kell told of Waggoner's early success as a wheat grower and recalled how he had traded with him as far back as 1896. He said "there is not a man in the city or in the State who merits more such recognition as you are bestowing on Mr. Waggoner than he does." Williams declared that "we honor ourselves in attempting to honor Tom Waggoner." He praised him as a friendly competitor of years gone by and said "Mr. Waggoner could not help but be a great man for his father, Uncle Dan Waggoner, was a great man. W. T. Waggoner never turned a deaf ear to a just cause. He is not only a good judge of horses, but he is also a good judge of men."

"Many Kindnesses."

"He has done many kindnesses that none knew about, helping the widow and the ambitious young man. He is not only a big man in Fort Worth, but he is a big man in the State and Nation."

Yarbrough, in speaking for More whom he praised as "an example of the able and fine type of men with whom Tom Waggoner always surrounded himself," concluded his message by saying that "W. T. Waggoner, to my mind, is one of the most remarkable men I have known. To his employes fair, just and a comrade, he has always been a good trader, always fair, his word is his bond and I consider his judgment the best. I could talk to you all night about Cousin Tom. He has been my friend, my father, my one inspiration and comrade."

Barwise, principal speaker on the program, a lifelong friend of Waggoner and his legal counsel for many years, described him as an estate builder.

"Great Executive."

"Many have said that Mr. Waggoner is a great business executive because he has money but they are mistaken," Barwise said. "Mr. Waggoner has made money because he is a great business executive. He went into the cow business as a boy of 7 or 8 years and he has never gone out of the cow business. In fact, with all of his many interests, he has never wanted to be called anything but a cowman."

"Often he has said to me, 'I'm not an oil man, I'm a cow man—and I'm not a capitalist for a capitalist don't have to work. I work hard all the time.'"

Barwise said that Waggoner's determined and successful effort to legalize horse racing in Texas was based on a view that it would be good for the State and that it was his idea that a part of the revenue should be devoted to improvement of livestock and a part given to the public school fund.

"Old-Time Cowman."

Waggoner was pictured by Barwise as an outstanding example of the old-time cowman "who built Fort Worth." Much of the city's friendly and hos-

pitable spirit has been inherited from the lives of those pioneer cowmen, he said.

"Mr. Waggoner in mind, heart and soul is not yet even a 40-year-old person," Barwise said. "His love of Fort Worth dates back to days when he cow-hunted over this section. He helped drive a herd of 7,000 cattle across this way when he was going from Wise to Wichita County."

"Somebody once wanted to buy out his father, Dan Waggoner, for \$25,000 but Tom said to him, 'Turn 'em over to me and I'll make money. Dan Waggoner did not believe in land ownership. Tom did. He traded for practically all of the more than 600,000 acres of land in West Texas that the Waggoner family still holds titles on.'"

Barwise recalled the development of the Waggoner "Three D" brand, now the symbol of all the Waggoner interests. It originally was one "D" and later was changed to three "Ds" and reversed to out-manuever cow thieves who had been stealing the cattle and changing the "D" to a dollar mark.

"Grand Old Man."

The W. T. Waggoner Building here was the first modern office building erected in Fort Worth, Barwise reminded. He expressed appreciation of the Waggoner family for the tribute of the Exchange Club. He praised Waggoner's sons as "true, full-blooded sons of Tom Waggoner who are successfully following in the footsteps of their father."

Knight, another longtime friend of Waggoner and whose brother, a physician, attended the Waggoner family in the early days, said that "Mr. Waggoner's full and well-rounded life has spanned the greatest era in the annals of human progress."

Judge Wilson declared that Mr. Waggoner had earned the title of "Fort Worth's grand old man," and later, at Carter's suggestion, agreed to add that the title rightfully should be "the grand old man of Texas."

Guy and Paul Waggoner, introduced and asked to respond to the tributes to their father, were visibly affected by the words of praise heaped upon him, and spoke briefly but appropriately. Both thanked the club and speakers for the tributes to their father.

"In my estimation, my father is one of the greatest men in the world," Guy said.

Dulahey, also a former honoree of the club, presented the Golden Deeds certificate for Waggoner to his sons. Carter presented them with the club



W. T. WAGGONER.

OPENING WEDGE FOR TOUCH, SAYS ROGERS

A message from Will Rogers, cowboy humorist, to W. T. Waggoner was among the telegrams read Wednesday night at the Exchange Club Golden Deeds banquet honoring Waggoner.

Rogers' message follows:

"Mr. Waggoner, don't take this dinner serious, it's only the opening wedge of a gigantic touch. Amon wants some money to take a band with him somewhere, or something of that sort. Why don't you do this, Mr. Waggoner, turn over what little of your fortune Fort Worth and Amon have left you, and just let them have it, and put you on an allowance, then you wouldn't have to go through all this rigamaroll."

"I wish I was there tonight but I had two weeks of Amon's jokes. I couldn't stand another night. May you live till Fort Worth can get along without you, and that means eternity. Will Rogers."

He added a "P. S." It was "Give my regards to Ma and Jim Ferguson."

scroll bearing the signatures of those present.

Ben Eastman Presides.

Ben Eastman, club president, presided, and Judge Walter Morris was program chairman. Carter introduced A. Y. Leslie, Alvord; O. L. Thomas, Decatur banker, and George Gage, former sheriff of Wise County, all friends of Waggoner. He also presented Judge Joseph A. Murphy, general manager of Arlington Downs, who spoke briefly and said "unless something unforeseen happens we will show Arlington Downs as America's greatest race track."

On the speakers' table was a floral horseshoe in the Waggoner colors and centered with the Three D symbol, a gift to Mr. and Mrs. Waggoner from Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Scott. The High Flyers Orchestra played "The Races Are On at Arlington Downs," composed by Mrs. J. L. Mims for the occasion, and many old time numbers familiar to the early cowmen.

Carter read the messages from Rogers, Jones, More and a letter from Mrs. Clara B. Warlick of Austin. He expressed appreciation for the club's

annual "flower to the living" banquet and concluded the program with a summary of the tributes paid Waggoner and a wish that he might live many more years. Those present, at the request of Carter, stood for a moment in memory of those of the Golden Deeds honorees who have died. They were Maj. K. M. Van Zandt, H. C. Meacham, E. T. Renfro, W. C. Strippling and Dr. Ira C. Chase.

Jones' message, sent from Washington, D. C., read:

"The Exchange Club has chosen a worthy honor guest for its Golden Deeds banquet and I join with you all in testimony of appreciation for all the fine and constructive things that Tom Waggoner has done during a full and useful life. Sorry not to be personally present but want to be included among those paying him this honor."

McKinney Man Is Templars' Choice

DALLAS, April 12.—Will J. Rhea of McKinney was elected grand commander of the Grand Commandery of Texas, Knights Templar, at the conclusion of the annual business sessions today.

W. D. Miller of Ruthyan Commandery was named captain of the guard, but all other grand officers were elevated one position.

The final session restored the Bonham Commandery, adopted an official route to the San Francisco convention and adopted various reports.

Two Tech Students Die of Pneumonia

LUBBOCK, April 12.—Two students of Texas Technological College died today of pneumonia.

Matt Hitchcock of Lexington, football star and senior agricultural student, died this afternoon.

Harold Spalding of Marshall, a sophomore, died this morning.

Both had been ill only a few days.

HUMPHREY'S WIDOW DIES

INDEPENDENCE, Kan., April 12. Amanda L. Humphrey, 84, widow of Lyman U. Humphrey, a former Governor of Kansas, died here late yesterday at the home of her son, Lyman.