

Fellow Texans,

I am a Texan because you have made me one of you, and I wish I could tell you just what you and Texas have meant to me this summer, and what you will mean to me through the years to come. But, I am a musician, not a speech-maker. My heart is too full to speak the words I would like to say to you, so I am writing them.

I came down here, a man sorely in need of spiritual uplift. In Texas I have found it. I was physically tired, having had no vacation from my work for a long period of time, and, mentally and spiritually, at a low ebb. Even success and fame, that I had worked so hard to obtain, had begun to lose their glamour and the exigencies of my profession had taxed my strength almost beyond endurance. But, the remarkable friendliness which met me on all sides upon my arrival here, the way in which you Texans took me immediately to your hearts and went out of your way to make things easy and pleasant for me, brought me a new outlook on life. Before coming here, I felt a close spiritual kinship to Texas because one of your cities, Houston, had honored the memory of my mother by playing a symphony concert in her name each year. Here among you, that closeness has grown immeasurably. I have learned a great lesson in humanity from your helpful, straightforward and unassuming philosophy of living. I have learned the real meaning of the words, "friend" and "neighbor". And, from the clear skies and clean, strong breezes of Texas I have received a strength of mind and uplift of spirit which will go with me the rest of my days. As to my physical well-being - the Texas life, with its opportunities for horse-back riding, my favorite sport, and time spent out of doors, has been ideal. I have never been more fit.

I am deeply grateful for the unique honors which have been bestowed on me here - the special week which the Governor proclaimed for me throughout the state, my introduction to the Texas Legislature in joint session, the Governor's commissioning me a member of his staff, your making me honorary mayor of Ft. Worth, the beautiful trophies presented me by the Rotary Club and the Horse Show committee, the many invaluable personal gifts I have received, and now this Chamber of Commerce luncheon - a wonderful demonstration of your good-will toward me.

I am bound to Texas by irrevocable ties, and so deeply do I feel the Texas spirit, that I hereby appoint myself your Musical Ambassador. When I return to the East, it will be with a new mission in life - that of spreading the message of Texas to the world. I shall have one of my talented composers create a tone poem about Texas which will be featured by my orchestra. And, at every opportunity I'll be busy at my new self-appointed task, for everywhere I go, I shall feel that the "Eyes of Texas" are truly upon me.

Sincerely,

Paul Whiteman