

Mineral Wells (Tex.) News

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Six Buck Meal And Carter Wit Is Feature Of Lucky Lady Party Thursday

FORT WORTH, Tex., April 8—
Note to President Harry S. Truman; Washington, D. C.:

You, Mr. President, are today an honorary citizen of Fort Worth, not for one day, not for one year, not for one term—but for life.

Amon Carter, who is almost as big a man in these parts as you are in Washington, conferred the Signal Honor on you last night, Mr. President. You, and 14 guys who flew non-stop around the world in the B-50 bomber Lucky Lady II, and a few other assorted people, like high military brass and a smattering of civilian cabinet members.

There was a six-buck meal and some ceremony and a lot of Carter wit as the Chamber of Commerce of Fort Worth, with neither a trace of modesty for a sign of compassion for rival Dallas, acknowledged its place in the sun as aviation center, first class.

Capt. James Gallagher of Melrose, Minn., the Pacific War Theaters and Tucson, Ariz., was there, along with his 13 chewmen who did what no other men had ever done before—fly non-stop around the globe.

The Chamber of Commerce gave the flyers a gold medal, a wallet bearing a citizenship card, a scroll of citizenship and a sales talk on Fort Worth's virtues. The Chamber called it a testimonial dinner for the men of the Lucky Lady, who took 94 hours and one minute to fly from Fort Worth to Fort Worth via the Azores, Saudi Arabia, Philippines and Hawaii, Feb. 26 to March 2.

Lt. Gen. Curtis Lemay, Commander of the Strategic Air Command, and Maj. Gen. Roger Ramey, commanding the 8th Air Force, shared the spotlight with the Lucky Lady crew. They also were given billfolds and citizenship cards and scrolls.

The Truman wallet, complete with citizenship card, and identical gifts for former defense secretary James Forrestal and his recent successor, Lewis Johnson, will go by mail.

As Fort Worth expressed its thanks for an opportunity to do some legitimate crowning, it did not pass up an opportunity to gig neighbor Dallas.

Chamber of Commerce man Web Maddox, as aviation minded as the next fellow, observed that here now were Carswell Air Force Base and a Consolidated Vultee Manufacturing plant that turns out the six-engine skygiant B-36 bombers.

Here too, quote Maddox, will soon be a new ultra-modern commercial airport. He was referring to the Midway Airport, which Dallas has fought to no avail, and which is almost certain to take away the eminent position held now by Dallas' Love Field.

"Midway will not only serve our city," said Maddox, "but also—

others.

Carter fired the big guns, however.

"This certificate of Honorary Citizenship," he told Lemay, "is good anywhere but Dallas."

Fort Worth, he observed, has long been aviation minded. Then he turned to his audience and admonished his fellow townsmen, "I hope everyone will be even more aviation minded; Convair and Carswell contribute \$2,000,000 a week to our city's welfare."

The Lucky Lady crew, their wives and the 500 persons who dined on as fine a steak as ever graced a banquet table had a good time. It was the flyers' night, they were treated royally, but no one had more fun than publisher Carter, who donned tuxedo and red carnation to play his role of "Mr. Fort Worth." The banquet lasted three and one-half hours.