

Ferdie J. Deering

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Old Friend Bids Beloved State Goodbye

A FEW DAYS ago a voice on the telephone said: "Hello, Ferdie, this is Glenn Faris. I called to tell you goodbye. I am moving to Idaho and I am fortunate in being able to tell my friends goodbye."

He told me his new address is 651 Westhill St., Idaho Falls, ID, 83402. This is a long way from the prairies where Faris has spent about 80 of his 85 years. Failing health motivated him to pull up stakes and move to be near his daughter and family.

It is certain that Glenn didn't have the opportunity to tell all of his friends goodbye. If he had made as many dollars as he made friends he would be a multimillionaire. He might be richer with his friends than with dollars, because they're worth more.

Faris joined the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce in 1923 and became right hand man to the notable Stanley Draper Sr. in an endless campaign to build a better city and a more prosperous state. Glenn retired in 1962 but never stopped working toward those goals.

Only those closely associated with

the Chamber during those years may have known how many speeches and reports Glenn W. Faris prepared that were delivered by others and how many tedious chores he performed for which someone else was publicly applauded.

True, Faris was paid a salary for work he did, but he never recognized regular working hours. Schedules frequently were rigorous, especially when major events overlapped.

Faris became associated with the Oklahoma 4-H and FFA Livestock show soon after he joined the Chamber and compiled a record of more than 50 years of participation. He was show honoree in 1970.

He was a leader in organizing the Sirloin Club of Oklahoma in 1952, serving as secretary-treasurer its first 10 years. He also was an organizer of the Southwest American Livestock Foundation, Oklahoma City Farm Club, Oklahoma 4-H Club Congress and numerous other organizations and activities. Usually these involved enlistment of volunteer manpower and raising funds.

Glenn helped do it all.

When it was learned that a committee was looking for a site on which to build a National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in 1955, Faris was assigned the task of preparing a presentation. He did a successful job, with aid of a committee. He served as executive officer during fund drives and difficult days when some feared the project might fail. Glenn Faris kept it together and as much as any other one man deserves credit for its existence.

On Sundays Glenn Faris and his late wife, Nettie, went to church. Faris was instrumental in starting the Westminster Presbyterian Church, where he served as trustee, ruling elder, treasurer and chairman of various committees.

In these times when so many people give little of their time and not much of their money to help build a better community it is appropriate that we applaud those who do.

Glenn W. Faris has said "Goodbye!" to the state he loves, but he has left lasting memorials through his long, useful career.