

WILSON *Certified* **NEWS**

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Thos. E. Wilson

Retired Board Chairman and Industry Dean Dies at Edellyn Farms Home

THOS. E. WILSON, 90, retired chairman of the board of Wilson & Co., died on August 4 at his Edellyn Farms home in Wilson, Illinois. Funeral services, held at the Lake Forest Presbyterian church on August 7, were attended by officers and Headquarters employees of the Company, business and civic leaders, and 4-H representatives.

Mr. Wilson's career is well known to Wilson people. He started in the packing industry as a car checker for Morris & Co. in the Chicago Stock Yards in 1887 at the age of 19. The hours were long and the work hard, but he saw the challenging opportunities of the era into which the industry was entering. As he worked at checking cars, he studied the industry, willingly took on added responsibilities and moved steadily upward. Upon the death of Edward Morris in 1913, Mr. Wilson became president of the Company.

Three years later, in 1916, he accepted an offer to become president of Sulzberger & Sons Co., one of the nation's larger meat packing companies. Shortly after Mr. Wilson took over, the name was changed to Wilson & Co. As president and later as chairman of the board, Mr. Wilson served as head of the Company for 37 years until his retirement in 1953.

Among the many significant contributions which Mr. Wilson made to the livestock and meat industry were his efforts to bring about better cooperation and understanding among the various groups in the industry. He took an active part in helping to organize the American Meat Institute, and served



Thos. E. Wilson, on the right, with eight other leaders of American industry in the first half of the Twentieth Century. Left to right: Harvey Firestone, Julius Rosenwald, Thomas A. Edison, Thomas Lipton, Charles M. Schwab, Henry Ford, Walter P. Chrysler, George Eastman, and Mr. Wilson.

as its first president. Then, as president of the Institute and a leading packer, he met with key men of the livestock industry to extend the principles of cooperation and understanding to all groups in the livestock and meat industry. From these meetings came the National Live Stock and Meat Board on which he served as a director for many years.

In the field of meat and by-products research, Mr. Wilson also believed the principles of cooperation could be applied. As head of the Institute's Plan Commission, he took an important part in establishing the Research Laboratory of the Institute at the University of Chicago and in organizing the American Meat Institute Foundation.

Keenly interested in the development of better livestock, Mr. Wilson made a substantial contribution to the improvement of American beef cattle through his famed Edellyn Farms breeding herd of Shorthorn cattle.

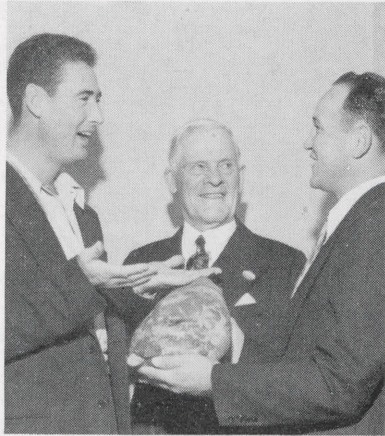
To millions of Americans on the nation's farms and ranches, he is best known for his interest and work in behalf of the 4-H Club movement. In the early 1920's, he gave his full support to a young man, GUY NOBLE, who was working to establish a volunteer committee of business, agricultural, and educational leaders that would assist the Extension Service of the United States Department of Agriculture in furthering and expanding the 4-H Club movement. Three years after this Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work was organized, Mr. Wilson was named chairman and served in this post for 24 years. Under the joint leadership of Mr. Noble, as managing

director, and Mr. Wilson, as chairman, the Committee exerted a great influence in assisting the Extension Service in expanding and enriching the work of the 4-H Clubs.

Numerous honors were conferred upon Mr. Wilson. In 1917, he was named as one of the Fifty Foremost Business Leaders in America. In 1946, the President of the United States awarded him the Medal For Merit, the nation's highest award to civilians for wartime service. The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon him by Coe College and the University of Western Ontario, and in 1952, he received the Northwestern University Centennial Award for Distinguished Service to Society.

The high regard and esteem with which Mr. Wilson was held by Wilson & Co. people is summed up in the closing words of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors of the Company at the time of his retirement in 1953:

"Over the years his high ideals, and unquestioned devotion to the welfare of Wilson & Co., Inc. have given it a strength of character that has placed it among the foremost companies in America."



Mr. Wilson's leadership in two great industries, meat packing and athletic goods manufacturing, was typified in this scene at a Wilson & Co. dinner for 4-H Club members. Ted Williams, Boston Red Sox, Mr. Wilson, and Allie Reynolds, New York Yankees, discuss the fine qualities of a Certified Ham.

Mr. Wilson's lifelong interest in young people and in improving the quality of American livestock were evident in this picture taken at the International Live Stock Exposition in 1949. Mr. Wilson was telling movie star Bobby Driscoll about Edellyn Leader 46th, prize-winning Shorthorn from Edellyn Farms.

