

LIVESTOCK



GOLDEN OX ICON: Founded by Jay Dillingham in 1949, the Golden Ox restaurant made the Kansas City steak famous, and it continues that tradition today. It was also a place where Dillingham entertained such dignitaries as President Harry S Truman and President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

Working for a better way of life

RUNNING the Kansas City Stockyards would have been job enough for most people, but Jay Dillingham understood that the world didn't end at the borders of the 220-acre West Bottoms facility.

He was tireless in his efforts to promote and improve all of Kansas City and beyond — from roadways and airports to health care, education and flood control.

For Dillingham, there wasn't a line separating rural from urban. In his mind, the two were integrally connected; what was good for agriculture was good for Kansas City, and vice versa.

If better roads and bridges served city-dwellers, they were also essential to farmers bringing crops and livestock to market. If flood protection spawned a huge recreation industry, it also protected farmland and businesses.

That same bridge-building attitude was brought to bear on politics.

A lifelong Democrat, Dillingham was close friends with Kansas Republican Sen. Harry Darby, and the two of them succeeded in bringing about public works projects that shaped both sides of the Missouri River at Kansas City.

He knew Eisenhower and Truman personally, and hosted both presidents at the Golden Ox restaurant in the Livestock Exchange Building.

Dillingham opened the Golden Ox in 1949 to provide good food for livestock owners doing business at the yards.

It was also, however, where he convinced, cajoled and influenced — over a Kansas City strip steak.

Jay Dillingham was a prominent mover and shaker who brought people and politics together.

Appointed to the Missouri Highway Commission by Democratic Gov. Joseph Teasdale, he was kept there by Republican Gov. Kit Bond.

He became the only man to head up the chambers of commerce in both Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Kan.

— Mark Parker



DESKTOP OF MEMORIES: Jay Dillingham's rolltop desk remains in his old office on the ninth floor of the Livestock Exchange Building. Now occupied by his son, John, the office is filled with tokens of recognition and memorabilia from Dillingham's decades at the helm of the Kansas City Stockyards.



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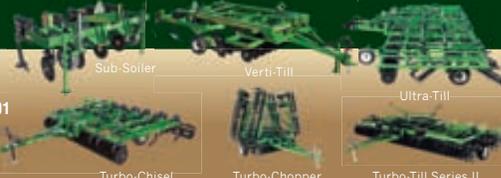
Machine Models

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