

# Rogers Speeding Home After Brief Stop Here

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Will Rogers, his tour of three States completed and \$221,191 raised in benefit shows for the drouth relief fund of the American Red Cross, paid a "pop" call here Friday morning as he sped homeward "to go back to work."

Capt. Frank Hawks, holder of several coast-to-coast air speed records and who was Rogers' pilot throughout the tour, set the United States Navy "Hell Diver" plane, in which they made the tour, down on the muddy Municipal Airport field at 8:45 a. m., completing a hop from Texarkana in 1 hour and 30 minutes.

They took off for California at

10:03 a. m. Captain Hawks said he would attempt to reach Santa Monica, Cal., tonight if weather conditions permitted. If the "ceiling" got too low for them to "stay off the trees and silos" they planned to stop somewhere in Arizona.

"Well, you know I'd like to stay here a while longer but I got a telegram from my boss, Mr. Fox, last night and it said 'You better be here Saturday morning to go to work or you may be among the unemployed, too. If you stay away much longer, we are going to fix it so you can do

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# WILL ROGERS HALTS HERE ON WAY HOME

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that kind of thing all the time," Rogers told the group of Fort Worth business men and officials who greeted him at the airport.

Rogers was given a pleasant surprise immediately after the informal greeting when he was presented with a large silver loving cup as a token of appreciation from citizens of Fort Worth. The cup was presented to Rogers by Walter B. Scott, general chairman of the disaster relief committee of the Fort Worth Red Cross chapter.

"The people of America owe you a debt of gratitude for this magnificent service, Mr. Rogers," Scott said. "There is nothing elaborate or particularly expensive about this cup. We knew you would not want it to be, but we wanted you to have a material expression of our thanks and a permanent reminder that Fort Worth will always be grateful to you for what you have done."

## Speechless for a Minute.

Rogers was so surprised at the gift that he found difficulty in saying anything for a few moments.

Finally he stepped over to the cup where it sat on a stand and gently patted one of the silver handles.

"That is shore nice of you folks—it's a mighty pretty cup. I thank you," he said.

The cup bore the name "Will Rogers" in raised gold letters with a gold miniature lariat entwined about the name, and inscribed under a Texas star the words, "America's pride, its most dependable citizen in time of need; a real ambassador of peace, good will and mercy. Red Cross relief, in grateful appreciation by Fort Worth citizens, for a big job well done," and the date, Jan. 30, 1931, the day Rogers spoke here for the relief fund and raised \$18,325. On the back of the cup was the name "Betty Rogers," also in raised gold letters and the words, "Your husband has won our hearts as he won yours."

## Hawks Returning Plane.

Captain Hawks explained that he is flying the Hell Diver to California at the request of Assistant Secretary of the Navy Ingalls, who loaned the plane for the tour. Ingalls is in Panama attending the naval maneuvers. Hawks will leave the plane in Los Angeles for Ingalls.

"It was mighty fine of him to let us have that ship," Captain Hawks said. "I know he would have liked mighty well to have had it in Panama at the maneuvers."

Mrs. Hawks, who is a sister of Mrs. Barney Holland of Fort Worth, was at the airport to meet her husband. She will leave Saturday morning on a passenger plane. She will rejoin her husband in California where they plan to rest for a few days as guests of Rogers at his ranch.

Both Rogers and Hawks were in high spirits but showed plainly the strain of their three weeks of high-powered touring. The last few days of the tour in Arkansas they made from four to six towns a day.

## Starts Picture on Return.

Rogers will begin work on his new picture, "Father and the Boys," upon his return. He took the loving cup in the little ship with him.

Hawks asked if he might use the concrete ramp to take off on. They moved several ships and the Hell Diver roared along the concrete "apron" to a perfect takeoff. Just before Rogers closed the "hatch" on the little ship he yelled above the roar of the motor, "wire Amon that I was here, got gas, a silver cup and a Dallas News."

Among those who were at the port to greet Rogers were John W. St. Clair, president of the Red Cross chapter; R. O. Dulaney, new Chamber of Commerce president; Barney Holland, Chester Byers, J. M. North Jr., Henry G. Bowden, Mrs. Bowden, Mrs. Holland, Rev. James K. Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Maxfield of Hillsboro. Mrs. Maxfield is a relative of Mrs. Rogers.