

April 7, 1933.

Mr. David R. Milsten;
Milsten & Milsten,
Tulsa, Okla.

Dear Mr. Milsten:

Due to several prolonged absences from the city, I am just getting around to answering your letter of April 5th regarding Will Rogers. I trust you will pardon the delay.

I have known Will intimately I suppose for probably fifteen years. Like the rest of the nation, I admired him for many years before. During the period I have come to know him better and to be with him more, my admiration for him has become genuine affection. I do not think it is difficult to analyze. I do not believe anyone can enjoy the privilege of knowing Will Rogers, or being thrown with him even a few times, without being drawn closely to him and feeling a certain degree of affection for him. It is because Will gives so much. He likes people; his nature overflows with kindness and tolerance. I do not suppose there is anyone he really dislikes; I am positive there is none he hates. Hate is absolutely foreign to his nature. That is the reason he can say such cutting things, point out such obvious truths, josh the biggest about their mistakes and frailties, without leaving a sting. The shots hit home, but they leave no sting, for those who are hit know there is no malice behind them.

The most striking characteristic in Will's nature, to my mind, is his genuine sincerity. In ability to entertain the public and to provide amusement, he ranks as a great actor. In life, there is nothing of the actor about him. He is the same Will Rogers anywhere, any time, under any circumstances. He makes no distinction between the great and the near great, the big and the little, the successful and the unsuccessful. They are all human beings to him, each possessed of a certain amount of good qualities, perhaps a few of the bad. Will pokes fun at the bad, but never fails to recognize the good. Success not

only has not spoiled him, but has not affected him, insofar as I have ever been able to detect. With a place in the hearts of the American public greater and more secure than that of any other person, to me, he is no different from the trick roping cowboy who first appeared as an unfeatured actor in a vaudeville bill here twenty years ago.

Another characteristic that is equally appealing is his sound common sense. Will has that rare gift of being able to see to the core of any proposition, to cast immediately aside all collateral or confusing questions and to lay stark the one upon which it should turn. Many times, when a group of friends have been arguing the relative merits and demerits of some question, I have heard Will come out with some simple, homely, common sense statement that, if it didn't end the discussion, blew all their arguments to smithereens.

I do not think it is too much to say that Will Rogers is our most outstanding typical American. He has all the qualities that bring forth public admiration, all that draw people to him, that make those who know him well not only admire him but love him. He is most generous, kind hearted and dispenses thousands of dollars in charity which no one knows about. In his usual patriotic way, Will raised something like \$280,000.00 by public appearances for the benefit of the Red Cross, worked like a slave, paid all his own expenses and the expense of the others who accompanied him on the trip. This effort alone on his part cost him at least \$10,000.00; still, you never hear Will refer to or comment on anything of a charitable nature which he has participated in. His modesty in this respect is refreshing. Sturdy character, high principles, clean living, straight thinking, a genuine love for his fellowman - these all are enshrouded in a nature whose protective armor is apparent embarrassment.

I imagine Will will get a great kick out of his biography. I can hear him saying now that there is nothing to write about in his life, and that he has done nothing that would make

a biography interesting to the American people. However, I am glad you are preparing it, for I believe the regard of the American people for him is so great they want to know a great deal more about him than they do. In short, I think he would be 100% plus after paying 1000% stock dividend.

Sincerely yours,

ACC.KD