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100,000 FILE PAST ROGERS' BIER

MANY CARRY FLOWERS AS TRIBUTE

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 22 (AP).—In a mammoth demonstration of tribute, Will Rogers was canonized in the Valhalla of popular reverence and esteem today as a crowd expected to exceed 100,000 persons filed past his bier.

The body of the well beloved actor and master of gentle satire lay in state out under trees at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale.

In a column of twos, persons from all walks of life passed by the closed casket, which was almost covered with a huge United States flag fashioned from flowers. Some mourners carried little bunches of flowers to leave at the bier. Some carried only a single modest blossom.

In the seemingly endless stream of humanity were roughly dressed laborers, housewives, business men, motion picture "extras" and office workers, some of whom appeared as early as 3:15 a. m.

These were the thousands who regarded the humble-living philosopher as their friend and wanted to participate in the farewell to him, even if they could not attend the funeral service at 2 p. m. which space limited to a scant few mourners.

All approaches to the verdant hilltop Memorial Park were choked with traffic. Still the thousands came. Shortly after the gates opened at 7 a. m. nearly 30,000 persons had congregated at the park. At this rate of arrival, police expressed belief that more than 100,000 persons would come to the scene.

Hurried along by officers, the mourners filed by the body at the rate of nearly 100 a minute. The line of march was kept several feet from the bier. Those who had flowers gave them to attendants, who placed them at the base of the catafalque.

The question of whether Rogers' casket should be open was left to his widow. She decided against it last night.

Among those bidden to the private services this afternoon were Rear Admiral William T. Tarrant and Commander Herbert A. Jones, representing President Roosevelt.

The huge Hollywood bowl, seating 35,000, and the community Presbyterian Church of Beverly Hills were meeting places for the general public. At the motion picture studios, including the one at which Rogers was a star, fellow film players were called to pay him homage.

A proclamation of Governor Frank F. Merriam asking a minute of silence throughout California at 2 p. m., the time of the services, was to be followed by city and federal offices, and most business houses here, with flags at half-staff throughout the day.

At Claremore, Okla., which Rogers called his "home town" memorial services were set and at nearby Chelsea, Rev. Argus J. Hamilton, classmate of the humorist, was to deliver a eulogy.

Motion picture producers and dis-

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

tributors of America announced more than 12,000 theaters over the country would be darkened for two minutes during the services. The Variety Club of Minneapolis and St. Paul honored Rogers by arranging a theater program and in Des Moines and Ames, Iowa, carillons were to toll, while at the Iowa State Fair a silent tribute was planned.

John Boles to Sing.

At the request of the family the casket was unopened as Rogers' body lay in state from 7 a. m. until noon within the gates of Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale. And at their wish the private funeral program at the Wee Kirk o' the Heather at the park was made brief and simple.

At these services Rev. J. Whitcomb Brouger, associate pastor of the Glendale Baptist Church and intimate friend of Rogers, was to read the funeral oration and John Boles, motion picture star and singer at the same studio where the comedian worked, was to sing.

The service, as Mrs. Rogers wished, was timed to last little more than 20 minutes.

A special detail of 400 officers was assigned to handle traffic at Glendale Cemetery, where the body of the Alaskan crash victim lay in state until noon.

The vast motion picture industry was ordered to a complete standstill and all—executives, stars, extras and laborers—joined in ceremonies.

Services at Bowl.

George Jessel, stage star and friend of Rogers for 25 years, was selected to deliver the eulogy at Twentieth Century-Fox, the Rogers "home lot."

At Hollywood Bowl the most impressive service was planned. Lawrence Tibbett, the opera baritone, will sing John Mansfield's "By a Bier Side;" Conrad Nagel, long an actor friend of Rogers, will read a prose selection, and Rupert Hughes, the writer, will deliver an eulogy.

Mrs. Rogers and her three children, Will Jr., Mary and James, returned here Wednesday from the East, riding in the private car of Jesse Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, long a close friend of Rogers.

WILL

Rogers

SAID -



BEVERLY HILLS, Cal., Feb. 16.—Wiley Post is leaving here any morning now, on the most hazardous flight, yet the most beneficial to aviation of

any since Lindbergh's. He is pioneering a new world. Flying a long course at 35,000 feet has never been attempted. Eight hours on oxygen is new. He drops his landing gear on leaving. He has to come in on (pardon the expression, but it's all he has to land on) his "belly." His propeller spins lower down than the bottom of his plane. He has to stop it and get it exactly crossways before landing, or it will hit first and turn him a somersault.

It's a real scientific flight. If it works everybody will fly up there. It's an old style ship. Five years old. He has flown it around the world twice. So a prayer or at least a good wish for Wiley.

Yours, WILL.

EDITOR'S NOTE—Messages with which Will Rogers delighted readers of The Star-Telegram for years prior to his death are being selected at random and reproduced. This one appeared in the issue of Feb. 16, 1935.