

HUGE CROWD FILES PAST ROGERS CASKET

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

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Many Thousands File by Will Rogers' Bier

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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.

Classmate Eulogist.

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 distributors 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 Brougher, 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.

Family Bids Farewell to Will Rogers at Bier

By International News Service.

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 22.—A grief-stricken widow, two saddened boys and a girl Thursday had said a final private farewell to their husband and father, Will Rogers.

Shortly before midnight a sedan slipped through the gates of the Forest Lawn Memorial Park and made its way to the Wee Kirk o' the Heather.

Mrs. Betty Rogers, the widow, assisted by her sons, Will Jr. and James, stepped from the car and walked into the gold chapel where a dim light played on the simple bronze casket which bore the body of Will Rogers, to the world a hu-

morist and philosopher, to the saddened trio a loving husband and father.

There, with no curious eyes to witness their grief, the trio stood a few feet from the body of the man they loved, attired in his "dress up" suit of blue serge, a plain white shirt and a black bow tie.

After a few seconds the three walked back to their car. Tears were streaming from Mrs. Rogers' eyes, while the eyes of her sons were dimmed by emotion.

Mrs. Rogers did not collapse. She

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Family Bids Farewell to Will Rogers at Bier

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was visibly shaken by grief, but kept a firm control over her emotions.

It was the first time Mrs. Rogers or her sons had looked on the features of the husband and father since he left Hollywood a few weeks ago on the ill-fated vacation trip to Alaska with Wiley Post, who crashed to his death with Rogers on the barren Alaskan tundra.

It was a final farewell.

Mary Rogers, daughter of the actor, remained at the Santa Monica ranch home of the family during the midnight visit of her mother and brother to the bier of her father. She was overcome by grief,

it was said, and could not bear the ordeal of a last look at the loved features in the midnight hours.

Hastily Drives Away.

But just as dawn was breaking over the Hollywood hills, throwing the first shadows of day into the Wee Kirk o' the Heather, the Rogers family sedan again drove to the chapel and Mary Rogers, head bowed and with tears streaking her face, walked in to pay a solitary final farewell to her father.

After a few seconds she emerged from the chapel into the first rays of the morning sun and attempting to staunch the flow of tears with a small handkerchief, entered the car and was hastily driven from the Memorial Park.

Oklahoma Buries Post as It Mourns Rogers

OKLAHOMA CITY, Aug. 22 (AP).—Three airplanes trailing crepe circled high above the limestone Capitol of Oklahoma Thursday as the State paused to bury one famous son and to mourn another.

The body of Wiley Post lay in the rotunda on the second floor of the Capitol, in view of jam-packed crowds that stood about the circular openings on the floors above.

Continuously from 10 a. m. a line of persons representing all the State's walks of life filed rapidly past the bronze casket.

In the silence struck in memory of Oklahoma's first airman, there was sorrow, too, for Will Rogers the

humorist and actor who never let the world forget his Oklahoma rearing.

Simultaneous with the Rogers funeral services in California, memorial rites were planned at Claremore, where thousands gathered in tribute to the humorist.

The throng in the Capitol building had been equalled only by inaugural celebrations of Governors, which drew thousands with a vastly different mien.

The steadily thickening but ever orderly multitude extended far beyond the Capitol's entrances. So

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MOURNERS FOR ROGERS ALSO BURY POST

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choked were the doors and corridors, several persons fainted for lack of ventilation.

After a memorial service led by Governor Marland, the final rites were to follow, in the First Baptist Church. The building can seat only 2,500, but voice amplifiers were prepared to take the service to the audience assembled outside.

The body will be placed in a crypt at Fairlawn Cemetery, to remain until the aviator's widow decides whether its final resting place will be Arlington Cemetery or Oklahoma City.

President Roosevelt directed that an officer of general's rank should represent him at the funeral. Brig. Gen. H. W. Butner, commandant of the field artillery school at Fort Sill, was selected.

Notables from over the Nation were expected at the rites. Bennett Griffin and Jimmy Mattern, who unsuccessfully attempted to break Post's globe circling record, arrived here Wednesday for the services.

Most downtown stores gave notice they would remain closed during the afternoon.

Post's body was returned here Wednesday night from Maysville, Okla., home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Post. Flanked by a military guard of honor, it lay there Wednesday afternoon in the little Landmark Missionary Baptist Church.

Friends and acquaintances who live in the little farming community passed by the casket, gazing for the last time at the body of the adventurer who undertook his first flight 10 years ago in a second-hand "Jenny."

Accompanying the body was Joe Crosson, the "mercy flier of the Arctic," who flew the remains of Post and Rogers from Point Barrow to Seattle. He had known Post well, and had assisted him in his record-breaking solo flight around the world.

"I Have Received My Reward."

He met the elder Posts, and in a kindly voice replied to their tearful thanks for bringing home their son.

"I have received my reward," said the taciturn Alaskan, with bowed head. "There is nothing else that you could possibly do for me."

Among the many who passed by the casket in Landmark Church were 140 children from the Whitehead School, located in a community with many tenant cotton farmers.

"I wanted them to see one boy who left the cotton patch and made something of himself," said J. I. Dendy, their principal.

"I want them to realize they might do the same."

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.

Will's Farewell to Show Told by Dorothy

This is the fourth and last installment of an interview with Dorothy Stone, stage and screen star, on "Will Rogers as I Knew Him." In the last article she was describing some of the fun she and Will had together in the show "Three Cheers."

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NEW YORK, Aug. 22.—"I remember one time," Miss Stone continued, "when the show started Will was nervous and upset—missed his cues—and seemed awfully distraught. When we were off the stage for a moment I asked him what was the matter. He looked ruefully at me and said:

"Why, Dotty, Betty and the children came down to the show to say goodby. They're in my dressing room, but we've lost little Jimmy somewhere, and they've got to catch a train in a few minutes."

"Well, we went out on the stage together in the scene, and, in the middle of the act, Will looked up, and there was little Jimmy all alone in a box, watching everything intently, with his chin cupped in his hands. Will forgot the show, let that lovable broad grin spread over his face, and shouted:

"There you are, young 'un! Come down here! Hurry! You'll miss your train!"

"Then Will grinned sheepishly, turned to the audience, and explained the whole thing. When Jimmy came down, he left the stage, kissed him goodby, then came back and finished the scene.

"It brought down the house.

"One of Will's most striking features was his generosity," added Miss Stone, smiling reflectively, "every time anyone would send him a token of admiration or affection he would buy me the same thing so I wouldn't feel left out.

Revered Her Father.

"Will just revered my father, and during the time when he was convalescing from his broken leg, no one could mention Daddy's name without tears welling up in his eyes. He felt it more deeply than if it had happened to himself.

"Once during the show, we broadcast from Will's dressing room to Daddy's room at the hospital. It was so arranged that Daddy could speak to us, but I had to go on the stage during the time when Daddy was speaking, and I didn't hear him. Will was there, however, and when he later came on the stage, everybody noticed he was upset, and his eyes were moist.

"The closing night in Pittsburgh was one of the most wonderful and yet one of the saddest moments I have ever experienced.

Makes Farewell Speech.

"As the show was almost over, it began to dawn on the audience that this was the closing night. When Will came out for his last scene, the entire audience rose to their feet and applauded for ages. Will stood there looking at his feet in his boyish way and bowing—then, finally, when the audience quieted, he took me by the hand, led me down to the footlights, and made the most beautiful speech to the audience I have ever heard.

"There wasn't a girl in the com-

pany or out front with dry eyes. Then, he put his arms around me and hugged me—and, well, I'll never forget it.

"Then, he turned to the company and made his farewell speech to them. It was the most moving thing I've ever heard in my life, and everybody's face was just streaked with tears running down their makeup—we just couldn't help crying.

"After the show, the entire company, including musicians and stagehands, went down to the train to see Will off. He was going to California, and all the rest of us were going to New York.

"He said goodby at the tracks, got thoroughly hugged and kissed by everybody, then walked ploddingly with his head down toward the train. As he put his foot on the step, he turned and waved, and said,

"Goodby, you-all."

"Well, that was just too much, and the whole company broke into a run toward the train. Then, he had to be hugged and kissed all over again, and, finally, when his train pulled out, he stood alone on the rear platform, and we all just feasted our eyes on him and waved frantically.

Could Go on Forever.

"Our own train was almost leaving, and we just flew across the tracks, everybody wiping their tears, in order to make it. I'll always cherish the memory of that closing night."

Miss Stone was visibly moved by the narration, but she continued:

"Last Easter week was the last time I saw Will Rogers. I was playing in Los Angeles in 'As Thousands Cheer,' and he came backstage to see me. Somebody had sent me flowers, and I noticed that as soon as he saw them he seemed upset. I asked him what was wrong.

"Aw, honey," he said mournfully, "ah didn't send you any flowers."

"I couldn't help laughing, but that was Will—always."

This seemed to conclude the interview, and, petting a dog which had wandered into the room, Miss Stone said:

"I could go on forever like this . . . I guess . . . but it brings back too much."

Rogers Gave Large Sums for Charity

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 22 (AP).—Amon G. Carter, Fort Worth, Texas, publisher and an intimate friend of Will Rogers for 20 years, disclosed Thursday that the humorist-actor's gifts to two favorite organizations amounted to thousands of dollars.

Carter said he was with Rogers when he made the first of a series of radio broadcasts for an oil company. The comedian, he said, received \$50,000 for seven appearances on the air—and of the sum gave \$25,000 to the American Red Cross and \$25,000 to the Salvation Army.

"In 1930 alone," the publisher recalled, "he raised over \$275,000 for the Red Cross, all of which went for the benefit of humanity, Will paying the expense of the tour, over \$12,000, personally."

Fort Worth Pays Reverent Tribute to Adopted Citizen

Reverently Fort Worth paid tribute Thursday to the memory of Will Rogers, "adopted citizen."

Flags were flown at half staff during the day in honor of the famous humorist, who crashed to his death in Alaska a week ago.

Several business firms announced that they would close at 4 p. m., when the courthouse also will close in tribute. At that time—the hour of the funeral in Los Angeles—Mrs. F. L. Jaccard will play chimes at First Methodist Church. A five-minute toll will be followed by Chopin's Funeral March and "Abide With Me."

The City Council voted Wednesday to dedicate to Rogers the auditorium-coliseum to be built for the Centennial Stock Show, if voters approve a bond issue to be submitted Sept. 3.

Flag-raising etiquette specifies that the flag should be raised to the top at sunrise and immediately lowered to half staff, remaining in that position throughout the day.

Only on Memorial Day is the flag lowered to half staff until noon and flown at the top during the afternoon.

They Brought Will and Wiley Back to Civilization and to Rest

Associated Press Photos



CANAL BACKERS DENY TAX RAISE

Leaders of the campaign for establishment of the Trinity River Canal and Conservancy District Thursday morning issued a statement refuting what they termed "unfair, misleading and unfounded propoganda being circulated by opponents of the canal project."

"Of course it is a well-known fact that the railroads, through their na-

ONLY 2 PROPOSITIONS PUT BEFORE VOTERS ON CANAL

Voters were reminded in a statement issued Thursday morning by John M. Fouts, canal district manager, that only two propositions are to be voted on in Saturday's election for establishment of the Trinity River Canal and Conservancy District. These propositions are as follows:

First—For approving creation of the district and the levy of a preliminary tax of not to exceed two cents on each \$100 of assessed values.

Second—The election of nine directors for a two-year term.

"Opponents of the canal have circulated propoganda stating that a much higher tax levy would be authorized, and that bonds were being voted on,

The airmen who flew the bodies of Will Rogers and Wiley Post from the scene of their crash in Alaska to Seattle, and thence to Los Angeles, are shown in the top photo. Bottom photo is of the "Will Rogers Tree," a little pine on the western shore of Lake Tahoe, Cal., which residents of the region draped in black upon word of the humorist's death. The tree

was dedicated to Rogers two years ago during a Governors' conference there. At the time Rogers drawled, "Well, I guess it will grow up to be a big tree some day." The airmen in the top photo, left to right, are William W. Winston, pilot; J. L. Fleming, junior pilot; T. W. Dowling, radioman; Tom Ward, engineer, and Joe Crosson, who flew the bodies over Alaskan wastes to Seattle.

FOUR, BEATEN IN KANSAS, HOME

How they were held captive in a night club near Independence, Mo., beaten and their car smashed was told by four Fort Worth men who returned home Thursday, after they had been reported missing since Monday night.

They are Herman Talley, 22, of 1301 Dalford Street; J. W. Steph, 30, of 1327 South Jennings Avenue; M. S. Newberry, 2108 East Terrell Avenue, and John Flanagan, 29, of the Yale Hotel.

The four had vanished after they were questioned by Independence police Monday night, at the instigation of employees of the night club. The next day Steph's car was found at a tourist camp near the club, its top and upholstery slashed, the radiator caved in, fenders crushed and windows broken.

"We were playing a slot machine at the club when officers came out for us," related Talley. "Actually we had lost about \$4, but the officers seemed to think we had been winning."

"After questioning us for an hour at the Independence police station we were released."

"They advised us not to go back to the club for our car. The officers suggested we send a wrecker out after it."

"We insisted, though, so the police