

Rogers Rests After Receiving Highest Tribute Ever Offered a Private Citizen

Later His Body Will Be Moved To His Beloved Oklahoma

By United Press.

HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 23.—Will Rogers, having received the highest tribute ever offered a private citizen, rested today in a stone vault in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, awaiting the time when he will be returned to Oklahoma.

That his body would be sent there was certain, for during lifetime the cowboy-humorist expressed such a desire and his family gave concrete evidence that his wish was a command.

This was illustrated during ceremonies yesterday when his coffin remained closed despite the desire of 50,000 people, who filed past it while it lay in state, and of close friends who attended the last rites at the Wee Kirk o' the Heather at Forest Lawn, to have a last glimpse at the kindly face of the actor.

Rogers had requested that none but relatives see his body after death and that request was carried out.

His widow, Mrs. Betty Blake Rogers, his children, Mary, Will Jr., and Jim, were expected to decide within the next few days when the body will be returned to the state where he was born and

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FDR PICKS SOCIAL SECURITY DIRECTORS

New Hampshire, Arkansas,

MAN CHARGED IN GIRL'S DEATH

Farmer of Near Grapevine Says He Doesn't Remember Shooting Woman

A murder charge was filed in Marvin Beaty's justice court today against B. R. Harrell, 35, in the fatal shooting of Miss Gladys Rodden, 24, yesterday. At a habeas corpus hearing in Criminal District Court he was remanded to the sheriff.

Miss Rodden, shot in the side at 4:30 a. m. yesterday at 510 East Third St., where she roomed, died in City-County Hospital late yesterday.

"I guess I must have shot her, but I don't remember it," Harrell told city and county officers who arrested him at his farm home seven miles southeast of Grapevine early today.

Known as 'Harold.'

Harrell was arrested after ingenious investigation by detectives who were told that the man with Miss Rodden was known as "Harold" and was a "left-handed pool shooter." This description led the officers to Harrell, who has quite a reputation at Grapevine as a left-handed pool shooter.

City detectives took him to the home of a brother in Dallas where Harrell admitted concealing a gun. He turned the gun over to officers, who returned him here.

Harrell said he met Miss Rodden for the first time early yesterday at a beer tavern at 12th and Jones Sts., where the girl was employed. Miss Rodden, he said, asked him to take her home

25,000 Residents of Post's Adopted State Pay Him Final Honor

OKLAHOMA CITY, Aug. 23.—The body of Wiley Post, adventurous pioneer of the air trails whose death cut short further experiments in the field of aviation, rested today in the crypt of a mausoleum at Fairlawn Cemetery.

Famous flyers, military authorities, state officials, and more than 25,000 residents of his adopted state—Oklahoma—joined yesterday in paying final tribute to the famous pilot.

The body was laid to rest after services in the First Baptist Church here. Thousands of Oklahomans had taken their last look at the body a few hours earlier as it lay in state in the rotunda of the State Capitol.

Friends and neighbors of the one-eyed aviator, who was killed with Will Rogers in an airplane crash in Alaska last week, had attended funeral services Wednesday afternoon at Post's home town of Maysville.

Mrs. Mae Post, his widow, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Post, his aged parents, and other relatives and friends, were consoled in their bereavement by the full-hearted praise in eulogies and sermons at yesterday's services.

Gov. E. W. Marland of Oklahoma praised the aviator's "incomparable will, his courage, his science which took him a long

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WITT GETS U. S. POST

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23.—President Roosevelt today named three members on the special Mexican claims commission as follows: Former Lieutenant Governor Edgar E. Witt, Texas, chairman; James H. Sinclair, North Dakota; Darrell T. Lane, Utah.

Will Rogers... A Regular Guy

Cowboy Might Have Been Great Political Figure

Humorist Avoided Being Partisan, Although He Was a Democrat

Following is another article in the series being written by Robert Burkhardt on the life of his long-time studio associate, Will Rogers.

By **ROBERT BURKHARDT**
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HOLLYWOOD, Aug. 23.—Will Rogers might have been one of the greatest political figures in the world, had he chosen to subjugate his sense of humor and become a serious man of affairs.

At various times he was suggested by thousands of people who recognized his qualities beneath his jesting exterior for offices ranging from President of the United States down to city councilman. But these he always laughed off.

Once when the demand that Will campaign for the United States Senate became insistent, he halted the campaign with a vigorous "No."

"There's already too many comedians in Congress," he explained. "Competition would be too keen for me."

A Life-Long Democrat

Although he tried to maintain a semblance of neutrality in politics, and slammed Republicans and Democrats with strict impartiality when he thought they rated it, Rogers was a life-long Democrat.

However, he studiously avoided partisanship and was as often called into consultation by leaders of the G. O. P. as he was by his own organization for campaign advice.

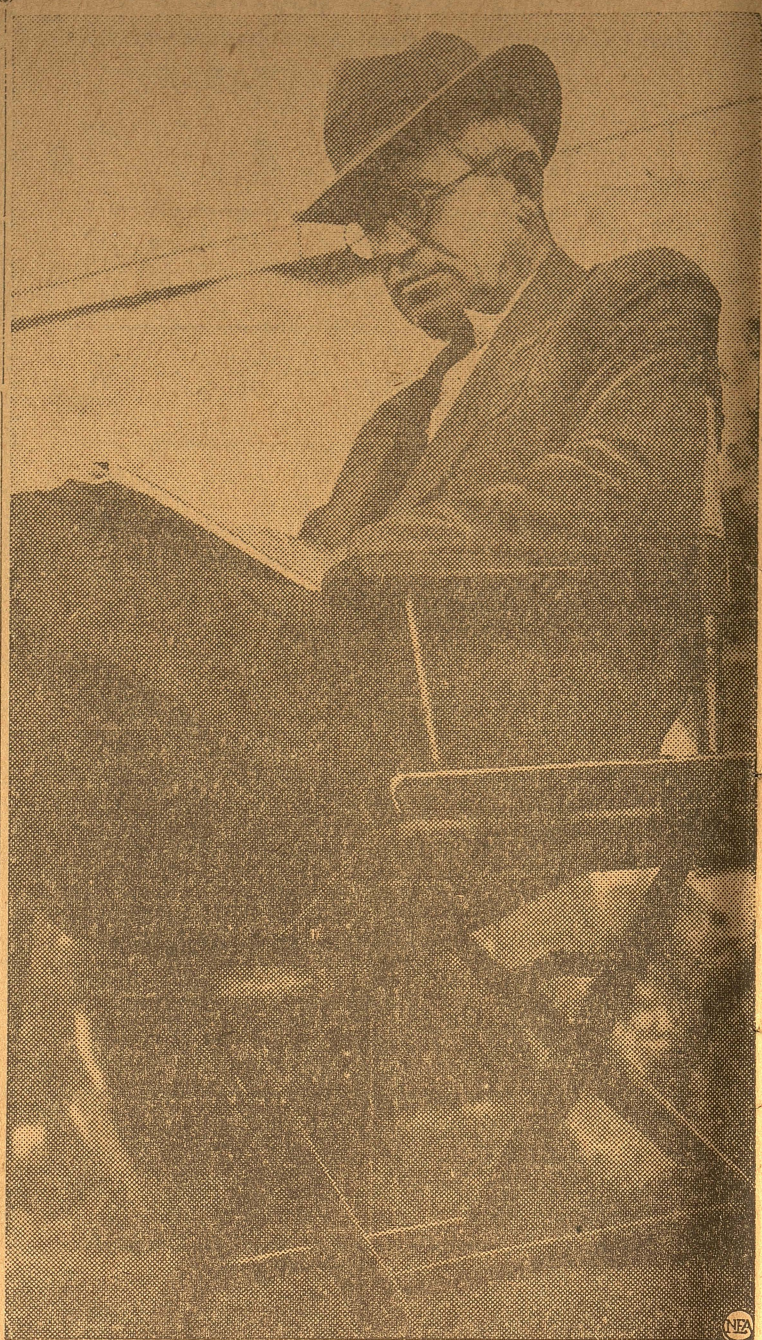
In introducing the late Gov. James Rolph at a movie premiere once, Rogers mentioned that "Jimmy has the Republicans jumping through hoops in this state," and added, "Personally I'm not a member of any organized party—I'm a Democrat."

Contributed to Demos

Rogers contributed liberally, but anonymously, to the campaign coffers of the Democrats, but on numerous occasions he appeared on Republican programs when benefits were being staged to raise funds for that party's war chest.

He was a shrewd observer of political trends and was in constant touch with all sections of the country by correspondence and personal contact.

Many people still believe that the humorist once was mayor of Beverly Hills, Calif. He rejoiced in that title for several years and had a world of fun pretending



"On the set" . . . Will Rogers studies one of his appealing parts.

that he was the political boss. However, he never was more than "honorary mayor."

One of the comedian's greatest delights were the national conventions of the two principal political parties and when Democrats and Republicans get together next summer to name their standard bearers for the following four years, there will be a terrific gap in the press ranks with Will's grinning face absent.

Fertile Field for Gags

Rogers found politics a fertile

field for his gags, and he worked in many a sly comment on national and world affairs in his pictures.

One of the funniest of his stunts concerned the late Calvin Coolidge, whom Rogers later came to love like a brother and who, in turn, admired the comedian almost as much as any other man he ever met.

Shortly after Mr. Coolidge was nominated for vice president some of the special writers covering the convention were commenting on

Said 'Already Too Many Comedians In Congress'

his apparent lack of humor. None of them could ever remember having seen him smile. Put thus on his mettle, Rogers offered to bet he could make Coolidge laugh the first time he met him, and was promptly challenged.

When he paraded past Coolidge, he stopped for a moment and his pals were amazed to see the stern-visaged Vermonter suddenly burst into laughter.

"Tell us the gag, Bill," they demanded later.

"Nothin' at all," he said. "I merely said when I was introduced—'sorry, but I didn't catch the name'."

Polo gave the Oklahoman almost as much pleasure as politics, and even when he was working on a picture, he always could be found after work galloping about the small field at his ranch, swinging a mallet at the white ball, or practicing with some of his friends at the Uplifters Field nearby. He almost always wore an old leather jacket, cowboy boots and slouch hat.

J. A. Wigmore, Cleveland, O., capitalist and polo enthusiast, introduced Rogers to the game some 15 years ago.

Started Polo Craze

Rogers was the original player among Hollywood actors, and through him Hal Roach, Darryl Zanuck, Frank Borzage, Spencer Tracey and many others took up the game until it now is the principal Sunday afternoon sport of the colony.

Not so long ago Rogers met the Mdivani brothers, Prince David and Serge at the polo field, and was introduced to them for the first time.

"Well, boys," he said, "I'm happy to meet you—but don't ask me to marry you."

His greatest extravagance was the purchase of polo ponies, and as he was a hard, swashbuckling player, he wore them out rapidly. As he never would sell a horse once he bought it, the problem of taking care of so many animals became so acute that Mrs. Rogers put her foot down when her husband planned to buy a whole string of Argentina ponies.

Without putting up an argument, Rogers turned up for a big game with two of the worst old plugs he could find. The contrast with the sleek, thoroughbreds was so apparent, that Mrs. Rogers capitulated and begged Will to get himself some decent mounts.

(Tomorrow—Philanthropy).

ROGERS RESTS AFTER RECEIVING WIDE TRIBUTES

Body Eventually Will Be Removed To His Beloved Oklahoma

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where he started his rise to international fame.

Mrs. Rogers, who almost collapsed during the impressive rites, for her husband, was reported much improved today.

She needed the support of both sons yesterday when she left the chapel where world famous notables heard Rogers eulogized.

Not Alone in Grief

But she was not alone in her grief for there were no dry eyes when John Boles finished singing the cowboy ballad "Old Faithful," the humorist's favorite song.

Fred Stone, of the stage and screen, Eddie Cantor, Bill Hart, Spencer Tracy and Irvin Cobb were among those who wept without shame in the Wee Kirk O' the Heather.

Never before had there been such a turn-out of notables for a public citizen.

The list included Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford, Norma Shearer, Will Hays, Joe E. Brown and scores of others connected with the film industry.

Farley Attends Rites

Notables outside the film world included Postmaster General James Farley, Amelia Earhart and Cornelius Vanderbilt Jr.

In direct contrast and in perfect keeping with the cross section of friends Will Rogers made, were Stepin Fetchit, the negro come-

SPANIEL CLUBS PLAN JOINT BENCH SHOW

Fort Worth Kennel Groups Set Date as Oct. 6

The American Kennel Club today gave the Fort Worth Cocker Spaniel and Fort Worth Springer Spaniel Clubs permission to hold a joint bench show in Trinity Park on Oct. 6, officials of the clubs announced.

Mrs. Babs Ralston of Dallas was named judge.

Felix Stivers head the cocker spaniel group. Orville Tunstill is president of the Springer Spaniel Club.

dian, and a group of dungaree-clad Indians from the Rogers' ranch.

Flowers offered another contrast for here were expensive pieces sent by dignitaries the nation over, stacked beside a coiled lariat and humble bunch of flowers that bore the inscription "from Omar to Bill, just passing through."

As a poignant reminder were the flowers from Mrs. Wiley Post, widow of the round-the-world flyer who went to death with Rogers near Point Barrow, Alaska, last Thursday.

So many were the floral designs that they could not all be placed in the small chapel. At the request of the widow they were taken apart and distributed to hospitals.

The rites at Forest Lawn were not the only ones. Ten thousand people gathered at Hollywood Bowl to hear Rogers eulogized by Conrad Nagel and Rupert Hughes, and to listen to Lawrence Tibbet sing in the dead funster's honor.

Services were held, too, at the Community Presbyterian Church in Beverly Hills, at the California Exposition in San Diego and at all major studios in Hollywood.

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