

# Pastor Who Passed Rogers' Casket Speaks on His Death

As one of the sorrowing multitude which stood in line for half a day to pass in solemn tribute by the covered casket of the late Will Rogers, Rev. James K. Thompson spoke at First Presbyterian Church last night on the passing of America's first citizen.

"Flags in every city of California," he said, "were at half mast that day to reflect the sorrow in the hearts of every American citizen who knew and loved Will Rogers. No sound came from the lips of those thousands who stood in line to pay their tribute to the man they had loved so well.

"They were there, not from idle curiosity," he went on, "not to look upon the face of the dead, but to

look with sorrowing eyes upon the casket that held the body of a great American.

"Later we heard the voices of those who paid tribute to Will Rogers in the great Hollywood Bowl," he continued. "We were among the thousands, rich and poor, high and low, wise and ignorant who gathered to express their tribute.

"I can not tell you what it meant to me," he said. "I can only say that I was fully conscious that we had come to mourn the passing of America's greatest citizen."

Out of the sorrow of Will Rogers' death came the realization, Rev. Mr.

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# Rogers' Death

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Thompson went on, that in reality he lives on.

"I went a few days later," he said, "to see Will Rogers' picture 'Steamboat Round the Bend.' Here in one moving picture is all that Will Rogers stood for. Here, as always, he is doing kindness. He is thoughtful of young lovers. He is good and true.

"He is dead, yet he speaketh," Rev. Mr. Thompson went on, "he is dead yet he liveth. And so long as motion pictures shall be shown in this Nation Will Rogers will live. I should like you to see 'Steamboat Round the Bend.' I should like you to know that Will Rogers lives on and the friends he loved live with him."

Rev. Mr. Thompson's eulogy of the beloved commentator and actor was interspersed with songs by the church quartet—with songs to illustrate the eulogy, "Home on the Range" and "The Last Round-Up."