

MOTION PICTURE PRODUCERS & DISTRIBUTORS OF AMERICA, INC.

28 WEST 44TH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

WILL H. HAYS  
PRESIDENT  
CARL E. MILLIKEN  
SECRETARY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 18, 1935.

Mr. Amon G. Carter,  
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Amon:

Following our telephone conversation just concluded:

The discussion today indicated that the following steps might be good.

1. That an effort be made to develop the conclusion of the suggestion that there be deeded to the Will Rogers Memorial Commission the forty acres and the sanitarium thereon near Saranac owned by the National Variety Artists Fund, Inc. (memorandum of cost attached); that such property be free from all debt of every kind. That in addition to such conveyance there shall be delivered to the Will Rogers Memorial Commission a legal commitment from the five major theatre circuits--Loew's, Warners, Paramount, Fox and RKO--in the sum of \$100,000.00 per year for five years for the maintenance of such hospital; such hospital to be used for those connected with the stage and screen as Will Rogers' profession, and the hospital to be called Will Rogers Memorial Hospital.

2. That the State of California be segregated as suggested in the telegram of Rupert Hughes, Chairman for California, copy attached, which telegram was received this morning; that California raise its own money, receive none from the outside, and spend it as they see fit.

3. Oklahoma to have all the money they raise and they decide what they do with it; that in addition to this money they may be given X per cent of the money raised nationally (exclusive of the value of the Saranac Sanitarium, the pledge for the \$500,000.00, and the money raised in California), the size of the per cent from the money raised nationally which shall go to Oklahoma to be determined by the Memorial Committee based on the then situation, the needs, etc. There was some talk of probably 10 per cent being the amount.



4. The balance of the money raised nationally, that is excepting 1, 2, and 3 above, to be used in some manner for the benefit and help of crippled children. It was thought impossible to designate just what might be done for crippled children because of the uncertainty of what the amount would be.

All the above is tentative, but indicates the thought this morning as to what the group there would recommend to the group on Thursday.

It was most impressively presented that it was necessary to do something, to ~~take~~ <sup>consider</sup> factors, to designate objectives, to go after large gifts, and to extend the time to approximately December 15.

It was also considered important that the above suggestions be considered entirely confidential until after Thursday.

In connection with No. 1, I should probably add that the \$100,000.00 per year guaranteed for five years is proposed to be provided by the circuits through a Will Rogers Week in all the theatres each spring for the five years so that the name Will Rogers and his memory and the emphasis on him and about him will cover the country each spring like falling rain, which in itself is believed to be a rather significant memorial.

It may not be possible to develop the above, but it is a hope and the possibility is rather an expectancy if it is undertaken.

Mr. John Flinn leaves tonight at eleven o'clock by plane for California to take it up with Mr. Hughes and the folks there and have word from them by Thursday.

We realize the difficulty for you to get here Thursday. The importance of your work there is second to nothing. I do hope, however, that you will write fully any suggestions you may have.

With kindest personal regards and affectionate best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

*W. H. Hays*

RECEIVED

NOV 20 1935

RESUME OF COST

of

NATIONAL VARIETY ARTISTS LODGE

by

NATIONAL VARIETY ARTISTS FUND

at

Saranac Lake, New York.

The property, consisting of approximately forty acres of land, with the buildings thereon erected, was purchased in 1925 at a total cost of..... \$ 43,644.28

The erection of the building was begun in 1928 and finished in the Fall of 1929 at a total cost of..... \$850,000.00  
(Of the above sum, \$12,090.26 was expended for a special Quartz glass made by the General Electrical Company of Schenectady, New York for the construction of a Solarium).

The equipping of the building was made at a cost of approximately..... \$150,000.00

Included in the medical equipment is a Picker complete X-ray machine for medical purposes installed at a cost of \$7,091.91.

TOTAL COST OF THE N.V.A. LODGE.....\$1,043,644.28

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Nov 18 1935  
Los Angeles, California.

Eddie B. Rickenbacker  
Will Rogers Memorial Commission  
570 Lexington Avenue  
New York.

A heavy rain storm here fills me with alarm for our Hollywood Bowl show December first. Bad weather would kill our last chance to make real money.

After prolonged and frantic efforts to secure contributions and being met with the unfailing and not unreasonable question, "What for?", I have come to the painful conclusion that the campaign for a national memorial is doomed to failure unless an immediate decision is made.

The amount of money raised so far here is far less than the donated expenses and I imagine it is worse elsewhere. Yet there is a vast sum of money waiting here for a California Memorial and hardly a cent for a vague national memorial. I believe, as do many others consulted, that we could easily get tens of thousands of dollars for a home for disabled indigent and aged motion picture people of all branches of the industry. We can't get a cent for the Red Cross or an unmentioned purpose.

It is my regretful but inescapable belief that the only way to avoid a great national collapse of the fund is to let various sections keep their own money for their own memorials. We simply cannot do anything worth doing here unless you give us at once a great and inspiring answer to the stubborn question, "What for?" If you will release California to go on its own I feel sure we can do something handsome. Otherwise our hands are tied and great sums of willing money are hopelessly dammed up and will not be released.

Please call your heads together and give me an immediate answer for the enthusiasm is dying rapidly and it will be impossible to renew after a national failure is announced.

Many people here say, "If it is for California I'll give you a thousand, but not a dime for elsewhere." It is a pity to lose all hopes of these many thousands and countless hundreds.

This is a personal appeal made on my own responsibility, but as a result of the innumerable personal rebuffs and discouragements and one unanimous report of the same rebuff from everyone of my despondent fellow workers.

Rupert Hughes.