

*N. B. This is not only for your information but for release to your local newspapers.*

**Will Rogers Memorial Commission  
570 Lexington Ave., New York**

**NEWS BULLETIN No. 5**

November 27, 1935.

There is still a great reluctance on the part of possible contributors to go to banks or to send or take their contributions to newspapers which are acting as depositories. While we want to emphasize again that there is nothing in the nature of a "hold-up" in the campaign, it might well be that the only way to get the contributions which we feel Will Rogers' millions of friends wish to make, given the proper opportunity, is by personal contact, the use of contribution cards and the long forms. The Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts and the Camp-fire Girls might be called in to help in this. We know there are hundreds of friends of Will Rogers who have not yet contributed, but will be glad to do so if they are asked "Do you want to make a voluntary contribution to the Will Rogers Memorial Fund?"

"It has really been inspiring, the enthusiasm all over the country for the Will Rogers Memorial," was the report of Lieut. Commander Frank Hawks on his return from his whirlwind flight to every section of the United States, in which he visited more than 125 cities and in every place talked to meetings or over the radio in behalf of the fund. **The 25,000 mile flight of the famous speed flyer** in behalf of the fund to perpetuate the memory of his friend is unique in the annals of flying.

The campaign has reached across the Atlantic to include Will Rogers' many friends in London and on the Continent. Wilson Cross, president of the American Club in London, and prominent figure in the American colony there, has been named chairman of the committee there. He cabled Capt. E. V. Rickenbacker the approval of the London committee of the extension of the campaign and the decision to use the bulk of the funds to aid handicapped children. **Will Rogers has many friends in London, as evidenced by the contribution of the Prince of Wales and Lady Astor to the international broadcast in behalf of the memorial.**

O. Hunt, linotype operator of Woodhaven, New York, came into the New York headquarters in the Chrysler building one day this week. "I just couldn't pass the building without making my contribution," he told the New York chairman, handing him a half dollar. "I'm sorry I can't make it more," said Hunt, "but I'm only working one or two days a week."

All of the employees in the State capitol building at Jackson, Miss., took advantage of the long list to add their \$27.00 to the fund. Amounts ranged from 10¢ to a dollar and every employee was represented.

The school children of Wappingers Union, free school district No. 2 in Wappingers Falls, New York, presented a Will Rogers Memorial program which raised \$31.26 for the fund. Nearly everyone of the 600 pupils contributed a penny, a nickel or a dime.

**Negro playground workers** of the recreational department of Fort Worth, Texas, added \$10.00 to the Will Rogers Memorial fund with a program given at the recreational building there. S. R. Prince, pastor of the Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, eulogized Will Rogers when he said "A friend to all peoples and creeds and one that we feel brought a bright ray into our lives when he spoke before our people here."

Clyde Burnett, president of the Texas Cowboys Reunion, has organized a **Will Rogers Club** among the cowboys in nearby ranches in Knox County, and the lads who ride range are sending in their contributions for the memorial fund. "Will was one of us and we will never forget our pleasant visit from him last summer. I have organized the club so our association will have a part in this splendid move," he said.

Have you all the long form subscription blanks you need? They should be circulated through all industrial and commercial firms, civic and fraternal organizations, clubs, etc.

WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL COMMISSION  
570 Lexington Avenue  
New York City

FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

A recent address by Capt. E. V. Rickenbacker presents a clear and complete summary of the aims of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission and the present status of the campaign. We believe you will find this helpful, and you may wish to call it to the attention of the editor of your local paper or papers.

Captain Rickenbacker said:

"Years ago a Great Teacher said: 'Suffer the little children to come unto me.'

"Will Rogers always followed that teaching. He always loved children and made them his friends, particularly the unfortunate, the crippled and the needy.

"That's why I seem to see again that wide, honest and delighted smile spread across Will Rogers' face at the knowledge that the Will Rogers Memorial funds will be devoted largely to aid handicapped children all over the country.

"By handicapped children, the Will Rogers Memorial Commission means those suffering from physical handicaps which hospital care and expert attention can cure or alleviate, children whose parents lack the means to give them that care; youngsters who walk in darkness, smiling despite the terrible burden of blindness; those who have heart trouble; victims of disease whose lot can be made happier or who can be brought back to partial or complete activity through expert attention; and those who, although in health, need shelter, schooling and home care which fate denied them.

"All these are meant by 'Handicapped children' and it is for these that the funds will be devoted which are subscribed to the memory of the man who throughout his life was interested in the handicapped and needy and gave so generously of his time, talents and money to help them.

"With the announcement that most of the funds raised will be devoted to the aid of handicapped children, and the new impetus imparted by the knowledge that the memorial would be a work so close to Will Rogers' heart, hundreds of local chairmen in many parts of the country have asked that the campaign be extended.

"The Commission has complied. The campaign will continue through December 14.

"Additional time was required to permit the many admirers of the cowboy philosopher to contribute. The local chairmen, thus far, have had but a limited time in which to work.

"And let me say, right now, that it is the Commission's wish that the memorial be truly representative of the millions who loved Will Rogers. We would rather that the fund be made up of the dollars, even the quarters and dimes, of his host of friends, than of a few large subscriptions.

"The Commission this week accepted the gift of a million dollar hospital at Saranac, N. Y., and a fund of a half million dollars to maintain it for five years. It was presented by the National Variety Artists Fund, Inc., and the money to maintain it for five years was given by five major theatre groups, Fox West Coast Theatres, Loew's Inc., Paramount Theatres Service Corp., Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corp., and Warner Bros. Theatres Circuit.

"In behalf of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission I take this opportunity of thanking the National Variety Artists Fund, Inc., and the theatre groups for this magnificent gift. This great hospital will be administered by the Will Rogers Memorial Commission with the monies donated by the theatre groups.

*"But this will be quite aside and apart from the expenditure of other funds contributed.*

"The work of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission extends into every state of the union. The Governor of every state, less than two months ago, was asked to serve as honorary chairman of the work and to appoint an active chairman. Districts, counties and local communities have been organized. More than 2300 local committees are now active. The figure is conservative. Only this morning we received from Mr. Hokanson, Wisconsin state chairman, a list of 256 local chairmen.

"To these thousands of volunteer workers and to many others, the Memorial Commission wishes to extend its sincere gratitude; to Captain Frank Hawks, just back from a flying circuit of the country in which he spoke at meetings and over the radio in nearly 200 cities; to the professional stars, both men and women, who are giving so generously of their time and money to aid the memorial, to radio stations and the great national networks, to newspapers which are cooperating wholeheartedly, both through their columns and in receiving contributions; to banks which voluntarily are acting as depositories. To all these our sincere gratitude.

"Because of the many institutions which have aided in collecting funds, it will be impossible for at least a week, possibly two weeks, to give any estimate of the amount raised. But it will be a sum representative of the millions of Will Rogers' friends.

"May I, in closing, not only thank our large but our modest givers. It is with a thrill that we have received the large checks of those who could afford to give, but I take special pride in thanking the eleven students in the senior class of the Tressler High School in Loyesville, Pennsylvania, for their contribution of two dollars.

"The Tressler High School is an orphans' home."