

YOUR NAME IS NOT MENTIONED IN ANY WAY AT ALL IN ANY OF THE
WILL ROGERS STORIES OR THE TCU FOOTBALL STORIES

Nation Pays Tribute to Will Rogers in Claremore Memorial Dedication

Crowds Throng Hilltop Site to Watch Parade, Ceremonies in Honor of State's Late Son

CLAREMORE, Nov. 4.—The nation joined with Oklahoma today in the dedication, on a wind-swept hill beneath a cloud-specked sky, of a memorial to Will Rogers, who began life as a trick roper and achieved affection in the hearts of millions of his countrymen.

Fifteen thousand—or more—persons buttoned into stout overcoats felt the tingle of the north wind cutting across the open country, just as the doctor must have felt it 59 years ago today when he whipped up his horse and drove to the Oologah ranch home of Clem Rogers to bring a boy, named Will, into the world.

The program began with the informal activities inevitable in a gathering attended by the great, and concluded in a series of programs, which, by means of radio, brought accolades from friends from coast to coast.

The president of the United States, the governor of the state, rich men and individuals of great talent spoke the words that rolled through the loudspeakers at the crowd on the hillside. But there was as much reverence, though unsaid, in the cowhands who just rode in the parade; in the citizens who tonight will stage his life in a pageant; and in the crowd itself, just there to watch and in watching to pay a tribute greater than the spoken words.

From vantage points near the speaker, the widow of Will Rogers and his three children, two handsome sons and a comely brunet daughter, watched the dedicatory ceremonies.

President Roosevelt Pays His Tribute to Oklahoman

"This afternoon we pay grateful homage to the memory of a man who helped the nation to smile. And, after all, I doubt if there is among us a more useful citizen than the one who holds the secret of banishing gloom, of making tears give way to laughter, of supplanting desolation and despair with hope and courage. For hope and courage always go with a light heart.

"There was something infectious about his humor. His appeal went straight to the heart of the nation. Above all things, in a time grown too solemn and somber, he brought his countrymen back to a sense of proportion.

"With it, all his humor and his comments were always kind. His was no biting sarcasm that hurt the highest or the lowest of his fellow citizens. When he wanted people to laugh out loud he used the methods of pure fun. And when he wanted to make a point for the good of all mankind, he used the kind of gentle irony that left no scars behind it. That was an accomplishment well worthy of consideration by all of us.

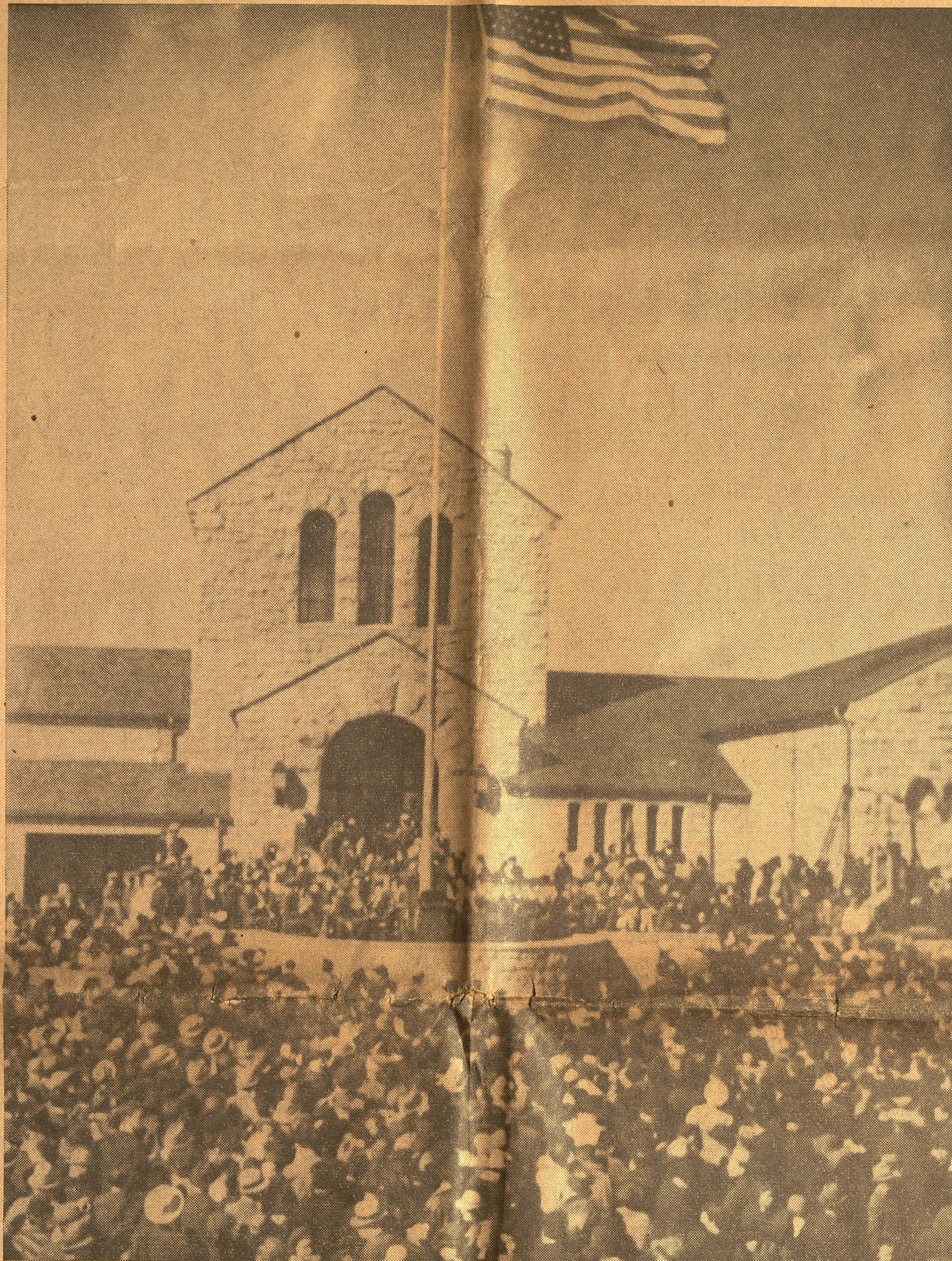
"From him we can learn anew the homely lesson that the way to make progress is to build on what we have, to believe that today is better than yesterday and that tomorrow will be better than either.

"Will Rogers deserves the gratitude of the nation and so it is fitting that the dedication of this memorial should be a national event, made so by the magic of radio. The American nation, to whose heart he brought gladness, will hold him in everlasting remembrance.

A crowd estimated at 15,000 persons witnessed various phases of the day's dedication ceremonies which started with the laying of a cornerstone at the memorial at 11 a. m.

As Jesse Jones, Houston, Texas, publisher and chairman of the RFC, made the dedicatory address, the sun played hide and seek through leaden clouds.

Mrs. Betty Rogers, dressed in black, was visibly moved at the impressive ceremony. Bill and Jimmie Rogers sat in silence. Jimmie was the more composed of the two. Mary



—Tribune Staff Photo, Flown to Tulsa by Spartan School Plane.

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than-life statute of Will Rogers which was unveiled today by Mary Rogers, his daughter. Other rooms have collections of his belongings. The picture shows the scene in front of the memorial at 2 p. m. as President Roosevelt began his radio address. (Other pictures on Pages 16 and 17.)

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Mrs. Betty Rogers, dressed in black, was visibly moved at the impressive ceremony. Bill and Jimmie Rogers sat in silence. Jimmie was the more composed of the two. Mary Rogers, dressed in a chic mink wrap, sat next to Mrs. Jimmie Rogers, bride of her brother.

The dedication ceremony took place in front of the museum with the speaker's stand directly in front of the flag pole and with distinguished guests seated at the left and a press gallery at the right.

Cornerstone ceremonies took place under the direction of the Masonic grand lodge of Oklahoma shortly after 11 a. m. It was a simple ceremony at the rear corner of the building where crowds of visitors who had waited for hours jammed closely about the spot.

Chaplain J. W. Storer, Baptist pastor of Tulsa, reminded the throng that "here turn the thoughts of thousands who loved our brother in life." John W. Abernathy of Oklahoma City, grand master of the Oklahoma grand lodge, presided at the brief ceremony.

Among the articles placed in the sealed copper receptacle in the cornerstone were Claremore newspapers of recent date, a book, The Life of Will Rogers, coins—and some Oklahoma sales tax mills.

"Will would have got a kick out of that touch, I bet," chuckled a grizzled old cowboy in the crowd when the mills were mentioned.

"His was not the life of an army or naval hero, but the life of a home-loving hero," said Dr. Abernathy.

"Will Rogers was the first Mason of his rank," he continued. "His brotherly love encircled the earth. He was an ambassador of good will. When the Red Cross needed him, he was there, and where there was famine, he was there to give assistance.

"He still sings a good song of peace above troubled clouds of mankind."

Charles Everett, Ardmore, deputy grand master; Dave Wilson, Muskogee, grand warden; William Powell, Francis, junior grand warden; Rufus O. Renfrew, Woodward, grand treasurer; and C. A. Sturgeon, Guthrie, grand secretary, conducted the rites.

The cornerstone inscription read: "M. W. Grand Lodge, A. F. and A. M., John R. Abernathy, grand master, November 4, A. D. 1938."

The pioneer parade which started at the First Baptist church was composed of a cavalcade of horsemen and wended its way up the hill to the Memorial shortly after noon. As it entered the grounds, one of the horses slid on the wet oiled driveway, seriously injuring its rider.

She was Mrs. Avery Wilbur, Miami. She was taken to the Claremore general hospital where physicians said she suffered a crushed thigh. She was pinned under her horse when the animal stumbled and rolled over completely.

Behind the parade featuring a cavalcade of horsemen who rode the range with Will Rogers before the turn of the century, thousands of Claremoreites and visitors marched

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Roosevelt Will Review Record

Defense of New Deal in Speech 6:30 Tulsa Time

HYDE PARK, N. Y., Nov. 4.—(UP)—President Roosevelt said today he will review and defend his entire legislative program of the past five years in his address to the nation tonight.

The chief executive at noon still was working on the speech which will be broadcast at 6:30 p. m., Tulsa time. He indicated that he would speak of labor relations, social security and a number of other subjects, as well as politics.

He was asked whether possible revision of the Wagner act would be discussed. He did not confine his reply to that measure alone, but asserted that every law needs improvement and always will.

The question of revising the Wagner act has become an important campaign issue, especially in New York state, where the author of the act, Senator Robert F. Wagner, Democrat, is opposed for re-election by Republican John Lord O'Brien.

Mr. Roosevelt in his address will call for the election of the Democratic ticket in New York state. He was asked at his press conference about reports of coercion on WPA workers and others in local contests.

He was emphatic in stating that it ought not to be done, although he pointed out the reports named both Democrats and Republicans. The president then asserted that no administration could be held responsible for every action of Republican and Democratic political leaders.

Mr. Roosevelt denied persistent reports that he would make a last-minute speaking trip into either Ohio, Michigan or Pennsylvania, where Democrats are facing stiff competition.

Questioning then turned to the administration's national defense program and Mr. Roosevelt said that his study of the subject embraced the use of the navy yard at New Orleans and the armor plate factory built in West Virginia during the world war. The latter, he added, would not be used for armor manufacture now.

Editorial

THAT MAN, WILL ROGERS

THIS IS WILL ROGERS' DAY.

America is making a pilgrimage to Claremore in honor of Oklahoma's greatest son.

Will Rogers was a humorist. But repartee is perishable and good jokes are forgotten. Unlike Mark Twain he did not write deathless literature. And each generation brings forth a new crop of comics and gag-men.

Will Rogers will be remembered as a prophet of tolerance, standing alone in a world gone mad with hate and bigotry. We loved him for his universal sympathy for human kind. So did the people in every land through which he travelled.

Will Rogers saw good where little men see evil. He was a mirror which reflected that which is best in all of us, and we—poor vain little human beings that we are—glowed with childish pleasure in that reflection.

We all have a common dream—the dream to love and to be loved by all. Will Rogers merely lived that dream. And in that life we find fulfillment of our highest aspiration.

Roads Abandon Wage Cut Plan

Decision Ends Threat of Nationwide Strike

CHICAGO, Nov. 4.—(AP)—J. J. Pelley, president of the association of American railroads, announced today the major roads of the nation would withdraw their present notice of a 15 per cent wage cut for nearly 1,000,000 workers.

Pelley said he was sending a telegram to President Roosevelt informing him that "the railroads are taking this action not because they agree with the conclusions reached by the fact-finding board, but because they recognize the gravity of the situation and because they hope that out of it will come, through the co-operation of all concerned, a sounder and more equitable transportation policy in this country."

Indian Recalls Roping Lessons

Chief Yellow Hawk, 52-year-old Cherokee Indian, who travels the world over with his roping and gun act, went to Claremore today to honor his former friend, and the man who is responsible for his being one of the world's best trick ropers—Will Rogers.

Thirty years ago when Chief Yellow Hawk, or "Co-Has-Set," as he travels today, was playing a two-gun act down in Argentina with a rodeo, a young American boy joined the act by the name of Will Rogers.

Yellow Hawk persuaded Rogers to teach him his roping tricks and they became fast friends, being of the same Cherokee blood, and both born in Indian territory.

"When Will would see me doing some roping trick wrong, he would come over, pull my ear, grin and say, 'Naw Wild Injun, that isn't right,'" Yellow Hawk recalled today.

Fair and Cold Is Forecast

Rains Leave Oklahoma After 24-Hour Soaking

Fair skies and colder weather was the official forecast for the week-end in Oklahoma—an appetizing dish for hungry football fans.

In Tulsa, the temperature dropped to 42 degrees during the morning, climbed back up to only 57 degrees at mid-afternoon.

Rain totaling 1.11 inches fell here Thursday and early today. The official forecast was for fair tonight and Saturday, warmer in the west tonight, warmer Saturday in the southeast and colder in the northwest.

Thursday's welcome rains swept out of the state, leaving crops and soil in much better condition.

At Boise City, far out in the panhandle, the temperature dropped to 25 degrees this morning. An inch of snow which fell Thursday night melted, and skies were clear.

Oklahoma City's morning low was 38 degrees. The northwest part of the state received a killing frost. The temperature dropped to 32 degrees at Waynoka and Elk City, and to 44 degrees at McAlester.

The highest temperature in the United States Thursday was 84 at Brownsville, Texas; the lowest, 20 degrees at Huron, S. D.

Tulsa Judges Still Await Grand Jury Notification

Tulsa's district judges today still had not received state supreme court notification to answer by November 10 a petition for a writ of mandamus filed by A. F. Sweeney to force immediate calling of a grand jury.

Bulletin

Bartlesville Man Named

U. S. Marshal John P. Logan today was advised by the department of justice in Washington that John C. Tucker, Bartlesville, former Washington county sheriff and WPA supervisor, had been accepted to replace G. L. (Duch) Holbert as deputy marshal here.

Nation Pays Tribute to Will Rogers at Claremore

Thousands Attending Memorial Dedication

Continued From Page 1

from the center of Claremore to the hilltop site of the Rogers memorial.

The paved highway appeared an almost solid mass of humanity for approximately a mile.

Cadets from Oklahoma Military academy led the parade. They were followed by two band units from the military academy.

As the throng spread out around the speakers stand, Glenn Condon, director of publicity, began introduction of prominent guests.

These included Marcellus Murdock, editor, Wichita Eagle; Marjorie Weaver, 20th Century-Fox, the studio for which Rogers worked; Oklahoma's former blind senator, Thomas P. Gore.

"Hail and farewell to all my friends," Gore declared. "Will Rogers was my friend. You honor him and honor yourselves in honoring his memory."

Condon also introduced Senator Elmer Thomas and Former Senator J. W. Harreld, Republican, Oklahoma City.

L. F. Haines, who is here representing the governor of Arizona was introduced.

The Will Rogers memorial commission received hundreds of telegrams from notables not able to attend. One of the wires was from Mrs. L. H. McCracken, whose husband was a member of the Will Rogers memorial commission before his death. One other of the original members has also passed away, W. W. Hasting, of Tahlequah.

Patrick J. Hurley, former secretary of war, said of Rogers, "He will always live in memory. He was the finest, cleanest, most brilliant man I ever knew."

The parade reached the grounds of the memorial shortly before 1 p. m. A chuck wagon dinner followed for the old-timers in the rear of the memorial, and, almost before it was over, the program resumed with the unveiling of the Jo Davidson statue of Rogers in the rotunda of the memorial.

Mrs. Rogers was smiling as she talked with Mrs. Marland just before the ceremony, but her eyes were tired. She joined her family at the foot of the shrouded statue just a moment before the ceremony began.

As Mary pulled the cord unveiling the statue, Mrs. Rogers looked into the face of the likeness of her husband. She maintained her composure only a few seconds then her lips twisted and she lowered her eyes and murmured something to Jo Davidson, the sculptor.

As the ceremony proceeded tears came to her eyes and she turned quickly and with two of her friends, walked into the large room of the museum away from the crowd.

Jimmie and his wife were composed but unsmiling. Will, jr., seemed interested in the radio men standing near the microphone and the grin that appeared on his face frequently resembled that of his father's.

Mary talked with W. G. Skelly, president of the Skelly Oil Co., of Tulsa, several minutes before the unveiling. Her expression changed little as she pulled the cord to unveil the statue of her father.

Davidson made a short speech of presentation commenting, "It was a labor of love to do this and I am happy to have come across the ocean to be present at this unveiling."

"I was a personal friend of Rogers and he often watched me work but he never posed for me. That is one of the regrets of my life," he said.

The statue is one-sixth larger than life size.

Governor Marland called upon Mary Rogers to unveil the statue of her father.

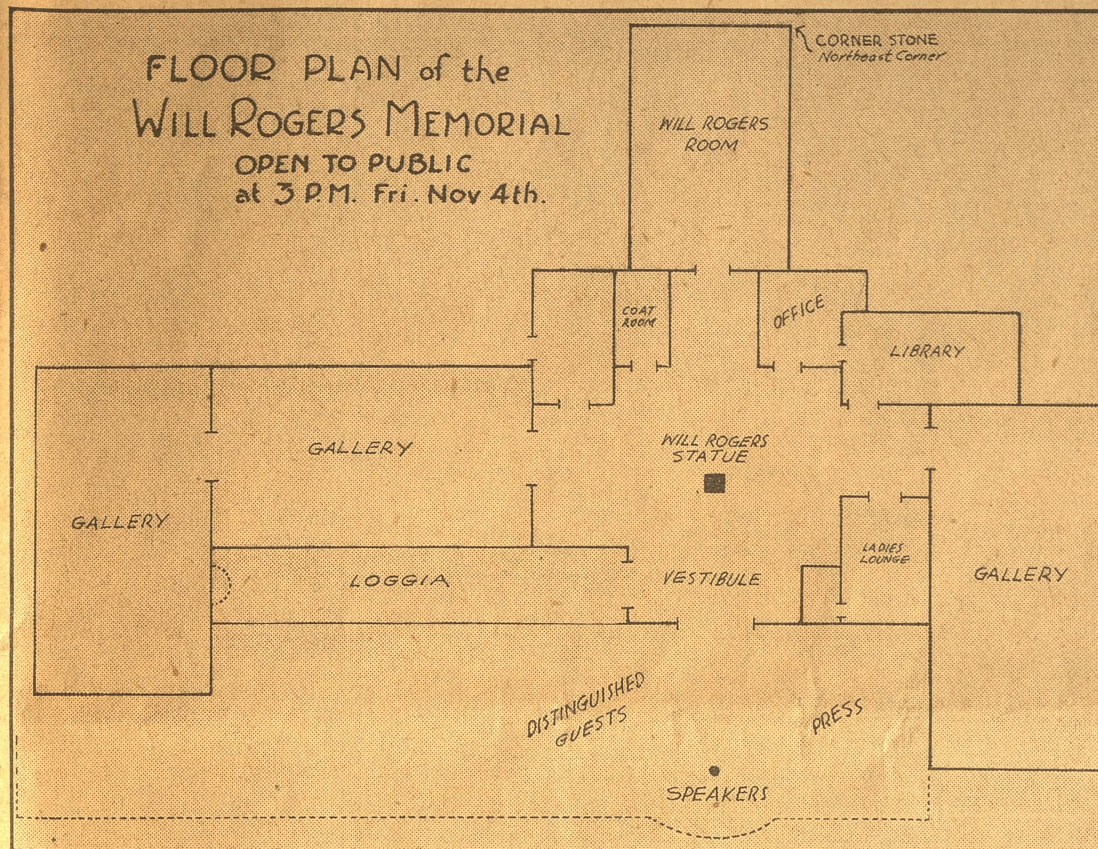
"It gives me great pleasure to tell the story of the statue we are about to see unveiled," the governor said. "Jo Davidson, the great sculptor, was visiting at my house at the time the Oklahoma legislature voted an appropriation to build this memorial building and voted to put a life-size

nance Corp., publisher of the Houston Chronicle, and treasurer of the Will Rogers National Memorial. Jones was the principal speaker of the day.

Jones said Will Rogers was "a philosopher, probably as great as any we have known."

Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and

Rogers' Early Day Possessions Add Much to Interest of New Museum at Claremore



By Staff Correspondent

CLAREMORE, Nov. 4.—Looking down from his ranch in the sky, Will Rogers must have been happy today to see a little one-eared stuffed calf standing in the stone museum which Oklahoma has built to the memory of her favorite son.

Will used to practice rope-throwing at his California ranch home at that calf and that's why one ear and parts of two hooves are gone.

The calf was stuffed and given to Rogers by a cowboy friend and Will promptly established it in the living room. Then he could sit in a comfortable chair nearby and practice throwing the rope from different angles.

WHETHER THE CALF OR ANY other of the exhibits now in the museum will remain on permanent display isn't yet known, Bob Love, curator, said today.

"All of the saddles might be sent back to California and an entirely new bunch sent out here, or these might stay," Love said.

For the present, though, the saddles will remain in the Will Rogers room, just back of the bronze statue of the humorist. Bridles, Indian rugs and Argentine and Mexican cowboy exhibits will be in the big showroom at the left of the statue, and the rooms at either end of the memorial will remain empty.

Love wants to place autographed copies of Rogers' books and volumes on the history of Oklahoma in the oak library at the right and just back of the statue. Reading tables and red leather covered chairs have been installed there.

IN THE CENTER OF THE WILL Rogers room, is Will's own saddle which he used in his vaudeville acts. It was made in 1909 and is full-stamped, round-skirted and double-

rigged. The saddle blanket is red and white and Rogers' name is woven into it.

To the left as you enter the room, is a Mongolian saddle with woven saddle cloth and short, decorated stirrups. To its left, is a French cowboy saddle, descended from the old jousting saddle. It is hand-made, leather being tanned by an old process.

The Nicaragua saddle is in a case at the left of the fireplace as you face it. It is built on a light tree which is in reality two bundles of reeds, padded and covered with leather.

Further on around the room to the right of the fireplace, is the saddle of the Argentine gaucho. He is one of the best-known of the South American cowboys and usually is immensely wealthy. Evidence of that is the elaborate and expensive silver-mounted bridle.

Jimmie Rogers, working in the room which bears his father's name, was glad to explain the saddles as he worked with them Thursday.

"The Argentine gaucho used a bolas, or three weights tied together in a common center," Jimmie said. "He whirled it above his head and threw it to catch running animals that were too far away to rope."

On around the room is the fancy charro saddle. "A charro," said Jimmie, "is a gentleman rider and is a descendant of a wealthy ranch-owning family."

On the back of the elaborately-tooled leather saddle is a gaily colored saddle blanket.

JIMMIE'S WIFE WANTED TO take the blanket from the saddle and put in with some Indian rugs in another room.

"No, indeed," said young Rogers.

"You never, never see a charro saddle without a blanket."

Walking on around the room you see, just at the left of the entrance, a Chilean saddle. The carved wooden stirrups were copied from earlier Spanish stirrups of engraved metal. They were the forerunners of leather stirrup coverings known as "tapederos."

Ready to be placed in another room of the museum were Fred Stone's saddle, and the saddle which Will gave Jimmie on the boy's sixteenth birthday.

Stone's is a silver-mounted leather saddle. It was given by the actor to Rogers many years ago.

Jimmie's saddle is silver-mounted, and full-stamped. Will used it in his picture, "The Connecticut Yankee."

IN THE BIG ROOM JUST TO the left of the bronze statue as you enter the memorial, are the one-eared calf, Argentine and Mexican cowboy equipment, handsome bridles and colorful Indian rugs.

One rug was made by the Navajos. It is a picture of a sand-painting for which that Indian tribe is famous. No two designs are the same.

HOURS DURING WHICH THE museum will be open to the public are yet to be fixed by the memorial commission. One member, however, indicated he favored keeping the museum open daily from 8 to 5 and on Sunday afternoons.

MRS. ROGERS HAS BROUGHT her husband's manuscripts from California to be placed in the museum.

These include the originals of his daily column material along with original copies of telegrams sent over the world by him during many years.

Family Silent on Removal of Rogers' Body

By BOB FORESMAN
Of The Tribune Staff

CLAREMORE, Nov. 4.—When you look down the long, brown, grassy slope from the terrace of the Will Rogers memorial, there seems to be a quiet place at the foot of the hill, in a protecting circle of trees, which Will Rogers, himself, might have chosen for a grave.

Today, as thousands of words tumbled out of the four silvered loud-speakers to a hillside of people, there were unspoken thoughts in the minds of silent people about that quiet corner.

Will Rogers, jr.—called Bill, as his father was by intimates—made the only comment which revealed that the family is seriously thinking about bringing the last remains of Oklahoma's favorite son from the California grave to a final resting place here at Claremore.

Rumor, of course, preceded the thought. Rumor had it that the decision had been made.

But Bill Rogers said: "Let's not talk about that today, We can talk about that later."

Mrs. Rogers Happy
Mrs. Rogers, the widow, friends said, expressed her highest approval of the memorial and was in good spirits today. She laughed and joked with friends and acquaintances and talked easily.

Bill Rogers said that the present exhibit is only temporary.

"We have so many of dad's things that could be placed in this museum, and will eventually be placed here," he added.

"We are all highly pleased with the memorial, Oklahoma's tribute to dad deeply touches all of us today as we wait for the dedication."

"The family likes the memorial, its completeness, its architecture and simplicity of design."

"Built, as it is, on the top of a rolling hill much like the country of his boyhood, it is in the most typical setting possible."

"We like the Rogers room, where dad's saddles are, and we feel that the saddles and outdoor belongings typify him more than anything else."

Rogers said that the family has many photographs of his father which eventually will be placed in the museum.

"I think that those in the museum now are among the worst of dad. We have some that I think are 'wows'."

"Another collection that will certainly be placed here in the near future is his collection of quirts and whips, which is one of the finest I have ever seen and much finer than the saddle collection."

Patrick J. Hurley, former secretary of war, and a former Tulsan, was aboard the specially decorated Will Rogers train of the Frisco when it pulled into Claremore.

It was "home town" celebration for Justice Wayne Bayless of the Oklahoma supreme court. He's from Claremore.

Among the names in politics present for the ceremonies... U. S. Senator Elmer Thomas, former Senator T. P. Gore, Gen. W. S. ...

Jo Davidson, the governor said, was visiting at my house at the time the Oklahoma legislature voted an appropriation to build this memorial building and voted to put a life-size

See Museum First

The first visitors to enter the Will Rogers memorial museum today were Mrs. Walter O'Bannon, wife of a prominent Tulsa oil well supply manufacturer, and Mrs. Olivia Wilson, also of Tulsa, a companion of Mrs. O'Bannon.

The two women, both seated in the distinguished guests gallery, walked past guards unnoticed during the dedication ceremony and viewed the collection 10 minutes before anyone else.

statue of Will in the Hall of Fame in the capitol building in Washington."

Davidson, the governor said, had known Will intimately, and Rogers had often visited the sculptor's Paris studios, but never had been a subject for a bust. Rather, Rogers had kidded Davidson as a "head hunter" for since the war, Davidson had modeled heads of most of the prominent persons of Europe.

But while the group in the Oklahoma executive mansion was deploring that Rogers had never "sat" for a statue, the governor related, it was suggested that Davidson might obtain the movies of Will, and, running them slowly on a screen in his studio, get the detail needed for the sculpture.

The plan was approved. Davidson made the statute for the Hall of Fame, and then Marland asked that he present a replica for the Will Rogers memorial at Claremore. "I hope," said the governor, "that you will approve of this work as I do. Miss Mary Rogers, the people of Oklahoma are delighted to have you with us, and we want you to pull the cord which will unveil forever the statute of Oklahoma's favorite son, our friend and your father—Will Rogers."

There were a few minutes of waiting before the voice of Franklin D. Roosevelt came over the loud speakers in his four-minute tribute to Rogers.

The strains of the "Star Spangled Banner" died away, and General Roy Hoffman of Oklahoma City, came forward to the microphones. As chairman of the commission of 15 state citizens which built the memorial on the Claremore hill-top, Hoffman gave a report to the state which authorized the work.

The commission, he said, "has done its level best to achieve a memorial of distinction; one that would in some measure speak the affection and reflect the pride, honor and glory in which this commonwealth will forever hold the memory of its best-beloved native son.

"We earnestly hope it shall quicken fond memories, arouse inspiration, not only in the living but in generations unborn, and become a wayside shrine for all mankind."

General Hoffman expressed his appreciation to other members of the commission for their service to the state, and then tendered the memorial to the governor for formal dedication.

Governor Marland's acceptance was brief. "Will Rogers, we are here . . . we of your home state . . . we who knew and loved you as one of us. Your beloved Claremore and its folks . . . all Oklahoma's old timers . . . are here in respect to your memory."

Then he introduced Jesse Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Fi-

the day. Jones said Will Rogers was "a philosopher, probably as great as any we have known."

Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and treasurer of the Will Rogers National Memorial fund, praised Rogers as a "great humanitarian."

"I have known him to fly from city to city and state to state in drouth or other disasters, pleading for help for the suffering, usually making a personal contribution at each appearance," said Jones.

He asserted that "no philosopher, no character in American history had a better understanding of our country, the new world, than Will Rogers. Rogers, he said, was "gentle, generous, wise, restless, untamed, ever-going, even-growing, as much a part of nature and the very soil itself, as any of nature's children."

"We miss Will Rogers as we have missed no other man," said Jones. "We did not fully realize, while he was still with us, the tremendous service he rendered his country."

"Many times since he left, I have seen situations where Will Rogers' droll comment would have been of immense help, and droll though his quips were, there was in them something that shattered sham and pretense, something that revealed his belief in truth and justice and tolerance."

The complete text of Jones' address is on an inside page.

Thousands March in

The Oklahoma Military Academy band was seated behind the flagpole between the press and the distinguished guests.

When the doors of the museum were thrown open at 3 p. m. following the services, the thousands of spectators streamed through the building and inspected the interior and collections.

Workmen, some of whom have worked 36 hours without stopping, finished the interior just in time for the public inspection.

There was a hush over the crowd as President Roosevelt's voice came over the loudspeakers at 2 p. m., starting the dedication, and distinguished guests and visitors alike strained to catch each word through the speaker.

Wiley Post's mother and his widow were among the visitors. His mother coming from Maysville, spoke briefly, paying particular tribute to Joe Crosson, mercy flier who returned the bodies of her son and Rogers to the United States.

"To me" she said, "he is one of the grandest men in the world." The entire day was a festive one for Claremore. At 9 a. m., 3,000 persons gathered at the Frisco depot for the arrival of the "Will Rogers," bringing Jones and other guests in a special car.

Spectators jammed the tracks and the train was forced to nose slowly through the packed throng at the station. Patrick J. Hurley, secretary of war under Hoover and close friend of Rogers, was on the train with Jones. Mrs. Rogers, together with Governor Marland, went to the rear platform and greeted the two men, but in a pensive mood.

"These people loved him," she said, as she watched the throng at the depot, and autographed programs and newspapers for children.

Engineer John Gardner, who piloted the "Will Rogers" on her maiden run, presented Mrs. Rogers with a large cake in the form of the train's tail-light.

"This cake is presented to you on behalf of the employees of the Frisco railway," said Gardner, doffing his striped engineer's cap. "The Will Rogers is dedicated to the memory of a great American, and is the

IN THE CENTER OF THE WILL Rogers room, is Will's own saddle which he used in his vaudeville acts. It was made in 1909 and is full-stamped, round-skirted and double-

only train in the United States bearing this distinguished name."

Traffic on the Tulsa highway was heavy and a steady stream of cars poured into Claremore from all directions. Sixty carloads of highway patrolmen were on hand directing traffic and keeping the road to the memorial open.

WPA workers scurried about the grounds spreading 20 tons of hay to keep the space for the spectators as dry as possible as a result of Thursday's heavy rain.

The Rogers family, staying in Claremore at the Hotel Will Rogers, arose early, breakfasted, and then Jimmie and Bill, sons of the late humorist, went to the museum to aid in putting exhibits in final order.

Both worked during the morning in shirt sleeves, assisting workmen arranging their father's personal exhibits.

Lights burned at the memorial all night Thursday as interior finishing touches were added and furniture and carpets put in their places.

Claremore stayed up until past midnight Thursday as three national guard bands and the Oklahoma Military academy band paraded the streets playing martial airs.

Colorful Masonic Parade

At 10 a. m. the colorfully-garbed men of the Masonic order separated themselves from the crowd milling about the streets and hotel lobbies and went to the Masonic hall.

They formed ranks and at 10:30 paraded down Main street, led by

John R. Abernathy, Oklahoma City, grand master, marching to the memorial for laying of the cornerstone.

The sun which peered through the rapidly-vanishing clouds glistened on the bright uniforms of the Akdar Shrine band and patrol from Tulsa, led by Roy C. Busby.

Almost every Masonic lodge in the state was represented in the parade and ceremony.

At 11 a. m. cornerstone ceremonies began at the memorial.

Parade Attracts Many

Charles H. Everett, Ardmore, deputy grand master; Dave H. Wilson, Muskogee, past grand master, taking the role of senior grand warden; William Powell, Francis, junior grand warden; Rufus O. Renfrew, Woodward, past grand master, and Claude A. Sturgeon, Guthrie, grand secretary, took roles in the ceremony.

Members of the Claremore lodge participated in the ceremony but had no speaking parts.

The bands of the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma A. and M. college arrived during the morning and prepared to play a massed concert at the memorial from noon to 12:45 p. m. They were to play favorite selections of Rogers.

Participants in the pioneer parade to start at 12:15 were increasing hourly during the morning.

Rogers' cowboy friends from the Oklahoma plains began arriving with daybreak, some riding their horses

seum. These include the originals of his daily column material along with original copies of telegrams sent over the world by him during many years.

into Claremore and other hauling them in late model trailers.

All had but one wish and that was to be in the parade and in the pageant, "Beneath Oklahoma Skies," to be given at 7 tonight.

Garage men busy for the past several days putting stage coaches and old covered wagons into mobile shape, rolled the old vehicles into the parade line.

Nearby ranches sent extra cow ponies for visiting cowboys, and ranch chuck wagons to swell the line of march.

The parade not only depicted pioneer life, but the life of Rogers as well.

Plan Depositions From Gun Victim

On the report that Edwin McCherry, 40, 744 N. Peoria av., is in a critical condition and that an identification statement now may have important bearing on the case of Wayman Evans, 35, 733 N. Quincy va., charged with shooting him, Pleas Judge William Randolph today authorized the taking of depositions at Morningside hospital.

This, with further permission of attendant physicians, is to be done in the presence of a deputy sheriff. The deposition was requested by M. P. Howser, defense counsel.

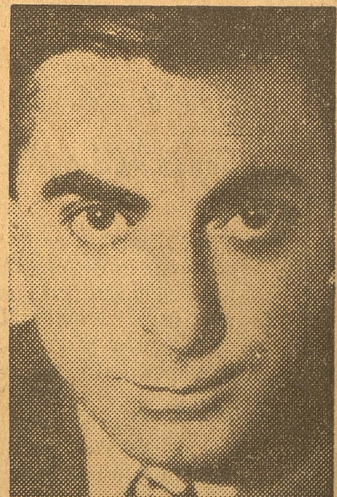
McCherry was shot four times, twice in the stomach, in front of 1143 E. Archer st. last week.

from Claremore.

Among the names in politics present for the ceremonies . . . U. S. Senator Elmer Thomas, former Senator T. P. Gore, Gen. W. S. Key, Lieutenant Governor and Mrs. James E. Berry, John Eddleman.

Mid-Continent Airline President Thomas Fortune Ryan was host to an "airplane" party over the dedicatory services. Aboard the ship when it took off at Municipal airport at 11:15 a. m., were Gary Vandever, Ted Law, Salty Clark, W. G. "Bill" Skelly, Dorothy McBirney, J. F. McMammon, G. R. Ames, William Michaels, and Ben S. Edwards. Edwards is the Mid-Continent's local representative.

Eddie Cantor in Homage to Friend Will



EDDIE CANTOR,

By EDDIE CANTOR

The papers have said Will Rogers was the greatest American. Will Rogers WAS America. He was everything we loved. It made no difference to him whether you were born here or in some other land, whether you belonged to the Catholic, Jewish or Protestant church, Will was your friend.

Will never had to wait till December to get imbued with the holiday spirit. To him it was Christmas 365 days in a year, year in and year out.

I remember when Will died one of my children said to me, "Why did he have to die?" "You can't question the Divinity," I told her, "but I imagine maybe God looked down on the world and became depressed and sent for Will Rogers to make Him laugh.

I shall never forget how he was when my grandmother died. He knew that she was both father and mother to me. He sat in my dressing room that night and cried as hard and as bitter as I did. That was like Will. Your troubles were his troubles and your sorrows his sorrows.

Republican Workers and Nominees Meet Saturday

Republican precinct workers and officials will meet Saturday afternoon at 2 in the courthouse for final instructions, Joe E. Musgrave, county chairman, has announced. Candidates are to be present.

Parade Symbolizes Will's Life



THROUGH CLAREMORE STREETS at noon moved a colorful pageant of horsemen, symbolizing Will Rogers' love for fine horseflesh and the out-of-doors that went with it. The parade took more than half hour to pass a given point.

—Tribune Staff Photo

Tribute

to

Will Rogers



Once, when Fred Stone was injured in an airplane crack-up just as a musical comedy in which he was the star was about to open, Will Rogers proved the true friend. He took Fred's starring role—and put the show over. Today, speaking from Boston where he is starring in "Lightnin'" in his 50th year in the theater, Fred Stone paid this tribute to the memory of Will Rogers:

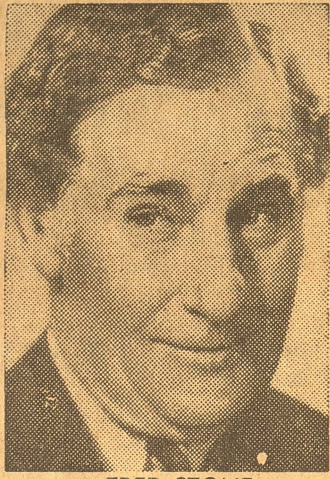
By Fred Stone

All of us gathered together today by the power of radio are gathered more closely by the power of the great love and admiration in our hearts for a man who was the friend of all. Whether we knew him personally whether we knew him through his writing or his speaking as an actor didn't matter so much. It was knowing him. And Will Rogers gave so much of himself that his physical presence was not necessary for one to say with great truth, "I'm a friend of Will Rogers."

In your hearts and in mine a shrine already stands for Will. We do not need a memorial there. The memorial we build with our hands will be merely the gracious expression to coming generations that those things for which he stood, and for which we loved him, deserved a permanent acknowledgement beyond the power of voices.

His simplicity was the simplicity of the immortals. His was the language of the heart, a vocabulary of homely phrases made eloquent by his tolerance and understanding.

He was a deeply religious man, his was the religion of the Savior, brotherly love. He was a man of faith, he never talked about it, he proved it. He was unconfused in a world of confusion. He proved that those virtues upon which our country was founded are still the virtues of Americans. Gathering to honor him, we honor ourselves because of our appreciation of him. Our memorial to him will be more than a testimonial to a man. It will carry the message to Americans of the future that the ideals of a shy, gum-chewing philosopher, without egotism, but with gentle



FRED STONE

courage, clear conscience, tolerance and understanding beyond compare, were honored as they deserved to be.

We are uniting in this purpose we who are, everyone of us, his friends. I know that he would laugh and deny his deserving if he were here. But I know equally well that understanding that it is his principles, the principles of all real Americans for which we are honoring him, he would accept humbly, and with a happy heart.

The memorial to the man is eternal in our hearts, the memorial to an American will carry to posterity, the reminder of his real greatness, courage, faith and honor.

Will Rogers marches on.

Here is the complete text of the tribute which George M. Cohan, for many years America's No. 1 "song and dance man," and a friend of Will Rogers, paid to the famous Oklahoman by radio from Pittsburgh, Pa., at 2:33 p. m. today:

By George M. Cohan

Will Rogers during his lifetime was often referred to as the favorite humorist and philosopher of the man in the street. And it's quite true that he was nothing less than an idol to the average American in all ordinary walks of life. The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker, the fireman, the cop, the newsboy and laborer all agreed that Will was the last word in true Americanism and there's no doubt that this man and his writings had a great influence on the entire white collar and blue shirt and brass button population. But I want to tell you briefly of a little incident that happened during the summer of 1916 which will prove that Bill stood just as strong with the highest officials of the government as he did with the average man in the street.

The Friars club of Newport was making its annual tour that summer, playing all the large cities . . . one night each. An all-star aggregation . . . 50 of the biggest names in show business gathered together for the trip. A night in Washington was not available on account of contracted bookings at the National theater. "Too bad", Bill said, "sorry we don't play Washington. President Wilson told me he'd surely come to the show if we booked a night there."

Well we couldn't get Washington so we booked Baltimore instead. When we arrived in Baltimore at 7:30 in the evening, we all wondered as we stepped from the special train, why the city council, chamber of commerce, and brass bands and mounted policemen were not at the station to greet us as they were in all the other cities.

"Where's the crowd, where's the reception committee?", everybody asked. "They're all in front of the Academy of Music," the station master told us. "The whole town's gathered there to see President Wilson. He's driving over from Washington to see the Friars show and expects to arrive at the theater at 7:45."

Well, a cheer went up from the members of the all-star company. Everybody of course, was delighted to think that the president would take all the trouble and travel to see the frolic. And so we formed in line and paraded to the theater where we were to play that evening. As we came in sight of the Academy of Music, we heard the great cheers and saw the waving of flags. And the great mob pushing and shoving and surging to get a look at the president who had just arrived. The house of course was packed . . . the president and his party occupying a stage box. The show was a hit. The final curtain fell . . . the Star Spangled Banner was played . . . I rushed from backstage to the President's box and as abbot of the Friars, I thanked him for the compliment he had paid us by coming all the way from Washington to Baltimore to see the show.

"Oh, not at all, not at all . . . why goodness me," said the president, "I'd travel ten times that distance any day just to see and listen to as wise and clever a man as Will Rogers."

Yes sir, newsboys and presidents, they all had a soft spot in their hearts for Dear Old Bill.

Kentucky humorist is what they call Irvin S. Cobb. But he had a deeper vein. The Will Rogers memorial dedication brought from him in Hollywood, today, a serious plea:

By Irvin S. Cobb

In a sense Will Rogers was one man who needed no tablets of bronze, no stately tributes in marble to keep his name alive after he went away from here to ride the everlasting rantes beyond the stars. For so long as there survive any of us who knew him our hearts will be throbbing monuments to Will Roger's memory.

And when we too all are gone we may safely depend upon it that the generation which follow after—our children, yes, and our children's children—will treasure as a precious heritage the thought that their fathers were the friends of this man, even though that category includes millions on millions who never met him in the flesh; never caught at first hand the shrewd, kindly twinkle in the aquinted eye; never heard, save over the radio or from the sound machine, the accents of a whimsical Oklahoma drawl, nor saw, except upon the screen, the twisted grin on that homely weatherbeaten face of his. But to the last man and the last woman they will remember—and be the happier for having remembered—that in his day he walked amongst them and was as one of them.

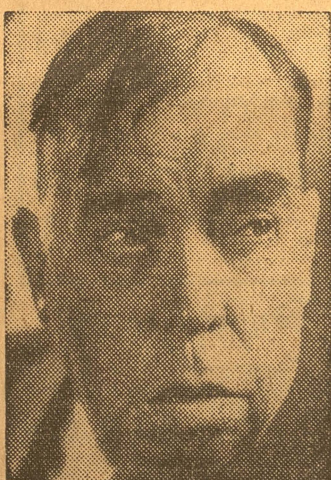
Why shouldn't his anchorage with America's immortals be secure? By his simplicity and his sanity and the charity of his understanding, by his philosophy which was searching without being cruel; by his comedy, so free as it was

from smut or snobbishness; by his humor which was salty without being sour; by his delineations of savory wholesome native types; by his patriotism—not lip service merely but true devotion to our flag and what it stands for; by his unstinted service on behalf of suffering mankind in times of national disaster; by the example he set, as father and husband, as actor and writer, as a citizen and a man he fixed the record of his fame in foundations firmer than granite, more enduring than basalt.

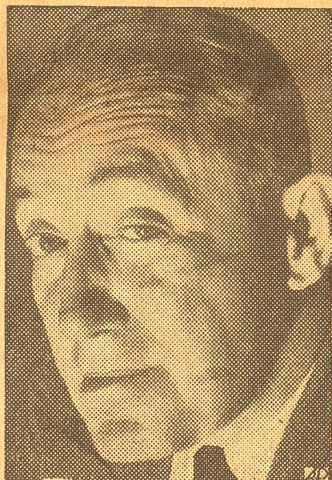
Once, in an occasion somewhat similar to this I said of him—and now say it again and still mean it—that here was almost the only man I ever knew who went clear to the top, yet never used the necks of his friends for the rounds of the ladder he climbed on.

So today, in honoring the spirit and the achievements of her dearest son, the people of his home state honor themselves, making manifest through the years to come their affection for and their pride in one who in our ignorance we call dead but by his deeds and his words lives on, offering this spontaneous testimony of gratitude to their own Will Rogers—he who made the whole world laugh and made the whole world love him!

Thankyou for listening to me.



IRVIN COBB



GEORGE M. COHAN

Will Rogers

Jones Honors Humorist for Great Service

By Staff Correspondent

CLAREMORE, Nov. 4.—In the principal address at the dedication of the Will Rogers memorial museum here today, Jesse Jones, Houston, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corp., today honored the Oklahoma humorist as "a great humanitarian."

Paying homage to Rogers, the speaker called attention to the human side of Rogers, his service to humanity, his philosophy.

The full text of Jones' address follows:

It is a high honor Governor Marland has conferred upon me in asking me to address you and to join in dedicating this building to the memory of Oklahoma's illustrious son, Will Rogers.

Planned by the architect to embody the friendliness of the old-time ranch house and built of native stone on land Will himself had purchased for the site of a home when came the time he would return to live with the people of his boyhood—this building is a fitting memorial to him.

Wherever we may go we never forget our childhood days, the ties of home, of family, of friends, of sentiment. A busy life carried Will Rogers to many places, but he never forgot Claremore. He always identified himself with Claremore. He made Claremore the best-known small city of the nation, and thousands will come this way because it was the home of Will Rogers.

What quality was it which drew to Will Rogers men and women of divergent political, social and economic ideas? What gave him his unique place in our American life? Why was he so often referred to as the best beloved man of his day?

Woodrow Wilson gives us the answer in a word. He said: "There is not much discriminating use of individual words in America. We use the word 'great' to describe anybody who has been talked about. It does not require character to be great. It requires only size of achievement. You may throttle everybody else and get everything they own and be great. You may be great and be feared. But there is one word which we bestow with great discrimination, and that is the word 'noble.' You cannot be noble and not be loved. You cannot be noble and not serve somebody. You cannot be noble and spend every energy you have on yourself."

As floods of memories of Will Rogers come to me, I think of his nobility. I thought of it a few weeks ago in Paris, when I stood before this impelling statue, this speaking likeness, which we have just unveiled, a replica of which will stand for all time in the Hall of Fame in our nation's capital. I thought of it each time I went back to see the statue, feeling each each time I went back to see the statue, feeling each time that I was with Will. I regard it as probably the finest work our distinguished American sculptor Jo Davidson has ever done.

Cowboys knew Will Rogers' nobility when they rode herd with him on pitch-black nights when the only light on the trackless plains was a flickering lantern on a faraway chuck wagon. They also knew that while he was one of them, he was thinking of something further on, a broader life.

Men and women of the stage and screen tell of his nobility, of the generous things he did to help them. They too felt his great friendship, but knew that he was not just of their life, that he was always thinking of something further on, some greater service intended for him not yet revealed.

No philosopher, no character in American history had a better understanding of our country, the new world, than Will Rogers. I like to think of Will Rogers as an inseparable part of our great and growing country, particularly the west. He so perfectly typifies that thought. Gentle, generous, wise, restless, untamed, ever-going, ever-growing, as much a part of Nature and the very soil itself, as any of Nature's children.

I like to think of Will Rogers as continuing to grow, as being with us today. I like to believe that he is looking down on these proceedings. That there has been no break in his love and thought and care of those dear to him.

I like to think of him as a young man, courting and winning the hand of Betty Blake across the line in Arkansas. I like to think what I know to be true, that Betty Blake saw in Will Rogers something more than a cowboy, something more than an actor, a comedian, or a wit.

I like to think of Betty and Will working side by side, Betty helping, encouraging, always inspiring him to greater things.

Will Rogers was a great humanitarian. I have known him to fly from city to city and state to state in drouth or other disasters, pleading for help for the suffering, usually making a personal contribution at each appearance. Will Rogers never asked anyone to do that which he himself would not do willingly, and he set action to the word.

Time after time he gave of his great talent to aid the unfortunate. He was never too busy to respond to such appeals.

I have known him to fly great distances and in bad weather to entertain, amuse, and bring cheer to gatherings composed principally of crippled and underprivileged children. I have seen him walk off the stage on such occasions, sobbing as though his heart would break, affected by their appreciation and their cheerfulness in spite of their handicaps.

We miss Will Rogers as we have missed no other man. We did not fully realize, while he was still with us, the tremendous service he rendered his country. Many times since he left, I have seen situations where Will Rogers' droll comments would have been of immense help. And droll though his quips were, there was in them something that shattered sham and pretense, something that revealed his belief in truth and justice and tolerance. None of us today has his ability to go to the core of a subject in a pungent sentence. He was a philosopher, probably as great as any we have known.

Here in the country of his birth and youth was begun the building of a character that was the foundation stone of his philosophy—his code of life.

You of Oklahoma are to be commended for honoring him with such distinction. Not only have you erected this memorial building and pro-

Masons Gather for Corner Stone Ceremony



LEADING MASONS OF OKLAHOMA posed in the Claremore Masonic Temple for this picture before they began the meeting of the Grand Lodge at 10 a. m. Later, these men laid the corner-stone of the Rogers memorial. In the group are: John Abernathy, Oklahoma City; Charles H. Everett, Ardmore; Dave H. Wilson, Muskogee; William Powell, Francis; R. O. Renfrew, Woodward; C. A. Sturgeon, Guthrie, and Gus Gunnerson.

A 'Dress Rehearsal' for Rogers Pageant



—Tribune Staff Photo by Bill Wyatt.

It looks like a mob-scene, but it is the "dress" rehearsal of the Will Rogers Memorial pageant—without the dress. The rehearsal was driven indoors by rain, and then Director Ennis Helm waived costumes.

vided this statue at a cost of a quarter of a million dollars appropriated by your state legislature, but by act of your legislature you have designated him one of the two citizens of your state whose statues will forever occupy Oklahoma's place in the Hall of Fame in our national capitol.

It might be pertinent to say that each state in the union is allowed two statues in our national Hall of Fame in the capitol building at Washington. Oklahoma will be appropriately represented by the statues of Sequoyah, the man who wrote the Indian alphabet, and Will Rogers. These two great men, both of Indian blood, will represent the successor state to the Indian territory, Oklahoma.

We have monuments and memorials to many men who have distinguished themselves as statesmen and soldiers, some erected by the nation, some by the state, but we have few erected to a private citizen.

I believe it to be true that there has never been as spontaneous a demand to memorialize a passing citizen as there was immediately following the accident that took Will Rogers from our midst. The heart of the world was saddened when the news of that accident flashed from Point Barrow.

Soon there were suggestions from many quarters that funds be raised to perpetuate his memory and the Will Rogers Memorial Commission, Inc., was organized. Local committees to receive contributions were set up in many places composed of men and women in all walks of life.

Five hundred and seventy-five thousand men, women and children made voluntary contributions to the

carrying for handicapped children. \$50,000 has already been allocated for this purpose, and your own Roberta Campbell Lawson, former president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, has consented to recommend the institutions to which this money will be given. Approximately \$100,000 has been added to the general fund of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission for perpetuating the memory of Will Rogers.

After considering the many suggestions as to how the money could best be used to perpetuate his memory, the Committee on Memorials decided that because of Will Rogers' great interest in and love for children and young people, particularly those handicapped by physical disability or by environment and ical disability or by environment and them to be the beneficiaries.

With this thought in mind and in order to insure perpetuity of the memorial, the committee decided to ask the state universities of Oklahoma, California and Texas to administer a substantial part of the funds under agreements between the Will Rogers Memorial Commission and the universities. State universities were selected to carry out the trust because they are non-sectarian, they are representative of all the people, and they should have continuous existence.

These universities were chosen because Oklahoma and California are the two principal home states of Will Rogers. He also lived for a time in Texas when a cowboy riding range, and Will's friends in Texas contributed more than the allotment to Texas.

One hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars each has been allocated to Oklahoma and California, and \$60,000 to Texas. These are not

to the mighty and the weak—a friend for friendship's sake. His understanding and generosity helped many a discouraged traveler over a rough spot.

He was strong and brave and true. He rode straight and hard, and played the game square.

His wit was keen but never barbed. Within the shell of humor was the kernel of great wisdom. He brought the precious gift of laughter to a somber world.

It is fitting that he be honored and revered and that we dedicate this monument to his memory.

Mystery Looms in Pilot's Vanishing

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Nov. 4.—(AP) Mystery surrounding the disappearance of W. H. Proctor, 26, Texarkana aviator unreported on a flight from Little Rock to St. Louis, Mo., deepend today following a report he had been seen at Poplar Bluff, Mo., on the night of October 24, the day he left the airport here.

Charles L. Spear of Little Rock, Missouri Pacific railroad conductor, said he talked to Proctor at a Poplar Bluffs hotel. He said he knew the flier well.

Proctor arrived here from Texarkana in his yellow Aeronca plane and took off a short time later, giving Pocahontas, Ark., as his destination. His arrival at Pocahontas was not reported here.

Her Favorite Picture



"I Never Saw A Man I Did Not Like"
—WILL ROGERS

This is Mrs. Rogers' favorite picture of her wuv. It is the one she selected, from many, for the invitations issued to the dedication ceremonies of the Will Rogers Memorial at Claremore today.

Hollywood Movie Stars Pay Homage Here to Will Rogers

Two stars from the 20th Century-Fox studios in Hollywood—Brian Donlevy and Marjorie Weaver—are Tulsa visitors, here to attend the Rogers memorial dedication at Claremore. The two were asked to write of their visit here. Their stories follow:

By MARJORIE WEAVER

I'm ready for adoption. I was born in Tennessee and lived in Kentucky and Indiana, but Oklahoma can have me.

I have never had such fun since the Saturday night frat dances at school, as I've had since the whirl in Oklahoma.

Actually I have found real people—those who don't think that movie stars bite, bark or snarl. People have taken us in since our arrival and made us one of the gang instead of standing aloof and staring, wondering what would come out of that strange thing called a "celebrity."

It probably would have been saner if I had continued my first-chosen profession—teaching. Armed with a bachelor of arts degree with an English major, and a French and music minor, I proudly started out with one of those gold-bound teaching certificates.

My roommate sent my picture to a screen magazine without my knowledge and no one was more surprised than I when I received the first prize.

Gotham was my next stop and there I took a year off and learned to dance. Scouts picked me up for a screen test and then Hollywood.

It was all too much for me after "Second Honeymoon," where I played the part of "Joy," the lively, naive, country girl. That was my first significant part. But I liked it.

Personal appearances like this are just as much fun as any of the movie work. I like to come out to find out what people think about me, my movie companions and the stories.

Although I didn't know Will Rogers, it is an honor for me to be here today for the Will Rogers memorial dedication, representing the company, 20th Century-Fox, in which Rogers was so famous.

By BRIAN DONLEVY

Coming to Tulsa is almost like coming home—I've met so many of the friends I made while on location recently at Pineville with the "Jesse James" company.

But then, Tulsans seem to have a faculty of making you feel at home. I guess that's the Oklahoma spirit. It was expressed in Will Rogers' personality and it's reflected in all of the wonderful people I've met in my brief visit to Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

I consider it a real honor to be a guest on such an occasion at that which takes place at Claremore today. There's little need for me to eulogize the Great Oklahoman to the memory of whom Miss Weaver and I pay our respects this afternoon. That is being done by many more fitted that I.

I did not know Will Rogers as well as many motion picture players did. I had never had the pleasure of appearing with him. But you have only to ask any of the film extras, the struggling, old weary actors, fighting to live, and the eager, young actors, fighting for a chance, who worked in his pictures, or the boys in overalls who labored behind the cameras, to know how he was loved and respected.

Interest in the dedication of a memorial to him today is shared by all of Hollywood, I can assure you, for the reverence of the great film industry of which he was so important a part is most sincere.

As Irvin S. Cobb so aptly said at another ceremony to honor his memory—the dedication of the Will Rogers Memorial Stage at the 20th Century-Fox studio in Hollywood on Nov. 14, 1935—"But once in a century, perhaps not so often, there comes a human being who lives on and on, not so much for the achievement of his life, but for the essence of decency and kindness and sweetness which he radiated through the medium of those talents of his."

Mrs. Rogers' Happiness Sets Tempo for Claremore's 'Biggest Day of All'

tees to organized contributions. Committees were set up in many places composed of men and women in all walks of life.

Five hundred and seventy-five thousand men, women and children made voluntary contributions to the fund at that time which the Will Rogers Memorial commission will use in creating a lasting memorial to Will Rogers—a memorial intended to perpetuate something of his philosophy of life. Contributions to this fund averaged about 45 cents each and amounted to a total of \$266,121.

Representatives of the stage and screen, with which profession Will Rogers was especially identified, contributed a beautiful hospital in the Adirondack mountains, costing a million dollars, which is operated for the needy in that profession. It is the Will Rogers Memorial hospital.

The motion picture industry, acting through five major producing companies, and thousands of theaters have held a Will Rogers Memorial week each year, at which time theater patrons are permitted to make voluntary contributions for the maintenance of this hospital, and in some measure to aid handicapped children in institutions throughout the country. These annual Will Rogers weeks in the theaters are of themselves an unusual memorial.

Contributors in the theaters, after paying the small expense incident to the memorial week, amounted to \$382,951 in 1936; \$357,734 in 1937; and \$389,792 in 1938, a total of \$1,130,477 in the three years. Probably 10 million people have contributed to this fund. The picture companies and theaters receive none of it. The money is used in large part for the operation and upkeep of the Will Rogers Memorial Hospital, and to create a fund for its future maintenance. Some of it will be distributed to institutions

time in Texas when a cowboy riding range, and Will's friends in Texas contributed more than the allotment to Texas.

One hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars each has been allocated to Oklahoma and California, and \$60,000 to Texas. These are not gifts to the universities, but trust funds to be administered in perpetuity by the regents or trustees of the universities. \$25,000 of the Oklahoma allotment goes to the Murrow Indian Orphan Home at Muskogee to meet the urgent needs of that worthy institution; \$23,379 for use in connection with this memorial building which we are today dedicating.

The balance, as in the case of the California and Texas allotments, will be used by the university in aiding handicapped boys and girls to get educations, or in helping students who might wish to equip themselves for devoting their lives to handicapped children.

The California allotment goes to the Los Angeles branch of the University of California, which is but a stone's throw from Will Rogers' California home, the present home of Betty Rogers and her children.

Agreements with the universities will set out that the principal purpose is to insure living memorials to Will Rogers in perpetuity, through aiding handicapped children.

The committee recognized that if the money were divided among the many worthy institutions caring for handicapped children, no one institution would get a sufficient sum to do any practical benefit. Furthermore, that if such distribution were made that would be the end of it, and there would be no lasting memorial to Will Rogers.

The committee had as an example the fact that no accomplishment in the life of Cecil Rhodes has made him so immortal in the public mind as the scholarships created by him.

Will Rogers was a friend alike

Mrs. Rogers' Happiness Sets Tempo for Claremore's 'Biggest Day of All'

By MARY KIMBROUGH
Of The Tribune Staff

CLAREMORE, Nov. 4.—Laughing and chatting gaily with friends from two continents, Mrs. Betty Blake Rogers today opened the way for Claremore to dedicate the Will Rogers Memorial as it had hoped to do—with happiness, instead of sorrow.

This little Oklahoma town has been in doubt whether to laugh or cry on this the biggest day in its history. But the thousands of people thronging the streets know that Will would have wanted them to laugh and they are taking their cue from his gracious, pretty widow.

Mrs. Rogers spent Thursday night at the hotel named for her husband and this morning rode with Governor Marland to the depot to meet Jesse Jones, the publisher and financier who makes the dedicatory address. Waiting for the train she talked with friends and autographed many books.

Later, she drove to the memorial museum with Governor Marland and Jones, and met the rest of her family there for a preview of the bronze statue of Will Rogers.

Both she and Mary appeared greatly pleased with the likeness.

"The museum is marvelous," the humorist's widow remarked. "It is beyond my expectations."

Mrs. Rogers was really consulting architect on the big museum, for she knew better than anyone else what her husband would have liked. Members of the memorial commission made several visits to Mrs. Rogers' home before completing final plans for the stone building.

LATE IN THE MORNING, MRS. Rogers returned to the hotel suite of Governor and Mrs. Marland where she received Jo Davidson, who came from Paris for the dedication of the museum and of the bronze statue which he executed.

Davidson laughed as he told her that he had been able to obtain only an upper berth in the train and that he had to pull himself into it by his whiskers. Davidson, with French courtesy, greeted Mrs. Marland with a kiss on each cheek. Mrs. Rogers was talking with Joe Crosson, famed "Mercy Flier," when someone said the parade was coming down the street.

"Oh, I want to see the parade," she said as she ran toward the window.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Rogers remained at the hotel Thursday night but Mary went with "Aunt Sallie" McSpadden to her home in Chelsea. The family stayed in the caretaker's cottage on the museum grounds most of the morning.

Mary wore a simple navy blue dress, and a mink coat. She seldom wears a hat. Jimmie's wife wore a light blue wool and gray dress, a smart navy-blue hat, and a rich gray fur finger-tipped length jacket.

FOLKS AROUND HERE LOVED Will Rogers as a friend, but they didn't know they would be able to help dedicate a monument to him as one of America's greatest men.

Peering through a window before the museum was officially opened was C. H. Rogers, Owasso ranchman.

"I guess I knew Will Rogers when he entered his first roping contest, July 4, 1893, in Pryor," C. H. Rogers said. "I guess we're distant kin, but we're pretty far apart. He was just a good, old cowboy."

Will hoped to build a home on the hill where the memorial now stands, his boyhood friend, W. E. Sunday, Claremore, real estate man, said.

"I brought Will up here in a buggy 25 years ago, and bought the land for him," Sunday said. "I told him then he would never live here, but he wanted to build his home right here where he could look out and see so many miles around."

* * *
SUNDAY'S FATHER, ED, 84, probably is the oldest rancher around here who ever worked with Will Rogers.

"Will was just an average boy, but he was a good boy," W. E. Sunday said. Sunday, a Cherokee Indian, participated in the Masonic ceremonies to lay the cornerstone of the museum today.

"Will Rogers was just as humble when he was a movie star as he must have been as a young cowboy," O. Lollar, Los Angeles attorney and for many years Rogers' next-door neighbor, said.

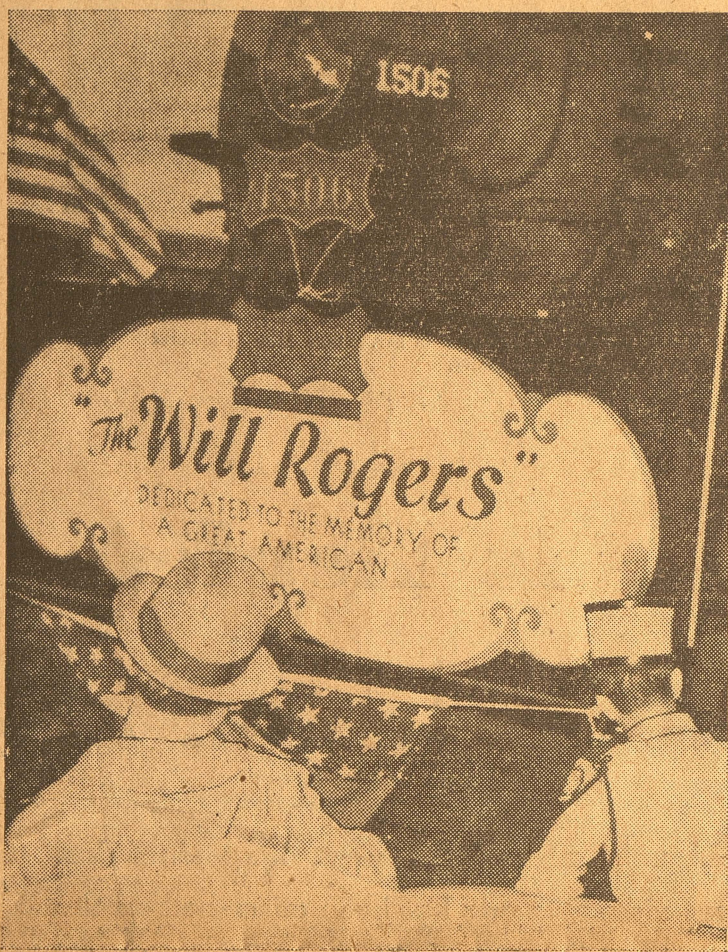
"We need Will Rogers in the world today."

Autograph Hunters Busy



—Tribune Staff Photo

AUTOGRAPH HUNTERS keep Governor Marland and Mrs. Will Rogers busy as they wait in the governor's car for the arrival of other guests for the dedicatory ceremonies early today.



—Tribune Staff Photo

THE WILL ROGERS—The Frisco railroad's crack passenger train—besides bringing Jesse Jones, principal speaker at Claremore, was brilliantly decorated for its trip on the 59th anniversary of Rogers' birth.



—Tribune Staff Photo

IN THE CHILL WIND the leading Masons of Oklahoma today refused automobiles and walked the more than a mile from the Masonic Temple in Claremore to the memorial where they laid the cornerstone with full Masonic rites.

Claremore Has Its Biggest Night Since Sons Went to War

CLAREMORE, Nov. 4.—Not since the Rogers county boys went off to war in 1918, has there been such a night in Claremore as Thursday night.

With five national guard companies, three guard bands, and cadets from Oklahoma Military Academy parading through streets lined with at least 2,000 townspeople, it was a perfect bedlam of noise.

The townspeople were downtown for a rehearsal of the pageant "Beneath Oklahoma Skies," held in the armory because of a driving rain.

It was to have been a full dress rehearsal beneath brilliant klieg lights set up by a half dozen news reel companies.

Director Ennis Helm, however, decided that a full dress rehearsal would be unnecessary since no filming was to be made.

Activity centered about the Hotel Will Rogers, and one of the bands constantly played in front on Main street.

Inside were Mrs. Will Rogers; her two sons, Bill and Jimmie, and daughter, Mary.

They had a late dinner in the

hotel coffee shop, and then went to the Frisco depot to meet the "Meteor," bringing Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lawler, close friends, on the last leg of their trip from Los Angeles.

Governor Marland and a party of friends sat at an adjoining table in the coffee shop, and talked and smoked until 10 p. m.

Major Gordon J. Lillie, Oklahoma's Pawnee Bill, looking very tired after the rehearsal, sat on a bench near the hotel elevator talking to his ranch foreman, Mexican Joe, all but forgotten among the celebrities.

Newspapermen and news reel cameramen stood about the lobby talking and every two or three minutes a flash bulb would glare as some dignitary was "snapped."

Drug stores and confectionaries stayed open late with jostling crowds demanding service.