

# Memorial Dedicated at Claremore While Millions Listen to Program

Notables From Various Parts of Nation Pay High Tribute to Will Rogers;  
Family of Humorist-Philosopher Attends Impressive Service.

BY ROBERT E. HICKS,  
Staff Correspondent.

CLAREMORE, Okla., Nov. 4.—

The massive memorial erected by the people of Oklahoma as a lasting tribute to its favorite son, the late Will Rogers, was dedicated here Friday.

The dedication, in the words of Amon Carter of Fort Worth, was a coast to coast eulogy of "sweet old Will." In addition to the close friends of the humorist-philosopher who gathered here by the tens of thousands, millions of others participated in the ceremonies through

the magic of radio. President Roosevelt, speaking from his home in Hyde Park, Fred Stone in Boston, Eddie Cantor in New York, George M. Cohan in Pittsburgh and Irvin S. Cobb in Hollywood added their tributes to those delivered here by Jesse Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, Governor Marland of Oklahoma, and Carter.

All of the speeches were carried to the four corners of the Nation through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company. The dedication occurred on what would

have been the fifty-ninth birthday of this son of the Oklahoma soil who once rode herd as a cowboy, then walked with kings and lassoed the heart of the Nation.

Attending the ceremonies were all of the Rogers immediate family and many relatives from nearby points. These included the widow, Mrs. Betty Rogers, and her sons, James and Will Jr., and daughter, Mary, and the philosopher's sister, Mrs. Tom McSpadden of Chelsea.

The dedication ceremonies were  
(TURN TO PAGE 2, COLUMN 2.)

# Memorial Dedicated at Claremore While Millions Listen to Program

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

conducted on a broad terrace in front of the \$200,000 memorial building, overlooking Claremore, one of the best known small towns in America, which Rogers was always proud to call his home. He was born in Oologah, eight miles away, and the house in which he was born is still there, headquarters of the ranch still owned by the Rogers family.

Before the dedication, Masons of Oklahoma had placed a cornerstone in the building with an impressive ceremony, and Mary Rogers had unveiled a slightly larger than life-size statue of her father, the handiwork of the internationally famous sculptor, Jo Davidson, and a replica of the one to be placed in the Hall of Fame in the Nation's Capitol.

The statue is in the center of the main lobby of the main building. The unveiling was witnessed by only a small group of close friends of the family.

## \$2,400,000 Is Raised.

Mrs. Rogers, seated directly in front of the statue, broke into tears as the veil was dropped, revealing a life-like picture of her beloved husband in a characteristic pose.

In the dedicatory address it was revealed by Jones, who was treasurer of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission, that nearly \$2,400,000 has been contributed by Rogers' friends to provide a lasting memorial for him.

Of this amount, \$310,000 is being turned over in trust to the Universities of Texas, Oklahoma and California to provide scholarships for physically handicapped boys and girls.

In selecting this type of memorial, Jones said, the committee was guided by the example of Cecil Rhodes, the British empire builder, and the fact that the Rhodes scholarships had made his name immortal.

They also felt they were doing what Rogers himself would have wanted them to do, he said, for he loved children, particularly those who are handicapped, and lavished his charity on them. Jones prefaced his announcement of the scholarships with a tribute to the nobility of the philosopher.

## Generosity Is Recalled.

"You can not be noble and not be loved," he said. "You can not be noble and not serve somebody. You can not be noble and spend every energy you have on yourself."

Cowboys knew Will Rogers' nobility when they rode herd with him, he said, and recalled that the men and women of the screen and stage tell of the generous things he did to help them.

"No philosopher, no character in American history had better understanding of our country than Will Rogers," he continued. "I like to think of him 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."

Jones also praised Rogers as a great humanitarian, and recounted some of his activities on behalf of the unfortunate.

"We will miss him as we miss no other man," he said. "We did not fully realize, while he was still

with us, the tremendous service he rendered his country."

Jones revealed that popular subscriptions to the Will Rogers Memorial Fund totaled \$266,121, and came from 575,000 men, women and children.

## Universities Selected.

Contributions made in theaters, he said, have totaled \$1,130,477 in three years, contributed by probably 10,000,000 people, in addition to which the people of the theatrical world have given \$1,000,000 for the Will Rogers Memorial Hospital in the Adirondack Mountains—a total of nearly \$2,400,000.

The committee on memorials decided, Jones said, that because of Rogers' great interest in and love for children and young people, particularly those handicapped by physical disability, he would want 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 Universities of Oklahoma, California and Texas to administer a substantial part of the funds.

"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 the range, and his friends in Texas contributed more than the allotment of Texas."

## Money Placed in Trust.

The Universities of California and Oklahoma were allocated \$125,000 each, and the University of Texas \$60,000. These are not gifts to the universities, he explained, but trust funds to be administered in perpetuity by the regents or trustees of the schools; \$25,000 of the Oklahoma allotment, he said, goes to the Murrow Indian Orphan Home at Muskogee, and \$23,379 is for use in connection with the building dedicated Friday. The balance of the fund, as with the allotments to California and Texas, will be used to aid handicapped boys and girls to get educations, or to help students who wish to equip themselves for devoting their lives to handicapped children.

## Praised by Roosevelt.

President Roosevelt, in his radio tribute, said, "I doubt if there has ever been a more useful citizen born than Will Rogers. He deserves the gratitude of the Nation, so it is fitting that the dedication of this memorial should be a national event. The Nation's gratefulness will hold him in everlasting remembrance."

Fred Stone, intimate friend of Rogers throughout his theatrical career, said in his radio talk from Boston that Will needs no memorial to perpetuate himself in the hearts of Americans, and said Will would laugh and deny that he deserved such a tribute, if he were here. He said the cowboy-actor was a deeply religious man.

"Your troubles were his troubles," Eddie Cantor said, "and your sorrows were his sorrows. If he borrowed a biscuit from you, he paid back with a sack of flour."

## Captained Ball Team.

Cantor, speaking in a subdued voice, recalled his first meeting with Rogers at a theater in Montreal 27 years ago. He also recalled that the boys in the theatrical troupe formed a baseball company and elected Will the captain. He showed his appreciation by buying all of the needed equipment, though he had to miss several meals in order to pay for it. He described Rogers as a man to whom Christmas was every day in the year.

Cohan told of President Wilson having traveled from the White House to Pittsburgh in order to see Will Rogers appear in the Follies.

Cobb praised Rogers' patriotism and charitable spirit.

"He was one of the few men I have known," he said, "who went to the top without using the necks of his friends for the rungs of the ladder. By his words and deeds he lives on."

## Oklahoma Commended.

"No one ever can take the place of sweet old Will in the hearts of the American people," Carter said in his tribute to his departed friend.

"I feel that he is with us in spirit today," Carter continued. "I imagine that he is looking down on us and saying, 'Shucks, folks, you shouldn't have done this.'"

Carter praised Oklahoma for making this memorial possible, one of the few ever erected to a private citizen. He also lauded Jo Davidson's statue, and the work of the architect, John Duncan Forsyth of Tulsa.

The dedicatory program ended with a male quartet of Oklahoma A. & M. College singing "Old Faithful," accompanied by the Oklahoma Military Academy Band.

## Governor Is Speaker.

At the unveiling of the Davidson statue, Governor Marland revealed that the artist viewed hundreds of reels of motion pictures in which Rogers had appeared, and the impressions thus gained were transmitted through his mind and fingers to a clay image from which the bronze cast was made. It is strikingly lifelike.

With Mrs. Rogers at the unveiling was the mother of Wiley Post, the Oklahoma pilot who died with Rogers when their plane crashed near Point Barrow, Alaska, on Aug. 15, 1935.

The sculptor, the architect and Gen. Roy Hoffman, chairman of the Oklahoma Memorial Commission, spoke briefly at the ceremony, Davidson describing the making of the statue as a "labor of love."

The ceremony ended with the quartet singing "Dream of the West," which left not a dry eye in the audience.

## Charge Filed After 3 Injured in Crash

Three men were injured and one of them was charged with violating the highway laws as a result of an automobile collision Friday afternoon on the Mansfield Highway six miles from Fort Worth.

The injured were B. W. Anderson, 25, of 2628 Wilkinson Avenue; M. A. Eggleston, 46, Route 1, Mansfield, and B. R. Crocker, 25, of 2600 Bishop Street. Anderson and Crocker were in one of the cars, and Eggleston was in the other.

Crocker is at St. Joseph's Hospital with injuries to his neck and cuts on his right leg. Anderson is in the same hospital with a cut on his forehead.

Eggleston, who was discharged from the hospital after treatment for minor injuries, was charged in Justice of the Peace Beaty's Court with driving on the left side of the highway.

The charge was filed by State Highway Patrolmen Willingham and Barkley, who with Deputy Sheriffs Petta and Trout investigated the accident.

# Roosevelt Pays His Tribute to Rogers' Memory

---

HYDE PARK, N. Y., Nov. 4 (AP).—Following is the text of President Roosevelt's radio speech in the Will Rogers Memorial exercises:

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 not 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 the 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.

---

# Statue of Will Rogers Unveiled as Friends Look On



As a small group of close friends of the Will Rogers family looked on, this statue of the late humorist-philosopher was unveiled Friday just before the

memorial at Claremore, Okla., was dedicated. The slightly larger than life-size figure was created by Jo Davidson, internationally famous sculptor, and is

a replica of one which will be placed in the Hall of Fame in the Nation's Capitol. In this picture, left to right, are Davidson, Mrs. Oscar Lawler, Los

Angeles, wife of Rogers' attorney; Mrs. Tom McSpadden, Chelsea, Okla., Rogers' sister; Jesse Jones, chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation; Mrs. Betty Rogers, Rogers'

widow; Pat Hurley, former Secretary of War; Governor Marland of Oklahoma, and at far right, Mary Rogers, a daughter. The statue was unveiled by Miss Rogers.