

RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION

WASHINGTON

JESSE H. JONES
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

June 1, 1939

Dear Amon:

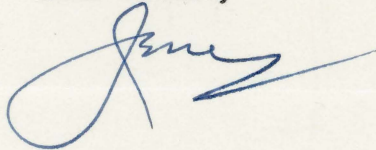
I am sorry you could not have been at Austin. It was a very impressive little occasion. I was glad Amon, Jr. could be there.

You and I were both invited to address the Joint Session, although I did not know it until after the Will Rogers ceremonies.

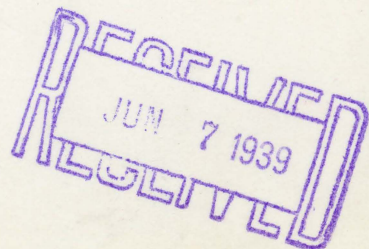
I hope Mrs. Carter is on the way to complete recovery and that she will soon be entirely well.

Take care of yourself. There is much to be done.

Your friend,



Mr. Amon G. Carter
Publisher
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Fort Worth, Texas



Monuments and memorials are usually erected to men who distinguish themselves as statesmen or soldiers. Few are erected to private citizens, but actually Will Rogers could hardly be regarded a private citizen. He belonged to the world by acclamation, and there probably has never been as spontaneous a demand to honor a passing citizen as was true immediately following the accident that took Will Rogers from us. The world was saddened when the news of that accident was flashed from Point Barrow.

We miss Will Rogers as we miss no other man. He gave us a bit of homely philosophy every day, a prod to remind us that we should not take things too seriously. I wish we had him with us today to give us those daily bits of philosophy. We need them. His was a mission ordained from on high, and the world is better because of what he gave us. We are fortunate to have the privilege of honoring him.

I have said that our purpose in establishing this fund is to create a living memorial to Will Rogers in perpetuity. I appreciate that "in perpetuity" means a very long time. We believe the world will be better if we can perpetuate his life and spirit.

There has never been another such character as Will Rogers. Wherever he went he was immediately recognized, and crowds in the street would gather about him in genuine admiration and affection. All loved him. He gave something of himself — good cheer — to all with whom he came in contact. He was the one man who could make all the world laugh and forget its troubles.

Will Rogers had an extraordinary knowledge of human nature, a wholesome sense of humor for all humanity, and a common-sense wisdom that went to the heart of a problem. He was as ruggedly simple and unaffected in manner as he was at heart, yet he was as much at ease with presidents or kings as with the humblest citizen. Will Rogers was a peace-loving man, and has been widely quoted as saying that he never met a man he did not like. He was one of the great philosophers of our generation.

Hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country have contributed to this fund, and I would like to see it augmented by further gifts from people interested in helping underprivileged boys and girls to prepare themselves for life without depending upon charity.

It has been a labor of love to have had the privilege of aiding in establishing this memorial to Will Rogers, and it is fitting in every way that the University of Texas should have a part in it.

(C O P Y)

RECONSTRUCTION FINANCE CORPORATION

WASHINGTON

JESSE H. JONES
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

May 29, 1939

Dear Dr. Calhoun:

I beg to hand you herewith:

(1) A duly executed contract between the Will Rogers Memorial Commission and the University of Texas. The contract has been signed by J. R. Parten, Chairman of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas, and Owen D. Young, Vice President of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission. It has been approved by me as Treasurer of the Commission, and was duly authorized by our Executive Committee, of which our fellow Texan, Amon G. Carter, is a member. Mr. Carter expected to be with us today but was prevented by illness in his family. His son, Amon, Jr., is with us.

(2) A check drawn on the Marine Midland Trust Company of New York, in amount of \$60,000.00, payable to the University of Texas.

The purpose of the Commission is to create living memorials to Will Rogers in perpetuity. State universities were chosen as the most appropriate agencies, all things considered, to administer the funds, and the Universities of Texas, Oklahoma and California were selected because Will Rogers was closely identified with these States.

The contract sets out in general terms the purpose for which the money is to be used, but in its preparation effort was made to give the broadest possible discretion to the Regents of the University in administering the fund.

Sincerely yours,

Jesse H. Jones
Treasurer
Will Rogers Memorial Commission

Honorable J. W. Calhoun
President
The University of Texas
Austin, Texas