

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

January 1, 1944

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

Dear Mr. Carter:

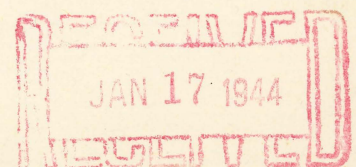
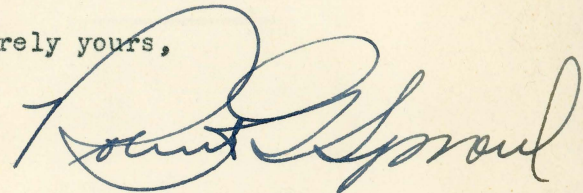
Nearly five years have passed since the Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship Fund was established at the University of California at Los Angeles, and it occurs to me that the trustees might wish to know how the University has administered the fund during this period.

After a careful study of the terms of the grant, the University has believed that the primary purpose of the fund is to aid students who are physically handicapped in preference to those handicapped by environment, social conditions, or limited financial resources. For this reason, the fund was used during the first two years of its existence to aid only physically handicapped applicants. From 1941 to the present time, a limited number of awards were made to students who had no physical disability, but who labored under severe financial handicaps; for it is clear from the terms of the grant that these students are eligible. The physically handicapped, however, are still regarded as the primary concern of the fund, and worthy applicants of this type are given first consideration. The table accompanying the enclosed report shows how the awards have been distributed.

You will note that the enclosed report consists, first, of a statistical summary and general remarks, and secondly, of a report upon individual cases. We regret exceedingly that we are unable to give more specific information concerning what becomes of students who have been helped by the fund, but it is not an easy matter to keep track of students after they have left the University.

If there is other information which you would like to have, we shall be only too glad to try to obtain it. We should also be happy to receive any suggestions or criticisms which you might like to give in regard to the procedure which has been followed.

Sincerely yours,



REPORT ON THE WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL FUND FOR THE FOUR-YEAR PERIOD 1939-1943

I

The Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in the University of California at Los Angeles in 1939 by the Will Rogers Memorial Commission, which had been organized by a group of public-spirited citizens to accept contributions for the purpose of creating and maintaining living, continual memorials to the charitable, educational, and humanitarian traits characteristic of Will Rogers. Because of Will Rogers' interest in and love for children and the underprivileged, it was decided that the funds should be used for the education of boys and girls who were handicapped physically or by environment and lack of opportunity, and for the training of young men and women who wish to qualify themselves for work in the interests of handicapped children, but who are unable to do so unassisted. The Commission selected State universities to administer the funds because they are non-sectarian, representative of all the people, and likely to endure; and it included the University of California among the three finally chosen because Will Rogers was closely identified with this state. The gift was accepted by The Regents of the University of California in February, 1939, and on August 6, 1939, the Treasurer of the Commission, Mr. Jesse Jones, formally presented to Culbert L. Olson, Governor of the State of California, the check for the foundation of the endowment.

The original corpus has been invested, and only the income is used for scholarships, gifts, loans, and advances to the recipients of Will Rogers scholarships and awards, all of whom must be registered on the Los Angeles campus of the University. Inasmuch as it has been found desirable to recommend grants in as flexible a manner as possible, scholarships of fixed amounts have not been established. The amount awarded in each case has been adjusted to the individual needs and merits of the applicant in so far as it is possible to do so within the limits of the fund and the judgment of those responsible for the awarding of the scholarships. In cases where the scholarship, character, and promise of the candidate are sufficiently high, the grant is regarded as an honor and called a "Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship." Other grants are termed "awards."

Although the standards of judgment used for applicants for Will Rogers awards are of necessity different from those applied to applicants for scholarships given to unhandicapped students, a Will Rogers award has never been made to a student solely on the basis of his physical handi-

cap. Each student is given a personal interview, letters of recommendation and scholastic records are examined, and the candidate's ability and future usefulness to his country and to society are judged. The University attempts to have the student feel that his award or scholarship is given upon the basis of merit and in competition with others, not that it is primarily a grant because of his disability. Will Rogers grants are published along with other scholarship awards.

For the most part, each award was granted for a period of one year. The amount of a grant given for a shorter period was appropriately adjusted. For the year 1942-1943, because of the operation of the three-term plan, two awards were received by those students who attended the university each of the three terms, a second award having been received for the additional third term.

More grants to blind students have been made than to any other type. Because most of these receive State aid, the amount of each award is usually, though not always, less than the amount granted students having other types of disabilities. During the past four years, sixteen different blind students received aid from the fund through a total of twenty-eight awards. Eight of these received awards during two or more years. Many of them used their awards to provide additional reading time.

The next most numerous group to receive aid suffered from poliomyelitis. Twenty-two awards were made to eleven different students in this category. One of them had sleeping sickness also.

The third largest group is formed by persons crippled by osteomyelitis or by accident. Fourteen awards were made to ten different students in this group.

Other groups, however, have been aided. Four students suffering from spastic paralysis of some form were given a total of eight awards. Four cases with some form of heart ailment received ten awards during this period. Three cases of impaired hearing received three awards. Three awards were made to two cases of tuberculosis. Eight awards were made to five cases of miscellaneous disabilities, which included facial paralysis and a curved spine.

During the last two years of the period covered by the report worthy students laboring under severe financial handicaps were given grants. Students of this group were of real promise and of excellent scholarship, and received little or no aid whatever from their homes. They were under great pressure to support themselves and in some instances supported other people.

| UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS | | | | | | GRADUATE AWARDS | | | TOTAL | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|-----------------|----------|-------------|---------------|---------|-------------|-----|----------|-------|
| Physically Handicapped | | | Financially Handicapped | | | Total | | | | | | | | |
| No. of Awards | Amount* Awarded | Aver. Award | No. of Awards | Amount | Aver. Award | No. of Awards | Amount | Aver. Award | No. of Awards | Amount | Aver. Award | | | |
| Year 1939-1940: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | \$ 2,700 | \$142 | 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | 19 | \$ 2,700 | \$142 | 3 | \$ 500 | \$167 | 22 | \$3,200 | \$145 |
| Year 1940-1941: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | 4,460 | 144 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 31 | 4,460 | 144 | 2 | 650 | 325 | 33 | 5,110 | 155 |
| Year 1941-1942: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 | 3,755 | 139 | 20 | 1,469 | 73 | 47 | 5,224 | 111 | 2 | 800 | 400 | 49 | 6,024 | 123 |
| Year 1942-1943: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25 | 2,910 | 116 | 16 | 1,700 | 106 | 41 | 4,610 | 113 | 3 | 1,200 | 400 | 44 | 5,810 | 132 |
| TOTAL: | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 102 | \$13,825 | \$133 | 36 | \$3,169 | \$ 88 | 138 | \$16,994 | 123 | 10 | \$3,150 | \$315 | 148 | \$20,144 | 136 |

*The amount awarded each year as listed here may exceed in some cases the net amount actually expended. The difference represents the amount freed because of cancellations and is not shown in the table.

II

The following individual cases represent the types of students which the fund has aided.

Case 1. Totally blind

This person was an excellent student. At the age of sixteen, he developed a brain tumor which led to his blindness. While at the University he maintained an average of 2.29 (averages range from 0 to 3.00) and graduated with honors in Political Science in 1941. He was engaged in graduate work at the time of his death in 1942. He held Will Rogers Memorial Scholarships both as an undergraduate and graduate student.

Case 2. Totally blind

This student, despite his affliction, graduated with honors in 1940 in Psychology. He maintained an average of 2.14. He returned to the University for graduate work and received the M.A. degree with an average of 2.33 in 1942. He is at present an Ordnance Inspector of the War Department. He held Will Rogers scholarships as an undergraduate and graduate student.

Case 3. Totally blind

This student lost the sight of one eye at the age of six by playing with a stick under a tree. The stick fell from the tree into his eye. At the age of ten he lost the sight of the other eye as the result of having the blade of a knife break off and fly into his remaining good eye.

His major interest is gymnastics and he has had considerable success in public perform-

ances with a tumbling act which he does with his brother. He comes from a family of seven and during part of his residence on the campus his father was unemployed. He is still in school and has maintained an average of 1.59. He expects to become a chiropractor. He has held Will Rogers Scholarships during his attendance.

Case 4. Blind in one eye, fifty per cent sight in the other eye

This student was completely self-supporting and did not receive State aid. He left his home in the east in 1935, coming from a family of eleven. He supported himself by working seven nights a week as night clerk in a hotel from midnight until eight in the morning. He identified keys by having tags with large numbers placed upon them, and used a magnifying glass when he studied. He held Will Rogers Memorial Scholarships for three years during which time he incurred a broken foot and had his appendix removed. The grants helped him pay his medical bills and to take treatments which produced remarkable improvements in his sight. He expected to study law, was a major in Psychology and maintained nearly a "B" average of 1.88. He withdrew from the University in 1942.

Case 5. Hard of hearing

This person was a student of agriculture, was completely self-supporting and was given a Will Rogers Memorial Award to assist him in buying a hearing aid. He obtained it and graduated in 1941 with an average of 1.97.

Case 6. Poliomyelitis had affected both lower limbs of this student. She had sixteen operations in thirteen years. Some of these failed, others were successful. While in school she supported herself helping in research work financed by the N.Y.A. and was furnished books and tuition by the State Rehabilitation Bureau. She lived in an apartment with four girls and paid one of the girls to do her share of the housekeeping. Her father was an unemployed painter with two other children. Her scholastic record was excellent as her grade point average of 2.38 shows and she graduated with honors in Political Science in 1941. At that time she proposed to study law. She was the recipient of two Will Rogers Scholarships during the period of her attendance.

Case 7. Poliomyelitis

This student contracted poliomyelitis when he was two years old which resulted in the left leg being two and one-half inches shorter than the right in spite of a series of operations. This made it necessary for him to wear special shoes which he bought in Winnipeg at a cost of \$20.00 a pair. He lived with his mother but he paid her for room and board which he earned by working in a store for \$10.00 a week. He was working toward a career as an accountant. He received two Will Rogers Scholarships and graduated in accounting with an average of 1.48 in 1942.

Case 8. This student is a victim of rheumatic heart fever which prevents him from exerting himself in any way. During the past year he contracted pneumonia and was forced to carry a light program upon his return to school. He comes from a home in very straitened circumstances which is supported by State aid. His father is dead and his mother is unable to work. He obtained partial employment doing work for the department of Botany on an N.Y.A. project. He is a Zoology major and shows promise of excellent future work in Biochemistry. He has obtained a research fellowship in Zoology for graduate work in another university which he will hold when he graduates in November. He has maintained a grade point average of 2.02. He has held four Will Rogers Scholarships during his attendance.

Case 9. This student has a crippled arm and hand which are partially paralyzed as the result of an airplane accident in Alaska. As a consequence of this injury, she is unable to continue her profession of stenographer and secretary in which she has very wide experience. At the time of the accident she was employed by the Civil Aeronautics Authority although her injury was not incurred in the line of duty. It is her purpose to attend the University and prepare herself for personnel and administrative work in public service for which she has unusual promise. She is self-

supporting and at present is doing housework to make ends meet. She has made an excellent record as a student so far and is still in attendance. She held a Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship and has been recommended for another one for the coming year.

Case 10. This student was nearly "stone" deaf and completely self-supporting. Despite this handicap, he did good work as a graduate student in Physics, writing his dissertation upon a problem in sound. He received the Ph.D. degree in Physics in 1940 and is doing successful work at present in the synthetic rubber industry. He received a Will Rogers Scholarship which enabled him to obtain a hearing aid and helped with his living expenses.

Case 11. This person is a brilliant student of astronomy who is afflicted with a twisted spine. His disability prevents him from exerting himself and produces frequent fatigue. He is completely self-supporting and was in need of some relief from outside work. He is graduating at the end of the summer term but has already done notable work in astronomy. He gained national attention a year ago as the result of his paper on the largest known star. It was listed by one commentator as one of the ten most notable contributions to Astronomy for the year. He has been elected an associate member of Sigma Xi and has received the Houghton Key. He has received two Will Rogers Scholarships and has been recommended for a third.

Cases 12-15

These people are nurses, who during the epidemic of poliomyelitis some years ago in the Los Angeles County Hospital contracted the disease and were forced to discontinue their work. They came to the University after a period of convalescence and enrolled in the curriculum of public health nursing. They did very creditable work and received their Public Health Nursing Certificates. Case No. 12 is doing public health work in a state public school.

Case No. 13 when she entered the University was in need of a new leg-brace, glasses, dental work and was \$300.00 in debt. After graduating, she took a nursing position with the County Health Department and is now in the United States Public Health Service.

Case No. 14 is in public health work in a public health institute of the State and is doing very well.

Case No. 15 was completely self-supporting during her attendance. She graduated and is now a First Lieutenant in the Army Nurses Corps. All of these people held Will Rogers Memorial Scholarships during their attendance in the University.

The cases of severe financial handicap can be described in general terms. Some come from broken homes. Others are from families in straitened circumstances. Some are from families in which sudden reverses would have forced the students to discontinue their college training without outside aid. The students in this group who

have been helped are all of excellent scholarship and considerable promise.

In conclusion, it may be stated that students of all categories who have held Will Rogers Memorial Scholarships and Awards have repeatedly expressed their appreciation and are deeply grateful for the help they have received.