

WILL ROGERS TRIBUTE PAID IN SETTING HE LOVED

In the rodeo atmosphere he loved, hundreds of the close frined and thousands of the late humorist-philosopher's admirers from several States Friday night joined in officially dedicating to the memory of Weill Rogers the huge Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum which Fort Worth built and named for him in 1936.

The Western sports atmosphere was provided by the opening performance of the All-American Rodeo and Horse Show, another performance of which will be staged in the coliseum Saturday at 8:15 p.m. with two shows coming up Sunday.

The dedication ceremonies were attended by Mrs. Betty Rogers, widow of Will Rogers and son Will Rogers Jr, who flew here from California. The ceremonies were enhanced by the presence of the chief executives of two States, Governors Phillips of Oklahoma and O'Daniel of Texas, and a movie celebrity, the popular Leo Carrillo, warm friend of Rogers for many years.

A SCROLL FOR MRS. ROGERS.

In the concluding address of the program, Congressman Fritz Lanham declared the coliseum dedicated "to the spirit of Will Rogers, to good humor, good sportsmanship and good Americanism." Mrs. Rogers was given a scroll which bore a tribute of "Will Rogers, the Unforgettable," the signature, of Governor O'Daniel and the state seal and the names of more than 100 rodeo queen contestants representing cities in Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Carrillo handed the scroll to Governor Phillips who in turn presented it to Mrs. Rogers.

Amon Carter, master of ceremonies for the dedication, introduced the speakers, paid tribute of the memory of Rogers as truly representing the all-American spirit, and expressed the apprediation for the presence of Mrs. Rogers and Will Jr. and for the attendance of Governor and Mrs. Phillips and the unusually large group of visitors from Oklahoma.

Carter announced that a life-size painting of Rogers by the noted artist, Seymour Stone, has been completed and will be put in the place in the foyer of the coliseum and unveiled at a later date.

O'DANIELS MISS CEREMONIES.

Governor O'Daniel and members of his family were delayed downtown and missed the dedication ceremonies but arrived later to witness the rodeo. The first night crowd was welcomed by Mayor I.N. McCrary who described the occasion as "in keeping with the immortal spirit of one we all loved."

Carter, indroducting Carrillo, described him as "a great entertainer, a man who loves the West, who loves the rodeo and who loved Will Rogers." Carrillo brought greetings from California and said:

"The consciousness of that great American, Will Rogers, will always be with us."

In presenting the scroll to Mrs. Rogers, Governor Phillips said: "In Oklahoma we loved Will Rogers so that we thrill when Texas or California or any other part of the United States claim him also as their favorite son."

Mrs. Rogers accepted the scroll with an expression of thanks, but left the public acknowledgement of the many tributes of her son.

"I'm sure that my father would appreciate this tribute you pay him togeth," young Rogers, now publisher of the Beverly Hills Citizen at Beverly Hills, Calif., said "and I speak for my mother and myself when I say that we deeply appreciate it.

AS WILL WOULD HAVE SAID

"But as I look around here and see these cowboys and cowgirls on horseback, somehow I believe that if my father could be here he would say, "Cut the gab and let's get ropin,"