



Mrs. Will Rogers, widow of the humorist-philosopher, who died Wednesday night in California. This photo was taken in Fort Worth at the dedication of the Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum in November, 1940.

Widow of Will Rogers Dies At Family Ranch Home

SANTA MONICA, Cal., June 22 (AP).—Will Rogers' widow, whom he courted on a bicycle and whom he called "my first sweetheart," is dead.

Mrs. Betty Blake Rogers, 65, succumbed at the Rogers ranch home in Santa Monica Canyon Wednesday night. Relatives said she had been ill for several weeks, and that she suffered a severe attack of influenza in Washington, D. C., during the winter.

Rogers, whose crinkly smile and quick wit won him fame as humorist and philosopher, was killed with Flier Wiley Post in an Alaska plane crash in 1935. A month ago Thursday, his body was entombed at Will Rogers Memorial, in Claremore, Okla., his home town. Mrs. Rogers' body likewise will be interred there.

Betty Blake, known as "the prettiest girl in Arkansas," was born in Rogers, Ark. Rogers married her there Nov. 25, 1908. Three children survive: Will Rogers Jr., former Congressman and now an Army lieutenant; James Rogers, acting publisher of the Beverly Hills Citizen, and Miss Mary Rogers, who lived with her mother. Members of the family said they believe Lieutenant Rogers is overseas, or en route.

The humorist-philosopher's body rested at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Glendale, until its removal to Claremore last month.

Rogers often related that he wooed Betty Blake by "showin' off" his repertoire of tricks on a bicycle, in front of her house. He met her at a taffy pulling party at Oologah, Okla., but not until a year afterward—following a trip to Australia and South America—did he marshal the courage to propose, he later told friends.

The marriage took place in a little house at Rogers where many others subsequently were wed because they revered the happy marriage of the humorist and his wife, considered one of the film colony's most compatible couples. Near the house a marker was placed in 1938.

The newspaper columnist, actor and onetime cowboy regarded Mrs. Rogers as "judge and jury" of all his writing, and never printed anything of which she did not approve.

"Whatever I am or have accomplished, I owe to Betty," he once declared. "I ain't got no sense."

Their 345-acre ranch property, valued by her attorneys at \$700,000, was offered to Los Angeles as a park site by Mrs. Rogers last year.

2 Airmen Given Sentences for Flying Too Low

Aviation Cadet Thomas J. Lamson and Aviation Student Robert M. Kyle Jr. of Hicks Field, pleaded guilty at a Fort Worth Army Air Field court martial to a joint charge of flying at an altitude of less than 500 feet near Roanoke.

Sentence imposed by the board this week will restrict the two to the limits of their post for three months and will require them to forfeit \$35 of their monthly pay for a half-year.

The sentence for the violation of the AAF regulation regarding the operation of an aircraft at less than 500 feet above the ground was approved and will be executed according to the board findings.

The court martial order was signed by Col. Henry W. Dorr, commanding officer of Fort Worth Army Air Field.

GIs in England Back Invaders With Blood

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND, June 22 (AP).—Soldiers still stationed in England are sending blood ahead of them to the battlefields of Normandy to succor wounded fellow soldiers.

Volunteers have been donating the blood to four bleeding teams who store it in refrigerator trucks and then transfer it to C-47 transports which fly it to France. Often the blood is being given to a casualty in France less than two hours after the takeoff from England.

Allied Planes Smash 2 Nazi Troop Trains

HEADQUARTERS, U. S. 9TH AIR FORCE IN FRANCE, June 22 (AP).—A squadron of Thunderbolts smashed two German troop trains a few moments after a patrol saw the trains—filled with enemy reinforcements—below Barneville Tuesday night.

Sixteen radioed P-47's picked up a radioed order and hit the trains with 500-pound bombs. Each train was 55 cars long. Pilots reported both enveloped in smoke.