

Plainview, Texas, Feb. 23rd, 1950.

.Hon Amon G Carter,
.C/o Fort Worth Star Telegram
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Carter,

The unveiling of the magnificent monument to Will Rogers at Texas Tech College in Lubbock would have been complete if Mrs. L A Knight who is critically ill at Scott & White Sanitarium, Temple, Texas could have attended, and she would have been there if her condition would have permitted.

Will Rodgers always visited Mr and Mrs Knight when ever in this section, and had them as his guests in various parts of the country when they chanced to be there at the same time. A warm friend ship existed between Will Rogers and this family.

May I give you a story told me by Mr. Knight during his life time about Will Rogers.

Mr Knight was manager of the Circle Ranch on Running Water Draw for Runningwater Cattle Company. A Ranch of about 200 sections of Land. Mr Henry Slaton was Assistant Manager. Amarillo was the nearest railway shipping point, over 100 miles distant.

Mr. Knight and Mr. Slaton had 4000 head of yearling steers to be loaded for Montana grazing grounds. These steers were being held at a place 3 or 4 miles out of Amarillo at a place called Big Lake, on account of water and grazing facilities, awaiting for railway cars for shipment of the cattle.

Mr. Knight was at the old Amarillo Hotel, an old landmark standing where the present magnificent hotel now stands, which was being run by Mr. H P Canode.

Mr. Knight had just finished breakfast, when a stragling youth about 18 years of age came up to him and introduced himself as Will Rogers, and asked for a job punching cattle. Mr. Knight the big hearted fellow that he was said, I dont know how we are fixed for cow boys, but I'll send you out to see Henry Slaton. So he wrote Mr. Slaton a note, like this. "Give this kid a job if you can use him, give him a gentle horse, I dont know how good he can ride." He handed the note to Will Rogers, and asked him if he had had breakfast. Will said no, with that Mr. Knight handed him a silver dollar and told him to get breakfast before going to the herd.

Will Rogers rode his own paint horse out to the herd and gave the note to Mr. Slaton, who sent him to the Remuda boss to get a fresh horse.

Will Rodgers soon showed the other cow boys he was not as green as he looked. After looking the bunch of horses over, he singled out a grey, and giving his rope a whirl dropped the loop over his head, maneuvered him to the snubbing post, took off his bridle, and saddle off his own horse and put it on the new horse. He was not exactly a bronc, but he did give two or three nasty jumps, that would test a seasoned rider out.

Will Rogers kept his seat in the saddle without "Grabbing leather. From then on he was one of the "Boys" He staid with the herd until the cattle were loaded and shipped, then returned to the Ranch on Running water Draw with Mr. Knight and Mr Slaton and worked several months. This was his first job, after leaving Kemper Military College.

One time Will Rogers was riding the range, looking after the fences and cattle, wind-mills etc, he saw a swarm of bees flying, he followed them until they settled on a small cotton wood tree, on the draw. Will decided he would take them back to camp, so he took a tow sack from unere his saddle blanket and broke the branch off and put the bees in the tow sack and and carried them back to camp.

Thousands of stories could be told about this wonderful personality. It was a great loss to humanity when he was takened b by his untimely death. Mr. Knight is dead, also Mr. Slaton, as many others who ehlped make the Panhandle the great country it is,

It is a geat Deed that Mr. Amon G Carter erected the statue to Will Rodgers as he symbolized the Great West and the characters who made it Great.

As the students of Tech College and others who gaze on this beautiful memorial, may these thoughts be in their minds

The Lasso of Time is falling
As we come to the end of the trail
The camp fire is slowly dying,,
With the Cyote's lonsome wail.

Gone is Will Rogers, for ever.
But memories will always live,
Of the Peaceful days on the prairies,
And the hardships pioneers had to give.

Gpd, looking down from Heaven,
Smiled, because what he saw was good.
He saw cities, with their echurches and schools
On the prairies, where buffalo and cattle stood.

But now their day is ended,
Most of them have answered the call
Of the Round Up Boss in Heaven
Life's long shadows fall.

Will Rogers we salute you, a man who never said a mean word to or about anybody. Trulyx, America's embassador of Good-will.

Very truly
Ed. T Coleman,
804 Denver St

Ed T Coleman
Plainview, Texas

*I would feel honored should
Star Telegram use*