

Oklahomans Pay Tribute At Will Rogers Statue

BY C. L. RICHART.

Riding a 15-car Santa Fe special train, nearly 700 Oklahomans visited Fort Worth Sunday, paid their respects to the memory of a favorite native son and attended the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show.

The delegation, one of the largest ever brought here for the show, was composed chiefly of Ardmore citizens and groups from near-by towns and communities in southern Oklahoma, but included state and University of Oklahoma officials and the O. U. Band.

Arriving here shortly before noon Sunday, the Oklahoma group was welcomed at Santa Fe Station by representatives of the city, the Stock Show and the Chamber of Commerce. The visitors then boarded special buses and proceeded to the exposition grounds, where they gathered at the equestrian statue of Will Rogers, who was born at Claremore, Okla., and stood in a chilling wind during ceremonies climaxed with the placing of a memorial wreath at the base of the life-sized statue of the famed humorist-philosopher and his favorite mount, Soap Suds. The Oklahomans attended the Sunday afternoon rodeo and leaders of the delegation were introduced during the show.

The delegation was headed by Hardy Murphy, president of the Ardmore Roundup Club, which sponsored the trip, and the state

was represented by Attorney General Mac Q. Williamson of Oklahoma City. The party also included Dr. George C. Cross, president of the University of Oklahoma, Norman, and Mrs. Cross.

On hand to greet them was Mayor Pro-Tem Ed L. Baker, the Chamber of Commerce goodwill committee, headed by Charles F. Williams, chairman; Berl E. Godfrey, chamber president; Dr. M.

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TOP STEER AT FAT STO

Selection of the grand champion steer, with all the glory and cash that accompanies the honor, will be made Monday at the 1951 Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show.

Judging of Hereford cattle and the open steers will start at 8 a. m. The grand champion steer is expected to be selected about 1 p. m. One cinch entry in the competition is Mixer Boy, 940-pound Hereford, shown Saturday to the boys' steer crown by Mark Campbell, 15, of Ballinger.

Monday is the heaviest livestock judging schedule of the stock show. An intercollegiate meat judging contest will start the day at 8 a. m.

OKLAHOMANS

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E. Sadler, president of Texas Christian University; Amon Carter, board chairman of the Stock Show, and a group of committeemen.

"We're here to join you as neighbors and we are pleased to see so many of you come out on Sunday morning to meet us," said Williamson. "We certainly appreciate you Texans who have done such a fine job making the prairie blossom like a rose."

Williamson reminded the Fort Worth hosts, however, that "we Oklahomans got up before early milkin' time to get here today."

Murphy was master of ceremonies at the Santa Fe station get-together and introduced Ardmore Roundup Club committeemen and others who helped make the special train trip a success. They included John Easley, publisher of the Daily Ardmoreite, and Quintin Little, Leon Daube, Sam M. McDaniel, Ray Colvert and representatives of the Healdton Roundup Club. He also mentioned that Roy M. Johnson, Ardmore oil man, sponsored five of the cars but was unable to join the group on the trip himself.

Dr. Sadler brought special greetings to Dr. Cross, then informed the OU president that "special punishment" had been arranged for him because of what he had permitted his Oklahoma football team to do to the University of Texas this last season. Three Fort Worth police officers then appeared and, to the surprise of Dr. Cross and the great amusement of everyone, including the Oklahoma group, placed handcuffs on him and escorted the university chief to a waiting "Black Maria." He was quickly released, however, and rejoined the delegation.

Speaking for Fort Worth's Mayor Deen, Baker presented honorary citizenship certificates to Williamson, Dr. Cross and Murphy. Carter thanked Murphy and others of the Ardmore group, as well as Williamson, Dr. Cross and the O. U. Band for their efforts in helping observe "Ardmore and Southern Oklahoma Day" at the Stock Show.

"We are delighted to have you and your visit here is fine evidence of the enterprise and enthusiasm always displayed by Oklahoma," Carter said.

Williamson, speaking for the Oklahoma group at the Will Rogers statue, described Rogers as "a country boy who somehow learned to twirl a rope in such a widening loop that it captured the hearts of everyone who knew him."

Rogers' Message to Live.

Indicating the statue and calling attention to the Will Rogers Memorial Coliseum and Auditorium, Williamson said Oklahomans appreciate the many honors Texans have paid to their native son, Will Rogers, and "we are especially appreciative of the many fine things which have been done by Mr. Amon Carter, one of the dearest friends Will Rogers had, and who is a real sparkplug for this show, for Fort Worth and for all of Texas."

Williamson recalled that Rogers coined the phrase, "I never met a man I didn't like" and predicted that the "truisms and philosophies of real honest living voiced by Rogers will live



HARDY MURPHY.

on forever, making better citizens of every generation."

Carter described Rogers as "one of the greatest Americans who ever lived" and mentioned that although he was a native of Oklahoma, two other states—Texas and California—will always be proud to claim Rogers as an adopted citizen.

Band Plays Western Airs.

Carter said he took great pride in presenting statues of Rogers and his horse identical with the one here as memorials at Claremore and to Texas Technological College at Lubbock, where Rogers once worked as a cowboy on a near-by ranch.

The O. U. Band, under the direction of Leonard Haug, played a medley of Western tunes which were favorites of Rogers, and Dr. Cross concluded the ceremonies with a prayer.

The special train carrying the Oklahoma delegation departed at 7:30 p. m. Sunday on the return trip to Ardmore.

Stock Show Worker Clubbed, Youth Held

L. J. Hardin, 2820 Merida, a member of the courtesy group at the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, was clubbed on the head Sunday night in a parking area of the carnival grounds.

Police arrested a 17-year-old boy. Hardin was treated by a physician on the show grounds.

Taylor Leaves Berlin For Post in Washington

BERLIN, Jan. 28 (AP).—Maj. Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, former U. S. military commander in Berlin, left by plane Sunday from Tempelhof Airport. Allied occupation officials and German functionaries saw him off.

Taylor is going to Washington as assistant chief of staff for operation. He was succeeded here by Brig. Gen. Lemuel Mathewson.

READY TO GO TO WORK
IN 2 SECONDS

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—Star-Telegram Staff Photo.

OKLAHOMANS HONOR MEMORY OF WILL ROGERS—Attorney General Mac Q. Williamson, center, of Oklahoma, places a wreath at the base of the equestrian statue of Will Rogers and his favorite horse, "Soap Suds," during ceremonies Sunday when a delegation from Ardmore and other Southern Oklahoma communities visited the Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show and took time, despite a freezing wind, to pay tribute to the memory of a favorite son of Oklahoma.

In the group, left to right, are Dr. George C. Cross, president of the University of Oklahoma, Norman; Hardy Murphy, president of the Ardmore Roundup Club, which sponsored the delegation; Mrs. Cross; Lena Beth Murphy; Williamson; John Charles Murphy; Quintin Little, Mrs. Murphy, and Amon Carter. In the background at left are members of the O.U. Band, which played a medley of western tunes at the ceremonies. Williamson and Carter were speakers.



PRESIDENT GETS "PINCHED."—Fort Worth greeters playfully "arrested" Dr. George C. Cross, president of the University of Oklahoma, when a Southern Oklahoma delegation arrived Sunday for the Stock Show. Left to right, Dr. M. E. Sadler, president of TCU; Policemen C. W. Taylor and R. B. Dean; Dr. Cross, and Policeman J. W. McCrory.



COLORFUL TRIO—Jerry Portwood Wilson, left, hostess for ranch and delegation "sweethearts" attending the Stock Show, greets Jim Swain, drum major for the University of Oklahoma Band, and Mrs. Hellen Easley, "sweetheart" of the Ardmore Roundup Club, which sponsored a Santa Fe special train to Fort Worth.



OKLAHOMANS AT RODEO—Fascinated by action in the Stock Show rodeo and horse show Sunday afternoon were, left to right, Quintin Little, Ardmore; Atty. Gen. Mac Q. Williamson, Oklahoma City; Dr. George C. Cross, OU president, Norman, and Mrs. Cross. The men are wearing Shady Oak hats presented to them by Amon Carter. They are watching a Palomino class.

—Star-Telegram Staff Photos.