

# Missourian

## Tells Story

### Of Will Rogers

OUR WILL ROGERS, by Homer Croy, Duell, Sloan and Pearce-Little, Brown and Co., \$3.75.

By Dan Ferguson

Homer Croy, a top literary craftsman of the "show-me" state could not accept at par the accumulation of myths and legends obscuring his friend and fellow-worker, Will Rogers. Plunging into an intensive research, he exhausted all records and interviewed all Rogers' family and associates. The end product is a fascinating, authentic biography—surprising, endearing and enduring.

#### Subtle Treatment.

If you want to retain undisturbed a concept that Will never met a man he didn't like, that he was predominantly Indian with a chronic nostalgia for Claremore, Okla., and that he was a regular party voter, then do not read this book. Croy's treatment is more subtle than idol-smashing. Never tangled in his skein of material, he deftly weaves a tapestry, blending his colors harmoniously and revealing in the process the origin of the Rogers legend and myths.

#### Always a Showman.

Despite the seeming contradictions in the Rogers make-up, the author, in his weaving, keeps to the fore throughout certain consistent and predominate threads. Regardless of his field of endeavor or the locale of his performance, the Rogers talent for showmanship, the touch of the lariat, the taste for chili, and the trait of humility always emerge and endured.

#### No Sham About Will.

A man of boundless energy, he worked hard to avoid the hard work of managing an inherited ranch. Millions waited for an expression of his political views and yet he never voted. A millionaire he became without the ownership of a share of corporate stock. Nor was he ever the victim of a get-rich-quick scheme. He enjoyed earning money and delighted in giving it away. Quarter-million dollar deals were consummated on sidewalks without the formality of written contracts. From Ziegfeld Follies to Hollywood he refused to conform to traditional requirements for actors. He never relied on props, make-ups or aids. Being natural he starred beyond all anticipation.