



# THE WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL

## CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA

HOURS: 8:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m. Daily

NO ADMISSION

"I think the time will come when everybody will be made to stop off in Claremore, no matter where they are going." Will Rogers wrote in one of his newspaper articles in 1924. Like so many of his wise statements, this is prophetic for the native stone building which bears his name draws more than 500,000 visitors annually.

The Will Rogers Memorial was built by the State of Oklahoma only three years after Will's death, and was dedicated on his birthday November 4, 1938. It is the greatest tribute to a man without political or military distinction. Will Rogers was of the people, the ones he called "The Big Honest Majority".

**THE FOYER** The life-like bronze statue of Will by the famous sculptor, Jo Davidson, stands in the center of the foyer, where all must pass to enter the other galleries. On the marble base are his oft-quoted words, "I never met a man I didn't like". At once the visitor feels welcome and besides he might have seen the duplicate of this statue in Washington, D. C. in the Nation's Hall of Statuary, placed there by the State of Oklahoma, June 6, 1939.

**THE GALLERIES** The four galleries give in part the exciting story of this simple but truly great man. His personal effects were all sent here by the Rogers family. His Saddle Collection with unusual trappings show his love of horses and tell of some of his travels all over the world, for he always returned with cowboy equipment. Two of the galleries display his trophies, tributes, artifacts and mementoes; also programs of the stage, screen and radio. The audio-visual exhibits emphasize his versatile career.

**THE DIORAMAS** Jo Mora, California artist made the authentic dioramas which portray Will in thirteen episodes of his life, beginning as a lad on his father's ranch in Indian Territory to the fatal plane crash on the frozen tundra of Alaska, August 15, 1935.

**THE TOMB** Adjoining the front terrace is the sunken garden. At the far end is the granite sarcophagus, which marks the place where Will, his devoted wife, Betty, and their infant son are entombed.

**THE LIBRARY** The most accurate and detailed information on Will Rogers is found in the Research Library where the books, personal letters and records; manuscripts, film, tapes and historical data are kept in the Vault Room and in locked cases. These valuable documents may be used by writers, artists and researchers upon recommendation and appointment. Thus the Memorial can provide a complete record of the man - WILL ROGERS - who occupies such an important place in the history of the state and nation.