

WOMEN

Oct. 29, 1978

CENTENNIAL COMING UP

By Joan Gilmore
Women's Editor

SATURDAY will mark the 99th anniversary of the birth of one of Oklahoma's most famous sons, Will Rogers. It also will mark the beginning of a whole year of activities leading up to the centennial celebration of the world-famous humorist who died in a plane crash in Alaska in 1935.

Each year, the late actor's natal date is recognized with special events in Claremore which he claimed as his home town because he thought most people who weren't Indian couldn't pronounce Oologah where he was really born. In Claremore is the Will Rogers Memorial, a most interesting museum which houses much of the humorist's memorabilia, along with several statues of the humorist. He is buried on the grounds near the museum.

The museum, which has never closed since it opened on Nov. 4, 1938, was built by the State of Oklahoma and is open daily from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission is free.

CALLING THIS "99 going on 100," the birthday celebration will begin Friday and
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In the memorial building is this statue of Will Rogers in a typically casual posture. So many people have touched the toes of the humorist's feet, at left, that they are burnished like gold. Mrs. Rogers commissioned Jo Davidson, a close friend of Rogers, to do the sculpture unveiled 40 years ago this coming Saturday.



Staff Photos by Al McLaughlin



This impressive sculpture at the entrance to the Will Rogers Memorial Museum was done by Electra Waggoner Biggs and presented to the museum in 1948 by Amon Carter Jr., Fort Worth publisher and close friend of the world-famous comedian.



In Will Rogers Park overlooking Oologah Reservoir is this white frame house in which Rogers was born. Open for public tours, the house has been moved several hundred feet from its original site to save it from rising water in the reservoir.



This weather-worn log structure, once a cabin, sits near the Will Rogers home.