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File #3667.

May 4, 1936.

Hon. Amon G. Carter,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Carter:

As you perhaps recall, Mrs. Rogers has at all times since Will's death felt that his remains should be interred in his home state. She has from time to time spoken to me about it. I have always tried to avoid anything even suggesting a desire to influence her in any way. I think she and the children have definitely come to the conclusion that such is their desire. In recent conversations, they have expressed doubt as to whether the cemetery at Will's birthplace carried any provision for perpetual care, and I have suggested that it might be in keeping with their own desires, and also be agreeable to the people of Oklahoma, if the final resting place were at Oklahoma City or Tulsa. Perhaps some other city might be equally satisfactory. In any event, however, the thing that troubles me and on which your good advice is desired, is how the matter could be suggested without creating some unseemly discussion between rival cities or involving ourselves in some promotional scheme.

In this connection, another thought is suggested: As you may be aware, the estate because of the tremendous tax obligations, will be, exclusive of the local ranch property, which was owned by Betty and Will in joint tenancy, insolvent. As a consequence, the Oklahoma property, including the old home place, will have to be sold. Mrs. Rogers has been told that there is quite a sentiment in Oklahoma in favor of preserving the old home place as a park, either by the state or the memorial committee. Mrs. Rogers is considering buying this property from the estate, and if proper arrangements can be made with the memorial committee in Oklahoma, turn it over to either the state or some other public or quasi public body as a park, the dwelling and other features to be retained and preserved. In this connection, I have told her that she should not commit herself to any such plan until assurances have been received from the state

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authorities or the memorial organization that the property would be preserved and maintained in a manner which would be satisfactory to her and to Will's friends.

What would you think about having someone in Oklahoma take up the park matter, with a view to formulating some plan whereby the old home property, if purchased and turned over by Mrs. Rogers, could be established as a park and provision made for its maintenance? Perhaps Governor Marland might be interested and the legislature pass an act creating the park and providing for the organization of a corporation or board to be vested with jurisdiction and control over it.

With reference to Will's final resting place, let me know what you think would be the best way to take it up so as to avoid any unseemly discussion growing out of rivalry between cities. It might be that the construction of a small mausoleum on the old home property would be a solution, although this might not be regarded as entirely consistent with the idea of a public park.

Won't you please give me the benefit of your views? You can understand these are very difficult and delicate matters to be discussed with the family, and I don't want them to feel that I am in the slightest measure endeavoring to influence them in any way. I know your feelings are the same.

Sincerely yours,

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(Airmail)

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