

WILL ROGERS WAS UNPRETENTIOUS, KINDLY NEIGHBOR

Latch String Always Out at Ideal Ranch Santa Monica Mountains—Earliest Riser in Movie Colony

By Walter C. Clausen Associated Press Staff Writer. PACIFIC PALISADES, Calif., Aug. 16.—(AP)—Will Rogers was a kindly neighbor to those who knew him best in the environment of his home, an ideal ranch in the Santa Monica mountains here.

He was an early riser. Every morning at 5 o'clock he was up taking care of his ponies and his goats the first thing. Hollywood always regarded him as the earliest riser in the movie industry.

To his friends he was just Will. Perhaps those who knew him best were the folk of the Upliffers ranch, which maintains a polo field here, just across the road from the entrance to his ranch home.

His latchstring was out to his friends. His intimates knew where he kept the key to the ranch gate, in a notched hole on one side of the gatepost.

Home Unpretentious His ranch home was as unpretentious as his dress. In fact in keeping with his easy-going life.

He would read all the morning papers before breakfast, and scatter them all over the house.

Rogers disliked interviews, but was always ready to talk on homely subjects.

Speaking with a drawl, he always saw the humorous side of everything. Polo long was regarded as his most cherished pastime. Yet while his love of horses was the most predominant thing, next to his love of his family that was seen by his neighbors, aviation in late years seemed to share his passion.

Time after time he told his friends that his "best quips were written in the air."

Liked to Fly. Of recent years, he never would take a train or boat, if an airplane was available.

Piloted by Frank Hawks he made an aerial tour of the territory in 1931 in the interest of the sufferers. Since that time, he seemed to want to fly anywhere there was anything interesting happening.

He was a warm friend of the Lindberghs, both the Colonel and Mrs. Lindbergh having visited him many times and in their hours of their suffering following the kidnapping of their child they were guests at his ranch, secluded from all visitors.

Despite his fortune, Rogers was a most frugal liver. His clothing testified to that. In fact he often remarked that it cost him more for newspapers in a year than for clothes.

It was long ago that a friend suggested the possibility of danger in air flying.

Chewing gum, Rogers paused, smiled and commented that he bore a charmed life, and expected to live to be at least 100 years old.

Will Rogers was given the impaling name of William Penn Adair Rogers but everybody called him Will. He was cowboy, humorist, writer, lecturer, philosopher, polo player, world traveler and flyer, but he went up in the air only as a passenger.

He was born at Colasaph, Indian Territory, November 4, 1879, but he called Claremore, Okla., his "home town" and he was a legal resident of Oklahoma although he spent most of his time at his ranch between Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, California.

He had Indian blood in his veins and was proud of it. One of his best "wise-cracks" was based upon this ancestry as he said that his ancestors did not come over on the Mayflower, but they met the boat.

His education came he said, at easy stages. "I studied the fourth reader for ten years," he told an interviewer, but he was a "kiddier" on and off the stage and many of his boasts of being "ignorant" could be taken with a grain of salt.

After he left the fourth reader behind him he went through the Willoughby Hassell school at Neesho, Mo. and Kemper Military Academy at Bonneville and if he did not make a remarkable record for scholarship he did not fail.

To Top Stage Hanks His mother wanted him to become a Methodist minister but Will had learned to ride a horse and throw a rope on his father's ranch so he went back to the range. Then starting with medicine shows and carnivals he went on a long road that finally brought him to the very top of his profession as an actor.

A rancher, Zach Mulhall, organized a "wild west show and Will joined it, finally reaching New York. There is a tradition that he first attracted public notice on a large scale when he lassoed a wild steer that broke loose at Madison Square Garden and was about to dash through the crowd.

Certainly shortly after his first appearance at "the garden" he was on the vaudeville stage. Charley Moran and Mack told of Will's initial efforts in vaudeville. He was pretty bad said Mack and grew discouraged. He talked it over with Charley.

"Where are you going?" asked Mack. "Back to Oklahoma."

"Been fired yet?" "The manager said I was pretty punk."

"Yeah, you're all of that; but has he actually told you that you are fired?" "Well, no."

"Don't quit till he tells you; maybe you can stick it out to Saturday night. That will be three days more pay."

Wise Crack Makes Hit Before the week was out, Will happened to make a wise crack about something he saw in a newspaper, an observation slyly delivered of something that struck his fancy. The audience laughed. Rogers tried some other joking remarks, and was "made."

It was a short step to Hammerstein's Roof at \$150 a week and then he spent six years as the star of Zigzag Polities.

He ventured into motion pictures but failed to score the success expected. The silent screen gave the comedian no chance to convulse his audiences with his homely observations rendered in a drawl that only Rogers knew. But when talking pictures appeared, Rogers became a boxoffice riot and thereafter the legitimate theater saw little of him.

When his friend, Fred Stone, was injured in an airplane accident, in 1929, just before he was to open a play in New York, Rogers rushed across the continent, took the role "for old Fred" and scored another hit.

He continued, however, to go on "lecture tours" packing great crowds into theaters, auditoriums, school houses and churches. He raised a small fortune for the drought sufferers in 1930, and in his quiet way gave thousands of dollars of his private fortune to charity.

Was Wealthy Man His wealth was estimated by his friends at several million dollars and he carried life insurance of approximately \$1,000,000. He never talked about his money but he was a high salaried actor for years. His salary was \$25,000 a week when he worked. He was paid \$2,500 a week for stage appearances and he was understood to have received \$15,000 for tight radio broadcasts.

He met Betty Blake at a candy pullin' in Olatang, but it took him a year to win her. He was too bashful to propose and finally he worked his way to South America and Australia learning new rope tricks and riding stunts. Finally he came back, proposed, was accepted and they were married November 25, 1908. Three children were born to the union. Will, Jr., Mary and Jimmy. All three followed the hoof beats of their father and became expert polo players and for a time the Rogers family could put a good team on the field.

"Had to break it up," Will kidded. "Mary went society on us."

Wrote Daily Feature He wrote a dozen books and for many years wrote a short daily "box" for a number of newspapers containing sage comment on the day's happenings.

He was seriously mentioned as a candidate for the presidential nomination in 1931 but laughed the suggestion off by saying:

"A comedian can only last till he takes himself serious or his audience takes him serious and I don't want either one of those to happen to me until I'm dead (if then) so lets stop all this foolshines right now."

Clem Rogers, father of Will, played a part in adopting the first constitution of Oklahoma and a county was named for him. Of this Will said:

"Heck, they had to nobody could pronounce the old name—Coo-wee-coo-wee."

In Claremore a hotel is named The Will Rogers, a six story building

which the comedian boasted had more bath rooms than Buckingham Palace "I used to envy General Grant and Jes James because they had cigars named after them. But shucks now I've kinds got it on 'em."

He couldn't be bothered with grammar, either in his writings or "lectures." Once an interviewer suggested he took too many liberties with the laws of syntax. "What's that?" he asked. "Sounds like bad news."

The other explained it meant grammar wherever the sage laughed and replied. "Didn't know they was buying grammar now. I'm just so dumb I had a notion it was thoughts and ideas."

His almost repeated remark was "All I know I read in the papers" and he read practically every word in every available paper wherever he happened to be each morning. Once he was asked if he read any fiction. He replied, "Sure, the newspapers."

Admired Twain He was an ardent admirer of Mark Twain and on a visit to Virginia City, Nev. where the great humorist once lived he tried to find a bed Twain had occupied. The quest was vain for he was told that when the writer lived there he was too poor to own a bed.

He always denied that he was an actor. "I'm not smart enough to act," he said. "If they can find a role that's sort of like me, I'm all right. Otherwise I'm punk."

His employers in the motion picture industry never bothered to write dialogue for his films. He couldn't or wouldn't remember. He said just what seemed about the right thing to say at the time.

His studio prepared a "grand" place for him to occupy on the lot. A sand-cast garden decorated with cactus plants surrounded an adobe hut dressed up with an electric kitchen and a living room filled with western and Indian trophies. Rogers looked in, said it was "awful" and never went back until Farmer President and Mrs. Coolidge came to call. He ushered them into the house saying, "they had to set somewhere didn't they?"

He could do almost anything with a rope and was a great horseback rider, but once while a guest at Hoos Gibson's ranch he had to decline to enter a milking contest, being forced to admit he never had learned to milk a cow.

He found his recreation in playing polo and unlike many other stars of the motion pictures he could take chances without fear of injury maiming his features and hurting his career.

"Couldn't make my mug look much worse, no matter how I hurt it," he said.

He owned a hurdy hurdy, piano, violin, banjo, drums, mandolin and guitar and couldn't play any of them.

The first literary work of Arthur Schnitzler, the Austrian playwright and novelist, was "Anatol," a series of dramatic sketches of the love affairs of a rich young Viennese.

The eggs of the seahorse are carried by the male.

'I Love To Make Jelly,' Says 14-Year-Old State Fair Prize Winner

WHILE most of her high school buddies are at play or planning new scholastic and social activities this summer, young Roena Rader of Sedalia, Missouri, has gone into training for what she hopes will be her third set of blue ribbons at this year's state fair.

Roena, as a more slip of a child, had the courage several years ago to enter some jelly in the Missouri State Fair, in competition with housewives from all over the state.

She's already having her warming up exercises over her mother's kitchen stove, and when the state fair gets under way she'll be right there with some of her best. For she is hoping hard that she'll win again—to make herself a three-times winner.

Here are two of Roena's favorites:

Plum Jelly 4 cups (12 lbs.) Juice 7 1/2 cups (2 1/2 lbs.) sugar 1/2 bottle fruit pectin

To prepare juice, crush thoroughly 4 pounds fully ripe fruit. Do not peel or pit. Add 1 cup water, bring to a boil, cover, and simmer 10 minutes. Place in jelly cloth or bag; squeeze out juice. (Sour, clingstone plums make best jelly. If sweet plums are used, substitute 1/2 cup strained lemon juice for 1/2 cup of the plum juice specified.) Measure sugar and juice into large saucepan and mix. Bring to a boil over hottest fire and at once add bottled fruit pectin, stirring constantly. Then bring to a full rolling boil and boil hard 1/2 minute. Remove from fire, skim, pour quickly. Paraffin at once. Makes about 11 glasses (8 fluid ounces each).

Peach Jam 2 1/2 cups (1 1/2 lbs.) sugar 1 1/2 cups (3/4 lbs.) sugar 1 bottle fruit pectin

To prepare fruit, peel about 2 1/2 pounds fully ripe fruit. Grind or chop very fine. If desired, about 3 teaspoons spice may be added. Measure sugar and prepared fruit, tightly packed, into large kettle, mix well, and bring to a full rolling boil over hottest fire. Stir constantly before and while boiling. Boil hard 1 minute. Remove kettle from fire and stir in bottled fruit pectin. Then stir and skim by turns for just 5 minutes to cool jam slightly, to prevent floating fruit. Pour quickly. Paraffin at once. Makes about 10 glasses (8 fluid ounces each).



Roena Rader, who is out to prove for third successive year that she is best jelly maker in Missouri.

To prepare fruit, peel about 2 1/2 pounds fully ripe fruit. Grind or chop very fine. If desired, about 3 teaspoons spice may be added. Measure sugar and prepared fruit, tightly packed, into large kettle, mix well, and bring to a full rolling boil over hottest fire. Stir constantly before and while boiling. Boil hard 1 minute. Remove kettle from fire and stir in bottled fruit pectin. Then stir and skim by turns for just 5 minutes to cool jam slightly, to prevent floating fruit. Pour quickly. Paraffin at once. Makes about 10 glasses (8 fluid ounces each).

Many of the legends about Semiramis, a famous Assyrian princess, have been disproved by the researches of Professor Lehmann-Haupt of Berlin.

The Javanese Irama consists exclusively of episodes from the Hindu epics, the "Mahabharata" and the "Ramayana," and the Panji cycle or semi-historical legends of Java.

Mrs. Sueba Dush, 71, drowned herself in four inches of water in a pond near Winfield, Kas.

A total of 366,482 automobile tourists entered California in the first half of 1935.

Peach Recipes 1 cup marshmallow sauce Split shredded wheat biscuits, spread with butter, toast slightly. Fry peaches in butter cut side down. Turn them over and sprinkle with sugar and brown on under side. Place one-half of fried peach on each half of shredded wheat and fill hollow with marshmallow sauce. Make the sauce by thinning the marshmallow with whipped cream, milk or syrup. Serves 6. Shredded Wheat Quick Lunch 2 tablespoons butter 1 onion, minced 2 cups canned tomatoes 2 cups canned corn 2 teaspoons salt 2-4 tablespoons grated American cheese 4 shredded wheat biscuits, rolled fine 2 teaspoons minced parsley Melt butter in frying pan and lightly brown onion in it. Add tomatoes, corn, salt and cheese, and heat thoroughly, stir in biscuit crumbs and cook gently for 5 minutes. Serve hot, sprinkled with parsley. Six portions.

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