

# THE WISDOM OF WILL ROGERS

The wit and wisdom of cowboy humorist Will Rogers lives on today, far past his tragic death in 1935.

Rogers was born on Nov. 4, 1879, in Oologah, a small town of the Cherokee Nation of the Indian Territory, which is now Oklahoma. From his early work as a cowboy, Rogers opened his show-business career as a trick roper on *Texas Jack's Wild West Circus*. From there, he went on to become a vaudeville performer, humorist, newspaper columnist, social commentator and stage and motion-picture actor.

Known as "Oklahoma's Favorite Son," he traveled around the world three times, made 71 movies (50 silent films and 21 "talkies"), and wrote more than 4,000 nationally syndicated newspaper columns. By the 1930s, Rogers was the leading political wit of his time, and was the highest paid movie star. He died in 1935 with aviator Wiley Post, when their small airplane crashed in Point Barrow, Alaska.



As a tribute to his memory, here is some of his wise advice (as useful today as it was in his lifetime):

- Never squat with your spurs on.
- Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
- Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
- There are two theories to arguing with a woman ... neither works.
- Never miss a good chance to shut up.
- Always drink upstream from the herd.
- If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
- The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back in your pocket.
- Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

And lastly, this bit of wisdom, "After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral of the story is this: When you are full of bull, keep your mouth shut."

Too bad the politicians haven't learned that.

*To do evil is like sport to a fool, but a man of understanding has wisdom* (Proverbs 10:23 NKJV).

– Beecher Hunter