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**WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK
HISTORIC LANDSCAPE MANAGMENT PLAN**

HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION

BY

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to provide historic background documentation for the Will Rogers State Historic Park Landscape Management Plan. The material documents the landscape evolution of Will Rogers' Santa Monica Ranch from the early 1920s when Will and Betty Rogers first acquired portions of the property, through August 1935 when Will and Wiley Post were killed in a plane crash in Alaska. Will Rogers experienced a lifetime of love for his family, horses, and roping. These interests were the reason for the Santa Monica Ranch and directly influenced its landscape development.

Numerous volumes have been written on Will Rogers and several reports have documented the history of the Santa Monica Ranch. In addition, many oral interviews of individuals possessing personal knowledge of Will, his family and the history of the ranch have been conducted. This study has utilized these sources extensively and without their existence could not have been completed at its present level. Primary research conducted for this work consisted of examination and interpretation of numerous historic photographs which are included and referenced in the text. The aid of Pacific Palisades historian Randy Young was invaluable in this process.

Historic photographs used for this study are indexed in Appendix B of this report. The index number is used as a reference number in the text and cited as (Photo #). Copies of the photographs by index number are on file at the California State Parks Southern Service Center in San Diego and at Will Rogers State Historic Park.

This report contains a brief historical background of Will Rogers' career and the Santa Monica Ranch. The landscape history is discussed by specific activity areas of the ranch. These begin with the original Entrance Gate on Sunset Boulevard and the Drive leading to the House. The House and surrounding areas are presented next followed by the Lawn, Guest House and Garage, Polo Fields, Stables and Riding Ring, the Barn and Shop Areas, Roping Corral, Canyons and Prominent Landscape Features. Will Rogers experienced a lifetime of love for horses and family. The combination of these two forces in his life cumulated at the Santa Monica Ranch and directed the evolution of his own unique landscape design.

The Will Rogers whose daily article was read by millions - the star of stage, screen and radio known as the Cherokee Kid, the Poet Lariat, the Cowboy Philosopher, or America's Good Will Ambassador - (was) a separate person from the Will Rogers I knew as Dad, Pop, Pa, Willie, and the Old Man.

You see, I remember a fellow who used to wrestle with Big Boy Williams alongside the polo field, and who, in a Sunday game at the Rivera Polo Club, reached out and bulldogged Big off his horse so that the two fell rolling on the grass in front of the grandstand. I'll never forget the day I bumped him so hard it knocked his horse down and he landed on the sideboards. He lay there motionless and as I jumped from my horse and ran to him, all I could think of was that I killed him. As I got to his side, he moved and tried to sit up. Still stunned and groggy, the first words he said were "Is Rody all right?"

Oh, I remember a man who loved to rope. Mother used to say that Dad would rather rope than eat. . . . My recollections are too full of a man comforting an eight year old boy when his pony was killed by a Pacific Electric train, and I remember that same Dad, with tears in his eyes, trying to console three children when our little Sealyham terrier died from a snake bite.

I think I'll just have to leave an evaluation of his importance to others, for you see, the Will Rogers I knew best was the Will Rogers I saw for the last time; squatted down on his heels, a tin plate piled high with fried beef, beans, and sour-dough biscuits, drinking coffee so strong it would eat the fillings right out of your teeth, and visiting with us cowboys around the "Mashed O" chuck wagon about ten miles northeast of Muleshoe Texas (Jim Rogers 1976).

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At age seven his father sent Will to school, an event he never got over. Will Rogers did not like or do well in school. He once commented that he had spent "Three years in McGuffey's Fourth Reader, and knew more about it than McGuffey did." His educational history became one of moving from one academic institution to another while his father helplessly searched for a place where his unconventional child would fit in. He never found it. Will first attended a one room school in Chelsea, Oklahoma. The next year Clem moved him to the Harrell Institute in Muskogee. That same year tragedy struck the family when Mary Rogers died of typhoid fever. The fall following his mother's death Will attended a seminary at Tahlequah, Oklahoma where he did not last until Christmas. His father then sent him to Halsell College where he did remain for three years.

Uninterested in his studies, still in love with roping and horses, and a persistent if not always highly imaginative practical joker, Will would never succeed academically. His rope, wise cracks, and pranks continued to be a combination that got him into trouble. This pattern had set in at an early age. When very young he roped a neighbor's big turkey gobbler, breaking its neck. As he promised to "Never do it again," he added "but I'll stay until you eat it." He soon learned to lasso his mother, pinning her arms to her sides when she threatened to spank him. At Halsell he roped anything that moved, especially girls who he caught by the feet as they walked to school. In the fall of 1895, he left Halsell and enrolled in his fifth school, Scarritt College in Missouri, where he lasted a year. While there Will roped a teacher's horse and the startled animal knocked over a picket fence and the backstop of a tennis court. His lariat continued to be a source of trouble when he pulled the arm off the statue of a Grecian goddess. The following year, Clem Rogers enrolled his son in Kemper Military School in Boonville Missouri. Arriving in January 1897, Will remained a little over a year, quitting in February 1898 to work on the Ewing cattle ranch in the Panhandle of Oklahoma. He was 18 years old and would have graduated a year later in May 1899.

Over the next 17 years, Will Rogers' love of horses and roping would lead him into vaudeville and eventually establish him as the central star of the renowned Ziegfeld Follies. The route was an indirect one that would take him around the world before finally settling him in New York. During 1898 he worked as a cowboy and took part in several cattle drives for Ewing and other ranchers. For the next four years he managed his father's ranch. On July 4, 1899 he entered his first roping contest and won the top money. This was the first income Will earned with his lariat that was purely for entertainment. In 1902 Will left for South America hoping to find the wide-open ranges and cattle drives that no longer existed in Texas and Oklahoma. After working in Argentina for five months he went to South Africa where, in 1903, he joined Texas Jack's Wild West Show as a trick roper. Texas Jack billed him as the Cherokee Kid. At this point show business became his life's work. He wrote to his father of Texas Jack: "I am going to learn things while with him that will enable me to make a living in the world without making it by day labor."

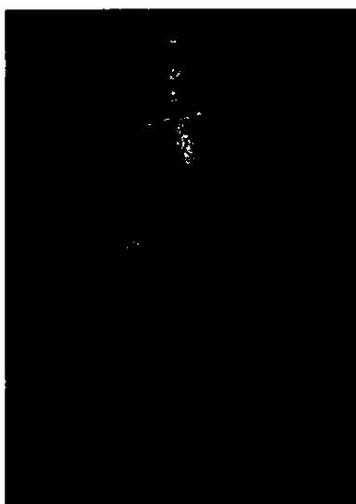
After a few months Will left Texas Jack to tour Australia and New Zealand with the Wirth Brothers Circus. By 1904 Will was back in the States performing with Colonel Zach Mulhall's Congress of Rough Riders and Ropers Show in St. Louis, Missouri across from the Worlds Fair. He performed his first roping act on a vaudeville stage in July 1904. Before the year's end he had a few more vaudeville bookings in Chicago. In 1905 Will traveled with Mulhall's show to New York, performing at Madison Square Garden. He gained some recognition and got his name in the local papers when he roped a "wild steer" that broke loose and ran into the audience.

The move to New York was a pivotal point in Will's professional evolution. He left Mulhall to stay in the city and pursue a vaudeville stage career, debuting at Keith's Union Square on June 12, 1905 as "The World Champion Lasso Manipulator." Reviewers commented that "the audience marveled at his skill." Will explained "You see it's the way I do my work is what takes with them and a few funny things I say."

In the early days in the theater Will Rogers' act followed a simple program. Wearing a red shirt and buckskin trousers, he entered the stage twirling his lasso to an orchestral accompaniment.

In the early 1930s Will Rogers was probably the most popular celebrity in the United States. Successful as a featured daily columnist in most of the nation's newspapers, a regular writer in many popular magazines, and star of both radio and movies, the "cowboy philosopher from Oklahoma" had established his career by rising through the ranks of the wild west shows, vaudeville, and the Ziegfeld Follies. Much has been written on Will's active and prolific public life. The Santa Monica Ranch represents a less explored aspect of Will Rogers: his private life and personality. Centered around the things he valued and enjoyed most: family, horses, cattle and trick roping, and playing polo; the ranch provided a place for the Rogers family that was isolated from Will's frantic public schedule. This brief historical background will explore how Will Rogers' love of family and horses stemmed from his early years in Oklahoma, developed throughout his career, and was manifested at his Santa Monica Ranch.

SUMMARY OF WILL ROGERS' CAREER



There was a poet with his lariat who had come out of the West and inserted himself in the middle of the play who was worth his weight in gold to the management (Acton Davies, *Evening Sun* 1912).

Will was almost the only man I ever knew who went plumb to the top and yet never used the necks of his friends for the rungs of the ladder he climbed on (Irving Cobb).

It's a great ol world, no matter what all seems to be wrong with it, and that we get along a lot better smiling than crying. Anyway that's my story and I'm going to stick to it (Will Rogers).

Will Rogers was America's most complete human document. He reflected in many ways the heartbeat of America. In thought and manner of appearance and in his daily life he was probably our most typical native born, the closest living approach to what we like to call the true American. (Damon Runyon 1935)

William Penn Adair Rogers was born on November 4, 1879 on his father's ranch at Oologah, Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, near the town of Claremore. Will often stated that the fact that he was born on election day was why he "had it in" for politicians. He was the eighth child of Clem and Mary Rogers. An ex-confederate soldier, Clem was one-eighth Cherokee Indian, and Mary a "quarter-blood." Due to his mother's ill health, a black couple, "Aunt Babe" and "Uncle Dan" helped raise the boy. Uncle Dan taught him to rope and ride a horse. By age four Will could expertly lasso turkeys and goats with Dan and Babe's children Mack and Charlotte. On his fifth birthday Will's father gave the boy his own pony. His mastery of horsemanship and the lariat may have been the most significant factors in Will Rogers' education. These skills evolved into a passion that remained with him throughout his life and laid the foundation to a fabulously successful entertainment career. His attempts at more formal education, however, did not result in remarkable accomplishments.

In late 1915 Florence Ziegfeld cast Will in his *Midnight Frolic*, a rooftop show that began at 11:30 P.M., after Ziegfeld's regular and better known *Follies* ended. Will performed a master of ceremonies role, filling in between scene changes and as a featured performer. At the *Frolic* he refined his verbal lariat, making political and current event commentary his standard fare. On the vaudeville circuit Will performed in front of a new audience for almost every show. Although seeming to be spontaneous, his act was actually well rehearsed and "his running fire of comment, which he reels off, as it were, on the spur of the moment is simply the manifestation of good memory. His jokes are always the same even . . . when he trips over the lariat at exactly the same place" (Yagoda 1993:127).

The *Frolic* relied on a repeat local audience that would soon become tired of the same material. At the suggestion of his wife Betty, Will began to talk about current events reported on in the newspapers, coming up with a new routine every night. His first act consisted of remarks on Henry Ford's attempt to secure peace in Europe following the First World War, punctuated by his spinning rope:

See where Henry Ford's peace ship has landed in Holland Got all them pacifist on board. Holland's welcome to'em, they ain't much good to us. Ford's all wrong, instead of taking a lot of them high powered fellers on his ship he should've hired away all these Ziegfeld pippins. He not only'd got the boys out of the trenches by Christmas but he'd have Kaiser Bill and Lloyd George and Clemenceau shootin' craps to see which one'd head the line at the stage door (quoted in Day 1962:77).

Critics soon called Will Rogers the *Frolic's* "chief source of entertainment."

In 1916 Ziegfeld asked Will to perform in that year's edition for the *Follies*. Will got a two year commitment at \$600 a week the first year and \$750 the second. The act consisted of 14 minutes of monologue with rope tricks. For the next three years he worked both the *Follies* and the *Frolic* when he was in New York. As a touring *Follies* star Will Rogers achieved national acclaim and celebrity status. No longer seen as a rope spinning cowboy from Oklahoma, critics now compared his humor to that of Mark Twain and referred to him as "The Philosopher with the Lariat" and the "Poet Lariat." Many began to see him as a personification of the American character. With both his hemp and verbal lariats in hand, Will Rogers developed his celebrity status in traditional and new technological mediums, becoming a star of radio, newspaper and magazine commentary, and the movies.

In the early 1920s the family moved to California where Will hoped to succeed as a movie actor. As early as 1919 Will Rogers had brought his cowboy character to the screen in a series of shorts produced by Samuel Goldwyn and Hal Roach. The venture was not profitable. The poet lariat's wit did not have the same effect in subtitles delivered via the plot of a western melodrama. After a brief experiment as an independent producer in 1922 resulted in financial disaster, Will returned to the *Follies* where he remained until 1925. He continued to reside in California, however, where he owned a house in Beverly Hills and acquired and developed a recreational equestrian ranch in Santa Monica near present-day Pacific Palisades. In 1929 the family moved to the ranch, selling the Beverly Hills house in 1930.

As a columnist and radio personality Will Rogers achieved outstanding success during the decade of the 1920s in spite of his unsuccessful start as a movie actor. In 1919 he published two books: *The Cowboy Philosopher on the Peace Conference* and *The Cowboy Philosopher on Prohibition*. In 1922 he began a series of weekly newspaper articles for the McNaught Syndicate that appeared in Sunday papers. In 1926 Will began writing "Daily Telegrams" of 150 words that McNaught published in over 400 papers. In addition, between 1925 and 1927 he produced a daily short titled the "Worst Story I've Heard Today." Other journalistic work came from the *Saturday Evening Post's* editor, who dispatched him on a number of special assignments during

He would do a few fancy loops with a soft cotton rope, then switch to a heavier stiffer rope and shout "Right!" This signaled his assistant, Buck McKee, to ride on stage from the wing on Will's horse, Teddy. Before they could reach the footlights, Will would rope Teddy by all four feet. He then would twirl the rope into different kinds of knots and nooses. Next came his trademark trick – he threw two lassos at once, roping Buck with one and Teddy with the other. He followed this with some cowboy dances, jumping in and out of his spinning rope. For a finale, he had an usher stretch a rope down the aisle to let the audience digest its full eighty-foot length. Will mounted Teddy and started twirling the rope until it was a giant crinoline spinning and hissing just over the heads of the patrons. The act was striking, receiving curtain calls from the first performance. In the course of a few months he became a sought after performer. He made \$250 a week at a time when the average national wage was \$7 a week and \$4 a day considered to be very good wages. As the weeks passed he improved the act, developing his own musical score featuring western tunes such as "Pony Boy" and "Cheyenne," and adding a three-rope catch, figure eight, and tail catch. From the beginning he carried on a monologue with the audience, explaining his tricks and wise cracking if he missed a throw: "I should have sprinkled a little Mucilage or rosin on his (the horse's) nose this thing might hang on" or "I'm handicapped up h'yar, as the manger won't let me swear when I miss."

Along with his success came changes in Will's personal life. In November 1908 he married Betty Blake of Rogers, Arkansas. Will had been stuck on her for a long time, but she took several years deciding to accept one of his numerous proposals. In 1911 his father Clem Van Rogers died in his sleep in Claremore, Oklahoma on the same day that Will and Betty's first child, Will Rogers Jr., was born. In 1913 their first and only daughter, Mary Amelia Rogers was born, followed two years later in 1915 by the birth of a second son, James Blake (Jimmy), on Long Island. A fourth child, Fred Stone Rogers, born in 1918, died a little less than two years later from diphtheria.

Will Rogers' lariat made him a national vaudeville star. As the years passed, and his stage persona developed, the act underwent a transformation as his monologue became an increasingly more important part. The fine-tuning of his so-called "verbal lariat" made Will Rogers a major star of the Ziegfeld Follies, a successful newspaper columnist, radio celebrity, and by the mid-1930s the highest paid actor in Hollywood.

In 1911 the accompanying horse and rider were dropped and Will performed a solo act relying on his monologue as the main appeal. Presenting a self effacing, apparently unrehearsed personality, his remarks, although well thought out ahead of time, appeared improvisational and spontaneous. The humor of his comments referred to what he had just done or said previously, relying for their affect on the appearance of being unplanned. He also began to work political commentary into the act. Teddy Roosevelt's attempt to run a second time for president as a third party "Bull Moose" candidate became one of his earliest targets:

You notice the act kinder drags right along here. Well, I used to tell a joke about Roosevelt, but I don't tell it anymore. I wonder what become of him (Pause). Well he was a good fellow when he had it (longer pause). Well sometimes they come back, but not often (quoted in Yagoda 1993:128).

In the Spring of 1912 he received his first regular Broadway engagement, appearing in the *Wall Street Girl*, with singing star Blanche Ring. Although the show lasted only a short time, the reviewers liked the "... extraordinary performer Will Rogers, who did his regular vaudeville act, but who undoubtedly scored the success of the evening" (Charles Darton). *The New York Tribune* felt that "Will Rogers the lariat thrower produced the only real humor of the evening." *The New York World* was even more enthusiastic, "Rogers is more than a cowboy – he's an artist. . ." (quoted in Yagoda 1993:130). Aside from his skill, Rogers displayed a "sense of humor as fresh as a breeze from the Western Prairies." In 1914 Will appeared in London in two shows: *Merry-Go-Round* and *Vaudeville in America*. Back in New York a year later, he performed in two musicals: *Hands Up* and *Town Topics*.

Oh, I don't know what it's all about. I don't know anymore about this than an economist, and God knows, he don't know anything.

In the spring of 1933 the Gulf Oil Company signed Will for a weekly half-hour live Sunday evening series called the "Good Gulf Show." A hit, the program continued for the rest of his life. On Sunday evenings Will Rogers' personality became a regular feature in millions of homes, exposing him to a larger audience on a more intimate level than any other medium. On this show he often talked of the National Depression and tried to send a message of hope to Americans. He became a booster of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

Will's most successful venture during the 1930s was his return to motion pictures. With the advent of talking pictures his verbal abilities could be appreciated by movie audiences. In 1929 he appeared in his first "talkie" *They Had to See Paris*, for Fox Film Corporation, with Irene Rich. He made a total of 21 films for Fox studios in which he basically played himself in a wide variety of settings and situations. These roles ranged from a misplaced 19th century New England mechanic that is magically transported to Middle Age Britain in a cinematic version of Mark Twain's *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, to a Samuel-Clemens-like river boat captain in *Steamboat 'Round the Bend*. Some of his other well-known films included *State Fair* (1933), *Handy Andy* (1934), *Judge Priest* (1934), *Doubling Thomas* (1935) and *In Old Kentucky* (1935). By 1935 Will Rogers was the highest paid actor in Hollywood.

Will had always been an advocate of aviation. In 1927 he became the first civilian to fly from coast to coast, completing the journey with airmail pilots. In August 1935 he accompanied Wiley Post, a famous aviation record breaking pilot, on a trip to Alaska. On August 15th the plane crashed on take off, killing both occupants instantly. Will Rogers was fifty-five years old. His unique and fabulous career had come to a tragic and sudden end.

Will's death brought an unexpected outpouring of national mourning. The extent and magnitude of the country's grief, unprecedented for a celebrity, has only been witnessed twice since, following the deaths of Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. It was the tragic but ultimate testament to just how much the rope spinning high school drop out had become a part of the American psyche with his verbal lariat. Over 70 years after his death the phenomenon of Will Rogers popularity is not easy to understand. Much more than a wise-cracking cowboy skilled at rope tricks, ultimately his infectious personality and an ability to talk directly to people made his success possible. In the words of his orian Ben Yagoda: "For there to be another Will Rogers today he (or she) would have to combine the separate attributes of Johnny Carson, Roy Rogers, Clark Clifford, Walter Cronkite, Bill Cosby, Bob Hope, Russell Baker, H. Ross Perot, and James Reston." Perhaps the best explanation is simply that by the late 1920s and especially during the Depression years of the 1930s it seemed that everyone in America liked Will Rogers.

When I die, my epitaph, or whatever you call those signs on gravestones, is going to read "I joked about every prominent man of my time but I never met a man I didn't like." I am so proud of that. I can hardly wait to die so it can be carved. And when you come around my grave you'll probably find me sitting there proudly reading it (Will Rogers 1930, quoted in Carter 1991:270).

the 1920s. The McNaught Syndicate and the *Saturday Evening Post* became the channels through which Will Rogers reached millions of readers. For most Americans he became a daily, weekly, and monthly companion.

Will was involved in a number of national radio hookups during the 1920s, and was a regular on the air during the depression of the 1930s. As financial conditions worsened during the early thirties, he became angry with President Herbert Hoover's naive policy of nonintervention in the nation's economy, which opposed direct relief for the millions of unemployed. On October 18, 1931 Will delivered a speech on unemployment that became one of his most famous radio broadcasts, stating:

. . . I have read where certain folks have appealed to the President. It's a tough time for any group to start making demands. The farmer deserves his profit, but the guy that's not eating deserves a meal more. The stockholder deserves his dividend, but the unemployed deserves his job more.

* * *

Here we are worrying and reading in the papers about a hundred different problems that they got us all excited about, and making us believe they amount to something. This country has got just one problem. Its not balancing the budget; its not the League of Nations; its not the silver question. None of these things mean a thing in the world to us as long as we have seven million of our own out of work. You see, there's not an unemployed man in the country that hasn't contributed to the wealth of every millionaire in America. Everyone of us, that have anything, got it by the aid of these very people. . . . So that's our only problem: to so arrange it so that a man, or a woman, that wants work can get work, and give'em a more equal division of the wealth the country produces.

* * *

Now if our big men can't fix that – well, they just ain't big men, that's all! So what we got now is substantial unemployment, and this is the thing that needs fixing. It sure taught us an important fact, that we haven't got as many "Big Men" as we thought we had. We used to think every head of a big organization was a "Big Man," and he was, as long as everything was running in spite of him. . . . Now "Big Men" are just like livestock; they are selling at just what they are worth, no more.

* * *

The President said the other day that "During the last twelve months we have suffered with other nations from economic depression." Yes, and we have suffered a lot alone, too. In fact, I would go even further than the President and say that we suffered substantially, or even gross substantially. You see that's how a lot of people try to make us feel good, is to tell us how bad somebody else is off. I don't believe that I could get much nourishment to be starving in a room, and have the keeper come and say, "The other fellow has been starving two days longer than you have!" I still believe that I would be just as hungry as I was before. But I guess there are some people that could just get fat on nothing but such news. . . . You'll read in the papers, "Congress has just been asked to appropriate two trillion dollars to relieve the descendents of a race of people called Wall Streeters'." The paper will go further on to say, "This is a worthy cause, and no doubt this small appropriation will be made, as they are wards of the government."

A BRIEF HISTORY OF WILL ROGERS' SANTA MONICA RANCH



He wanted to get out of town, he wanted to live out in the country. He wanted to be on a ranch This gave you the country, it gave you the feeling of being out. You could just as well be a million miles from nowhere when you came out here – and yet it was convenient. It was close to where he had to work – what he had to do, what he wanted to do (Jim Rogers 1976).

(Its) not really a ranch, but we call it that. It sounds big and don't really do no harm (Will Rogers).

The ranch was the joy of his life (Betty Rogers 1941).

Developed during the last 10 years of his life, Will Rogers' Santa Monica Ranch became the family home where he was not cast in the role of a public figure and could be himself. It provided a home for his family and horses although the line between these two often blurred.

On April 6, 1920 Will and Betty Rogers purchased a house in Beverly Hills. This Mediterranean style estate had a riding ring and a stable with eight stalls, which soon became too small to accommodate the family's growing herd of horses. As soon as the Beverly Hills home was paid for, Will began to talk of needing a larger place for the horses and found the undeveloped property where the ranch is now located. Beginning in January 1924 Will and Betty leased and paid taxes on the land. They signed a grant deed for portions of the property in 1928 and purchased additional sections over the years until, by 1934, the Rogers owned 346 acres.

In 1924, Los Angeles voters approved a bond to construct Beverly Boulevard from Beverly Hills to the Pacific Ocean. Ten years later this corridor would be renamed Sunset Boulevard. By May 1925, the road had been graded as far west as Rustic Canyon, at what would become the original entrance road to Rogers' Ranch. With a good road to Beverly Hills and Hollywood it became possible for Will to live at the ranch and commute to the studios. In 1929, when his contract with Fox began, this became a reality.

In the meantime the ranch became a weekend retreat for the family, and according to Betty:

One of Will's most absorbing interests. . . . He was always improving it, putting in something new or changing something that was already there. Work went on constantly while he was at home, and when he left there was always plans to be carried out in his absence. Even when he was flying around the country or traveling abroad, the ranch was not out of his mind, and he was seldom gone for any length of time without sending back long telegrams and letters of instructions about things he wanted done (Betty Rogers 1941).

In the spring of 1925 Will sent written instructions on how to grade the entrance road to his brother-in-law, Lee Adamson. The winding driveway ran from Beverly Boulevard to the mesa where the Polo Field and most of the buildings would later be built. Work began on the Polo Field in 1926 and continued for about two years. A work camp was established and crews cleared away and burned the brush. To the north of the Polo Field the workmen built a mule barn and a fenced paddock with a large grass lawn.

That spring Will sent another letter to Adamson proclaiming that he and Betty had a "Big idea." They wanted to build a small single story six room cabin at the base of a small hill on the western edge of the grass lawn paddock so they could ride their horses right up to the house. This building was completed in May 1927.

The following year saw further improvements. A garage and guesthouse were built adjacent to the weekend cabin. At the north end of the paddock more major changes occurred. A Roping Corral was erected at the mouth of Bone Canyon, so the family could now pursue Will's first and still ongoing passion. In addition, he had two large stables that he found in the San Fernando Valley moved to the ranch and set up at the mouth of Mitt Canyon to the north of the house. A spacious, elegant rotunda joined them at the center. A riding ring almost identical in appearance to the one at their house in Beverly Hills was built in front of the stables. Also by this time pastures had been established in Mitt and Bone Canyons and a carpenter and blacksmith's shop, as well as a hay barn, had been built east of the Mule Barn. By the end of 1929 hundreds of eucalyptus trees had been planted along the roads and around the Polo Field, and thousands of yards of white rail fences enclosed the Polo Field and pastures.

In 1929 the family began residing at the ranch full time. By then, Will Jr., Mary and Jimmy were teenagers; 18, 16, and 14 years of age. That same year Will's best friend, Broadway song and dance man Fred Stone, injured himself badly in an airplane crash and came to the ranch with his family to recover, staying in the Guesthouse. Since Fred was an avid golfer Will had a two hole course laid out on the lawn in front of the family cabin for his use. Later two additional greens were established: one on Sarah's Point, and the other in the mouth of a shallow canyon northeast of the Polo Field.

With the family in full time residence, Will and Betty soon decided to add a two story North Wing to the original six room cabin. They hired a Pasadena architect who drew up plans for an Italian style villa, similar to what they owned in Beverly Hills and what most movie stars lived in at that time. When Will saw the plans he is reported to have said to Betty: "Ma, you don't expect me to live in a house like that. I couldn't sit in that fireplace. You know that."

She replied in a frustrated voice: "What do you want Will?"

The answer was a large rambling ranch house similar to one they had seen in Montana (Reese 1978). On April 12, architect Ken Reese completed architectural plans for the North Wing. The building permit, approved several weeks later, described a two-story addition containing 13 rooms at a projected cost of \$11,000. Construction of the North Wing conformed to Will's specifications for a large ranch house. In rejecting the Italian villa, Will Rogers shed the lifestyle of a Hollywood celebrity and adopted a private life based on the things he valued most: family, horses, roping, polo, and the outdoors. The Beverly Hills house was sold by the end of the year.

At the ranch the Rogers' followed an informal lifestyle. The grounds were developed so that the family's private life remained protected from Will's escalating celebrity status and public popularity. Horses and family were the reasons Will had the Santa Monica Ranch. In his mind there was no separation between the two. Most daily activities occurred outside with the horses. Visitors to the ranch enjoyed its comfort and simplicity. Meals and parties were generally held outdoors in a central patio between the two wings of the house.

Horses and family were the two most important elements at the Ranch. Will Rogers' love for horses became legendary, and the line between them and human family members at times blurred. The children had been taught to ride at the age of two and Will spent hours with them practicing trick riding, playing polo, and roping. This made the Stable, referred to as the barn by Will and the family, equal to the house in importance. According to Will Rogers Jr., the "green and white painted barns were the center of activity . . ." (Will Rogers Jr. 1976). From 1928 until completion of the North Wing of the house in 1930, the Stable was the largest building on the place.

In the mornings Will rode around and exercised the horses on the Polo Field or in the surrounding hills until he left for the studio. Then, the minute he got home he would be on horseback again, "usually up in the corral roping or getting the children to go down to the Polo Field and play a few chukkers of polo" (Sandmeier n.d.). Jim "lived in the barn", and up until she became a teenager, so did Mary. Jim Rogers claimed that all contact between him and his father "had to do with horses or cows or something of that nature" (Jim Rogers 1976).

After the house and stables the Roping Corral was the next most important feature of the ranch. Betty stated that ". . . Will liked calf roping best of all the things he did. He had worked at it in the early days and had practiced it and played at it the rest of his life. A lasso and a piggin string were tied to his saddle, and he always kept a bunch of little wild calves grazing over the hills and on the grass of Rustic Canyon" (Betty Rogers 1941). The children were all active ropers, and cattlemen friends, including Ewing Halsell, Ed Vail, or western actor Big Boy Williams, would drop in and practice. After a few weeks of continuous roping, the calves became tame and would trot calmly up to the horses' feet instead of running in fright. Will then returned them to the stockyard and ordered another bunch of wild ones (Betty Rogers 1941).

Polo competed with roping as Will Rogers' favorite pastime. He began playing in Amityville, New York in the summer of 1915, when Jim Middick, an old friend from his days in the Wild West shows, introduced him and Fred Stone to the game (Jim Rogers n.d.; 1976). Jim Rogers recalled: "He was a real polo enthusiast and he played all the time up until the last couple of years And then he kind of backed off and he spent more time roping. I don't know which he liked better. . . . it just sort of depended on how the mood hit. He kind of blew hot and cold from one to the other. He liked to rope better than he wanted to play and then he liked to play better than he wanted to rope and then he didn't know and he'd go back and forth" (Jim Rogers 1976).

Although well developed by the end of 1930, Will and Betty continued to build and change the ranch. Betty explained:

With his Polo Field, his stables, his roping corral, his horses and the bridle trails back in the hills, Will now had just about everything he wanted. But the work went on. Will kept adding a fence, a new corral, a new bridle trail; he cut out new roads; he changed this and that; and the digging, clearing, building, and pounding never slowed down while he was here. The ranch was the joy of his life. Every tree and shrub on the place was planted under his direction. He used to drive home followed by a rickety truck driven by a Japanese and loaded with climbing roses, bougainvillea vines and pots of blooming flowers for the patio (Betty Rogers 1941).

It was not just Will who constantly transformed the ranch. Jim Rogers recalled that the place "was under a continual period of change . . . every time Mother would go away Dad would

change something and when he would go away, she would change something, and if somebody else didn't like anything, they changed it" (Jim Rogers 1976). Many of the buildings on the ranch were vernacular styles apparently thrown up without very much forethought. On another occasion Jim stated that his parents " . . . instead of looking at the plans, they would build it and then look at it and, if they didn't like it, they would tear it down and build over" (Jim Rogers n.d.).

In the summer of 1931 a Gatehouse and garage were built near the entrance to further enhance security. In 1932 the roping arena was enlarged. The last flurry of remodeling and new construction to the ranch house took place in 1935. On February 6, a building permit was approved for a second story addition of three bedrooms to be built on the South Wing of the ranch house by architect Walter Moody for \$4,000.00. With this change, a furnace room was installed so that the South Wing of the house could be heated by a forced air system. Until that time, the fireplaces heated the house. On March 14, a permit was filed by builder George Pardee to build a sunroom on the master bedroom on the second floor of the North Wing. On the same day, Pardee filed permits to build a three room cabin in Rustic Canyon and a three room caretakers dwelling on the site of the Mule Barn.

All of these improvements had been completed by June. Then in August, Will Rogers and Wiley Post were killed in the Alaskan plane crash. Jim, now married, moved back to the ranch with his wife to stay with Betty. In 1938 a large fire burned the roping arena. Taxes on the property were high and without Will's income Betty found herself facing some financial difficulties to keep and maintain the ranch. When the house was opened to the public for a benefit to aid the American Red Cross war effort in 1942, the family realized the possibility of granting the ranch to the State of California as a historical park to preserve Will Rogers' legacy. On June 8, 1944 the Beverly Hills Bank and Trust, under instructions from Betty Blake Rogers, deeded the home and 186.5 acres surrounding the house to the State of California for the establishment of Will Rogers State Park. Betty died of cancer a few weeks later.

... and somewhere, somehow, someone should make mention of this fact -- that the public today is privileged because of the generosity of the Rogers Family. (Emil Sandmeier, Will Rogers' Personal House Manager 1930 - 1938).



Figure 21: Birds Eye View of Will Rogers Ranch, December 1929

- | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Mitt Canyon Corral | 4. Stable | 7. Lawn | 10. Polo Field |
| 2. Heart Canyon Corral | 5. Riding Ring | 8. Original Cabin (South Wing) | 11. Sarah's Point |
| 3. Roping Corral House | 6. Mule Barn | 9. Guest House | 12. Original Japanese Farm |

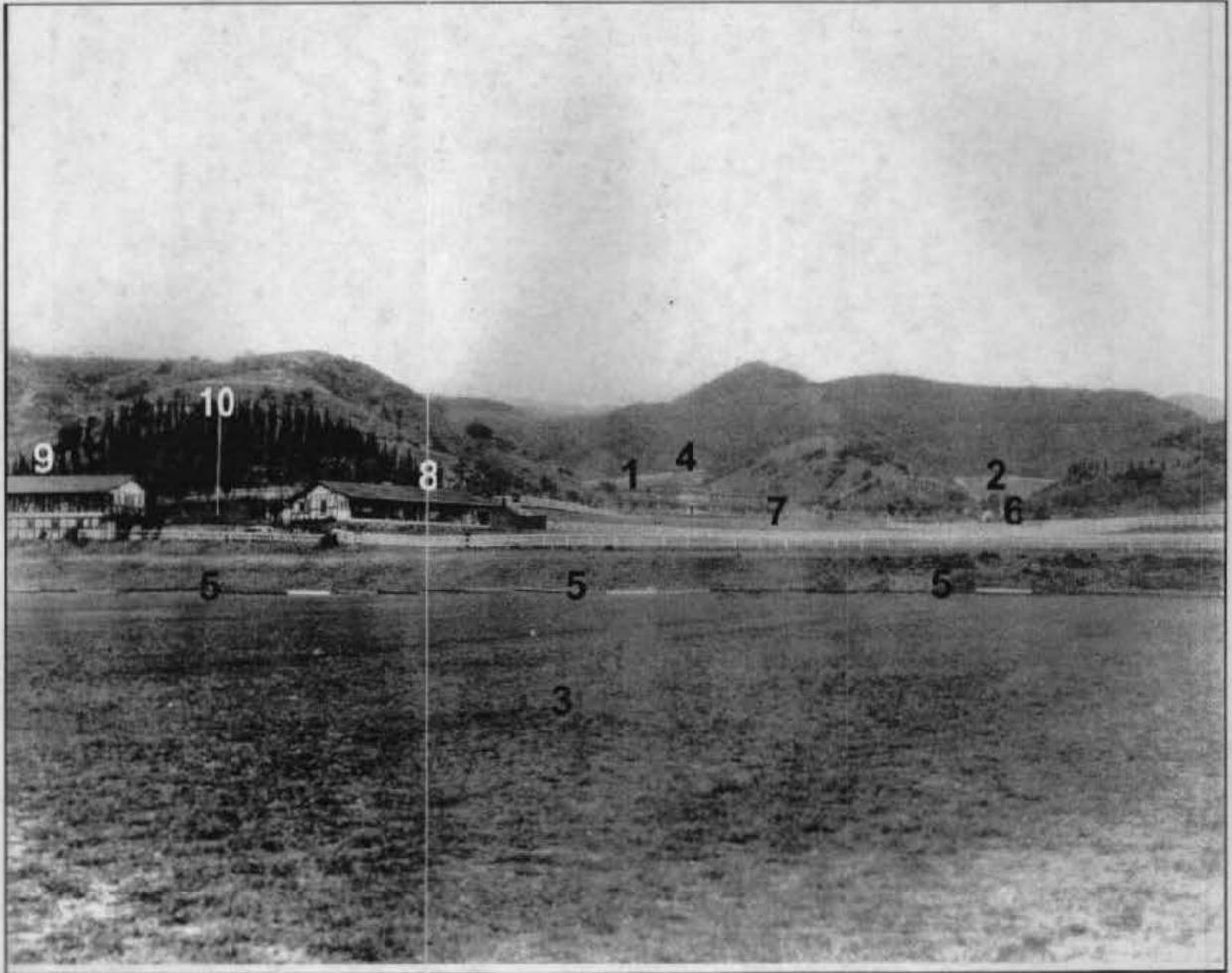


Figure 22: Will Rogers Ranch 1929, Looking North From the Polo Field

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Mitt Canyon Corral | 9. Guest House |
| 2. Heart Canyon Corral | 10. Flag Pole |
| 3. Polo Field | |
| 4. Stable | |
| 5. Polo Field Perimeter Boards | |
| 6. Mule Barn | |
| 7. Lawn – Golf Course | |
| 8. Main House (South Wing) | |

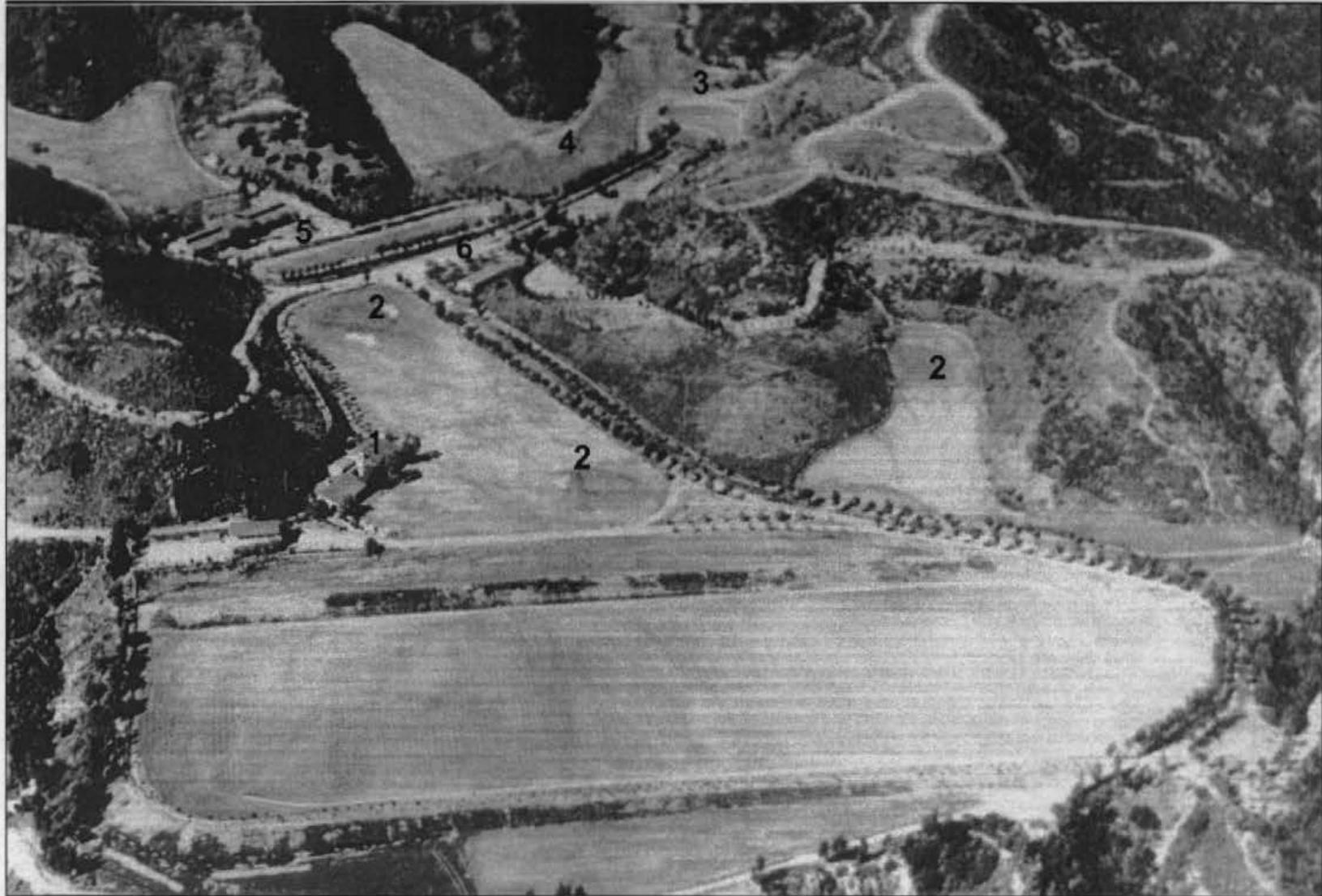


Figure 23: Will Rogers Ranch Complex 1933-34 The following changes can be seen when compared to the 1929 Photograph in Figure 1:

1. Addition of the North Wing of the house, realignment of fence line and trees in front of house.
2. The addition of golf greens.
3. Expansion of the Roping Corral.
4. Expansion of Heart Canyon Corral on the south and east sides.
5. Trees around Riding Ring
6. West wing of Mule Barn removed.

ORIGINAL ENTRANCE



Theme: Privacy, Secluded Approach to Property, Security

From the gate on the boulevard to the house is about one mile and we built our own circling driveway up the hill (Betty Rogers 1941).

Perhaps Charles and I appreciated the place especially because it was so quiet and far away and protected that we felt completely free (Ann Lindbergh September 27, 1934 quoted in Yagoda 1993:316).

The original access to the ranch included the entrance gate, the long winding driveway from Sunset (formerly Beverly) Boulevard to the house, the spring vault located alongside the driveway, and the Gatehouse. The gated entrance and long drive assured the family's privacy. As Will's popularity with the American public grew, Betty Rogers felt more secure with the barrier of an entrance gate to the ranch. Their employees lived in the Gatehouse to monitor who entered the property (Woodward et al. 1992).

The ranch was so secluded and secure from unwanted visitors that it became a refuge from news reporters for Charles and Ann Lindbergh in the fall of 1934, following the arrest of Bruno Richard Hauptmann for the kidnapping and murder of their infant son. Although word of their visit got out, no reporters were able to get in to the ranch (See Figure 8). To avoid a group that constantly camped out at the gate Emil Sandmeier negotiated trails in the hills behind the ranch in a Model A Ford to a neighboring property where the Lindberghs could leave undetected (Yagoda 1993:316).

GATE AND DRIVEWAY

The winding driveway, located in the southeast portion of the park, was laid out and constructed in April 1925 (Woodward et al. 1992). From the entrance gate to the main house the road is about a mile long. For the first half of its length, between Beverly Boulevard and the Polo Field, it climbs approximately 200 feet with the aid of four switchbacks. A letter and map sent by Will Rogers to Lee Adamson in the spring of 1925 describes his plan for the entrance road up Rustic

Canyon along the general route of the present driveway. A return letter from Adamson to Rogers dated April 29, 1926 describes the work in progress (Rogers 1941; Woodward et al. 1992). A 1925 low altitude aerial photograph shows the road under construction (Figure 4) (Photo E2). Very few trees had been planted along the entrance drive by the time the Polo Field had been graded in 1926 (Figure 5) (Photo E1). By 1929, however, small eucalyptus trees lined the entire drive and continued along the east side of the Polo Field and along the road to the Stable area (Figure 6) (Photo A4). Jim Rogers remembered bringing the trees in five-gallon buckets and planting them by hand (Yagoda 1993:265). A photograph of the entrance taken in the mid-1930s shows a wooden gate constructed of wide vertically placed boards with extremely long narrow gate hinges. The gate and posts are painted white. The adjoining wooden rail fence is also painted white and covered with wire fencing on the Beverly Boulevard side. Mature trees are located on both sides of the entrance drive (Figure 7) (Photo E4).

GATEHOUSE (FACILITY # 559-A-3-05-001, RESIDENCE # 3)

The Gatehouse is located along the original entrance road up Rustic Canyon, off of Sunset Boulevard in the southeast corner of the park. This quaint looking building was constructed by contractor George Pardee in the summer of 1931 for ranch foreman Buddy Sterling and his wife (Woodward et al. 1992). The 1950 appraisal report by Miles Allen described the house as a single story California bungalow built on a cement foundation. A gabled composition roof and board and batten siding covered the structure. The exterior was painted white with green trim. There are no known photographs of the Gatehouse from the period of the Rogers' family occupation of the ranch. A photograph taken by Allen in 1950 shows the building only 6 years after state acquisition and conditions are probably still unaltered from the time of Rogers' ownership (Figure 9) (Photo E 5). In this photograph the Gatehouse is accessed by a small wooden foot bridge that crosses a fieldstone lined gutter along the driveway. Concrete steps and a walkway lead from the footbridge to the porch. A small white painted picket fence on the north side of the steps borders a small flowerbed placed between the steps and porch. A large palm tree is located behind the house toward the south (downhill) side. Small shrubs are located on the west side of the steps and against the house on either side of the cobblestone chimney.

A small garage (facility # 559-A-3-04-1-001) is located a short distance to the east of the Gatehouse. In the 1950 photograph it is painted identical to the house and a small dark colored (probably green) painted picket fence runs between the house and garage along the edge of the fieldstone gutter. Other structures associated with the Gatehouse include a retaining wall behind the house (facility # 559-D-1-15-0-005), built about 1930, and a stone culvert to the west built after 1970 (Woodward et al. 1992).

SPRING VAULT

The Spring Vault is located along the original entrance driveway about halfway between Sunset Boulevard and the Gatehouse. The 10 by 12 foot vault is built into the hill immediately northwest of the road at the base of the hillside. The structure is built of granite and concrete with original wood supports. The cement exterior appears to have been refinished since 1926 (Woodward et al. 1992).

The Spring Vault is not currently used by the State Park system. This spring was on the property at the time of Will and Betty Rogers' purchase. The vault was built during road construction between 1925 - 1926. This may have been the first resource on the ranch improved by Will Rogers (Woodward et al. 1992).

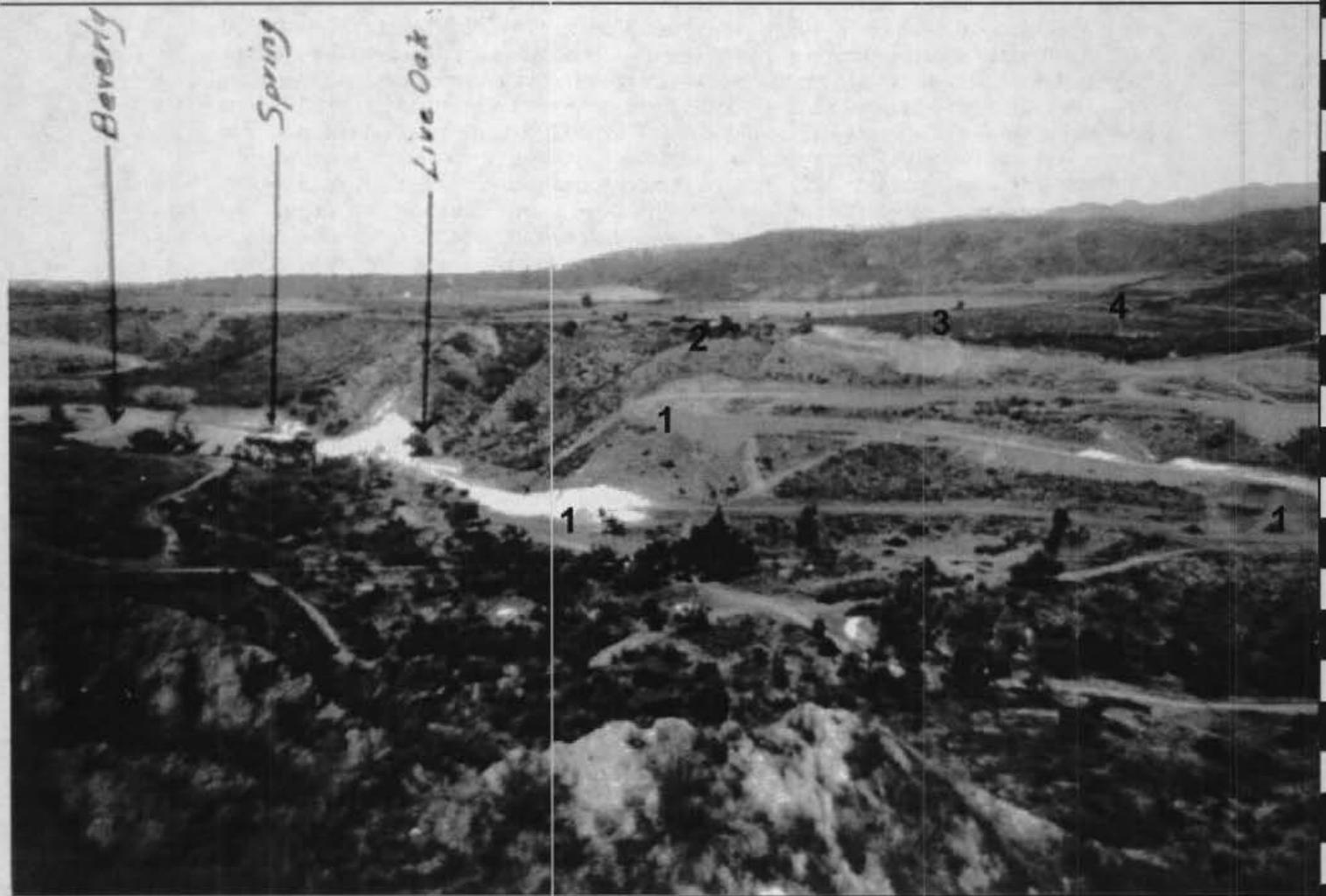


Figure 24: Panoramic Photograph of The Entrance to Will Rogers' Ranch Circa April 1925 Showing The Entrance Road Under Construction

In addition to Beverly Boulevard, the spring, and a live oak that are labeled on the photograph, the following features can be identified:

1. Road under construction.
2. Japanese truck farmers house.
3. Cultivated area where the future polo field will be graded.
4. Cultivated area where a horse paddock and eventually a lawn and golf course will be located.

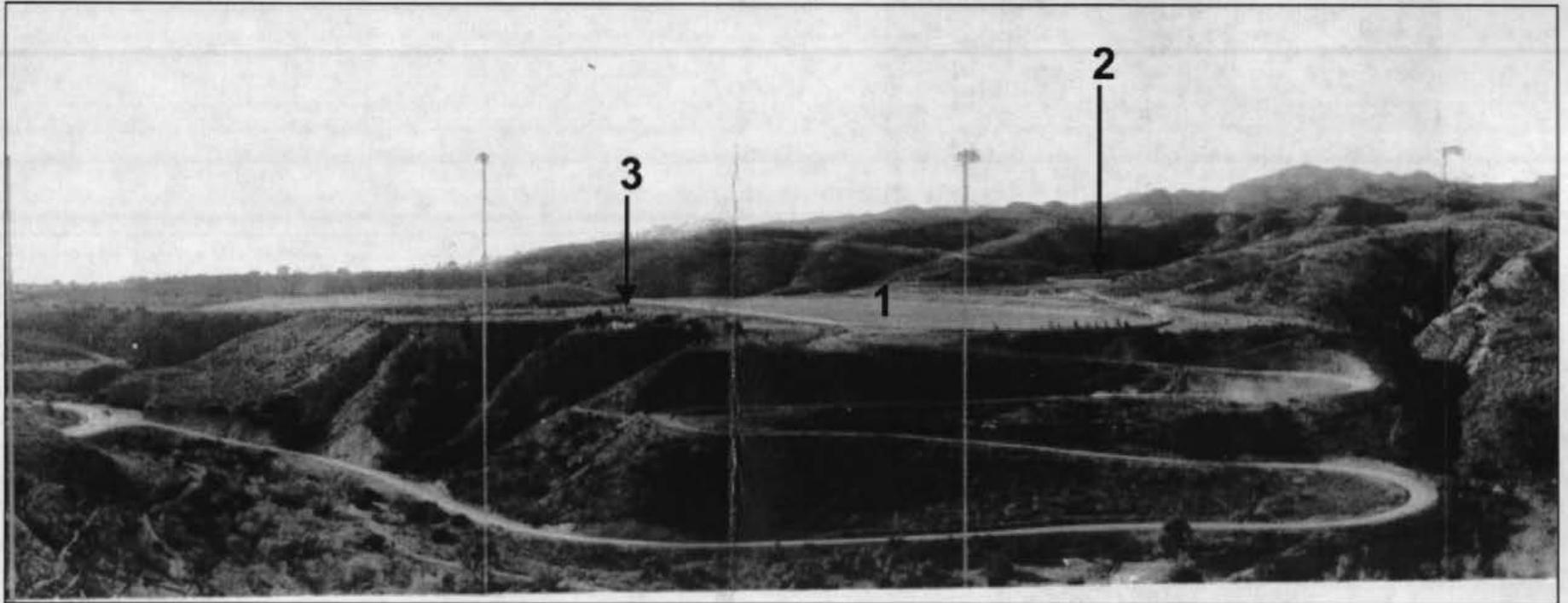


Figure 25: Entrance to Will Rogers' Ranch, Early 1926

The road is completed but not yet planted with eucalyptus trees. The Polo Field (1) has been graded and fenced along the south and east sides but not along the northern edge. A paddock (2) has been fenced in at the northern end of the field where the golf course will be located at a later date. The Japanese farmer's house (3) is still located on Sarah's Point.



Figure 26: 1929 Aerial Photograph Showing the Tree Lined Drive

The drive leads from Sunset Boulevard at the lower left (1) to the house and Guesthouse at the upper left (2). The Entrance Gate and Gatehouse have not yet been built.



Figure 27: Car Containing Mrs. Will Rogers, Mary Rogers, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stone at the Gate of The Rogers Ranch.

Note the "KEEP OUT - PRIVATE PROPERTY" sign to the right of the car.

Figure 28: Reporters Waiting in vain at the Gate to Will Rogers' Ranch to See Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lindbergh

(TO BE PROVIDED)

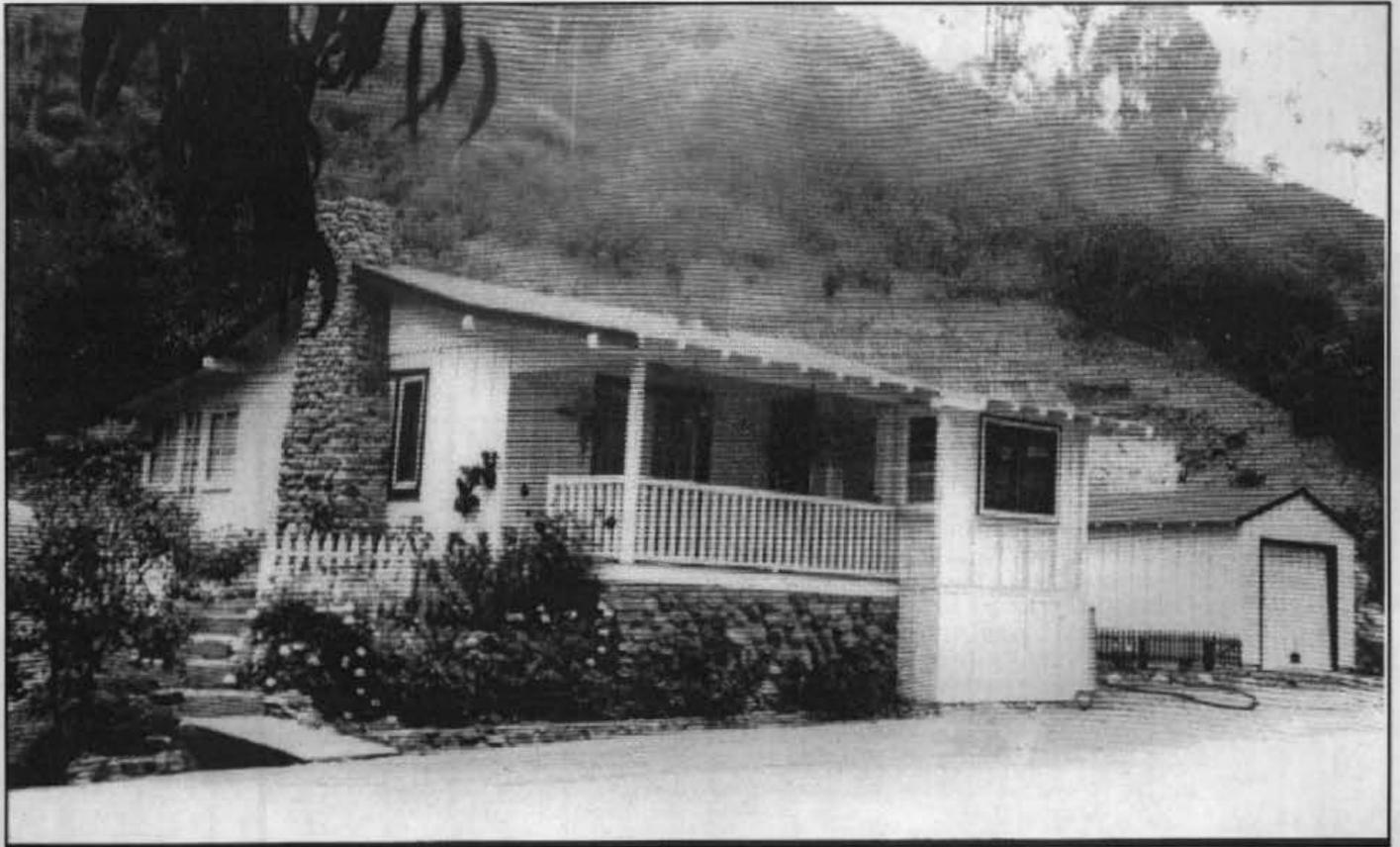


Figure 29: The Gatehouse at Will Rogers' Ranch in 1950

HOUSE

Theme: Family Life

If Mother and Dad were still alive it would not be complete yet (Jim Rogers 1996).

Mother held the family together – she was the true balance wheel of the whole thing (Jim Rogers 1976).

The ranch house was the Rogers' family home. Here family life, not Will's celebrity status, was the main emphasis and he dedicated his time to his family (Jim Rogers 1976). Betty Rogers recalled that "Will's public career was never brought into our home. It was simply a job at which he worked. . . . But over the family dinner table there was always more talk of the afternoon's polo or calf roping than of the theater the radio, movies or politics" (Betty Rogers 1941:276). Jim Rogers corroborated this attitude in a 1996 interview when he stated: "When he (Will) was home he was home."

Will's own account of his morning routine while at home was published in his weekly newspaper article for September 25, 1932:

Up betimes and at my stint. My first stint is a lot of sliced fresh peaches, then some ham and then some eggs washed down with about a dozen saucers of coffee. I lay late, almost till 6:30. The papers come, but having nothing but politics, I cared no a whit for'em. Mrs. Rogers came down and we had the usual argument as to how late the boys stayed out. They have to drive over a cattle guard coming in and it's as good an alarm clock as it rattles under the car wheels. There was a big opening in Hollywood last night, but as I had nothing new to wear or say, I didn't go. Our Scotty dog has more fleas on him, weight for age, than any other dog in California. Son Jimmy came down at last to breakfast and said he was late, as he had to drive half the night to find some movie house where they were showing a double feature. I argue with the wife over what little pieces of real estate investments we should try to pay on and hold, and which to let go back (quoted in Woodward et al. 1992).

The ranch house is located in the center of the park, facing southeast. The original view across the Polo Field to the Pacific Ocean is now blocked by large mature eucalyptus trees. The two-story wooden building consists of north and south wings connected by servant quarters and a patio. Beginning as a single story six-room cabin in 1927, the ranch house underwent continuous modifications and enlargements. In 1996 Jim Rogers stated that the house "changed and changed; (it was) never the same; Dad was always changing things. . . . If Mother and Dad were still alive it would not be complete yet" (Jim Rogers 1996).

Building of the house began in 1927 when Rogers directed the construction of a six room cabin northwest of the Polo Field. It was designed by architect A. C. Semrow and built by Will's brother-in-law, Lee Adamson. The design met Will's specifications for a white board and batten box house with a green roof and a wide porch across the front. For the next three years, the family used the cabin for weekends and vacations. In 1929, the Rogers family moved from Beverly Hills and made the ranch their permanent home.

In 1930, Ken Reese, working for the architectural firm of Asa Hudson, drew up plans for a 13-room addition to be located north of the cabin. The addition was finished by September of that year. The area between the new (North) wing and the original cabin became a patio. With the new private family quarters to the north, the original South Wing was used for entertaining, and for meals when bad weather forced the family indoors off the patio where Will preferred to eat.

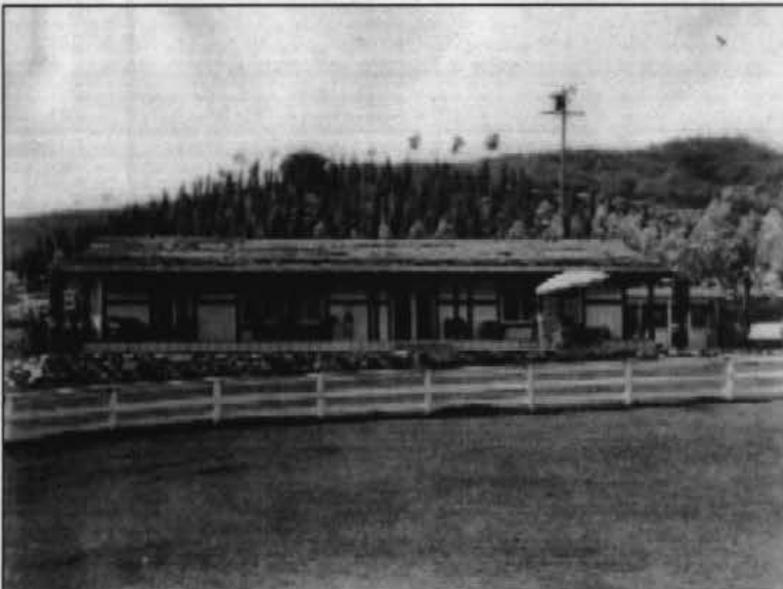
The following year Will and Betty continued to expand. A bed and bathroom for Jim Rogers were added to the second floor of the wing on the west side of the patio, along with an exterior staircase for access. Jimmy's original bedroom on the first floor of the North Wing became a library. Will Jr.'s room was also enlarged.

The last major changes to the building took place in 1935, a few months before Will died. A sunroom was added off the main bedroom for Betty Rogers. The South Wing, which had undergone changes through the years, now received a second story that included three guestrooms and bathrooms. A forced air heating system was also installed.

From the first six room cabin to the last addition of the second story above it, the changes to the house were the direct result of Will and Betty's decisions. Further changes were often made once construction was in progress. More ideas for remodeling the house were also in the planning stages, but never carried out after Will died.

Following Will's death, Betty continued to live in the house. Her son, Jim, and his wife moved from their nearby home to stay with Betty so she would not be alone. In 1942, through Betty's efforts, the house was first opened to the public to benefit the war efforts of the Red Cross. Betty died in 1944, leaving the ranch home and surrounding 186.5 acres to the State of California. As a state historic park, the house is open to the public and still contains the original family furnishings and memorabilia.

SOUTH WING (DPR FACILITY # 559-A-4-05-0-001)



Just want a plain what we used to call a box house. No weather board, just 12 inch boards up on edge and batting nailed across the cracks, want it white with a green roof, and a big white porch. . . . Now get this to be very plain and ordinary, all on one floor. It will look more like a Club house. . . . I want it there so we can ride our horses and hitch em right in front of the house, and all our roping and riding and every thing we will do in that space down in front of the place where we build the house. . . . (Rogers to Adamson 1926)

We had three small bedrooms and a bath and a kitchen and that was the entire house. There was no garage (Jim Rogers n.d.).

The two story South Wing measures 64-by-35 feet. The bottom story of the present South Wing was the original white board and batten six room cabin, described as a "camp out place" (Jim Rogers 1996) (Figures 10-14)(Photos CA 1-CA 8). Betty Rogers remembered it as "three small bedrooms, one great big room, and a patio. There was no dining room. Will liked eating out of doors and only on damp days would he agree to our having a meal inside" (Betty Rogers 1941).

Will and Betty decided to build a house on the ranch in the spring of 1926 when a letter was sent to Lee Adamson stating: "Now look out we got a Big Idea, we want a house over on the ranch that we can have this summer whether we sell the home place or not."

Don't get it too high up on the hill. We just want it high enough so it gives us a good view of everything ocean and all, and still low enough that we can do some grading and get a bit of level ground around the edge of the porch We want a pretty good size house, in fact a big living room, dimensions about 48 by 24. Then a kitchen and a couple of bedrooms. Betty is enclosing an idea of her plans. Just want a plain what we used to call a box house. No weather board, just 12 inch boards up on edge and batting nailed across the cracks, want it white with a green roof, and a big white porch. . . . Now get this to be very plain and ordinary, all on one floor. It will look more like a club house. . . . I want it there so we can ride our horses and hitch em right in front of the house, and all our roping and riding and every thing we will do in that space down in front of the place where we build the house. . . . (Rogers to Adamson 1926, quoted In Woodward et al. 1992).

Beverly Hills architect A.C. Semrow filed a building permit on May 2, 1927 for a 24 by 60 foot building, 16 feet high with a chimney. Decorative horse heads in the home were carved by the architect's brother, George. The cabin was a weekend retreat to the Rogers' until 1929 when the family made it their permanent home. In 1933, Will had the roof of this wing raised and before his death in 1935, second story bedrooms were added for guests and a forced air heating system installed (Woodward et al. 1992). Emil Sandmeier recalled that the existing kitchen is the original kitchen "as it was built for the house when it was a little weekend cabin." Although the family could have used a much larger kitchen, "it was never made larger because most of the meals were taken outside. . . . Often Mr. Rogers had his first cup of coffee in the morning right in the kitchen where he stood up and leaning on the stove perhaps and glancing over the morning paper. Then he would ride around and exercise the horses on the Polo Field or ride around on the hills until it was time to go to the studio" (Sandmeier n.d.).

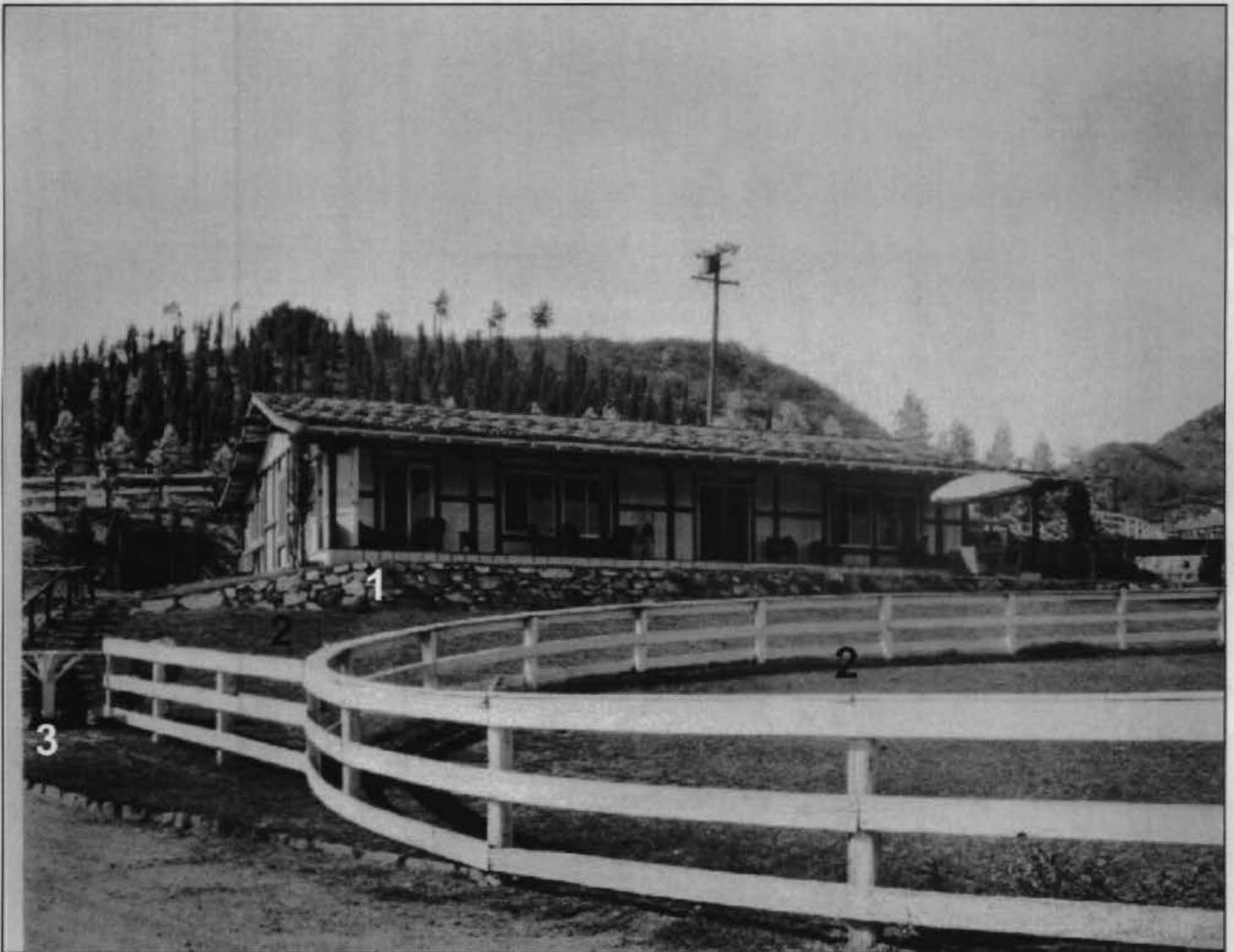


Figure 30: Original Cabin Circa 1927–Spring 1930

This building is incorporated into the bottom floor of the current South Wing.

Note the following:

1. Terrace retaining wall covered after the North Wing was built in 1930.
2. Slope that was filled in after the North Wing was built in 1930.
3. Turnstile to keep livestock off the steps and porch.

A large power pole is located behind the building.

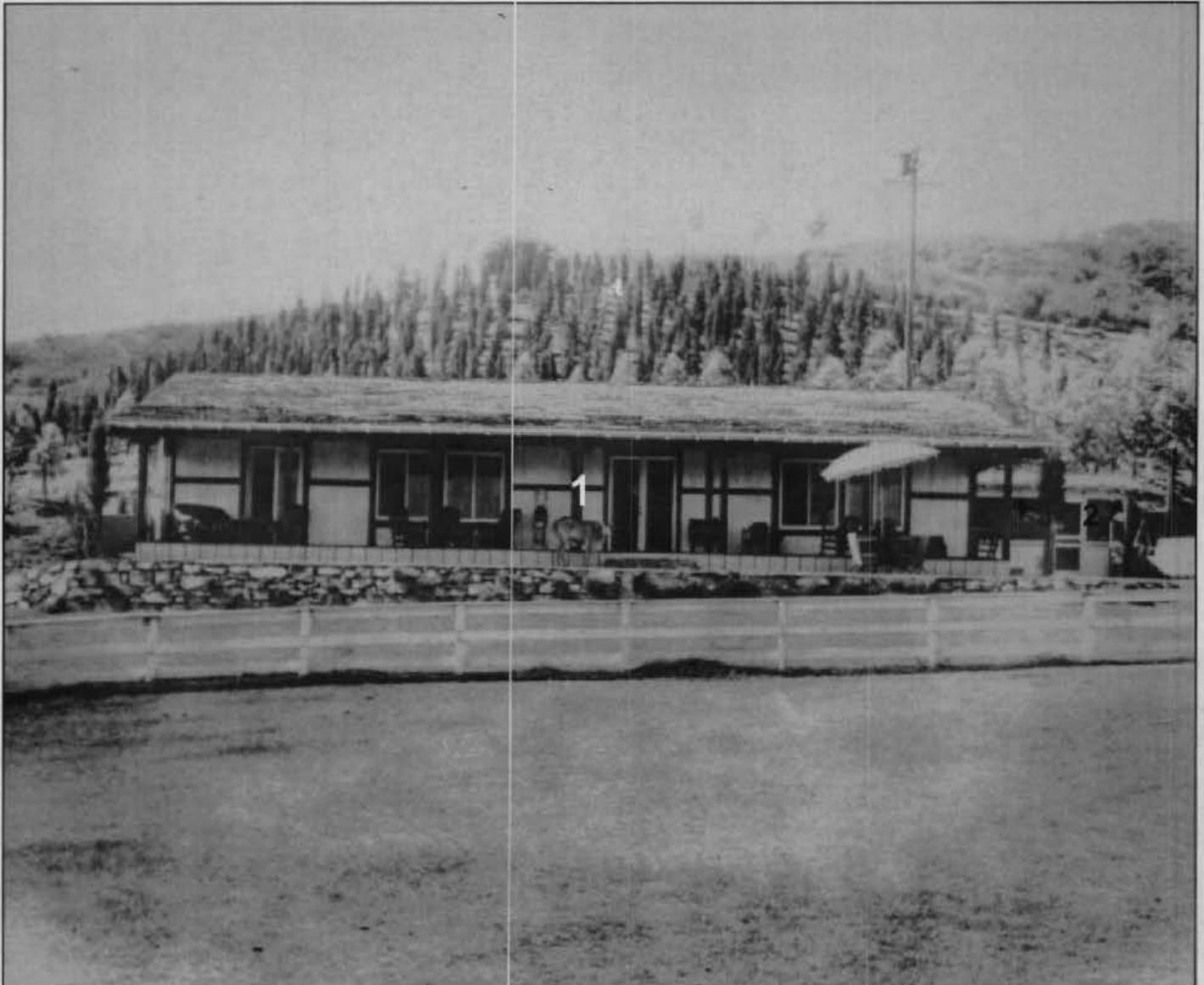


Figure 31: Original Cabin Early 1929

1. Sarah the pet calf standing on the South Wing terrace. The original raised wooden porch is behind her. When the North Wing was constructed in 1930 the fence was removed and most of the foreground was filled to be level with the wooden porch which was replaced with flagstone.

2. Wing on north end of the original cabin. In 1930 the new addition was attached to the north side of this wing which then formed the west side of the patio between the original cabin and the new north addition.



Figure 32: Overview of The Original Cabin and Guesthouse Early 1929

Note the following:

1. Original cabin that became the south wing of the house.
2. Guesthouse over Garage.
3. Tennis court.
4. Original lath house that was removed when the North Wing was built.
5. Small addition to the original cabin that became the west side of the courtyard forming the patio after the North Wing was built.
6. Original parking area at the end of the driveway in front of the Garage.
7. Original fence alignment that was removed after the North Wing was built.
8. Flag pole.
9. Cypress trees behind house.



Figure 33: The Family On The Original Wooden Front Porch

From left to right: Jim, Will, Betty, Mary and her white dog, and Will Jr. Note the rugs and the wicker and Mission style furniture. The wooden posts resting on the outside edge of the wooden porch were placed on the flagstone porch that replaced this one during construction of the North Wing in 1930.



Figure 34: Jim, Will Jr., Mary, Will, and Betty Sitting on the Edge of the Original Wooden Porch
Circa 1927-1930

When this porch was removed during construction of the North Wing in 1930 the terrace where Mary's dog is lying was raised to the level of the wooden porch. The wooden posts resting on the edge of this porch were set onto the flagstone porch that replaced this one (See Figure 17).

NORTH WING (DPR FACILITY #: 559-A-4-05-0-001)

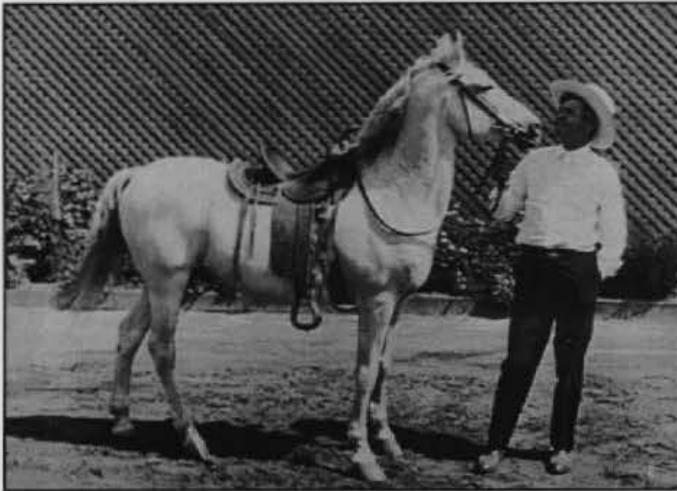
Out of frustration, after plans for an Italian Villa style home was criticized, Betty Rogers asked her husband "What do you want Will?" And Will's answer was, "You know we were last summer up at that big sheep ranch in Montana, and they had a house I really liked. It had a big veranda across the second story, all bedrooms opening onto this porch (Reese 1978).

In 1929 Will sold his Beverly Hills house and the family began residing full time at the Santa Monica Ranch. Full time residency required more room and the North Wing was finished by September 1930. The wing served as bedrooms for the family and staff. Also, it allowed the family to entertain privately or to be alone while others entertained in the South Wing. The following year Will and Betty continued to expand. A bedroom and bathroom for Jim Rogers were added to the second floor of the wing on the west side of the patio, along with an exterior stair case for access. Will Jr.'s room was also expanded. Jim's original bedroom on the first floor of the North Wing became a library. The last major changes to the building took place in 1935, a few months before Will died. A sunroom was added off the main bedroom for Betty Rogers. The South Wing, which had undergone changes through the years, now received a second story that included three guest and bathrooms. A forced air heating system was also installed.

ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

Several buildings and structures are associated with the house, especially along the back (west side). These include the Laundry Room, Furnace Vault, Film Storage and Meter Switch Vault, and Flag Pole. Each is discussed individually below. In most cases the information has been taken directly from the 1992 cultural resource inventory for Will Rogers State Park (Woodward et al. 1992).

Lath House # 1 (Facility # 559-A-1-09-002)



Lath House # 1 is located a few yards north of the ranch house and laundry (docent) building on the west side of the golf course lawn area tucked against the hillside. A large lath greenhouse first appears in historic photos when the house was a weekend cabin near this location (see Figure 12) (Photo CA 1). Historic photographs show that the existing lath house was built following construction of the North Wing in September 1930 (Photo HLO 1). Rogers' grounds-keepers used the structure for growing seedlings, to pot plants, and to grow ornamentals for the patio and flowerbeds that surrounded the house and grounds. The incinerator was used for burning household trash. All of these functions were hidden from view with lath walls. After the state acquired the ranch property in 1944 this lath house was used for growing ornamental shrubs and flowers for sale to the visiting public, an unusual concession intended to deter outright theft of landscape plants (Woodward et al. 1992). The backside of this lath house is a concrete slab retaining wall (Facility # 559-D-1-15-0-002) that extends from the laundry building to the south. Miles Allen's 1950 Assessment Report provided the following abbreviated description:

Has dirt floor terraced on 3 levels. Mud sill foundation. West retaining wall of dirt bank serves as west wall of lath house. Sides covered with crossed laths nailed diagonally on 4" x 4" posts. Roof of same construction as to the northerly 29'. The southerly 22' of a shed roof covered with roll composition roofing in bad state of repair. Lath house painted green. Tools now stored under this roofed area. Brick incinerator is 3' wide with iron door. . . . 510 sq. feet.

Laundry Building or Docent Office (Facility # 559-A-3-07-001)

The laundry room building is located immediately north of the Will Rogers Home, just 10 feet west of the north corner. The building is set against the base of the hillside and is screened from view by tall lath walls. It measures 18 feet long by 17 feet wide with an attached 10 by 10 foot storage room.

In the early 1930s this separate building was constructed to replace the old laundry room in the servant's quarters. The Rogers' laundress Eda came to the ranch twice a week to assure clean laundry for the household and ranch employees. The structure's high shed roof and sky light

along with glass doors and windows provided ample light and air circulation to offset the heat generated from the small boiler room adjoining the south wall (Woodward et al. 1992).

Tall lath walls screen this building from public view and separate it from the Will Rogers home. A concrete slab retaining wall extends north along the base of the hill from the northwest corner of the building, which partly frames a patio paved with neatly arranged concrete slabs immediately north of the building. The patio is 23 feet long between the laundry building and lath house to the north. Here clothes hung out to dry were obscured from the rest of the grounds by the lath. A small boiler room adjoins the south wall, and further along is a film vault. The North Wing of the main house is within an arms reach of the laundry room. No historic photos of this structure are known (Woodward et al. 1992).

Furnace Vault

The furnace vault (or water heater vault as it is also known) was built into the hillside west of and behind Will Rogers' House. It is the southern most of the three hillside vaults and the only one in a publicly accessible though little visited area. The furnace vault is currently used as a storeroom for park staff. It originally contained a large General Electric oil furnace that served as a combination water heater and unit heating system for the ranch house and Guesthouse and laundry room. Constructed in March 1935 by George Pardee, this vault is situated just westerly of Residence No. 1 (Will Rogers Home) against a high dirt bank. It is 12' 6" in length by 6' 6" in width with a 9-foot high ceiling. Walls, floor, and ceiling are constructed of 8" reinforced concrete. The doors are wooden (Woodward et al. 1992; Building Permit 34304).

Film Storage and Meter Switch Vault

The Film Storage and Meter Switch Vaults are located side-by-side and were built into the hillside behind (west of) Will Rogers' home. The film storage vault was built to safely store Will Rogers' silent films, which were made on unstable and explosive nitrates prior to celluloid. The film vault is currently used for storage space and the meter vault for electrical switches (Woodward et al. 1992).

Flag Pole

The original 40 foot tall wooden flag pole located between the guest and ranch houses appears at this location in a 1928 photo (Photo CA 1) (Woodward et al. 1992).

LANDSCAPING HISTORY AROUND THE HOUSE

The following discussion focuses on the landscaping around the house during the interpretive period from 1929 to 1935. Information has been taken from several previous studies conducted by Pacific Palisades historian Randy Young (1991, 1992, n.d.), taped interviews with Jim Rogers, Emil Sandmeier, and Willard Cruse, and examination of historical photographs.

South End of House

Between the Guesthouse and the front steps were a variety of colorful plants. A 1930 photograph shows that the walkway from the Guesthouse to the main house did not follow its present curving course to the front porch. Instead a flagstone paved path continued straight toward the main house and then joined another walkway to form a "T" course. This adjoining walk led from the front porch to the rear of the house. A rustic wood railing ran along the west side of the walkway from the Guesthouse at the top of a stone faced bank and curved to the east to border the north side of the stairs. The stone facing also covered the bank along the eastern edge of the Garage parking area. A plaster bench used as a prop in the film *Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* was situated on a small patch of lawn on the west side of the intersection between the two walkways as shown in the 1930 photograph. The bench is now located at the north end of the house. A four trunk olive tree grew in a triangular area between the east side of the intersection of the two walkways and the stone faced bank. The area under the olive tree was planted with a variety of flowering plants which may have included wildflowers. The top of the wall facing the bank was planted with a line of geraniums. The photograph also shows small plantings of lantana growing on the face of this wall. Chrysanthemums or geraniums grew along the main house foundation beneath the Ziegfeld Window (Figure 15) (Photo S1). In a 1944 photograph of the Ziegfeld Window angel-wing begonias can be seen (Photo S2).

According to Emil Sandmeier, lantana covered the stone faced bank. Matillaja Poppies were planted along the top of the wall and rows of white iris at the bottom. Numerous colorful plants, including rose geraniums, grew in the shade of the olive tree and a bed of chrysanthemums was located outside the Ziegfeld window. The jade plants and other succulents that presently exist on this side of the house did not grow here during Will Rogers' lifetime (Sandmeier 1958). Based on his own interviews with Mr. Sandmeier, historian Randy Young concluded that lantana and California natives, especially laurel sumac, grew around the flag pole. Plumbago, lantana and honeysuckle covered the retaining wall rock work. A bed of California native plants and white irises with touches of yellow also grew along this wall. Matillaja poppies were at the top of the wall and below the landing wall (Young 1991, 1992, n.d.).



Figure 35: This Photograph of the Southern End of the _____ Appeared in the September Issue of *Pictorial California* in 1930. Note the "T" intersection of the flagstone walkway (1), grass lawn on the west side of the walk where the small bench is sitting (2), rustic wooden railing (3), multi-trunk olive with flowers growing underneath (4), Chrysanthemums or geraniums along the side of the building below the Ziegfeld Window (5), potted plants on the porch and stairs (6), and oak tree at the southeast corner of the house (7). The trees were brought in and planted full size.

Front Lawn and Trees

The lawn in front of the South Wing was raised considerably so that it would be at grade level with the flagstone front porch around 1929 to 1930 when the present porch was constructed and the North Wing built (Photo HLO 1). The flagstone retaining wall along the north side of the stairs leading from the original parking area to the house was built at this time. In a 1930 photograph various potted plants including succulents or cactus are located at the top of the steps leading from the driveway to the front porch. Two woven-back chairs are on the landing and three potted pillar roses are placed along the steps. A single trunk oak is planted at the southeast corner of the house, on the north side of the intersection of the stairs and the front porch where the present large live oak tree now grows (See Figure 15) (Photo S1). Sword ferns grew in the shade under the original tree (Young 1991, 1992, n.d. – based on interviews with Sandmeier 1991).

A photograph from the mid to late 1930s shows mixed bedding flowers along the north side of the stairs east of the live oak (Figure 16) (Photo HLO 4). According to historian Randy Young's interviews with Emil Sandmeier and Willard Cruse these flowerbeds contained calla lilies, zinnias, nasturtiums, marguerites, California poppies, agapanthus and lantana. The blue felicias and trailing African daisies and coriopsis presently (2003) in this flowerbed are not original (Young 1991, 1992, n.d.).

Young (1991, 1992) provides the following assessment of the original appearance and evolution of the trees and lawn in front of the house between 1930 and 1935:

1. The South Wing flowerbed that borders the front porch was added after 1944. In photographs taken of the front of the house between 1930 – 42 the lawn is shown growing right up to the paving stones. At each post a climber, such as a bougainvillea or fuchsia is planted (Sandmeier 1991).
2. The large trees on the front lawn were all fully-grown when they were moved to the site by Will around 1930. Originally there were four trees, but one of them was taken out about 1933, so only three should be considered historic plantings.
3. The large California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) at the southeast corner of the main house is not an original but a replacement. Willard Cruse planted the present oak from one that was taken near the entrance kiosk about 1955 (Cruse 1991). The sword ferns in this area are an historic feature (Sandmeier 1991).
4. At the southeast corner of the North Wing a huge multi-trunk oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) was originally planted by Will within six feet of the porch. The present oak is 25 feet from the porch and was planted in the 1970s (Cruse 1991). "This tree, in my opinion, does not give the same impression as the original" (R. Young). It might be desirable to ghost-plant a multi-trunk tree, and after it has matured to remove the single trunk tree now at this location.
5. A California pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) that was planted by Will at the very northern end of the North Wing still exists. It was moved from Sepulveda Boulevard, near the Veterans Administration building, when the road was built and the trees were going to be destroyed (*Rustic Canyon and the Story of the Uplifters*, Betty Lou Young, 1975:103; *Pictorial California*, June 1927:13). The peppers in front of the barn and bunkhouse may possibly be part of this same group. A story that could be apocryphal is that Leo Carrillo gave Will the trees (Cruse 1991).

6. At the far northern border of the lawn are three pittosporums that may be historic (Spence aerials 1934 & 1938) but greatly impact the visual flow from the house to the barn. The trees modify the original feeling of the ranch, and perhaps should be trimmed to shrub proportions.
7. A photograph taken in 1929 shows the lawn in front of the house was irrigated with rainbirds. Aerial photographs show that the lawn and Polo Fields all went through major browning periods and indicates that the intense irrigation of the present lawn is not historic. An investigation of the original variety of grass could indicate that the seasonal browning was a natural phenomenon (Spence aerials 1929-1934, 1938).

Southern Front Porch

Climbing vines that included bougainvillea and roses were tied to the outside of the posts along the southern porch. They were held with lattice ladder rungs nailed to the outside of the posts. Randy Young feels that the three bougainvillea presently growing at these posts are probably original. There was also a pink rose. Rectangular planters placed along the wall held split-leafed philodendron. On the side toward the lawn were cylindrical pottery planters and wooden nail kegs that held a variety of plants. Hanging potted plants were suspended between the posts along the outside edge (Figure 17-19)(Photos SP 3, SP 4, SP 5) (Young 1991, 1992, n.d., from Sandmeier 1991).

Rustic wooden furniture and a pair of pottery vases sat on the porch. One vase held golf clubs and walking sticks, while the other just held golf clubs. These vases still exist but one has been shattered. A swinging lounge chair suspended from a heavy metal frame was located to the left of the door (Young 1991, 1992, n.d.; Jones 1991) (Photo SP 2). Redwood and willow stick lawn furniture sat on the lawn in front of the porch (Figure 18) (Photo SP 3).

A series of pictures illustrates the landscape evolution of the south porch. In a photograph taken circa 1930-31 the lawn borders the edge of the newly completed flagstone porch. Small vines are planted at the base of the posts. There are no window boxes on the front of the house and, with the exception of a large tree fern in a wooden pot (possibly a half barrel), the few plants on the porch are small and in containers. These include a gardenia in a wooden tub, a fern and another plant in clay pots on metal flower stands bordering the steps leading into the house on the north side, plants in clay pots on the south side of the steps, plants in wooden tubs between the steps and the patio, and plants in a woven planter stand on the outside edge of the porch. The porch furniture is very prominent in this photograph. A large swinging couch supported by a metal frame is against the house. Wooden chairs and a small table are set in an informal, haphazard fashion. A large urn on the north side of the steps holds golf clubs and a coiled rope (Photo SP-1).

In a photograph of the south porch taken from the lawn around 1933 vines are beginning to grow up the posts without support. Potted plants can be seen hanging between the posts and on the porch against the house (Figure 18) (Photo SP 3). In a picture taken on the porch at about the same time - between 1933 and 34 - plantings are much larger and fuller. These include bamboo and ferns, and other large and small leafed shade plants. In addition to the glider, porch furniture includes an assortment of informally placed chairs. The red checkered cloth covered dining table is at the northern end adjacent to the arbor-covered patio (Photo SP 2). In a slightly later image dated circa 1933 - 34 the vines have grown much larger. A bougainvillea and climbing rose can be identified. Vine ladders have been added to the posts and a window box can be seen on the house. The urn filled with golf clubs and a potted plant sits at the north edge of the steps. A bird's nest basket is hanging from one of the posts (Figure 19) (Photo SP 4). An image taken

around 1935 shows the mature vines attached to the porch post with large potted plants along the edge of the porch (Photo SP 5). In a picture taken just after State Park acquisition circa 1944–1947 the bird's nest basket and bell can still be seen. Two large rustic wooden containers with fuchsias sit on the front steps. Large climbing philodendrons and sword ferns are planted in the window boxes. Three rustic wooden chairs with blanket coverings are sitting on the porch against the house (Photo SP 6).



Figure 36: Front Lawn and Flowerbed Circa 1935 - 1940

Note the lantana covering the flagstone retaining wall around the parking area to the left of the stairs (1) and the strip of grass at the base of the retaining wall below the flowerbed (2).

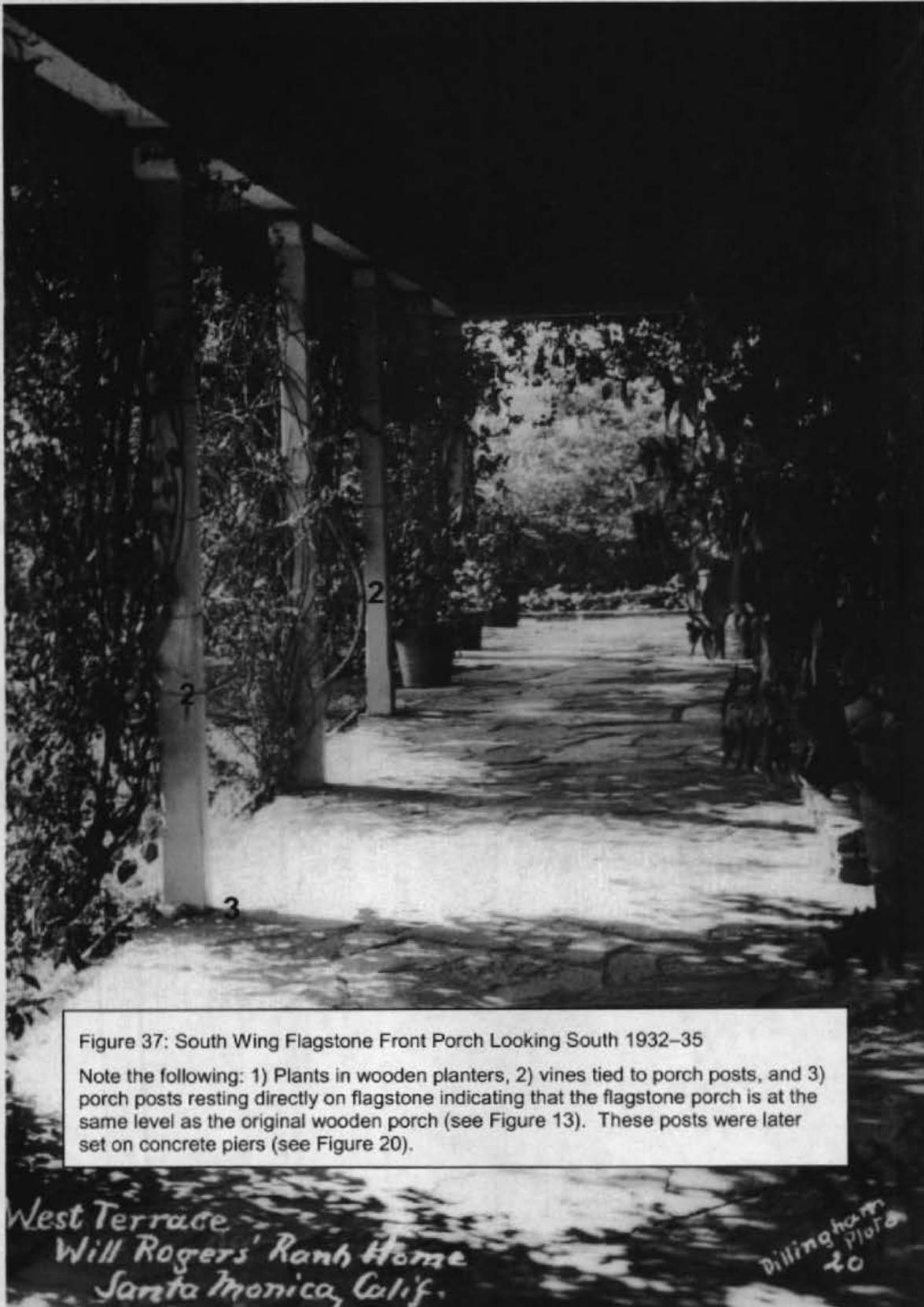


Figure 37: South Wing Flagstone Front Porch Looking South 1932-35

Note the following: 1) Plants in wooden planters, 2) vines tied to porch posts, and 3) porch posts resting directly on flagstone indicating that the flagstone porch is at the same level as the original wooden porch (see Figure 13). These posts were later set on concrete piers (see Figure 20).

West Terrace
Will Rogers' Ranch Home
Santa Monica, Calif.

Dillingham
Photo
20



Figure 38: Photograph of the South wing Front Porch and Lawn Dated Circa 1933

Note:

1. Vines in early stages of development without supports.
2. Eucalyptus trees in back of the house have grown to almost obscure cypress trees.
3. Swooping vine from the lawn (see Figure *) is well established.
4. Potted plants against house on porch.
5. Hanging potted plants.
6. Trees in front of patio.

The lawn runs to and is level with the front porch.



Figure 39: Lawn Furniture and Front Porch

This photograph dated by historian Randy Young as late 1933 to early 1934 provides a nice detail of some of the lawn furniture. Note that although the vines are not much larger than in Figure 18, lattice ladder rungs have been nailed to the posts. Also note the clay pot, golf clubs, and potted plant at the corner of the steps to the front door of the South Wing.



Figure 40: South Wing Porch in 1959, Looking North

Note the concrete piers under the wooden posts along the outside edge. Modern wooden tubs now hold potted plants (1). The clay pot (2) appears to be original and can be seen in Figure 19.



Figure 41: South wing Front Porch in 1970
Note the modern wooden planter boxes (1).



Figure 42: Another View of the Front Porch of The South Wing in 1970, Looking North From the Patio

Note the large modern wooden planter boxes in the foreground.

Patio - Court yard

The Courtyard separating the north and south portions of the house was formed when the North Wing was added in 1930 (Photo HLO 1). Between 1932 and 33 a stairway was added to the rear (west wall) of the Courtyard leading to a new bedroom built for Jim Rogers. The arbor was also added at this time (Young 1991, 1992, n.d.; Sandmeier 1991; Cruse 1991).

The Courtyard was heavily landscaped. Will liked the look of the vines hanging on the house and several were planted in this area (Young 1991, 1992, n.d.). An oak tree (*Q. agrifolia*) originally planted in a circular stone planter centered along the eastern edge of the Courtyard was in place by the summer of 1930, while the North Wing was still being completed (Photo PC 1). A photograph that appeared in *Pictorial California* in September 1930 shows landscaping on the patio just after completion of the North Wing (Young 1991, 1992, n.d.; *Pictorial California*, Sept. 1930) (Photos PC 2 & PC 3). In addition to the tree in the planter, an additional large live oak has been planted in a well in the flagstone at the patio's southeast corner (Photo PC 3). Along the north side of the patio a large tree fern is located on the east side of the fire place and geraniums are growing in a flowerbed east of the French doors. Small potted plants sit in a row on the fireplace mantel. Roses, ferns, and other flowering plants are in pots along the outer edge and the back of the Courtyard. Furniture included woven-back wood chairs, Mexican Telexipaci style leather chairs, and a picnic table with a white cloth (Figure 23) (Photo PC 2).

A series of photographs of the patio taken circa 1933 - 35 provides detailed information on plantings and landscaping in this area during the last years of Will Rogers' life (Photos PC 4 through PC 11). Others taken between 1944 and 47 indicate the landscaping in this area did not change much between the time of Will's death and the first few years of ownership by California State Parks (Photos PC 12 - PC 14). Around the base of the oak tree were fuchsias and ferns. Potted fuchsias and other plants were suspended from the arbor and the balcony in front of Jim's room (Figures 24 - 29) (Photos PC 11, PC 4, PC 6, PC 18, PC 12, PC 16) (Young 1991, 1992, n.d.; Cruse 1991; Sandmeier 1991). Beginning on the south wall of the courtyard and moving west, a buff beige tea rose grew at the southeast corner in a well that has since been paved over. There were many pots and moveable planters in this area with a variety of plants that included fuchsias and angel wing begonias. The latter were planted in large pots near the door. The steps in front of the French doors were kept clear (Young 1991, 1992, n.d.; Sandmeier 1991).

Moving northward along the west wall, a split leafed philodendron (*Monstera*) grew in a well, underneath the stairs to Jim's room, that has been paved over. As already mentioned, hanging potted plants were suspended from the balcony over the stairs. Along the north wall, trumpet vines grew in wells in the patio on either side of the fireplace. A vine with tasseled yellow flowers was situated on the west side and a red trumpet vine on the east. They were trained to intertwine on the way up the chimney (Sandmeier 1991). In the *Pictorial California* issue of September 30, 1930 a large tree fern is growing in the well on the east side of the fireplace, leading to the conclusion that the red trumpet vine was planted circa 1932-33. [Note: The red trumpet vine (*Phaedranthus buccinatorius* or *Bignoniacherere*) was cut down to a stump on May 3, 1991, due to the fact that it was disturbing the foundation and damaging the roof. The trunk has since resprouted.]. Potted plants decorated the fireplace mantel. One large and two smaller pocketed "strawberry" pots show up consistently in photographs taken from 1933 through 1944. A geranium was planted in a well at the northeast corner of the patio where a wisteria is presently located. Based on an interview with Emil Sandmeier, Randy Young felt that appropriate plantings for the Courtyard, in addition to those already mentioned, would be potted palm, hanging epiphyllum, bromeliad, and aralia (Young 1991, 1992, n.d; Sandmeier 1991).

One group of photographs shows the patio and adjacent porch and lawn areas in use during a get-together. The barbecue has been moved out onto the lawn and tables covered with red checkered tablecloths are set in the courtyard and on the lawn. It was these outdoor dining events, as well as family meals, for which the patio area was specifically remembered (Figures 30-32) (Photos PC 13, PC 8, PC 9).



Figure 43: Patio 1930

This photograph appeared in the September 1930 issue of Pictorial California, just after completion of the North Wing. In addition to the live oak in the central planter, note the large tree fern (1), geraniums (2), small potted plants on the fire place mantel (3), roses, ferns, and other flowering plants in pots along the outer edge and the back of the patio (4).



Figure 44: Patio Circa 1932

Note the strawberry pot on the fire place mantle (1), hanging potted plant (2), and heavy vegetation around and under stairs (3).



Figure 45: Patio Circa 1933

Note:

1. Trumpet vines on either side of the fire place.
2. Potted vine hanging from arbor.
3. Strawberry pots and other potted plants on fire place mantel (2 more strawberry pots have been added since the photograph in Figure 24 was taken).
4. The vegetation under and around the stairs is thinner than in Figure 24.
5. Trumpet vines hanging from balcony.



Figure 46: Northeast Corner of the Patio 1933

Note the potted plants on the mantel, vines on the balcony, balcony rails, and against the house, and the geranium at the northeast corner of the patio (1).



Figure 47: Northwest Corner of Patio 1944

Note:

1. Heavier plantings in the strawberry pots.
2. The mature trunk of the trumpet vine.
3. Potted sword fern on barbecue.

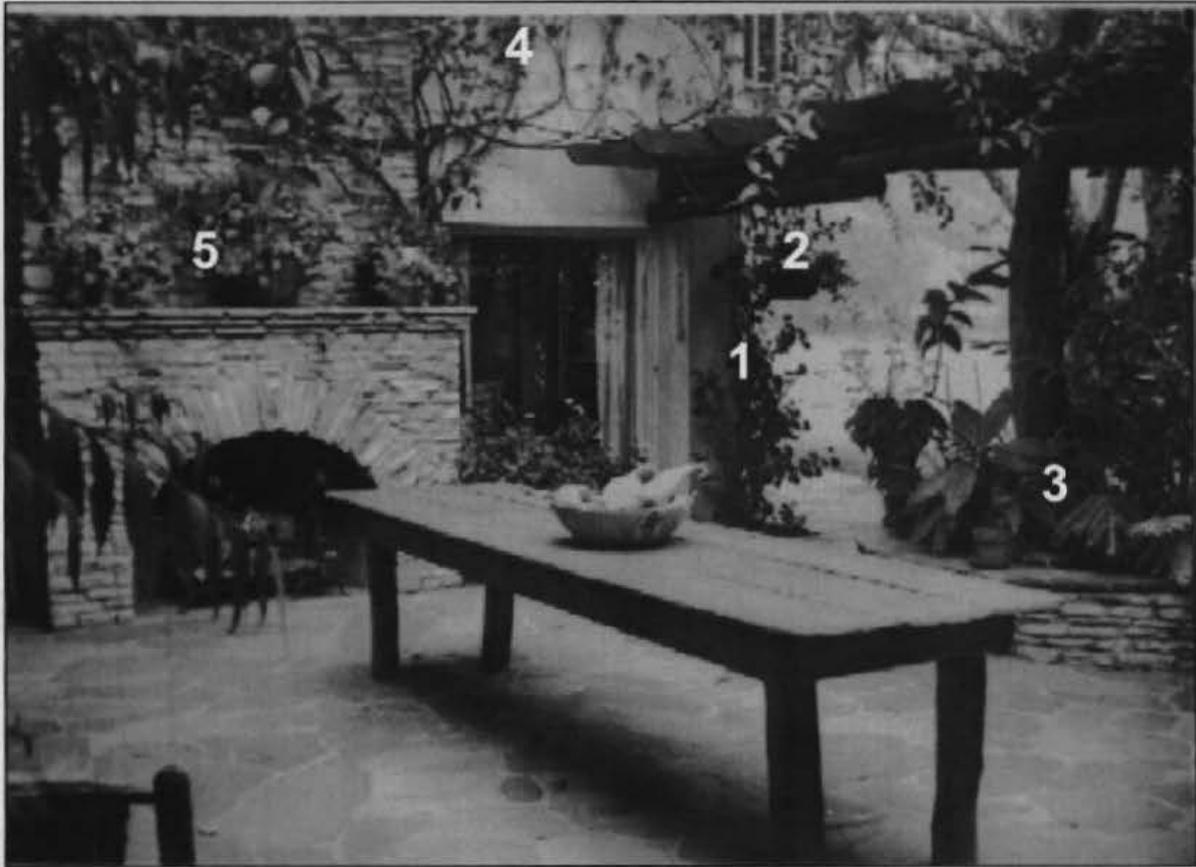


Figure 48: Northeast Corner of the Patio in 1944

Note:

1. Geraniums at the corner of the house.
2. Hanging fuchsia.
3. Ferns and other plants growing in well and in pots around the oak tree.
4. Vines against the house.
5. The strawberry pots are still on the mantel.

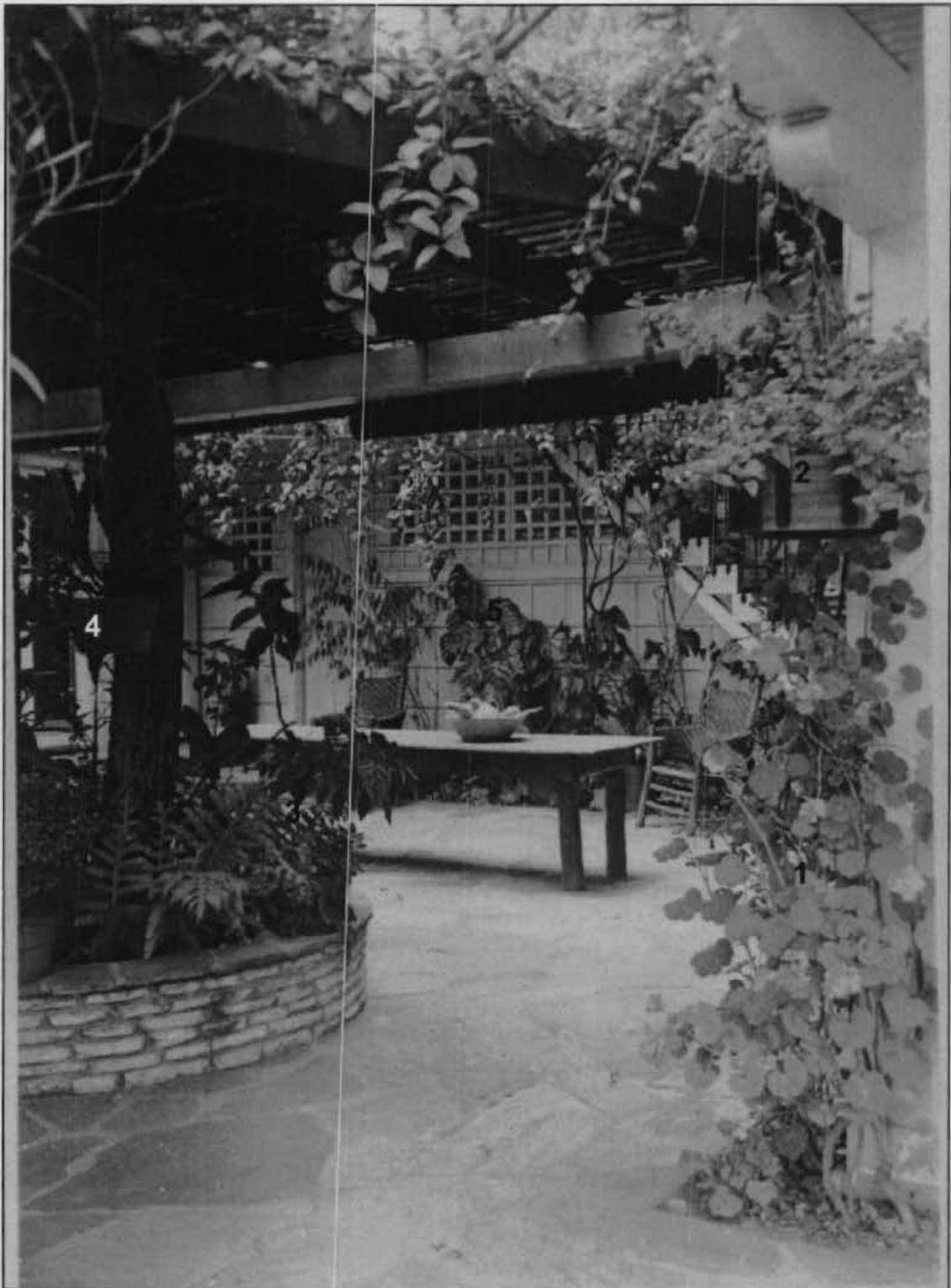


Figure 49: View from the north east corner of the patio 1944

Note: 1 - geranium, 2 - hanging fuchsias, 3 - ferns and other plants around oak, 4 - hanging potted cactus, and 5 - philodendron under the stairs.

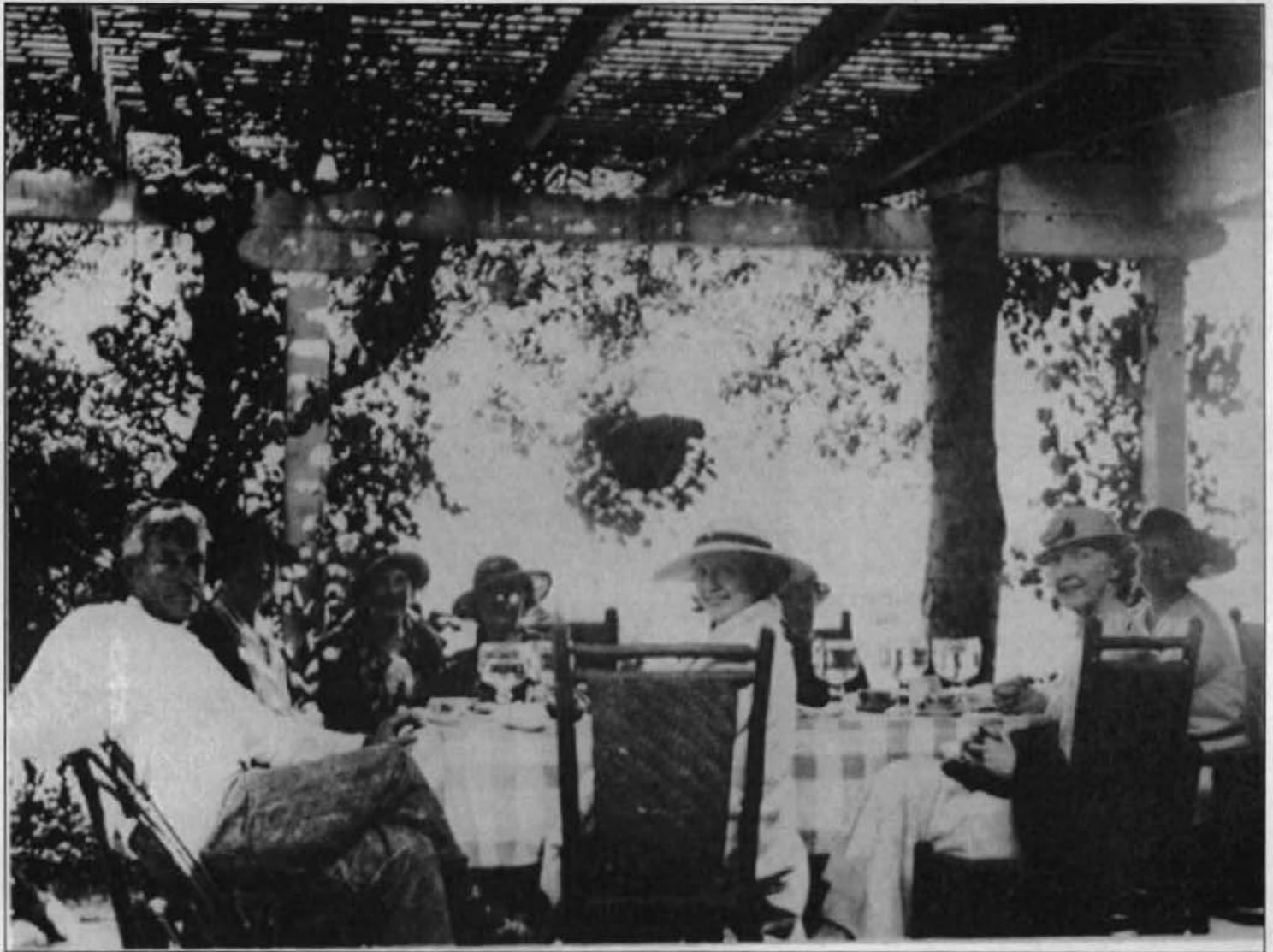


Figure 50: A Casual Meal On The Patio

Meals were casual at the Santa Monica Ranch and, weather permitting, always eaten outside on the patio. For larger get-togethers, chairs, tables, and the Bar-B-Q were moved out onto the front lawn as illustrated in the next two figures (31 & 32).



Figure 51: Bar-B-Q on the Lawn

The Bar-B-Q has been moved out onto the lawn, as have the chairs and tables for a larger get-together, perhaps after a Sunday polo game.

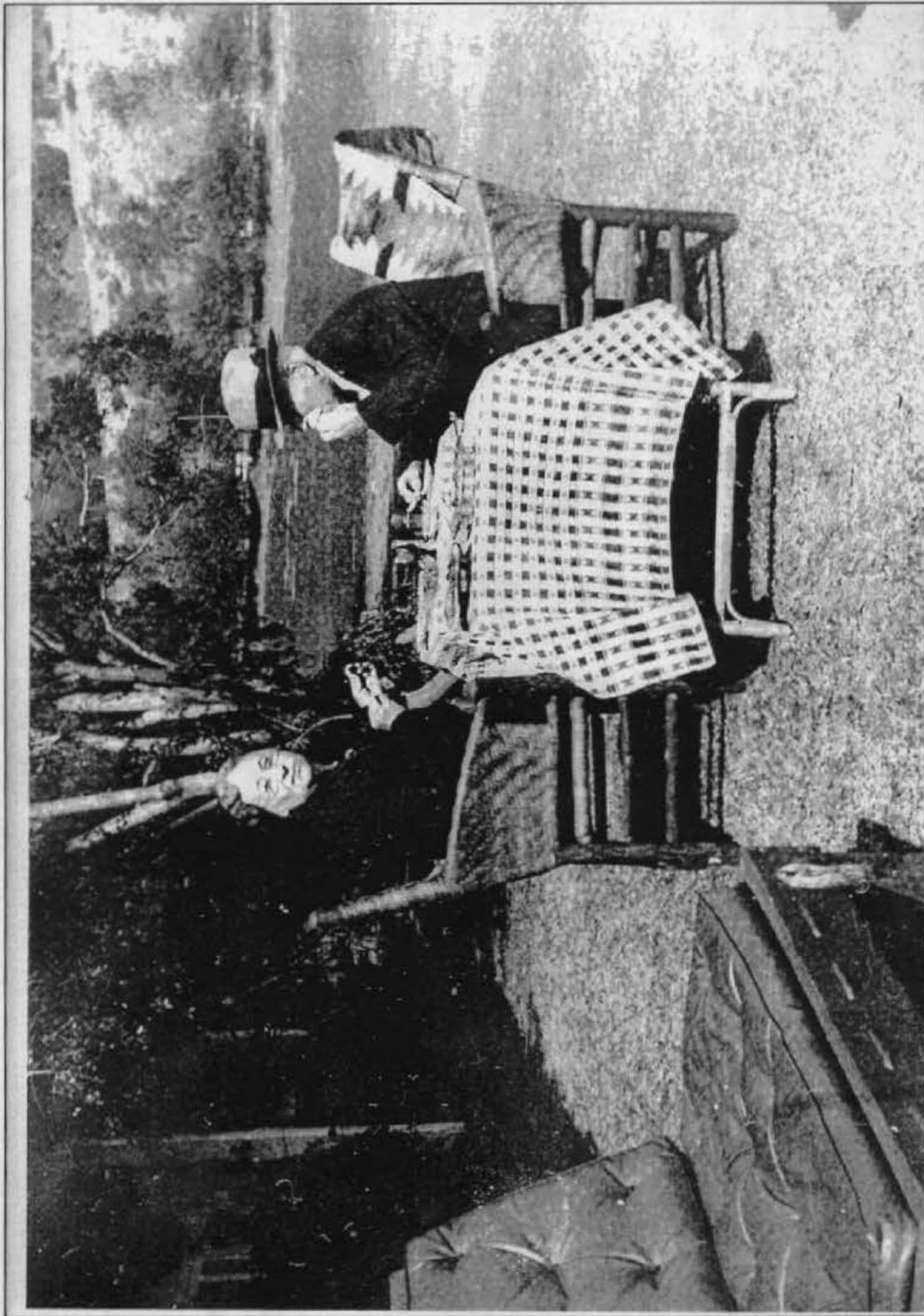


Figure 52: Guests Eating on the Lawn
Scenes like this occurred almost every Sunday during polo season.

Northern Porch

The north porch was not completely covered. Potted flowers lined the lawn side of the porch and several wells for climbing vines were situated next to the house. Basic landscape elements for this section of the porch and lawn included (Figures 33 – 37) (Photos NP 2, NP 3, NP 4, NP 1, NP 5):

1. A sweeping red trumpet vine planted in the lawn at the south end of the North Wing climbs the arbor over the patio. This specimen was brought in as a mature plant around 1932 (Young 1991, 1992, n.d.). In 1933 this vine had flowers (probably chrysanthemums) planted around its base. By around 1935 these had been replaced with ivy.
2. Vines including wisteria and bougainvillea were planted in wells against the building and trained to climb on the upper balcony.
3. Potted plants, including rose standards, in wooden tubs along the outside edge of the porch.
4. Geraniums planted at the base of the multi-trunk oak and against the building on both sides of the center doorway.
5. Ivy growing on the trunks of the multi-trunk oak.
6. Potted plants in window boxes.
7. A walkway of unmortared flagstone stepping-stones led from the end of the porch around the north side of the building. A hitching post was located just to the north of this walk.
8. The northern porch was more sparsely furnished than the southern porch or patio. Photographs show rustic willow chairs and redwood lawn furniture on the lawn in front of this porch.



Figure 53: Actress Paula Love And a German Shepherd on The Lawn at the South End of the North Wing Circa 1933

Note 1) sweeping trumpet vine in lawn extending to arbor, 2) flowers in lawn around vine, 3), tree trunk, 4) potted plants on porch and 5) vine climbing up to the upper balcony.

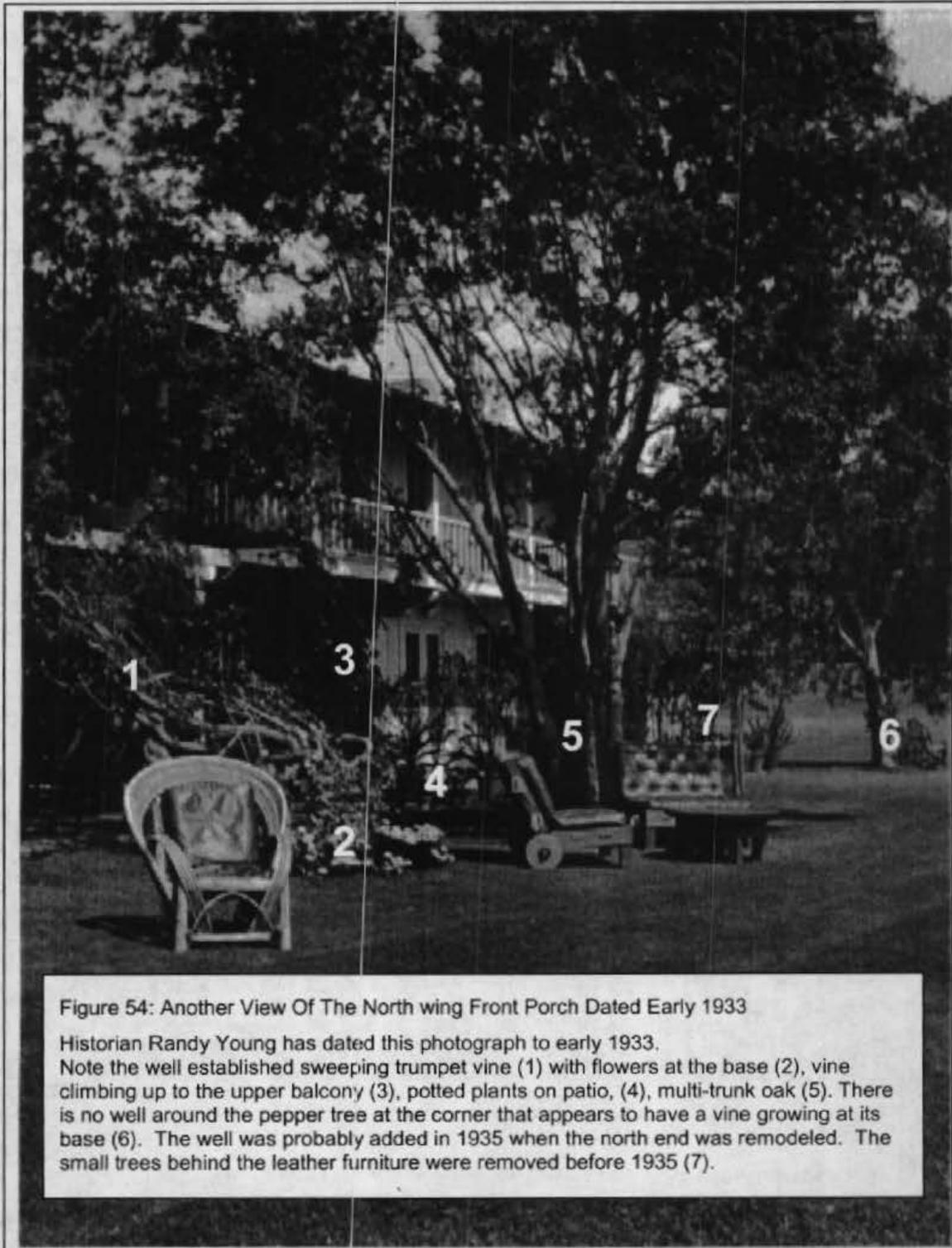


Figure 54: Another View Of The North wing Front Porch Dated Early 1933

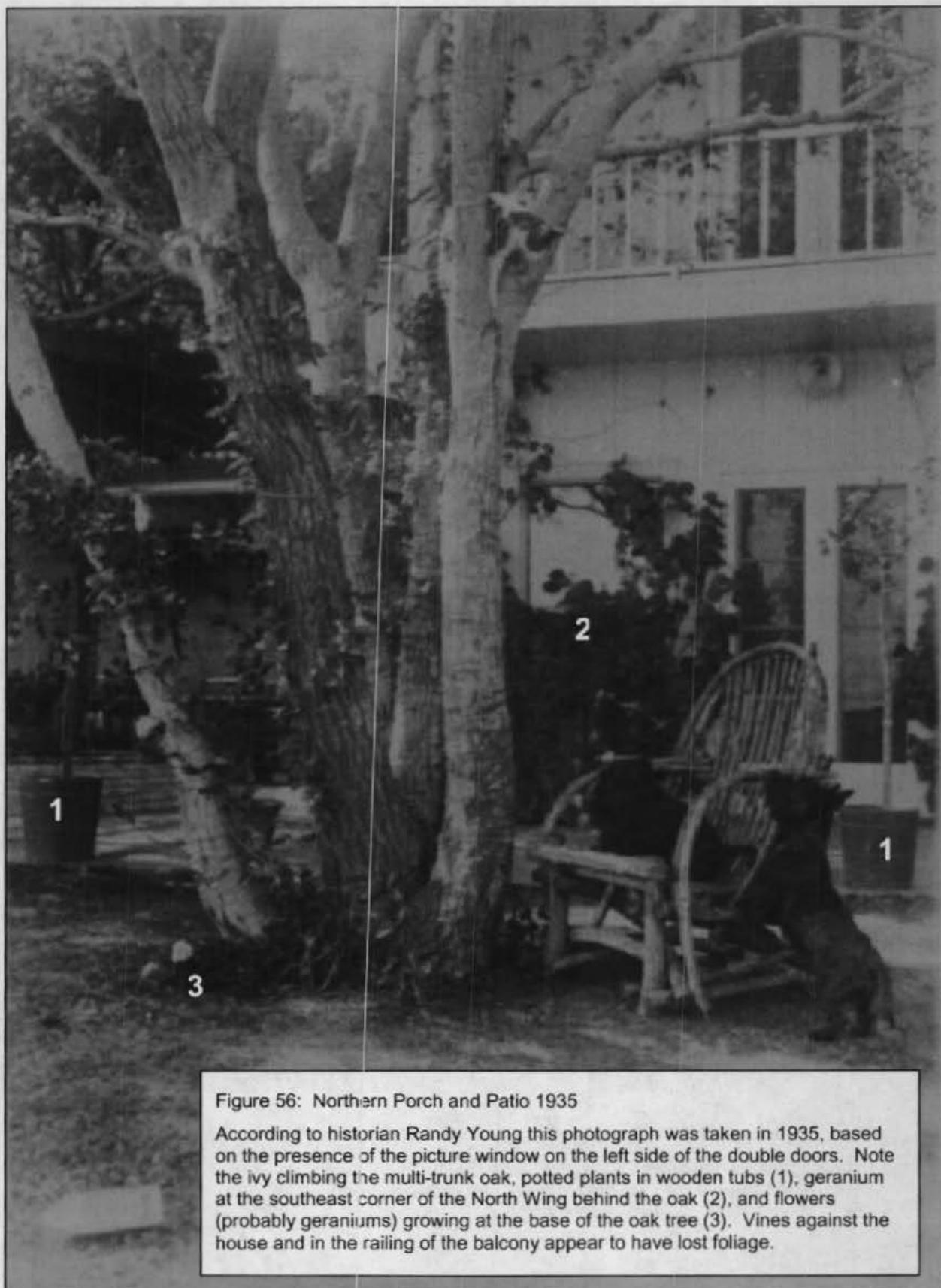
Historian Randy Young has dated this photograph to early 1933.

Note the well established sweeping trumpet vine (1) with flowers at the base (2), vine climbing up to the upper balcony (3), potted plants on patio, (4), multi-trunk oak (5). There is no well around the pepper tree at the corner that appears to have a vine growing at its base (6). The well was probably added in 1935 when the north end was remodeled. The small trees behind the leather furniture were removed before 1935 (7).



Figure 55: North End of the Front Porch Taken Circa 1933-35

In this photograph the foliage is heavier than in Figures 33 and 34. Ivy (1) has replaced the flowers at the base of the sweeping trumpet vine shown in Figure 34. Potted plants (2) in wooden tubs (1 square and 1 round) sit on the porch.



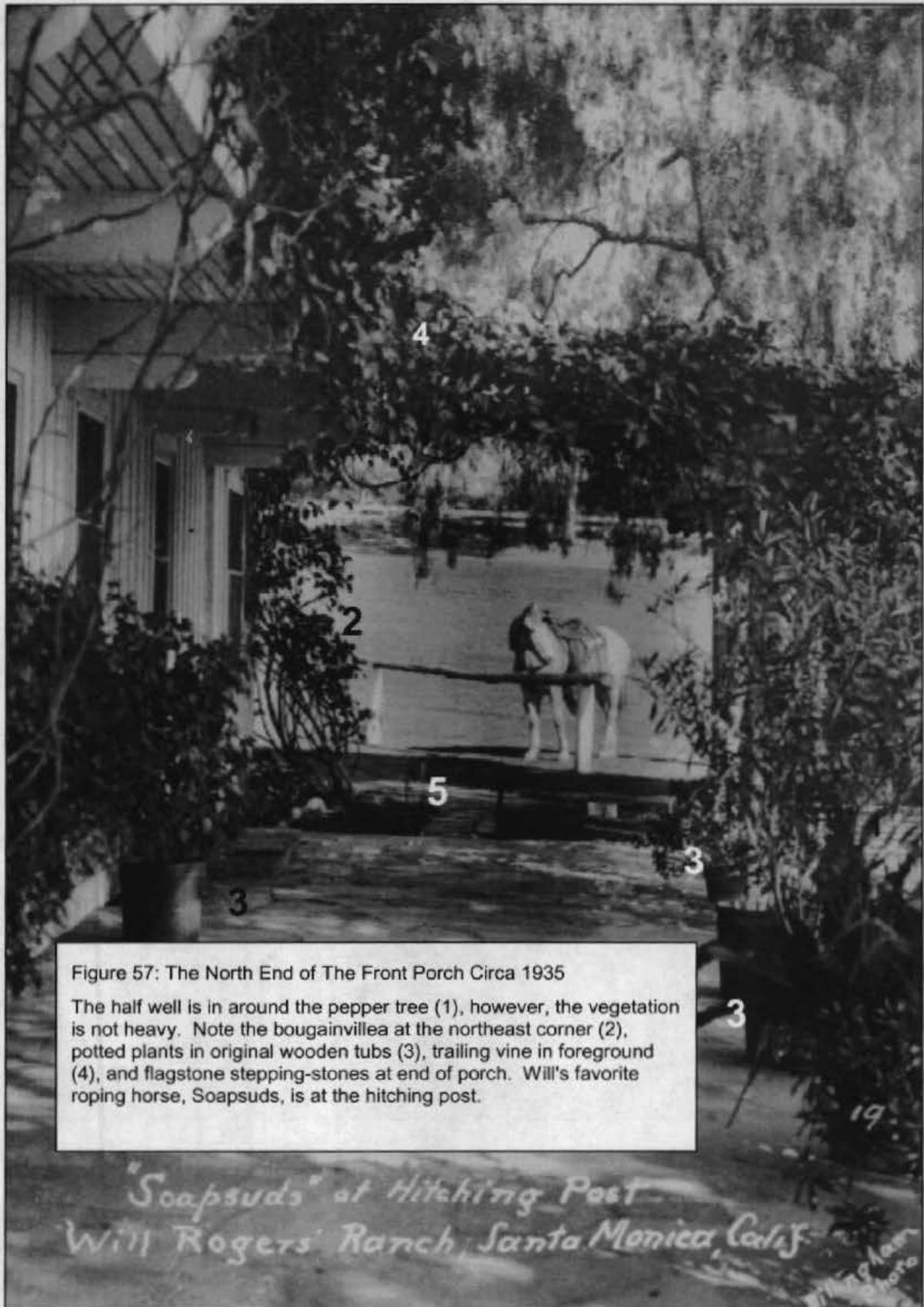


Figure 57: The North End of The Front Porch Circa 1935

The half well is in around the pepper tree (1), however, the vegetation is not heavy. Note the bougainvillea at the northeast corner (2), potted plants in original wooden tubs (3), trailing vine in foreground (4), and flagstone stepping-stones at end of porch. Will's favorite roping horse, Soapsuds, is at the hitching post.

*"Soapsuds" at Hitching Post -
Will Rogers Ranch, Santa Monica, Calif.
19'*



Figure 58: North End of The Front Porch in 1959

The flagstone stepping-stones have been replaced by circular stepping-stones. Potted plants on the porch are in larger modern planters.

North Side of House

The north side of the house was less heavily landscaped than the other three sides of the building (Photos N1 - N6). Three large bougainvillea, a giant Burmese honeysuckle (*Lonicera hildebrandiana*) on the northeast corner and the hitching post nearby are all probably original. The flagstone planter contained geraniums and potted plants. Another large bougainvillea at the northwest corner also appears to be original and was trained along the upper story roofline. A large pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) along the path near the lattice has been cut down and should be replaced. The aralia below the steps probably dates from Will's time (Young 1991, 1992, n.d.; based on Cruse 1991, Sandmeier March 1991).

Lath House

The pathway from the house to the Stable along the west side of the lawn ran beside the lath house. An informal flowerbed was cultivated along the base of the Lath House wall. This was originally bordered with boards. A 1950 photograph by Miles Allan shows an informal "hens teeth" style cobble alignment along this flowerbed and one at the north end of the Lath House at the base of the flagstone retaining wall along the western edge of the lawn. This may have been installed during Will's lifetime to replace the original wooden board border (Figures 39 & 40) (Photo N 3).

Back of House

On the bank behind the house a large grove of cypress was planted in rows on the hillside, and eucalyptus grew along the trails and culverts (Young 1991, 1992, n.d.; Jim Rogers 1976:27).

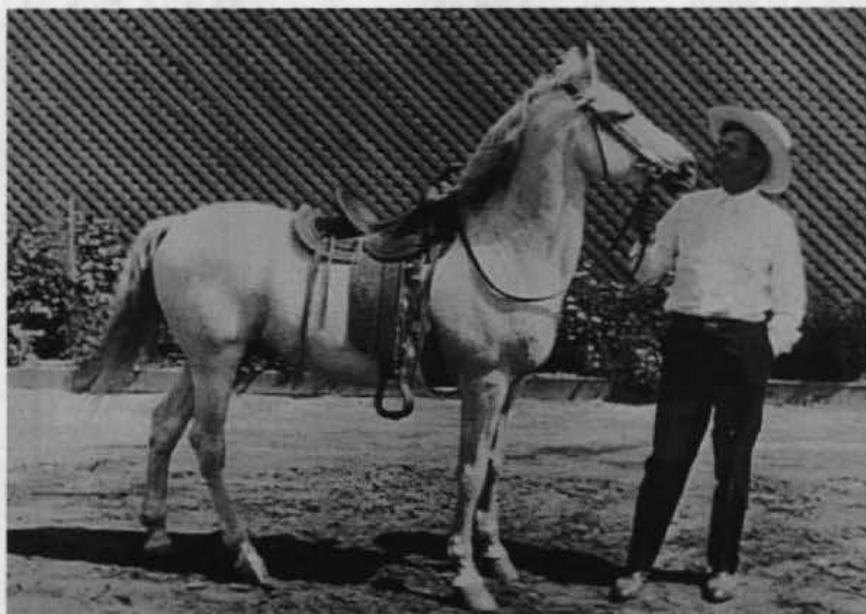


Figure 59: Will Poses With Soapsuds in Front of the Lath House

Note the informal flowerbed at the base of the Lath House.



Figure 60: Lath House 1950

Note the "hens teeth" cobble alignments boarding the flowerbeds (1), the trail from the house to the Stable (2), and the row of eucalyptus growing along the fence line behind the house.

LAWN – GOLF COURSE



"I'd play golf if a fellow could play on horseback."

"Golf is the only game in the world that takes longer to explain than play."

"Horses are too cheap for a man to spend half his life walking over the country looking for holes in the ground."

"Seeing a man walking around a golf course hitting a ball is like somebody handling a ukulele. You can't tell whether they are playing it or just monkeying around."

"The Income Tax has made more liars out of the American People than golf has".

"Corruption and golf is two things we might just as well make up our minds to take up, for they are both going to be with us".

Theme: Lawn – golf

Dad never played golf. I don't think he ever played a hole on it, although he used to drive golf balls off the front lawn ... he could drive a ball near 250 or 300 yards every time he hit it. He didn't always know where it was gonna go, but oh, he could just knock the cover off the Golf Ball. But then, also any polo player can do the same thing I guess, I used it more than anybody, and my aunt played on it a great deal (Jim Rogers 1976).

Will Rogers did not like golf. His attitude appears to have developed into a running gag with his audience based on the number of comments he made over the years on the premise that he had never seen a golf game just people "monkeying around" while they followed "a boy carrying a gunny sack full of bats." The golf course at the ranch was developed as an afterthought for the enjoyment of others, especially Fred Stone, who was an avid player. The lawn in front of the house and extending northward toward the Stables and Mule Barn had been the first pastured paddock on the ranch. The north half was laid out and partially fenced by 1926 (See Figure 6) (Photo E1). By 1928 its southern end had been extended to the driveway of the house and the entire pasture was fenced (See Figures 49 & 50) (Photos P 3, CA 1). When the North Wing was built in 1930 the area in front of the house was extensively regraded and a large amount of fill was brought in to modify the slope in front of the South Wing (Photo HLO 1).

In 1929 Fred Stone was recuperating at the ranch after having been seriously injured in a plane crash. It was to provide him with a means of recreation and exercise that Will had two golf greens put in on the lawn in front of the house. Eventually two additional greens were established: one on Sarah's Point, and the other in the mouth of a shallow canyon northeast of the Polo Field where a picnic area is now located (See Figure 3) (Photo A 6). By following a crisscross pattern, nine holes could be played on the four greens. The course was laid out by a

man named Mack who had put in a course for Harold Lloyd (Jim Rogers n.d.; Woodward et al. 1992; Young 1991, 1992, n.d; Yagoda 1993:268).

The course was used in a casual manner by friends and family. Emil Sandmeier recalled that Fred Stone "... got a deal of benefit out of it. While he was recovering, he would freely use the golf balls and try to hobble out to the first green from the house here to pick them up and he always maintained that was the only reason he regained the use of his legs and his back, was the constant exercise here" (Sandmeier quoted in Woodward et al. 1992).

Fred Stone's son-in-law, Charles Collins, recalled that one day:

Fred Stone was walking and Will was caddying for him, riding one of the polo horses, carrying the clubs. Will was kidding Fred, saying something like, "This is a silly game, anybody can hit a little ball like that!" So Fred Stone challenged him, "Let's see you hit one. Get down off that horse and let's see whether you can hit one straight down the fairway." So Will said, "Give me a club." Fred handed him a five iron. Will, without getting off the horse, took a polo swipe at the ball. Wham, and it went straight down the fairway, right up to the green. Mr. Stone said, "That was a lucky shot; come on and do one more!" But Will wouldn't shoot another one. He had shot one and that was it (Collins 1976).

The rest of the family, especially Betty, her sister "Aunt Dudu," and Jim used the course. Betty would take a "... club, one golf ball and a sweater with a pocket and she would tee off in front of the house, hit the ball, walk over, pick up the ball, put it up, get it out, pick it up, and walk and that was her excuse to walk and the golf club was a walking stick" (Jim Rogers 1976). Another regular player was family friend Oscar Lawler, who knocked a ball around the course on Sunday mornings while visiting with Will (Betty Rogers 1941). The famous golfer Bobby Jones played the course while visiting the ranch in the late 1920s (Jim Rogers 1976; Young 1991, 1992; n.d.).

The two original holes on the lawn in front of the house are all that remains of this casual four hole course. Today, the remaining golf green forms the center of the historic zone. The lawn in front of the ranch house has proven the most desirable spot for visitors to picnic and play games, since it has the best view of the house, the Polo Field, and Santa Monica Bay (Woodward et al. 1992).

A trail ran from the north end of the house against the bank along the western edge of the lawn to the Stable area. This route was used by Will, who could access it by a stairway from his study on the north side of the house. By the early 1930s a row of trees had been planted along this trail. By the mid '30s this bank had been finished with a flagstone retaining wall. Also during the early '30s a row of shrubs was planted along the northern edge of the lawn. These have since been allowed to grow into tall trees that block the original view from the house to the Stable.



Figure 61: Jim Rogers on the Lawn Behind the North Wing, Circa 1930-33

This photograph shows the west side of the lawn behind the North wing looking toward the Stable area. The path against the bank was used to walk from the house to the stables. A row of small pepper trees has been planted along the eastside of the path.

GUEST HOUSE AND GARAGE (DPR FACILITY # 559-A-1-10-0-001)



The two story Guest House and Garage measures 44 by 27 feet. It was designed by Architect E. Sprout and built in 1928 by the contracting firm of Shoals, Oicketing and Evans. The ground level Garage and quarters were constructed for Mrs. Rogers' driver, John Macron. Both of the Rogers and their children had cars, all parked in and just outside the double-door Garage. The upstairs Guest House was built for Will's friend, actor Fred Stone and his family while he recuperated from an aviation accident. Later other guests were accommodated there and finally the family used the upstairs as storage (Woodward et al. 1992).

Alterations: Electrical wiring redone and fire sprinkler system added in 1968. State Parks enclosed the upstairs porch on the south side. Garage doors altered downstairs. Walls of gift store and little theater put in by Parks.

Tennis Court (DPR Facility #: 559-D-3-03-001)



The tennis court is located behind and west of the Guest House and Garage. Built in 1928, its construction was typical of many features on the ranch. According to Will Rogers Jr. his father "decided one day to have one and told some of the workmen, 'Put it there'. The trouble was there wasn't enough room for a standard size court so you really couldn't play tennis. We used it for basketball." The blacktop court measures 100 feet east-west by 50 feet north-south. It is enclosed by a 15-foot high chain link fence attached to 3-inch diameter galvanized posts set 10 feet apart in concrete. Two gates of the same fencing materials are located at the east and west ends. The court contains a standard tennis net, two plywood basketball backboards, a plywood

handball backboard and a drinking fountain. Rows of eucalyptus trees are located on the north and south sides of the court. In 1950 the pavement was cracked and needed resurfacing and the plywood backstops were painted green (Woodward et al. 1992).

Restrooms and Parking Entrance

The current (2001) paved parking lot and bathroom at the foot of the slope below the Garage are not historic. Originally a narrow set of stairs ran down the slope to the south of the Garage to the Polo Field. It was centered between the two presently existing wooden staircases that lead to the bathroom. The flagstone walk that leads along the south side of the Garage to the tennis court is historic. It widens at the point where it intersected the original stairway, which has been removed. Many of the eucalyptus growing on this bank were planted in Will Rogers' lifetime.

The small circular court in front of the Garage is the historic parking area. Both this parking area and the drive were unpaved during Will's lifetime. A historic field and cobblestone wall runs from the southeast corner of the Garage along the south edge of the historic parking area. During the 1950s, after the present parking lot was completed, this wall was continued to the east and south to form the circular cobblestone planter surrounding the flowerbed east of the restroom. Although a flowerbed was located here in the 1930s the extension of the wall was inappropriate and the stone masonry inferior to the original portion. According to historian Randy Young the area was covered in lantana. A row of Matilija poppies (*Romneya coulteri*) stood at the bottom of the slope, as well as a border of irises (Sandmeier 1991). Five *Acacia baileyana* were also planted in this area. The Catalina cherry and catonaster are proper but not historic (Cruse 1991). Young feels that historically appropriate plantings for this flowerbed would be: lavender lantana (*Lantana montevidensis*), Matilija poppies (*Romneya coulteri*), rockrose, cistus, nasturtiums (*Tropaeolum majus*), Plumbago, Irises, California elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), and fuchsia. Current plants in this flowerbed that are historically inappropriate consists of Ginger, Bird of Paradise (*Poinciana gilliesii*), Lilies, and Loquat (*Eriobotrya japonica*).

The present paved parking lot covers the historic driveway and the slope to the south, which was covered in grass. The grade of the original drive can still be seen at the top (north side) of the parking lot, however, it is much narrower than it originally was. This was the result of grading and flattening the slope to the south to form the current parking lot around 1950. The original grade can still be seen south of the Garage and behind the current restroom.

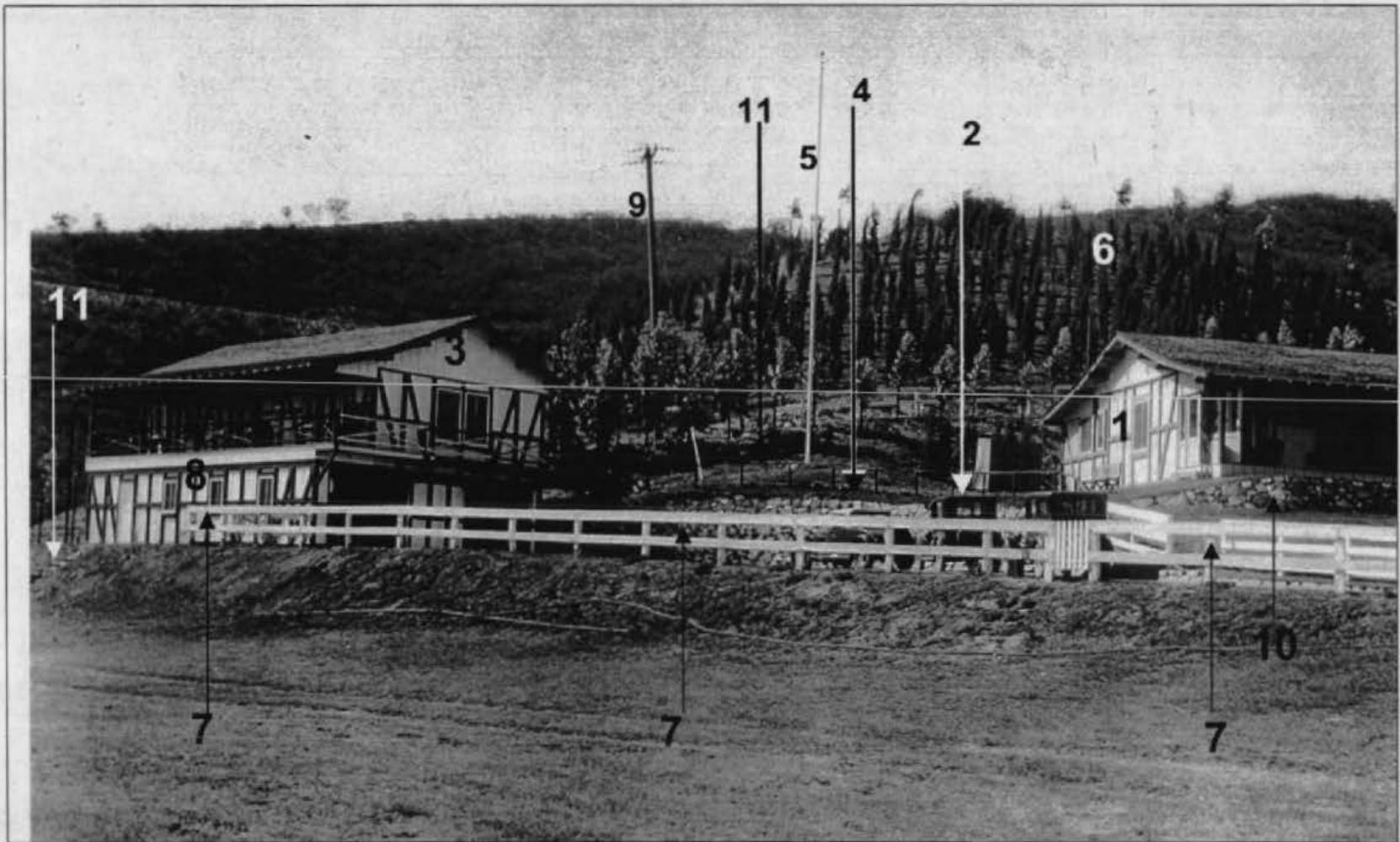


Figure 62: Guest House Early 1929

Looking northwest from the edge of the Polo Field at the Guest House and original cabin (South Wing). Note the following: 1. Original House 2. Cars in parking area, 3. Guest House, 4. Retaining wall north side of parking area, 5. Flag Pole, 6. Cypress trees behind house, 7. Original fence line around Garage, 8. Garage, 9. Power pole, 10. Retaining wall of house pad terrace where area was filled in to be level with the top of the porch when the North Wing was built in 1930, 11. Rustic wooden rail along walk between the Guest House and cabin, and 12. Steps leading from dressing rooms in the Garage to the Polo Field. The porch area above the Garage on the south side of the Guest House has not yet been enclosed.



Figure 63: Guest House and Tennis Court 1928-1930

This photograph taken from the Polo Field shows the south side of the Guest House and Tennis Court. Note the high chain link fence around the court (1), the score board (2) and benches (3).



Figure 64: Historic Parking Area Flowerbed Circa 1944-1946

The southern and eastern edge of the flowerbed is defined by an informal "hens teeth" style cobble alignment rather than the later masonry wall.

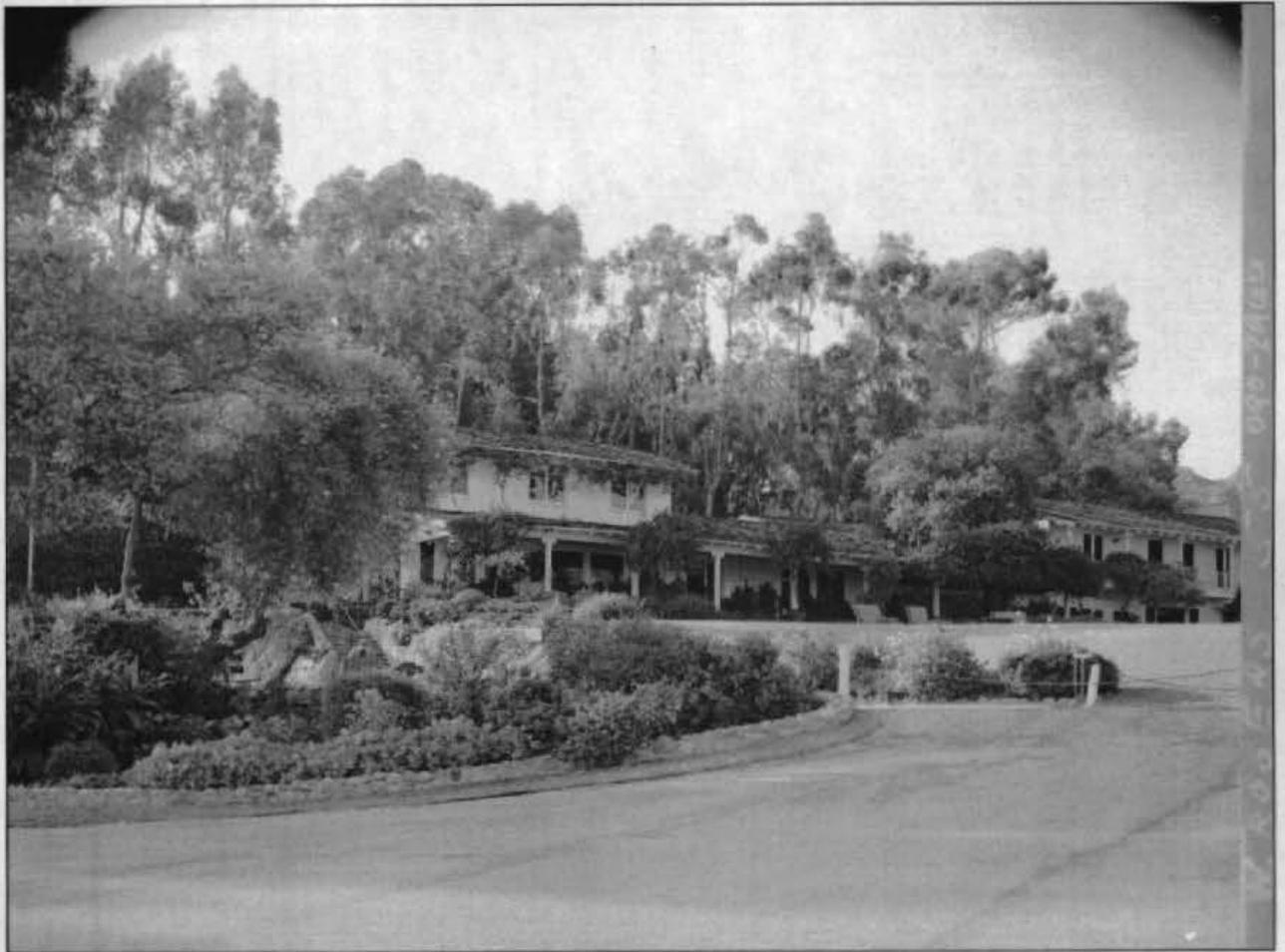


Figure 65: Flowerbed South of Historic Parking Area Circa 1955

The modern parking lot has been graded and paved and a masonry cobbles wall defines the east and south edges of the flowerbed.

POLO FIELDS



Theme: Polo

Everybody came and just played and played and played – sometimes we ran out of horses (Jim Rogers 1976).

He was very proud of his polo game and of his own polo team, because he had his whole family on the polo team. At one time he mentioned that he had his own team until Mary turned social on them (Sandmeier n.d.).

Polo competed with roping as Will Rogers' favorite pastime. Jim Rogers recalled: "He was a real polo enthusiast and he played all the time up until the last couple of years And then he kind of backed off and he spent more time roping. I don't know which he liked better. . . . it just sort of depended on how the mood hit. He kind of blew hot and cold from one to the other. He liked to rope better than he wanted to play and then he liked to play better than he wanted to rope and then he didn't know and he'd go back and forth" (Jim Rogers 1976). Will began playing polo in Amityville in the summer of 1915 when Jim Middick, an old friend from his days in the Wild West shows, introduced him and Fred Stone to the game (Jim Rogers n.d.; 1976).

Work began on the Polo Field in 1926 and continued for about two years. The field was laid out on the mesa previously cultivated by the Japanese truck farmers. A work camp was established and crews cleared away and burned brush. Mule drawn fresnos and wagons graded the ground (Betty Rogers 1941; Jim Rogers 1976; Yagoda 1993).

The Polo Field at the Santa Monica Ranch was used for family recreation and informal "sport" matches rather than regulation games. The field was the first in the Rustic Canyon area and was swiftly followed by layouts at the Uplifters Club and the Riviera Country Club. There would be a game every Sunday when Will was in town, followed by a buffet brunch. Many polo enthusiasts lived in the Santa Monica and Pacific Palisades area, and those not scheduled in the matches at the Uplifters or Riviera would play at the ranch. As many as 20 to 50 people showed up regularly including Hollywood executives such as Hal Roach, Darryl Zanuck, and Walt Disney, and stars such as Spencer Tracy, Leslie Howard, James Gleason, and Big Boy Williams (Woodward et al. 1992; B. Betty Rogers 1941; Jim Rogers n.d., 1976; Yagoda 1993).

The games were often rough. Once during a Sunday game at the Riviera Polo Club, Will reached out and "bulldogged" Big Boy Williams off his horse and the two fell rolling on the grass in front of the grandstand. Another time Jim Rogers bumped his father so hard "it knocked his horse down

and he landed on the sideboards. He lay there motionless and as I jumped from my horse and ran to him, all I could think of was that I killed him. As I got to his side, he moved and tried to sit up. Still stunned and groggy, the first words he said were 'Is Rody all right?' (Jim Rogers n.d.). One day Walt Disney was involved in an accident where another player lost his life. He never played again (Woodward et al. 1992; Yagoda 1993).

Will often helped out-of-state teams come to the Los Angeles area to play, including groups from Roswell, New Mexico, Arizona University, Claremore Military Academy, and Texas. He arranged for transportation, provided financial help, and put the players up at the ranch (Jim Rogers n.d.; Sondmeier n.d.). Jim Rogers recalled that during the 1932 Olympics several foreign teams boarded at the ranch:

The American team stayed here, the American Equestrian team. He stabled the American team and the Dutch team, from Holland, and the Japanese aggregation, they used to come up here a great deal and the Mexican boys used to come up a lot and there was a bunch from Sweden used to bring their jumping horses up here and give them a work out in front of the stables and there were, I guess it was Belgium that used to come out a good deal. The Hollanders were here all the time (Jim Rogers n.d.).

The Polo Field at Will Rogers' Santa Monica Ranch is not regulation size, measuring 340 by 800 feet as opposed to the official requirements of 450 by 900 feet for championship fields (Young 1992). It was graded high in the center for an irrigation plan that didn't work (Jim Rogers 1976). Historic photographs show that the field was surrounded by a white painted rail fence on the east, south, and west sides. On the north side the fence extended beyond the field and then turned and ran along the south side of the driveway leading to the house. A wide elevated berm separated the driveway from the field within the fenced area. The entire area surrounded by the fence was planted with a hybrid Bermuda grass watered with rainbird sprinklers (Young 1992). The playing area was defined by white painted perimeter "boards" approximately 15 inches high that ran along the north and south sides of the field curving inward at each corner toward the goal posts. The goals consisted of a pair of posts at each end of the field that were painted white at the top. Indicative of Will's enthusiasm for both polo and roping, calves were often taken on to the field. Two roping chutes and several picket lines were located outside the southern edge of the field (Jim Rogers n.d.) (Figures 46 – 52. See also Figures 1 & 3) (Photos A7, P1-P11). The field area is presently very close to its original configuration and still used to play polo. The greatest impact has been construction of a parking lot on the original elevated berm along the northern edge. A reviewing stand was built in 1970 at the middle of the field (Woodward et al. 1992).

Sarah's Point

The original Japanese truck farmer's house was located on Sarah's point. During the Rogers' family occupation a large grass covered mesa with a fence or paddock was located here (Figure 49) (Photo P 3). It derived its name from the pet Brahma bull, Sarah, who was kept here when she got older. After the state acquired the property a concessionaire was allowed to build a practice polo arena with tall fencing erected around it on the point (Woodward et al. 1992).

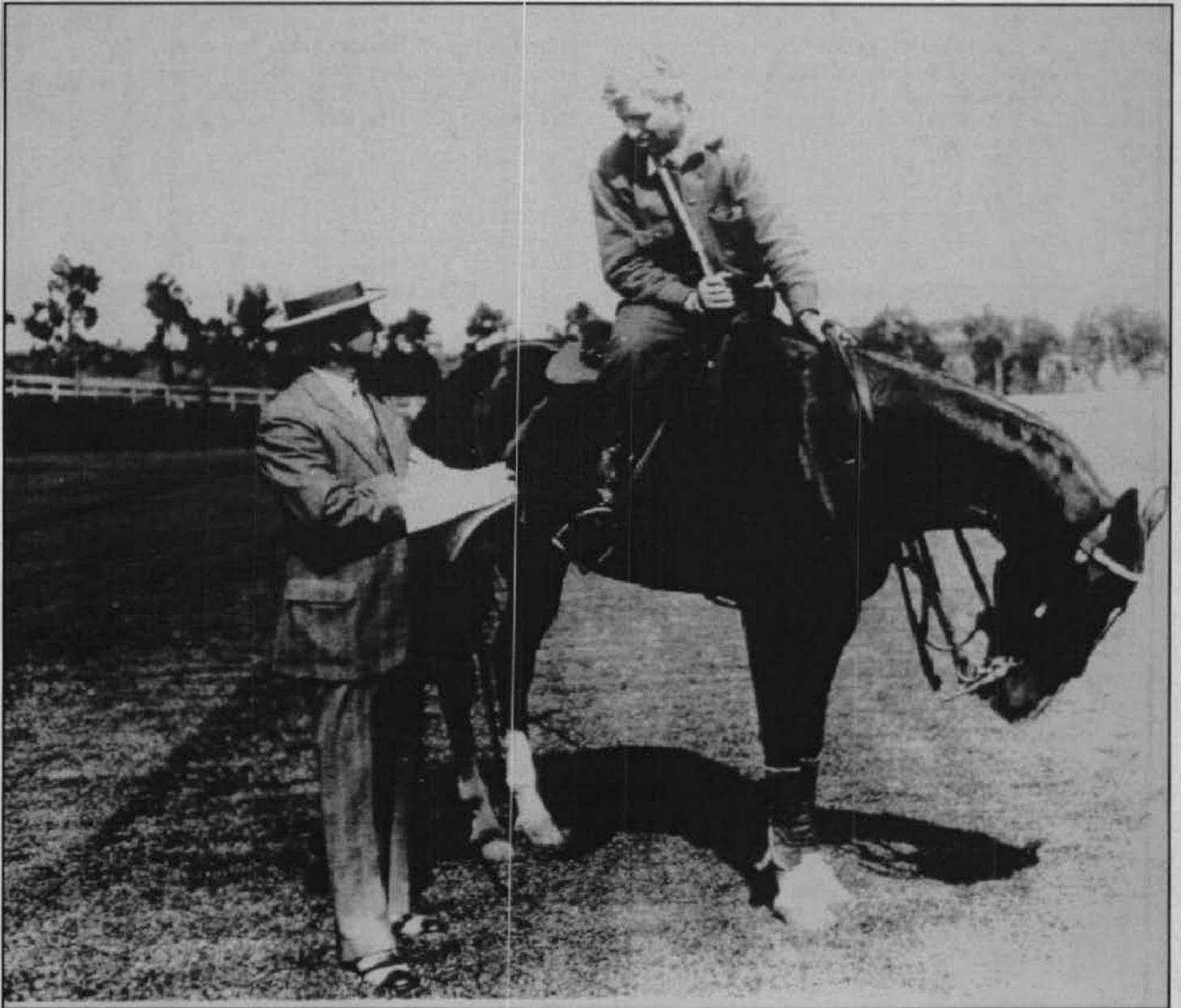


Figure 66: Will Rogers Pauses on the Polo Field to Talk to a Census Taker in 1930

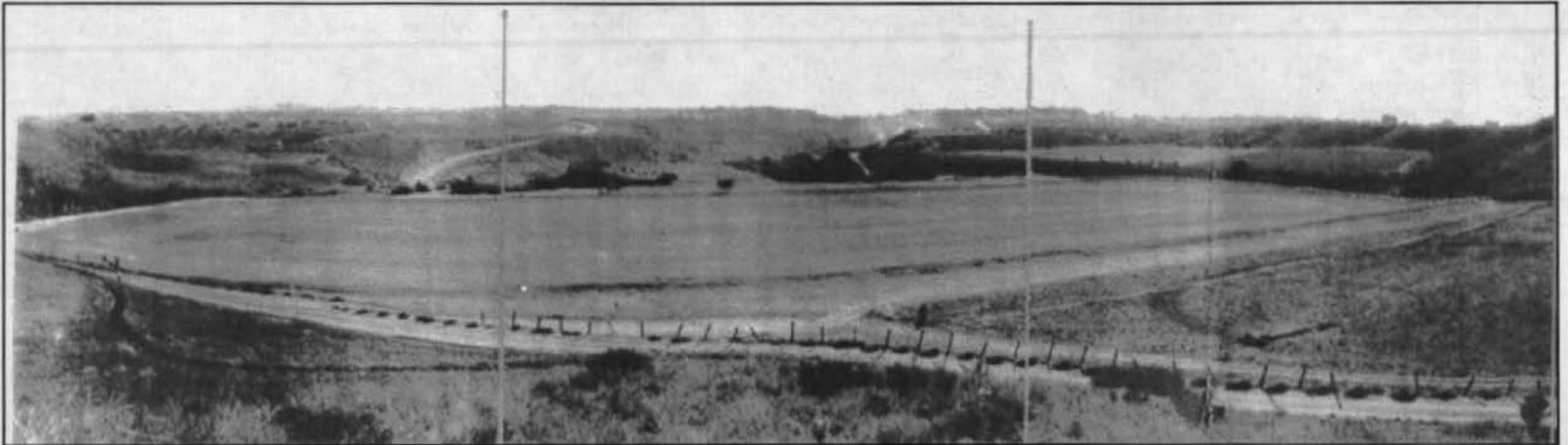


Figure 67: Panorama Looking Southwest Across the Polo Field Under Construction in 1926

The field is fenced along the east, south, and west sides. The fence along the north side is under construction. Goal posts have not yet been erected.

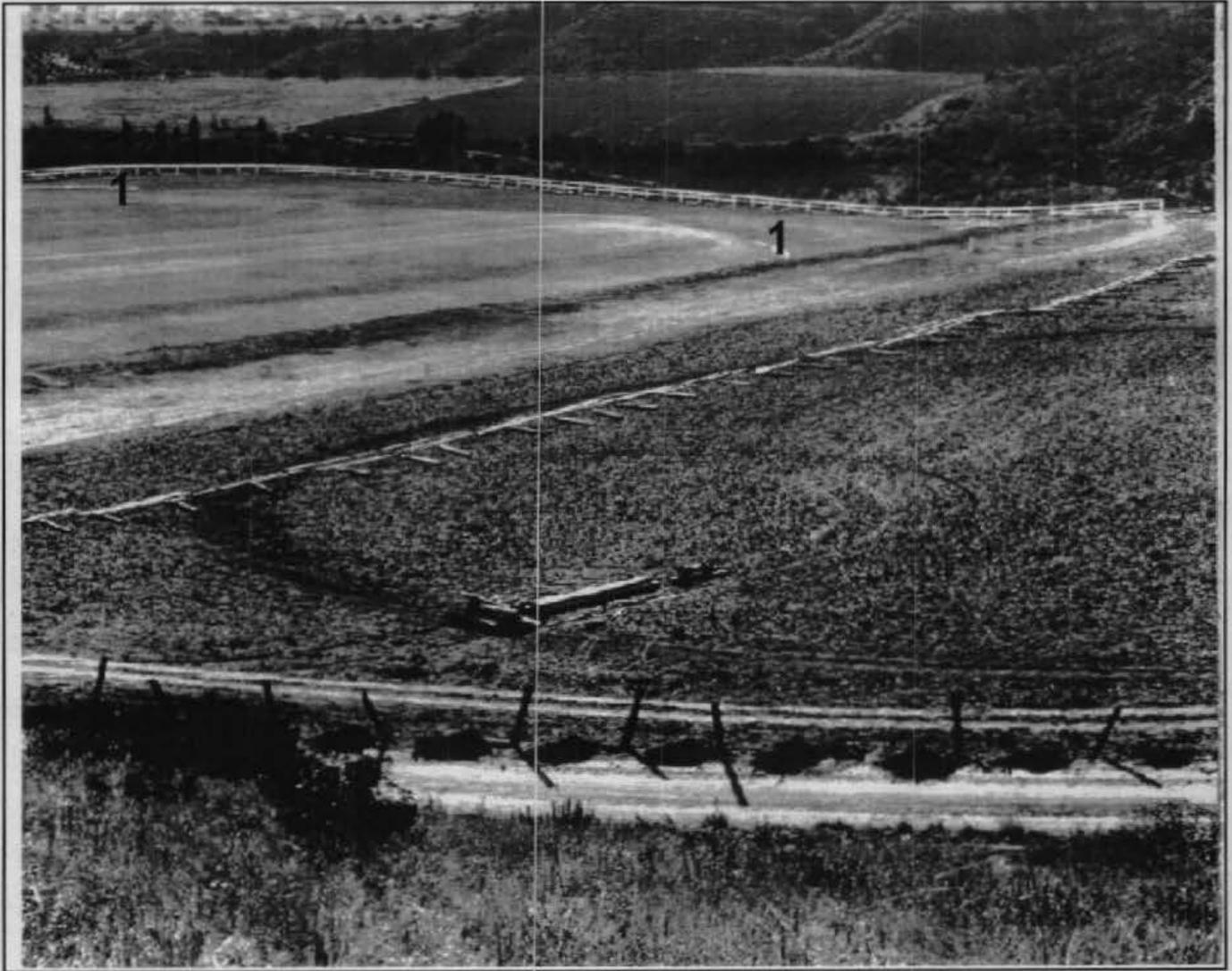


Figure 68: Detail of the North End of the Polo Field Under Construction 1926

Boards are laid out on the ground to construct the fence along the northern edge of the raised berm, and the goal posts are absent. The perimeter playing area boards (1) are in place



Figure 69: A Game on the Polo Field Sometime Between 1928 and 1930

The following features can be noted:

1. Elevated berm along the north edge of the fenced area.
2. Playing area perimeter boards.
3. Goal posts.
4. Line of trees along the east and west sides. There are no trees along the south side.
5. Horses along picket lines
6. Sarah's Point
7. Score Board.
8. The lawn in front of the house has been fenced to the driveway



Figure 70: Northwest End of the Polo Field 1928 – 1930

1. Elevated burn along northern edge.
2. Playing area perimeter boards.
3. Rainbird sprinkler
4. Goal posts.
5. Trees along west end of field.
6. The lawn in front of the house has been fenced to the driveway

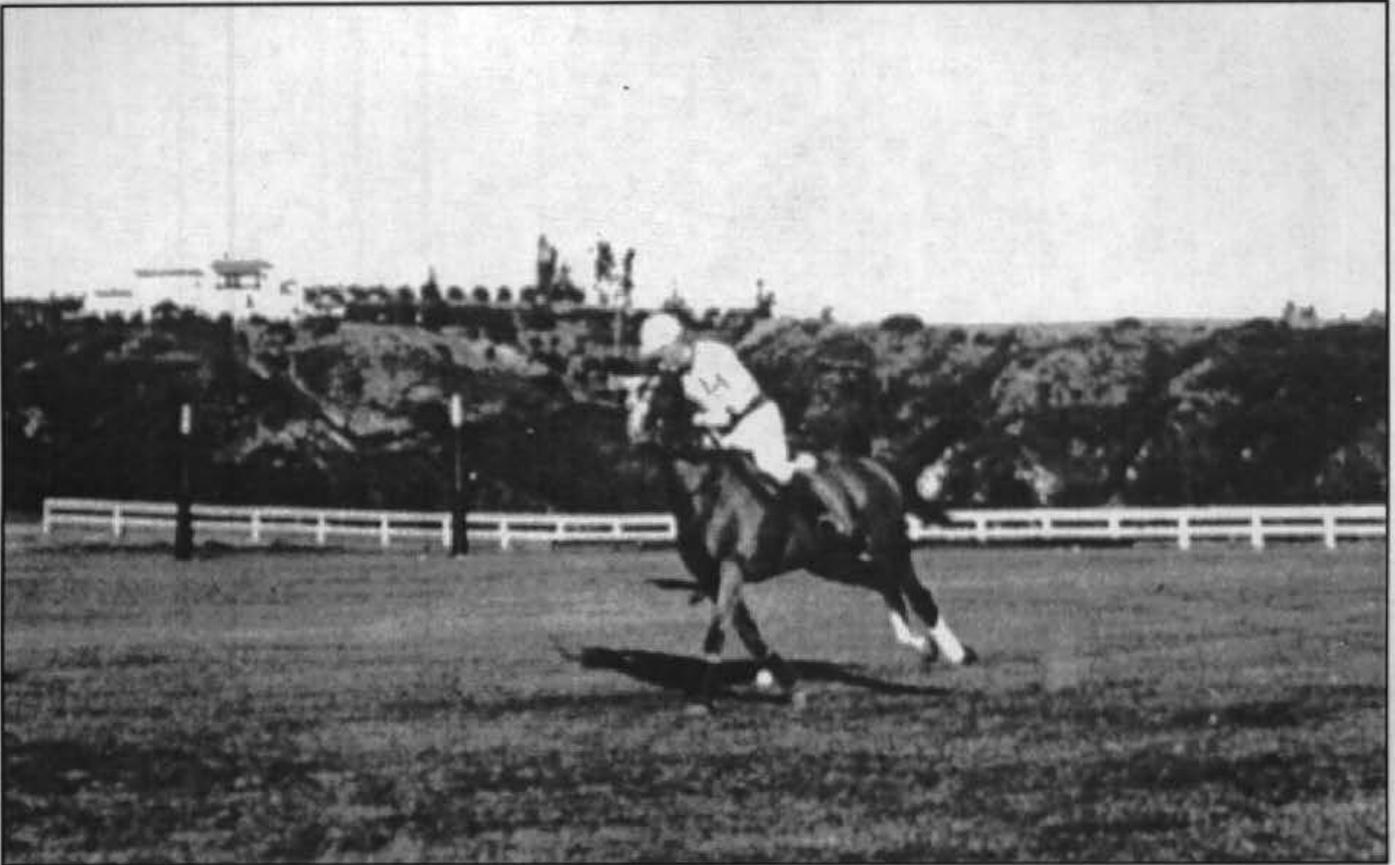


Figure 71: Goal Posts

This photograph provides a more detailed view of the goal posts and fence at the east end of the Polo Field.

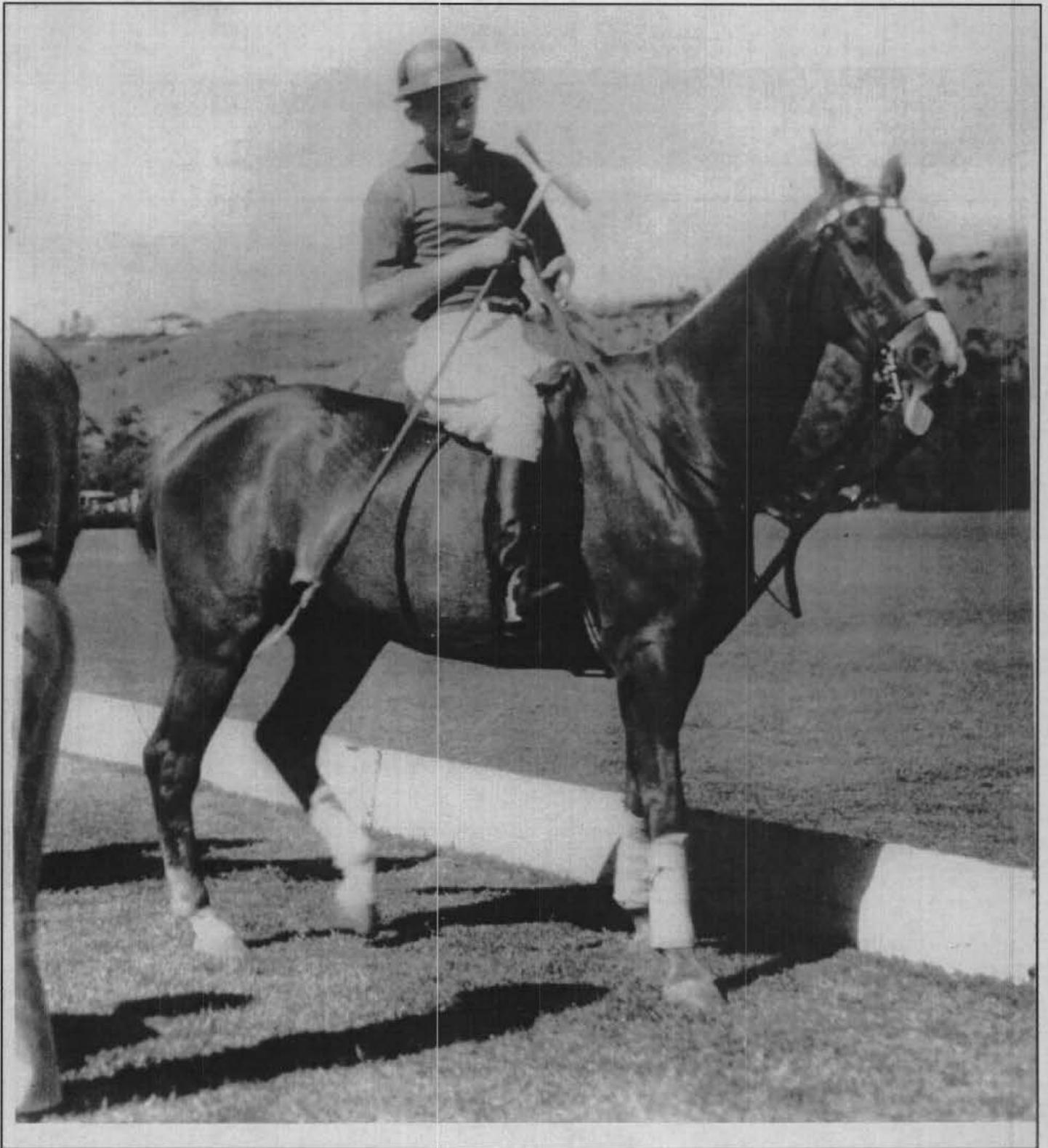


Figure 72: Jim Rogers on a Polo Pony in July 1932

This photo provides a detailed view of the playing area perimeter boards.

STABLES, RIDING RING & SHED BEHIND STABLES



This was the horse center of our ranch – this was the reason that Dad bought the ranch, and the large price so he could have horses, so he could have polo, so he could have his roping, so he could have his relaxation. And if you do not see the stables, you really have not seen one of the major purposes of my father's purchasing this place (W. Rogers Jr. 1976).

Thoroughbreds are a very nervous, nutty lot. I like an old gentle kind of dopey horse, that is I mean to ride around and mess about on. I want one you kinder got to work your passage on and kinder nudge him in the stomach at every step. We have a lot of pretty steep mountain trails out here and they are plenty narrow and steep sometimes, and there is a lot of difference in the way different horses negotiate them. (Article 5-12-1935 in Ketchem:306).

My earliest recollection of Will was as a thrilling figure on horse back who would come trotting along, swoop down, pick me up in his saddle, and then to my huge delight whirl his lasso in ever widening circles. I can remember his booming laughter, and how I would climb to the pommel of his saddle, with his arm resting me in his lap (Dorothy Collins Stone 1976).

Dad wrote articles about that barn and said that he had a nicer barn for the horses than he did a house for his family (Jim Rogers n.d.).

Theme: Horses & Family

A man that don't love a horse, there is something the matter with him.

Will was so 100 percent horse oriented (Hal Roach 1976).

This barn was moved over here from there and the entire center ring was built in. That was one of Dad's ideas and the ring was built to rope in and exercise horses in on rainy days (Jim Rogers n.d.).

Horses and family were the reason Will had the Santa Monica Ranch. In his mind there was no separation between the two. The children were taught to ride at the age of two and Will spent hours with them practicing trick riding, playing polo, and roping. This made the Stable, referred to as the barn by Will and the family, equal to the house in importance. From 1928 until the North Wing of the house was built in 1930 the Stable was the largest building on the ranch. According to Will Rogers Jr. the "green and white painted barns were the center of activity on the ranch" during his father's lifetime (Will Rogers Jr. 1976).

The Stable consisted of two wings of horse stalls originally built in the San Fernando Valley. In 1928 they were moved to the ranch and joined at the center by a large, majestic rotunda,

consisting of two rows of windows and a row of louvers. Will wanted the rotunda to rope and exercise horses in when it rained (Jim Rogers 1976). After being teased that his barn seemed more elegant than his house, Will had the windows removed and lowered the roof. The barn was home to about 30 horses that were turned out to pasture during the day and sheltered in the building at night (Figure 53 - 55) (Photos BSA 8, BSA 9, BSA 15). On returning to the ranch Will would go to the stables, saddle a horse, and go to the Polo Field for a workout or take off for the trail in the hills back of the ranch. The same year the stables were erected he had a riding ring built on a terrace in front of and below the barn. Used for trick riding, it was similar in design to one the family used at the Beverly Hills house (Figure 56) (Photos BSA 2, BSA 3).

Will Rogers' love for horses became legendary, and the line between them and human family members at times blurred. In the morning he rode around and exercised the horses on the Polo Field or in the surrounding hills until he left for the studio. Then, the minute he got home, he would be on horseback again, "usually up in the corral roping or getting the children to go down to the Polo Field and play a few chukkers of polo" (Sandmeier n.d.). Jim "lived in the barn" and up until his sister Mary "got to the age where you discover such wild objects as boys, she lived in the barn. . . . and most all my contact and everything between Dad and I had to do with horses or cows or something of that nature" (Jim Rogers 1976).

It was a horse's personality and ability, not appearance that appealed to Will. Several have been considered his favorites including Comanche, Cowboy, Bootlegger, Chapel, Soapsuds, and Dopey. Remembered as "an awfully good little horse that really put me in the business," Comanche had been the roping pony Will used as a rodeo rider and in vaudeville. Cowboy, described by Betty as a "nervous high strung pony . . . finicky about his head and fussy" but "all business when running down a calf," was another of Will's better known roping ponies. Bootlegger, originally trained for roping, became one of Will's best liked polo horses. Chapel was a stunt horse used for "dangerous riding in silent films. He would do anything Will wanted him to, going up and down almost perpendicular slopes and making any kind of jump without hesitation." Soapsuds, another roping horse, may have been Will's favorite. Betty claimed: "Will always loved the old pony. From the time the horse arrived on the ranch until the day Will left for Alaska I think I am safe in saying that there was not a single day when he was at home that he did not ride Soapsuds" (Betty Rogers 1941).

The horse that became a family institution was Dopey. When the Rogers' lived on Long Island Dopey would come in the house and go up the stairs. "He never balked at anything Will or the children wanted" (Betty Rogers 1941). Upon his death in 1935 Will wrote the following epitaph reflecting on their long relationship:

Goodbye to a Great Friend

I first saw Dopey at a town in Connecticut - I think it was Westport. I liked him, and he came home with me, and I think he liked me. And the whole family liked him and he lived with us all these years up to a few days ago. He came to our house in Amityville, Long Island, just across the road from Fred Stone's, the same time Jim our youngest did. Jim was a baby boy, and Dopey was a little round bodied, coal-black pony, with glass eyes, the gentlest and greatest pony for grown-ups or children anyone ever saw. I don't know why we called him Dopey. I guess it was because he was always so gentle and just the least bit lazy. Anyhow, we meant no disrespect to him.

Outside of a pony I had in Indian Territory when I was a boy (he was called Comanche and put me in the exhibition roping business), why along pretty near next to him in affection was Dopey. I remember "Chapel," a bay horse that I owned and used in all my movie chases down steep hills in the old silent days - and that I know saved my life many times, I still have him, he's a freelance. And

"Bootlegger," another famous little Oklahoma black pony from Osage Nation, he is also with us. He was a famous roping pony, and afterwards was with me on Long Island, where I used to try and play polo. He was little and had a long mane and tail, which is unknown in polo, but he became famous through his quick turning.

These, and various others that at different times I have become attached to, were all more of my own individual ponies, but Dopey belonged to the family. Our children learned to ride at two, and during his lifetime he never did a wrong thing to throw one off, or did a wrong thing after they had fallen off. He couldn't pick'em up, but he would stand there and look at 'em with a disgusted look for being so clumsy as to fall off. He never kicked or stepped on one of them in his life, he was a young horse when I first got him. But he was always natural, gentle, and intelligent.

I used to sit on him by the hour – yes by the year – and try new rope tricks, and he never batted an eye. Then I learned some trick riding, such as vaulting, and drags and all that. In fact he was the only one I could ever do it on. Then in 1919 we went to California to go to the movies. Dopey, and another bay pony we had acquired for Mary, they occupied the best place in the car by express. Then I would come back to New York to work another year for Mr. Ziegfeld in his Follies, and the first thing loaded would be Dopey. Then after a year in New York, back to the movies again, and back would go Dopey.

One year I took Dopey in a Follies baggage car, on the whole tour with the show, and kept him in the riding academies and practiced roping every day with him. Charley Aldrich, a cowboy, used to ride him and run by four my fancy roping tricks. He has been missed with a loop more times, and maybe caught more times than any horse living. In a little picture called *Ropin' Fool*, where I did all my little fancy catches in slow motion, he was the pony that run for them. He was coal black and I had my ropes whitened and the catches showed up fine.

In a tan bark ring we had in our Beverly Hills home, all the children learned trick riding on him, standing up on him running, vaulting, and they would use him with Dodo, to ride Roman style. It was all allowed because I knew they were on gentle ponies.

Dopey has been on pasture now for four or five years; hasn't had a bridle on him; fat as a pig. When nineteen years of you and your children's life is linked so closely with a horse, you can sorter imagine our feelings. We still have quite a few old favorites left, but Dopey was different. He was one of the family – he helped raise our children – he taught them to ride. He never hurt one in his life. He did everything right. That's a reputation no human can die with.

STABLE (DPR FACILITY #: 559-A-0B-0-003)

The stables are located 700 feet north of the Will Rogers home, just north of the riding arena, and south of Milt Canyon Corral. The large impressive single story wood framed building with its central rotunda is covered with horizontal planking and board and bats. The conical and gabled roofs are covered with wood shingles. The Stable measures 41 by 167 feet. At times the grooms quarters on the north side have been used as a residence for employees of concessionaires.

The central rotunda is somewhat accessible for public viewing though the Stable wings are off limits to the general public. The Stable is considered to be the second most significant structure in Will Rogers SHP, and would be eligible for the National Register for its architectural significance even without the close association with Will Rogers. The building sheltered Will Rogers' polo ponies and riding horses. The central rotunda was used to exercise horses during wet weather. The building also included quarters for ranch hands, a tack room with toilet, wash basin and shower, a grain room, and a restroom (Woodward et al. 1992).

In 1950 Miles Allen wrote the following description of the Stable and attached living quarters:

STABLE

Concrete foundation. Dirt floor except in grain room, rest room and tack room, which have concrete floors. First 4' of exterior walls are 1" x 12' planking, batted and painted white. Above is 4' of California novelty siding painted white. Sides of stable have a row of large glass windows which swing out from top with stops. All windows are protected with vertical iron bars. Upper part of stable is louvered for ventilation. Gable roof covered with shingles. Central dome is a circular roof covered with shingles. Exterior painted white with green trim. Interior of main stable is divided into 19 box stalls, grain room, tack room, and rest room. Ceiling ventilated and screened. Sliding doors at easterly and westerly end of stable and center circular area. Rest room has a low tank toilet and wall lavatory. Tack room has low tank toilet with basin shower. Entire stable is downspouted. Built 1927 (Actually built in 1928. S.V.W.)

LIVING QUARTERS ATTACHED TO REAR OF STABLE

Concrete foundation and floors. Exterior walls 1" x 4" T & G painted white. Consists of living room, bath, kitchen, and sleeping porch. Interior walls 1" x 4" T & G painted white. Ceilings beaver board painted except sleeping porch which has wood ceiling. Sink has wood drain board. Low tank toilet, no tub, shower with cement floor. Shed roof composition covered. There is a concrete wash rack, a portion of which is roofed over. Built 1929.

Alterations/Restorations: The exterior color scheme has been changed as well as the use of some of the rooms. There have been no major alterations except the constant repairs to the lower portions of the stalls as a result of the constant kicking, chewing, and other damage normally associated with horse presence. In the early 1930s, Will Rogers had the rotunda lowered. The top row of windows was replaced by one row of louvers. The roof eaves are now flush with the lower tops of the stable roof. During Will's lifetime horses were turned out to pasture during the day and stabled here at night, so that relatively little damage occurred to the building (Woodward et al. 1992).

Shed Behind Stable

The small single story wooden shed behind the northwest corner of the Stable measures 21 feet long by 11 feet wide. The tack room on the east side is 10 feet by 8.5 feet inside. The west side is used as a storage room and measures 11 by 10 feet. During Will's lifetime the shed stored wood shavings for keeping stalls dry. When described in 1950, it may have been used for feed storage and as a tack room (Woodward et al. 1992).

Alterations/Restorations: In 1950, Miles Allen recorded the structure as only having one wooden door – the one on the east end. This door appears to be the one now on the west end – a five panel door. Allen states that at the time the room was filled with wood chips and he assumed it was one room with a dirt floor, but his sketch was marked "cement floor." Presently it is two rooms. It was also painted green. Now the color matches the barn. The west door currently has a double X design which is not original (Allen 1950). Paint Colors: White ; believed to have been painted green originally, or white with green trim (Woodward et al.1992).

RIDING RING

Built in 1928, the riding ring consists of a long narrow arena in front of the barn that measures approximately 70 by 300 feet. The interior was originally planted in grass. The following 1950 recordation by Miles Allen appears to be a good description of the original exterior railing:

Redwood post 4" x 4" by 4' high set 9' apart – not set in concrete; painted green. Posts carry a continuous top rail 2" x 2" with a 1" x 6" top rail panel, painted white. There is a wood picket type gate 4' x 10' at easterly side of Ring. Another wooden gate 4' by 5' is situated at westerly end of Ring. 1" x 12" baseboard is constructed along southerly 300' of Ring. Along northerly side of Ring there is a 100' retaining wall 8" wide at the top by 12" wide at base, 2' high. Riding Ring is oval in shape and contains approximately 850 lineal feet of fencing.

All three of the Rogers' children practiced trick riding. Will began to teach the sport to his kids at their home in Beverly Hills where he had built a ring. Jim became proficient at trick riding, even describing himself as "magnificent," and participated in some shows in Pomona (Will Rogers Jr. 1976; Jim Rogers 1976). Will Jr. recalled, "This is where my brother and I used to practice trick riding. And you'll notice that the ring is very narrow and long. That was particularly for trick riding. I was never a very good trick rider, but my brother Jim practiced there and became a quite proficient trick rider . . ." (Will Rogers Jr. 1976).

Major changes: The original railing has been replaced by one that does not resemble the original. The entire riding ring has been leveled. It originally had a gentle westerly slope.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

The grass covered, oval shaped riding ring was bordered on the outside by a single board railing on wooden posts. A rope strung between steel eyelets defined the inside of the track. Photographs taken circa 1929 show a cobblestone retaining wall located on the north side of the ring toward the Stable (Photos BSA 4, BSA 5, BSA 8, BSA 9). This has either been removed or buried since it is no longer visible. Two small grass covered areas were located in front of the barn on either side of the rotunda. These were originally bordered with wooden railings that were later replaced with cobblestone "hens teeth" curbs. By 1930, the cobbles had been removed and the railings restored. Cobblestone retaining walls were also located at the base of the hill to the east of the barn where the dirt road that led around the riding ring to the Stable's main entrance intersected another road leading around the east side to the back of the barn. The base of this hill was planted in cypress trees during the late 1920s to screen a cut on the west side of the ridge top where cobbles had been quarried for retaining walls and other rock work. By the summer of 1930 this grove had been surrounded by a white rail fence (Photos BSA 1, BSA 2, BSA 3, BSA 4, BSA 5, BSA 8, BSA 9, BSA 10). By 1933, the cypress trees and the fence had been removed (Photo A6). A line of eucalyptus was planted along the top of the cobble retaining wall running along the base of the hill (Photo BSA 29). Brush was cleared on hillsides to the east

and west sides of the stables, as well as in Mitt Canyon to the north (Figures 55 - 57) (Photos BSA 2, BSA 4, BSA 29).

Around 1929 eucalyptus trees were planted around the east end of the Roping Corral (Photos A-3, A-4). The tree line had been extended westerly along the south side of the ring by the summer of 1930 with a row of small shrubs (Photo BSA 3). Photographs taken during this time still show the front of the Stable barren of trees. By the end of the year a large tree was growing in front of the Stable at the east side of the entrance (Photo A-3). Based on photos taken during construction of the North Wing of the house, by the summer of 1930 five additional large full sized trees had been brought in and planted in front of the Stable (Photos BSA 1, BSA-3). An aerial photo taken circa 1932 to '33 shows full sized trees growing behind the barn (Photo A-6). Climbing vines were planted along the front of the Stable in much the same manner that they were used around the house (Young 1992). In a circa 1944-'47 image large vines that have obviously been growing for many years completely cover the top of the rotunda (Photo BSA 9).

Two major landscaping changes have occurred in the Stable and riding ring area since Will's lifetime. One is the dominance of trees that block view sheds. The other is the filling in and raising of the road bed along the north side of the Riding Ring. Originally, the Stable and Riding Ring could be seen from the Polo field and house as well as from the Mule Barn and shops. Trees and shrubs have become so thick and large that all of these views are now completely blocked even though the distance from the shops and former Mule Barn are not very great. The large California Pepper (*Schinus molle*) and Eugenia trees currently growing in front of and behind the Stable are undoubtedly the full sized trees Will brought in and planted. However, they were never as large and thick during Will Rogers' lifetime as they are at present and views of the Stable were not blocked by them.

The road along the east side of the Riding Ring has been extensively filled in since the State Park system acquired the park in 1944. Originally, a cobble retaining wall around five feet in height faced the north bank of this road east of the Stable. The area has been filled to the point that only one or two courses remain above ground. These were the top rows of the wall and they are now at road grade level when they were originally about five feet above the road.

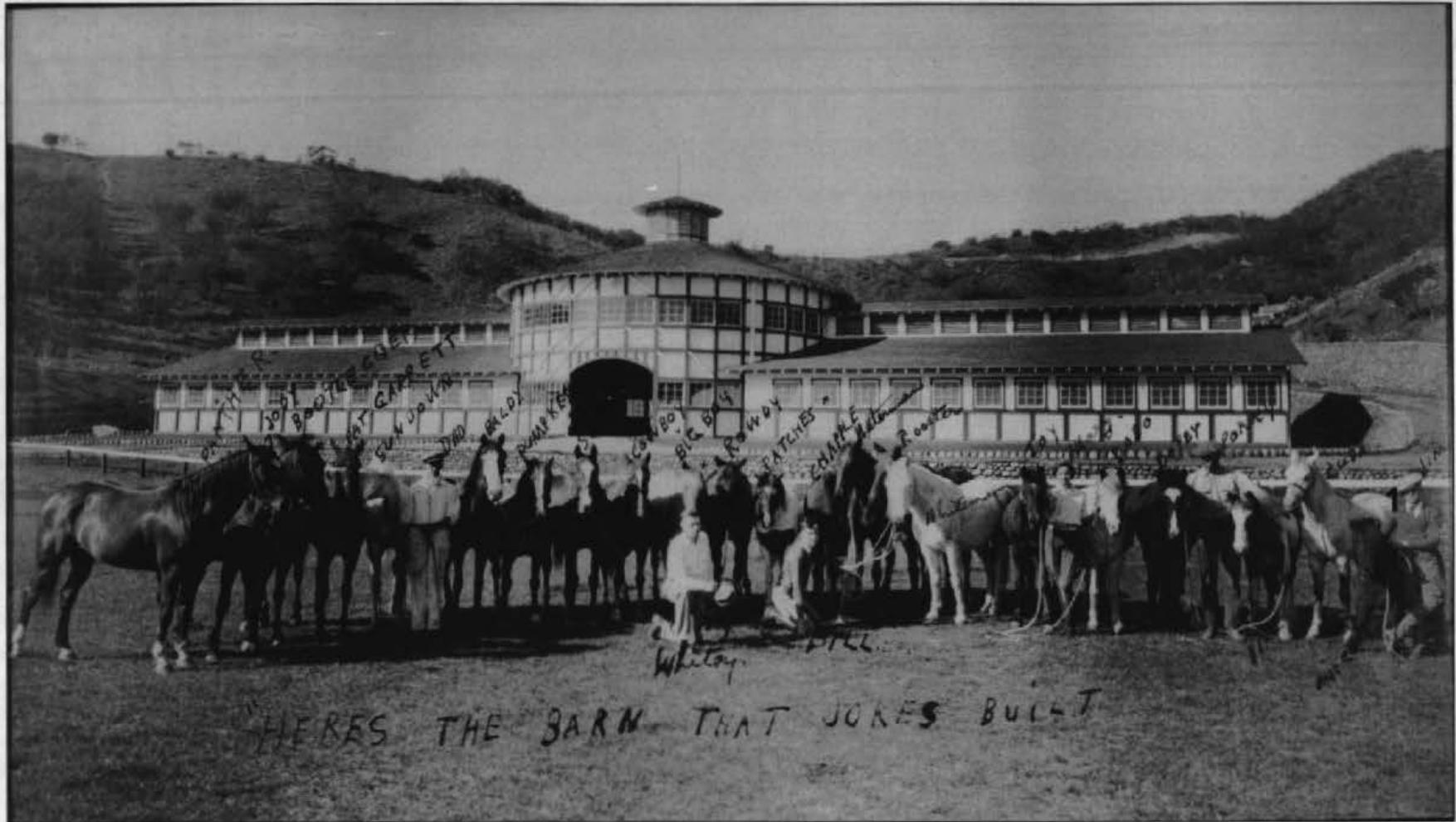


Figure 73: The Stable and Horses Circa 1930

Horses were part of the Rogers' family. The whole herd, their handlers, and the Rogers children stand for a family portrait on the Riding Ring in front of the Stable circa 1930. In addition to Will (Bill) Jr., Mary, and Jim, Bootlegger, Soapsuds, Rowdy, and Dopey can be identified. Note the cobble retaining wall on the east (right) side of the Stable.

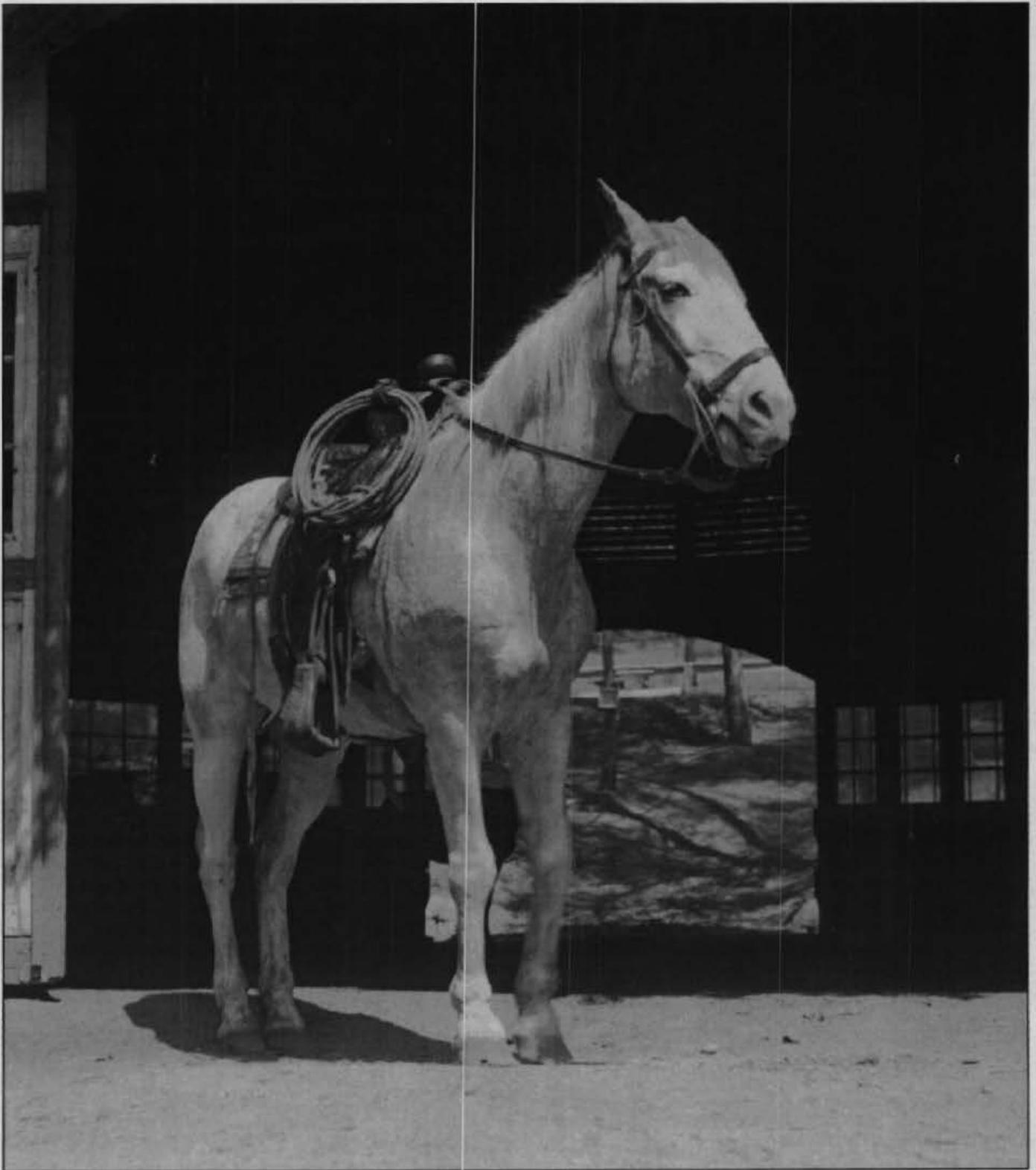


Figure 74: Soapsuds, one of Will Rogers' Favorite Roping Horses, Photographed in The Stable In 1946.

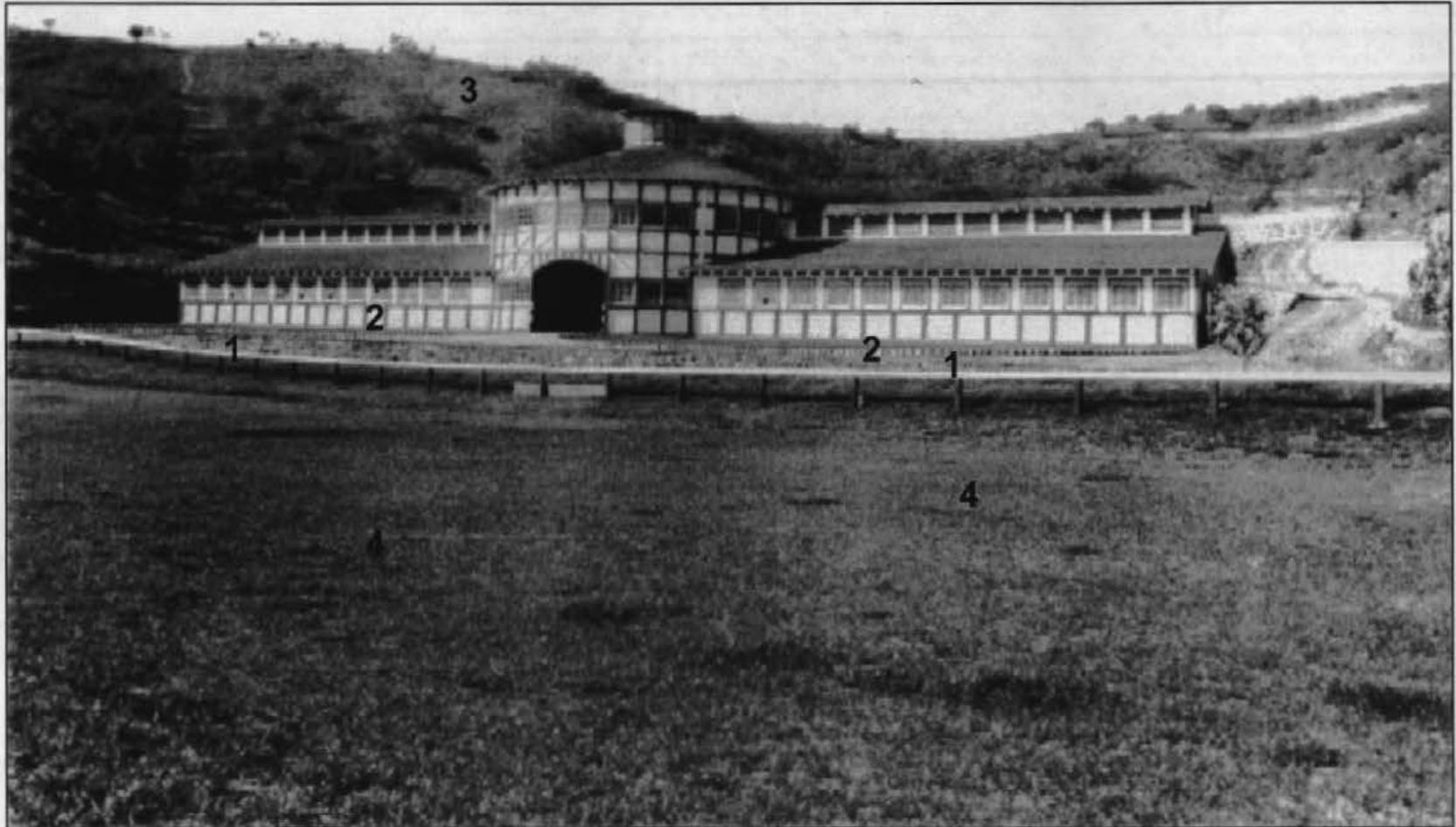


Figure 75: The Stable From the Riding Ring, circa 1928 – 1929.

The following features can be identified:

1. Riding Ring exterior railing.
2. Cobble "hens teeth" style curbs bordering grass planted areas in front of Stable.
3. Hillside northwest of the Stable cleared of vegetation.
4. Grass interior of the Riding Ring.

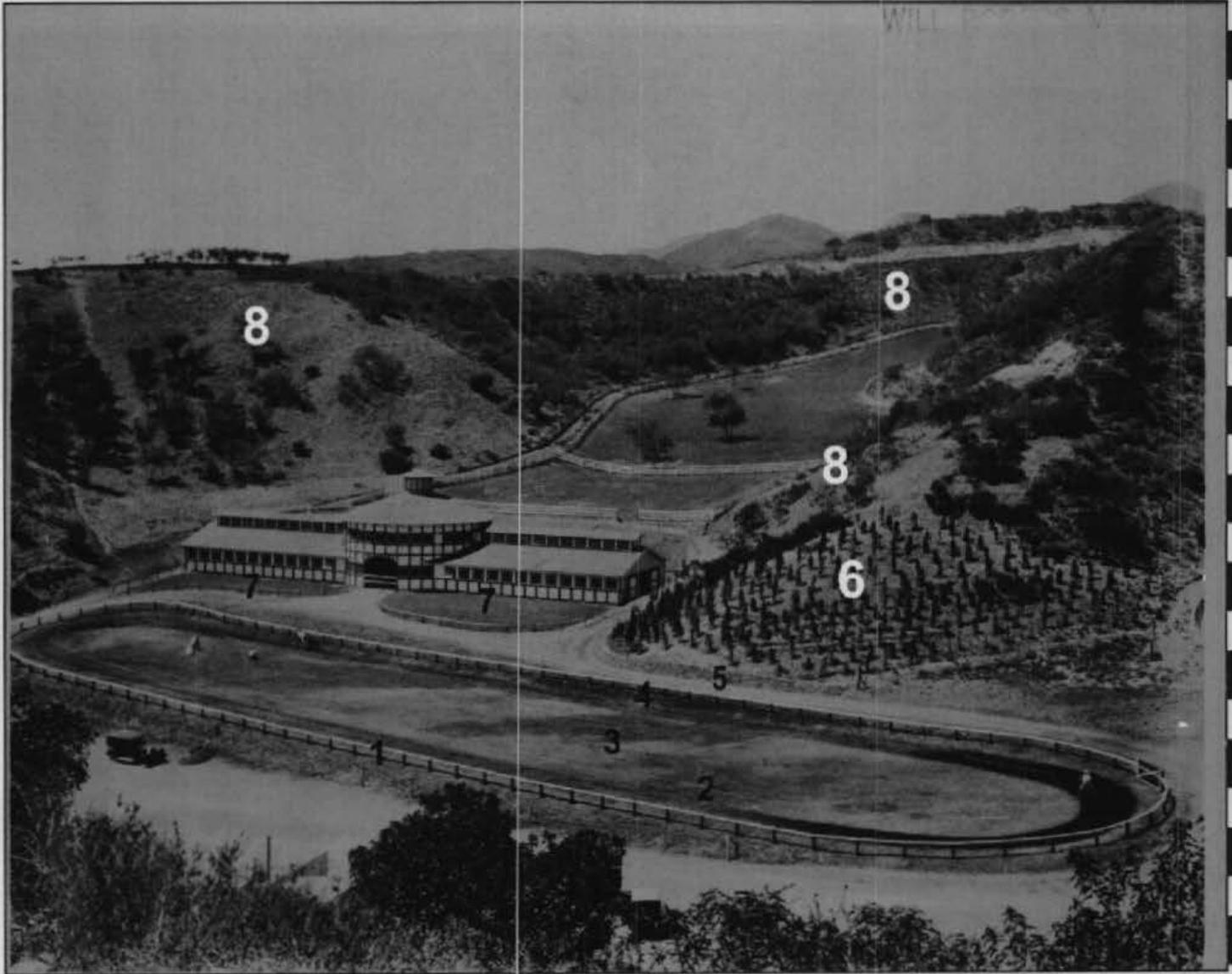


Figure 76: Overview of the Stable and Riding Ring 1928 – 1930

Note the complete absence of trees around the stables and the ring

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Exterior wooden railing of Riding Ring. | 5. Cobble retaining wall along road at east end of barn |
| 2. Interior rope barrier of Riding Ring | 6. Cypress trees planted on hillside east of barn to cover former cobble quarry. |
| 3. Grass turf inside Riding Ring. | 7. Grass planted areas in front of Stable defined by wooden railings instead of cobbles as in Figure 45. |
| 4. Cobble retaining wall behind Riding Ring. | 8. Hillsides cleared of brush. |

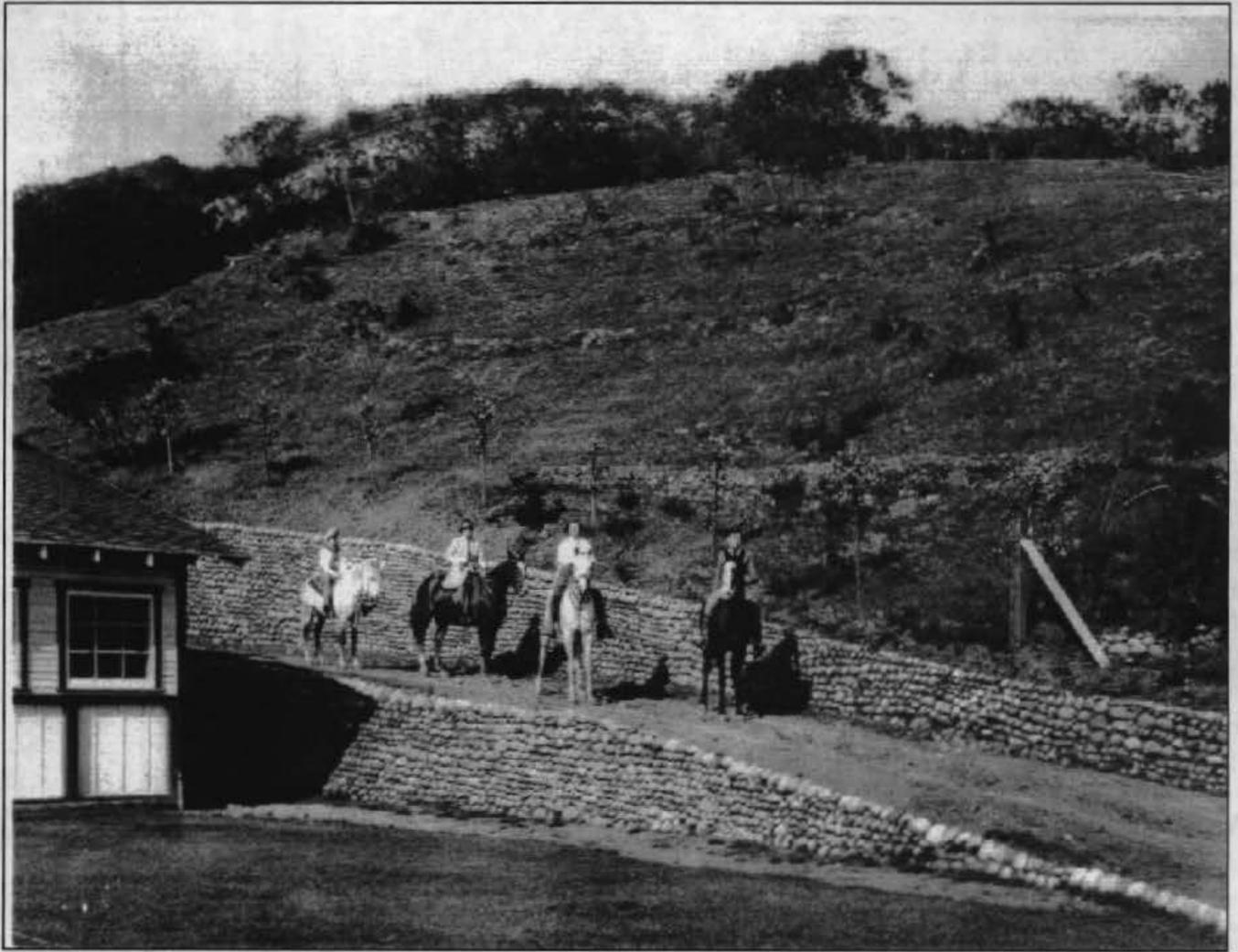


Figure 77: Cobble Retaining Walls Behind the Stable

From left to right Jim, Betty, Mary, and Will Rogers Jr. east of the Stables circa 1928 – 1930. This photograph provides good detail of the cobble retaining walls as well as the brush cleared hillside. Note the small eucalyptus trees at the base of the hill. The cypress trees that appear on this hillside in other photographs appear to not yet have been planted, suggesting this photograph was taken shortly after the Stable's completion in 1928 (see Figures 56 & 58).



Figure 78: The Rogers Family on the House Lawn in 1929

From left to right: Will Jr., Jim, Mary, Will, and Betty. Very few trees have been planted. Both the Stable (1) and the Mule Barn (2) can be clearly seen.

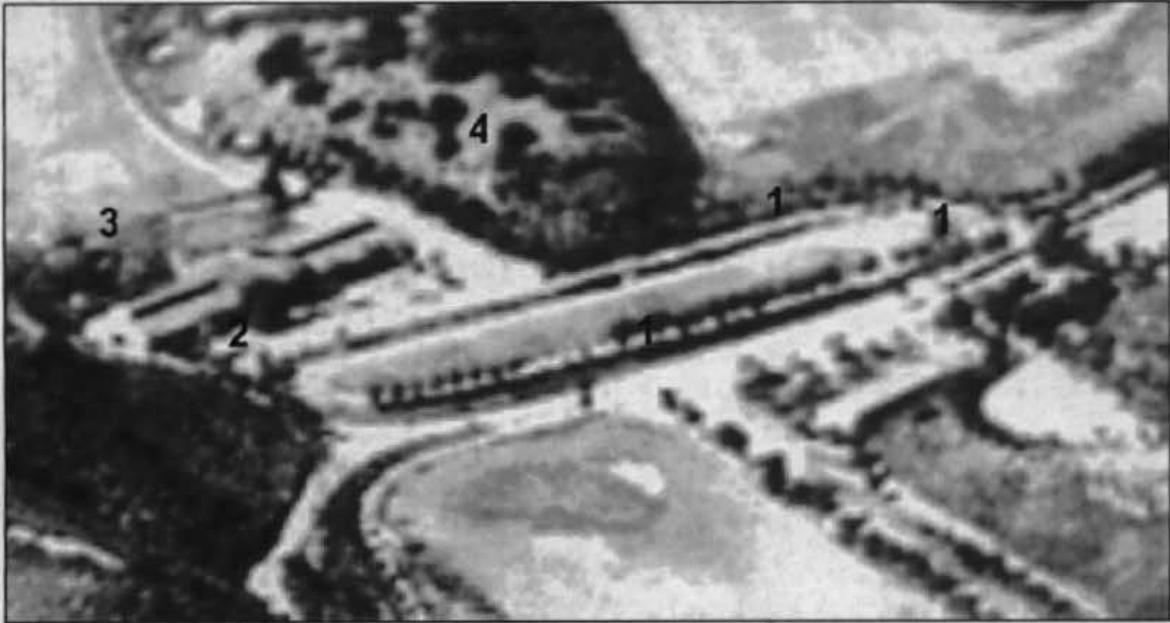
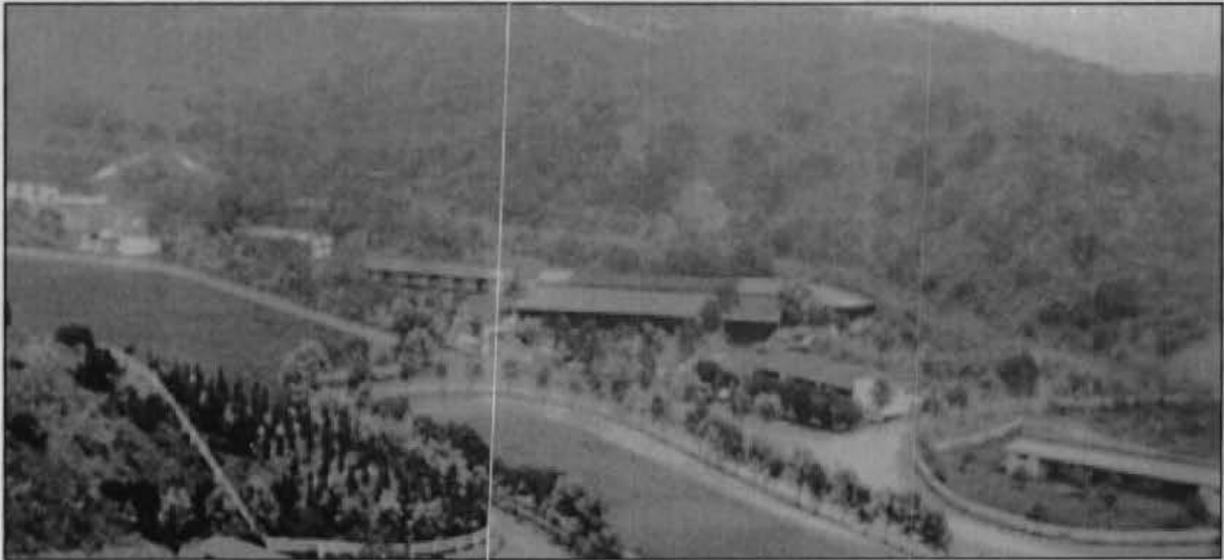


Figure 79: Blow Up of 1932-34 Aerial Photograph Showing the Stable And Riding Ring

Trees can be seen along the west and east sides and around the east end of the Riding Ring (1), in front of (2) and behind (3) the Stable. The cypress trees on the hill east of the Stable that appear in photographs taken prior to circa 1930 appear to be gone.

BARN AND SHOP AREAS



Theme: Ranch Maintenance & Horse Care

MULE BARN - RANCH FOREMAN'S QUARTERS (DPR FACILITY # 559-A-4-03-2-001, RESIDENCE # 2)

The foreman's house is what remains of a three sided "U" shaped stable called the Mule Barn. It is located 400 feet north of the golf course area, and south of the riding arena. It is a rectangular single story wood framed structure that measures 20 by 80 feet.

The Mule Barn was the first building constructed on the property by Will Rogers. It was built in 1925 for the family's horses, and can be seen in an aerial photograph taken that year (Photo A1) (Young 1997). At that time the Rogers' still lived in Beverly Hills but had so many horses that there wasn't room for all of them there (Sandmeier n.d.). The "U" shaped Mule Barn had a low shed roof with box stalls, a feed room and a tack room (Photos BSA 3, BSA 4). It also had a stove and two rooms for living quarters (Jim Rogers 1976).

In 1929 or early 1930 a horse tied to a post pulled part of the roof down. By the summer of 1930 two wings were removed, leaving only the southwest portion containing the living quarters (Figures 60 & 61) (Photos BSA 1). These housed various foremen and were expanded and remodeled in 1935 (Woodward et al. 1992). The wings that had been removed were set up between the hay barn and roping corral and used to house polo players during the 1932 Olympics (Jim Rogers n.d., 1976; Woodward et al. 1992; Young 1997). One of the sections that was moved to the roping arena area was moved one more time and today may be located in Santa Monica Canyon along Channel Road. This move occurred about 1943, before the ranch was

given to the state (Young 1997). In 1950 Miles Allen provided the following description of the Foreman's House:

Mud sill foundation. 2-level shed roof covered with roll composition paper. Exterior walls are 1" x 12" B&B painted white. Floors are 1" x 4" t & g covered with linoleum except back porch and dining room which has oak floors. Interior walls and ceilings are beaver board painted. All sliding windows. Bath has tub with basin and toilet; no shower. Sink has linoleum covered drain board; all plumbing exposed. Roof badly settled at ridge. Only heating is brick fireplace and oil heater in dining room. Entire building is badly infested with termites and dry rot due to mud sill foundation on dirt and entire lack of ventilation.

The ranch foreman's quarters presently serves as a park staff residence. Previously, the park used the residence as an employee lounge and as a nature center.

Alterations/Restorations: The east and north wings of the original structure were removed by Rogers. A new concrete perimeter foundation and new concrete piers for interior wall support were added in 1967. In 1968 the building was stabilized, the fireplace was replanted and a new concrete slab floor was installed. Other alterations have included: new rolled roofing and tongue and groove floors in 1969; new electrical system in 1979; replanted, repainted, and repaired in 1982 - 1983 (Woodward et al. 1992). The formerly spectacular view of the stables from this location is now obscured by eucalyptus and other vegetation.

BLACKSMITH - CARPENTER SHOP (DPR FACILITY # 559-A-1-12-0-001)

The blacksmith's and carpenter's shop building is a vernacular, single story, western box style building with board and batten style siding. It measures 12 by 48 feet with a 15-foot square storage shed on the east end. It was in existence by 1928. The roof of the structure can be seen to the east of the Mule Barn in a photo taken that year (See Figure 61) (Photo BSA 3). The structure provided a shop for the full-time blacksmith to shoe horses and repair equipment while also providing covered workspace and storage for carpenters. Descriptions and photographs taken in 1950 by Miles Allen indicate the building was neglected but still in good repair and basically unaltered (Photo BSA 13). The carpenter's shop had originally been painted red and later whitewashed. Allen's descriptions, provided below, divided the shop building into three separate components: blacksmith shop, carpenter's shop, and storage shed (Woodward et al. 1992).

Blacksmith Shop

Westerly portion of Blacksmith Shop, size 12' x 24'. Has open front. 2" x 8" plank floor laid on dirt. East wall partition is 1" x 12" planking. Interior is open and not celled. West wall is East wall of carpenter shop. Gable roof covered with roll composition roofing. Easterly portion of Blacksmith shop, size 24' x 36', has open front. Black top on floor. East wall partition is West wall of storage shed and 1" x 12" planking. South wall of entire Blacksmith Shop is practically missing. Interior open and not celled. Gable Roof covered with roll composition roofing. Portions of exterior are whitewashed. Building in bad state of repair. Built 1928 - 30.

Carpenter Shop

Attached to westerly wall of Blacksmith Shop. Size 12' X 24'. Exterior is B & B siding. Mud sill foundation. Exterior originally painted red over which whitewash was later applied. Interior unfinished. Floors 1" X 4" t & g. Double wood doors. Building is in fair state of repair. Gable roof covered with roll composition roofing. Built 1928 - 1930.

Storage Shed

Attached to easterly wall of Blacksmith Shop. Size 15' X 15'. Exterior B & B siding. Maverick construction. Mud sill foundation. Exterior whitewashed. Interior unfinished. Floors 1" X 4" T & G. Double Wood doors. Shed roof covered with roll composition roofing. Cheap construction. Built 1928 - 1930.

Alterations: In the early 1990s the carpenter shop interior was converted into a park nature center (Woodward et al. 1992).

HAY BARN (DPR FACILITY # 559-A-2-08-001)

The Hay Barn is a single story, vernacular rambling structure measuring 72 by 41 feet that appears to have gone through many building episodes. It was probably built between 1928 and 1930. It does not appear in a circa 1927-1928 photo of the Roping Corral (See Figure 68) (Photo RC 1). It can clearly be seen in a 1930 photograph of the Stable and Corral area (See Figure 60)(Photo BSA 1). The barn is constructed of recycled materials. Jim Rogers stated that "It was just a shed for some hay and shelter is all it was. He just built that out of scrap lumber like everything else up there" (Jim Rogers n.d.). The structure was used to store hay, feed and related supplies for the horses maintained on Rogers' ranch (Woodward et al. 1992). For his 1950 inventory descriptions, Miles Allen divided the hay barn into three separate components: the Potting-Storage and Equipment Shed, Westerly Equipment Shed, and Wing to Storage Shed.

Potting-Storage and Equipment Shed

Potting area size 20' x 22' has open front. Blacktop floor. Balance of easterly storage shed has dirt floor. Exterior walls B & B siding. Potting area has bins along easterly wall 4" high. Westerly wall has potting bench and small sink. Unfinished inside. Shallow gable roof covered with roll composition roofing. Very cheap construction. Built 1928 - 1930.

Westerly Equipment Shed

Open front. Floor blacktop paving. Roof supported by old 6" x 6" post. Unfinished inside. Shed roof, covered with roll composition roofing. Built 1928 - 1930.

Wing to Storage Shed

Open front and sides. Roof supported by old 2" x 6" posts. Uneven dirt floor cut from bank. Shallow gable roof with rolled composition roofing. Very cheap construction. Built 1928 - 1930.

LANDSCAPE HISTORY

Fence and tree lines were the major landscape features around the Mule Barn, Shops, and Hay Barn. These changed over the years as buildings and pastures expanded and changed location. In 1928 and 1929 a fence line ran from the black smith shop to the Roping Corral and the area to the south of this fence contained a grove of eucalyptus trees. By the summer of 1930 two wings of the Mule Barn had been taken down and a fenced yard with small trees and grass had been established around the remaining wing which was now the foreman's house. The Hay Barn and other sheds had been built between the Blacksmith Shop and the Roping Corral, and Heart Canyon had been expanded. Lines of trees screened the fronts of the Black Smith Shop and Hay Barn and ran down both sides of a new road alignment along the southern edge of Heart Canyon toward the Roping Corral. The area in front of the Hay Barn was enclosed with white rail fence with a large framed gate (BSA-3, A-6).

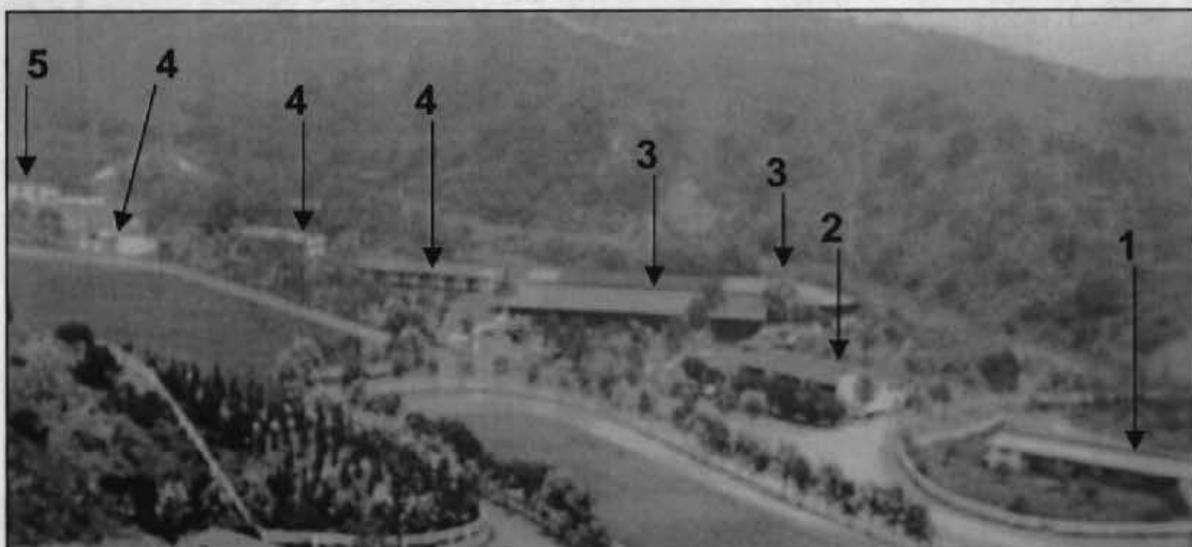


Figure 80: Structures Located Southeast of the Stable in the Summer of 1930

The following buildings can be identified from this photograph taken from the hill behind the Stable.

1. Foreman's House constructed from the former Mule Barn.
2. Black Smith and Carpenter's Shop.
3. Hay Barn.
4. Additional sheds and small stables constructed from wings of the former Mule Barn and recycled scrap lumber.
5. Roping Corral.

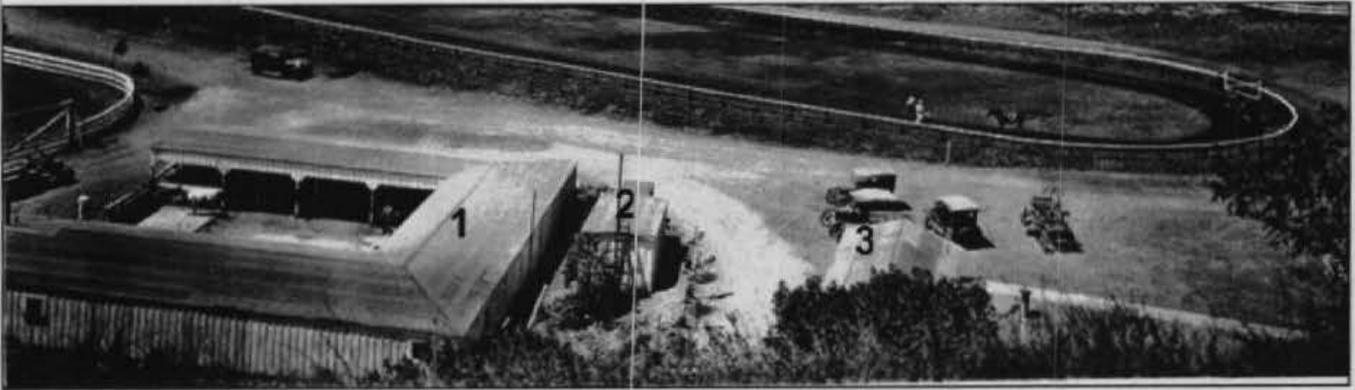


Figure 81: Overview of the Mule Barn and Shops Circa 1928 – 1930

1. Mule Barn
2. Unidentified Shed
3. Blacksmith – Carpenter's Shop

ROPING CORRAL



Using about three or four feet of your rope you want to spin a small loop – not too small till you get so you can keep it going good then you increase the size of it by letting it slide through your hand and increase your speed at the same time. Now one thing to remember – always let the rope turn in your hand – don't hold it tight, hold it and let it turn so the kinks can twist out of the other end. That's the whole secret of the thing (Will Rogers in *Farm Journal* quoted in *Ketchum*: 1973:127).

This calf roping has all come in the last years after they ruled out steer roping in most states. And here is something you might not know. A steer roping horse and a calf roping horse is not the same animal. When you rope a steer, after you catch'em, you throw your slack rope over his rear axle and then run your horse on by (having him roped by the head), the rope going over behind the steer jerking all four feet out from under him. Then while you tie him, the horse is supposed to keep pulling and dragging the steer as he attempts to get up. Now in calf roping the minute you catch your calf the horse stops. You jump off and go throw the calf yourself. The horse is supposed to keep the rope tight, but the head is toward the calf, and he does by backing up instead of pulling away like with a steer. Of course, you can in rare instances have a horse that will work both ways, but most ropers have two different horses, and say they mean about 50 or 60 percent of the game – the horses do (Will Rogers 1941).

Oh, I remember a man who loved to rope. Mother used to say that Dad would rather rope than eat (Jim Rogers 1976).

Theme: Calf Roping

I had an awful good little horse that really put me in the business. A little Dun (yellow) pony, called Comanche. He put you up so close to a steer that you didn't rope him, you just reached over and put a hackimore on him (Will Rogers 1941: 258*).

After the house and stables the roping corral was the next most important feature of the ranch. Betty stated that "... Will liked calf roping best of all the things he did. He had worked at it in the early days and had practiced it and played at it the rest of his life. A lasso and a piggin string were tied to his saddle, and he always kept a bunch of little wild calves grazing over the hills and on the grass of Rustic Canyon" (Betty Rogers 1941). Roping was practiced with a break-away hondo so that the cattle would not be jerked around "and would move slow and doggy" (Jim Rogers 1999). The children were all active ropers and cattlemen friends, including Ewing Halsell, Ed Vail or western actor Big Boy Williams, would drop in and practice. The calves were roped so often that they soon became tame "and after a few weeks would trot calmly up to Soapsuds' feet instead of running in fright. Will then returned the tame calves to the stock yard and ordered another bunch of wild ones" (Betty Rogers 1941)

The corral was also a place for high spirited and practical jokes. Jim Rogers recalled:

We had a little mouse-colored calf that could kick you in the chin with any foot. Dad called him the visitor's calf. One day Ed Vail, a rancher friend, stopped by, nothing would do but we would pen the calves and rope a few. Now Dad loved a practical joke and it wasn't long before he had talked Ed into tying down a couple. Dad of course, pointed out the little mouse-colored calf and Ed roped him. As he stepped off his horse and went down, the roped calf meet him halfway. It was quite a battle. One minute Ed would be on top and the next minute the calf, but he finally got him tied. Dad was laughing so hard he almost fell off his horse, and when Ed - with his shirt all ripped, his nose bloody, and his pants torn - walked up to Dad and said that he figured it was his turn to try the calf, Dad said, "Oh no, he's restricted to visitors only" (Jim Rogers 1976).

Will also got his comeuppance. One day Jim and a cousin climbed into the chute with a steer and tied a string of firecrackers to its tail. As the steer charged out into the ring the firecrackers went off, scaring the steer and Will's horse half to death. Will never did catch the steer and Jim stayed out of his way for about a week (Ketchum 1973:306).

The roping corral was built and in use by 1928 (Figure 68). The original ring was about 70 feet in diameter and built of high planks set on end and angled outward so a rider could come in close to the edge without catching a stirrup. The inside of the ring had a dirt surface. Small eucalyptus trees were planted along the west side and a rail fence corral was located on the south end. A small grove of eucalyptus trees was located between the Roping Corral and the hay barn and shops to the southwest. Around 1932 Will expanded the corral by taking out the south half and extending the fence as far in a southerly direction as he could. This resulted in a kidney shaped arena with a roping chute and catch pens on the southwest end. A small goat roping pen of willow poles was located at the north end of the roping arena (Jim Rogers 1976, Will Rogers Jr. 1976). Although goat roping was another of Will's many passions this feature was seldom used (Figures 62 - 71) (Jim Rogers 1999). The kidney shaped roping corral burned in a brush fire in 1938. A reconstruction was completed in 1958. This was replaced in 1999 (Photos RC 1- RC 22).

PRACTICE POLO CAGE

Now if you go behind the stables, you'll see a place where I spent many hours. This is the polo cage, and it's especially constructed so that you can sit on a kind of wooden horse, swing your mallet, and knock the ball up against the cage and it'll roll back to you. Its an extremely good way of practicing polo and it certainly

will strengthen your arm and wrist. I spent many hours in that cage until my arm was literally trembling . . . (Will Rogers Jr. 1976).

This cage was built here and drug over back of the Stable (Jim Rogers n.d.).

A replica of the original Practice Polo Cage is located on the south side of Heart Canyon outside the corral fence, north of the Hay Barn and the road to Bone Canyon. The polo cage was constructed around 1928 or '29 near the original circular roping corral (Photo RC 1). By the summer of 1930 it had been moved from its original location to an area behind the Stable (Jim Rogers n.d.; W. Rogers Jr. 1976). For reasons that are unclear the original structure was torn apart in 1985 and the replica Practice Polo Cage built and placed at its current location. The same wood dimensions and wire mesh cage were used to duplicate the original. However the upper floor boards have been built in the opposite direction of the original (see photos PC 1 through PC 3 of Mary Rogers in practice cage). The original Practice Polo Cage was never located where the replica currently is. It should be relocated to the spot behind the Stable where the original stood until it was destroyed.

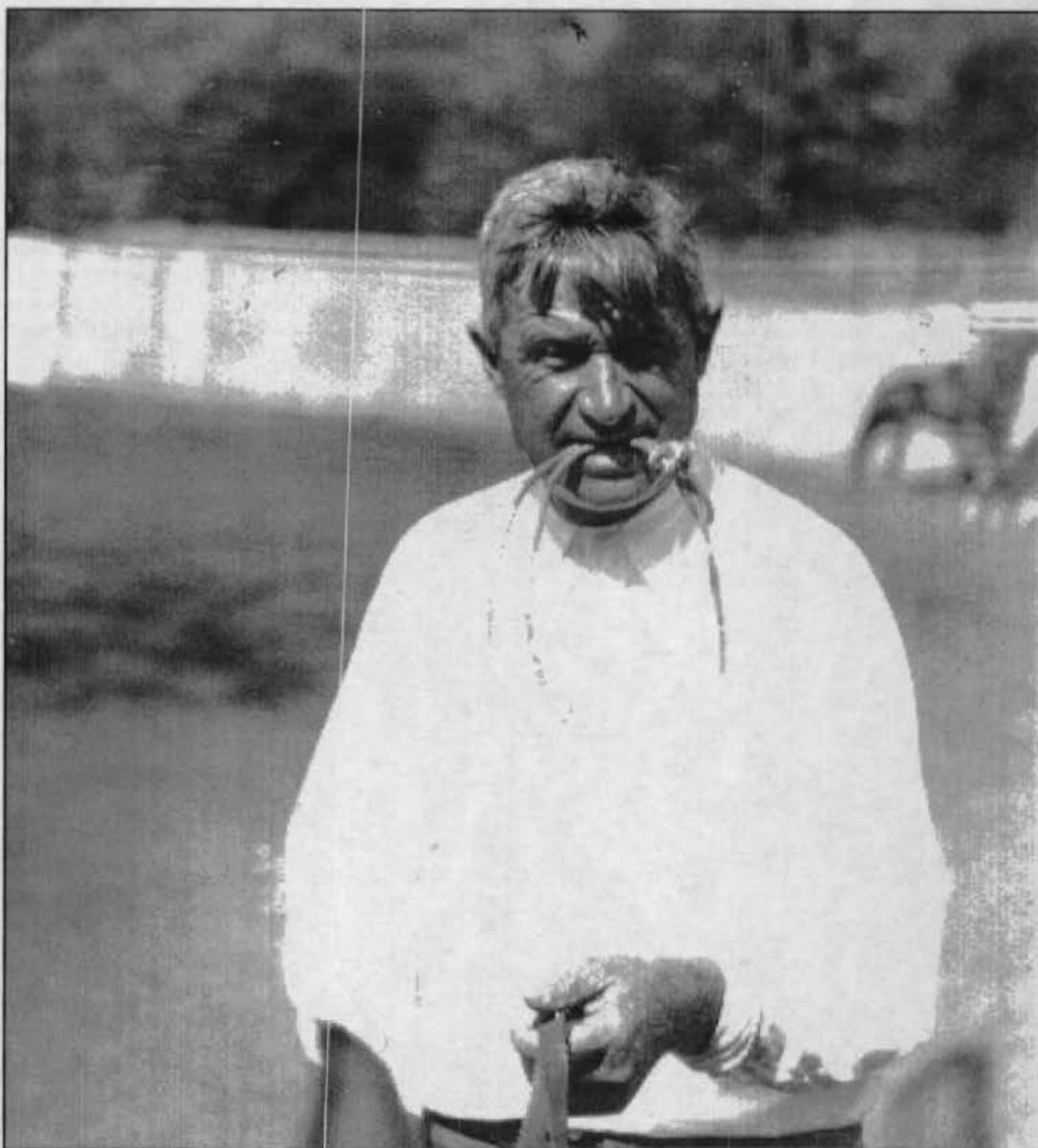


Figure 82: A Relaxed Will Rogers Enjoying an Afternoon at The Roping Corral

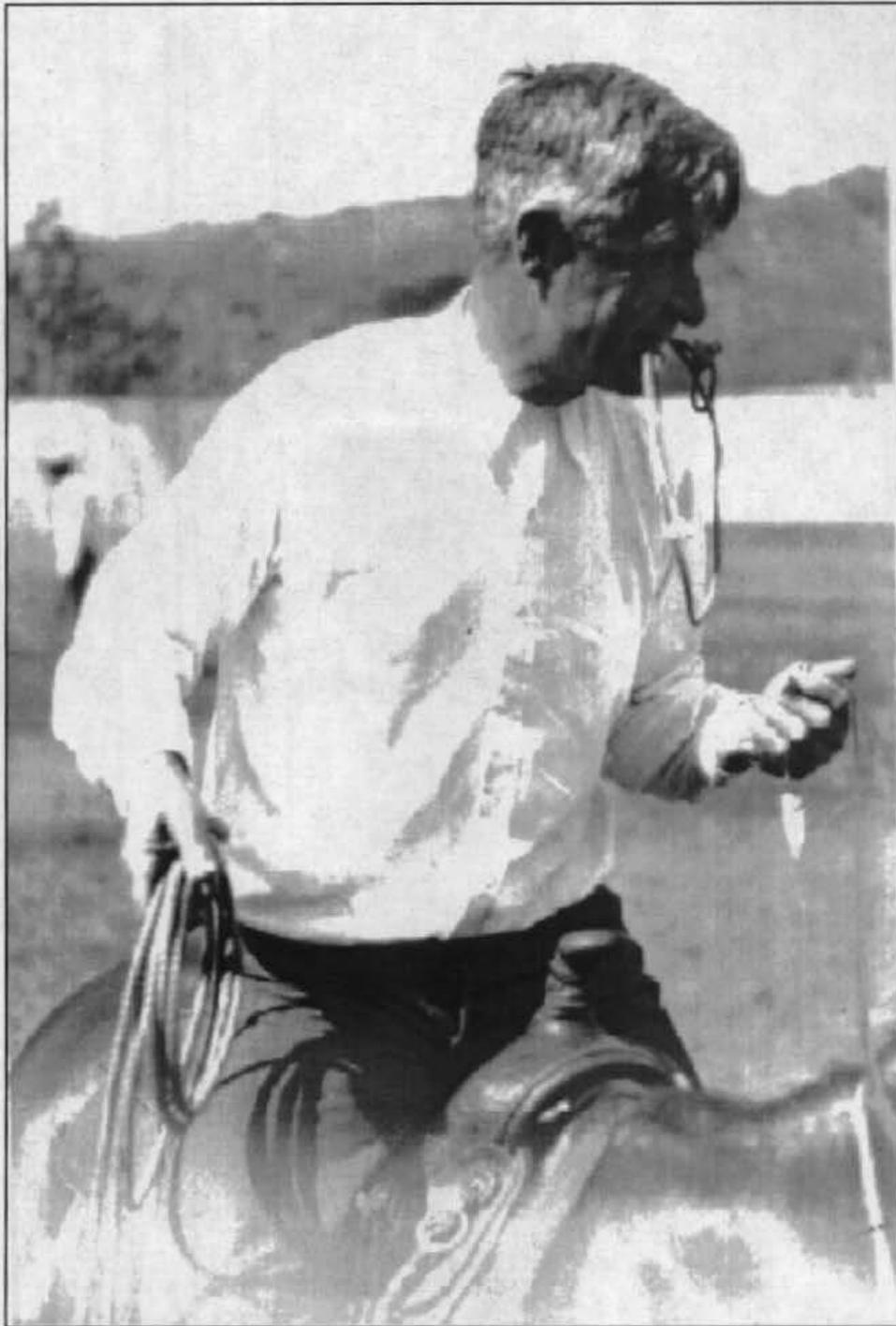


Figure 83: Another Shot of Will Enjoying Himself in the Roping Corral

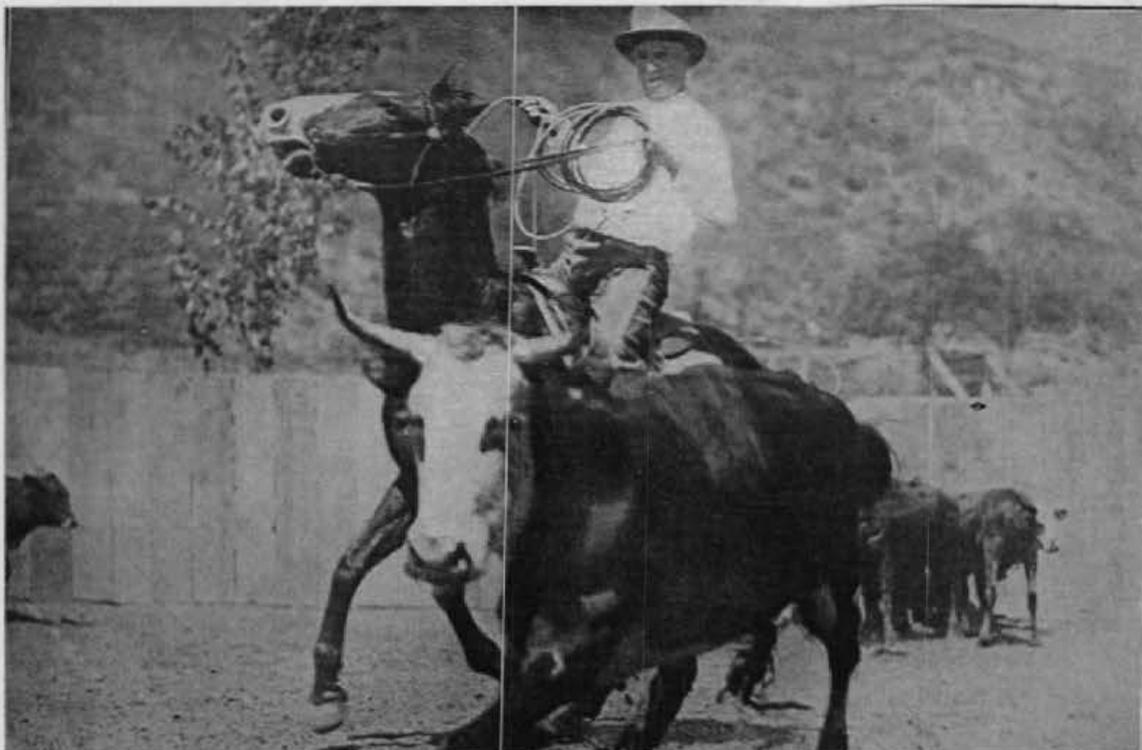


Figure 84: Will Makes Ready To Lasso A Steer.

He "was never happier than (when) he was roping wild steers at his ranch near Santa Monica" (O'Brien 1935).

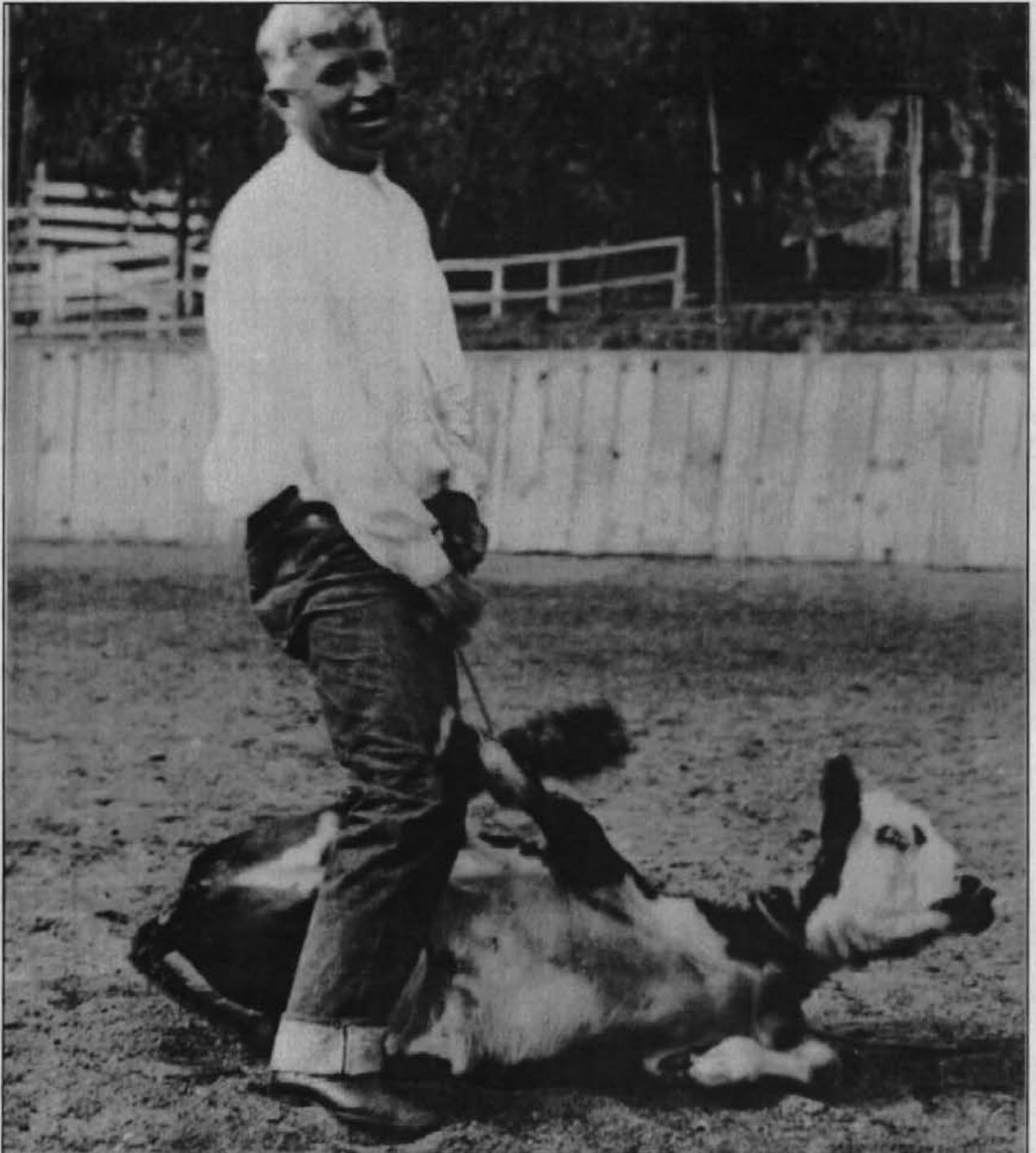


Figure 85: A Calf is Down

Note the dirt surface inside the Roping Corral, wide horizontal boards of its construction, rail fences on the south side of the corral, and grove of Eucalyptus trees between the corral and hay barn.



Figure 86: Will, Will Jr., Mary And Jim in the Roping Corral Circa 1928 – 29.

Note the dirt surface, and the wide horizontal boards of the ring's is construction .

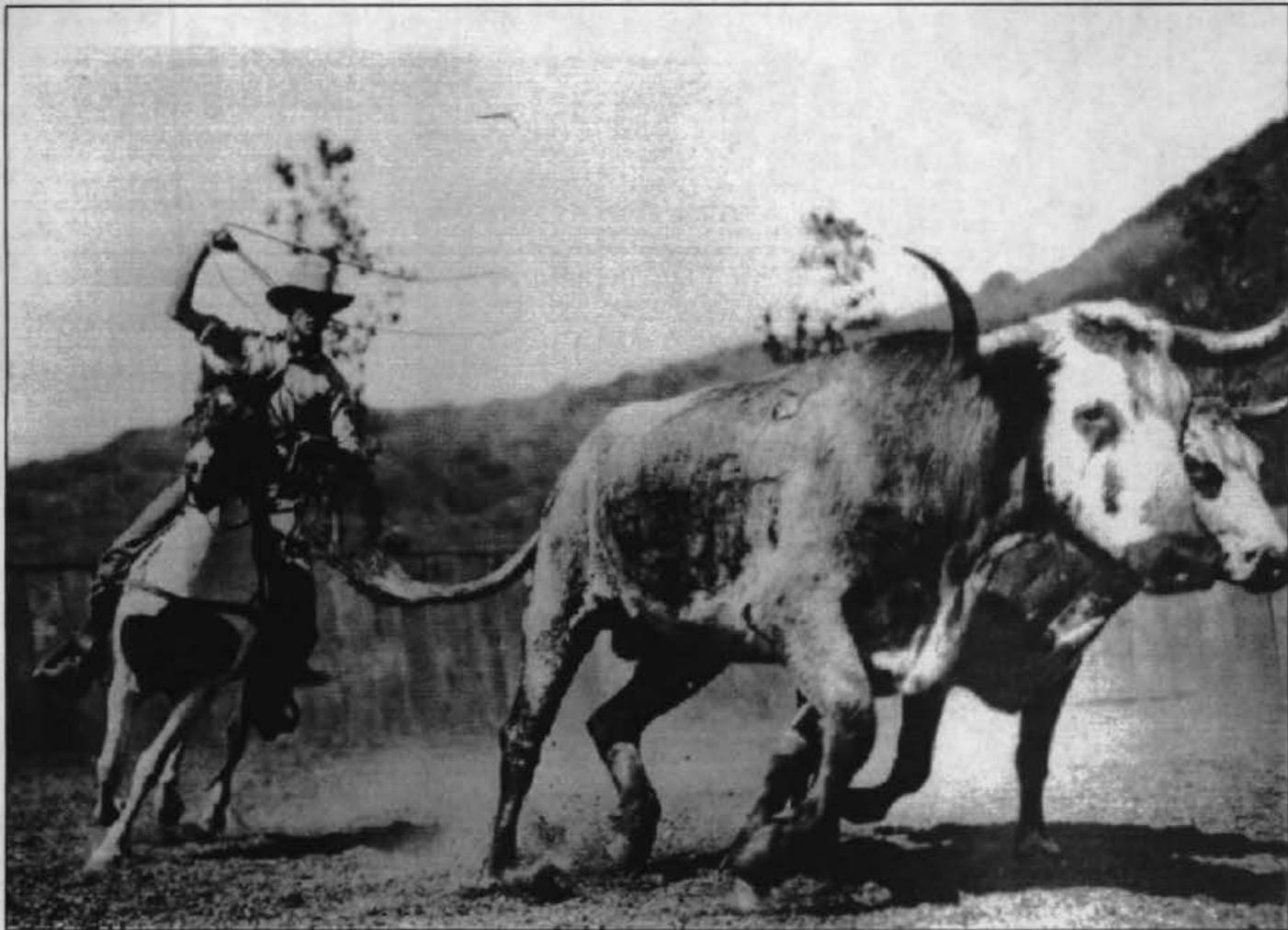


Figure 87: Will Jr. Chasing Two Steers

Note the dirt surface, and small eucalyptus trees around the outside edge.

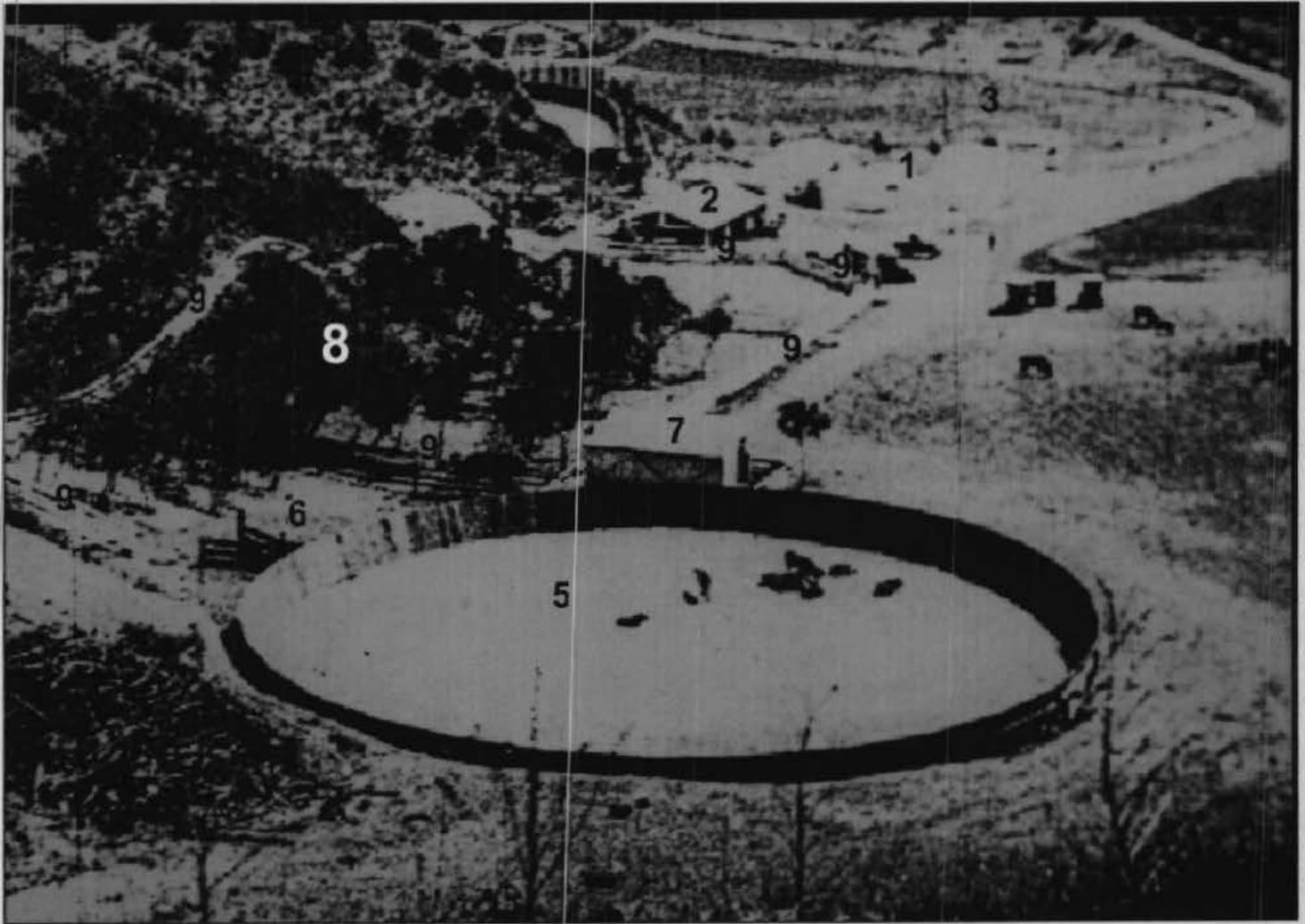


Figure 88: Aerial Photograph of The Roping Corral Circa 1927-1928 Note the following:

1. Mule Barn
2. Blacksmith Carpenter Shop.
3. Lawn where future golf course will be located.
4. Riding Ring under construction.
5. Roping Corral.
6. Rail fence coral on south side of Roping Corral.
7. Shed on west side of Roping Corral.
8. Small grove of trees between Blacksmith shop and Roping Corral.
9. Fence lines.



Figure 89: Roping Corral Details

Note:

1. Eucalyptus trees around edge.
2. Cattle chute on northwest side of corral.
3. Practice Polo Cage outside corral.

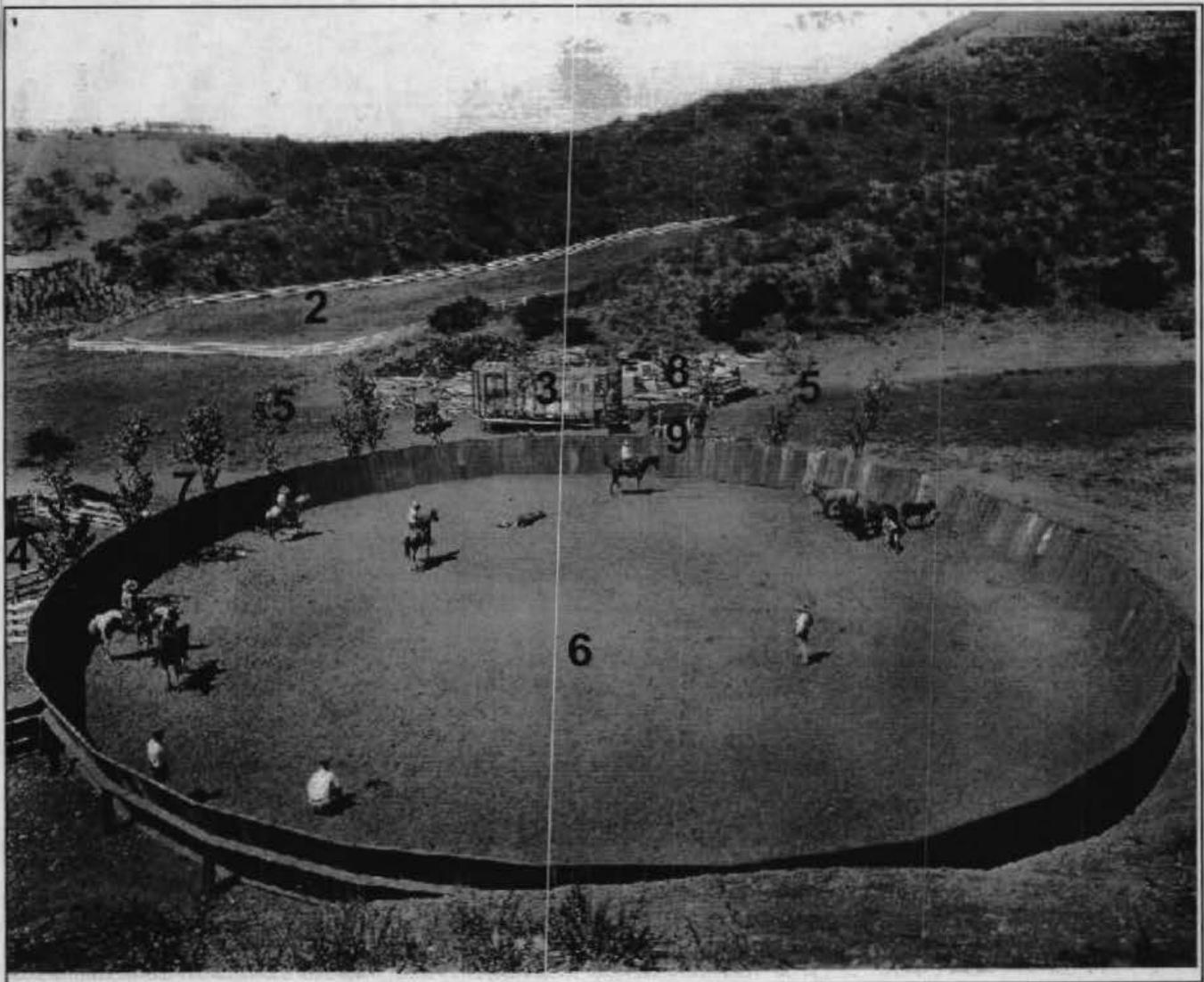


Figure 90: Roping Corral circa 1928 – 1929

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Stable | 8. Recycled building debris. |
| 2. Heart Canyon | 9. Cattle chute |
| 3. Practice Polo Cage | |
| 4. Rail fenced corral to the south of the Roping Corral. | |
| 5. Small eucalyptus trees around exterior of corral. | |
| 6. Dirt surface inside corral. | |
| 7. Location of Shed in 1927 photo (Figure 68) that has been removed. | |

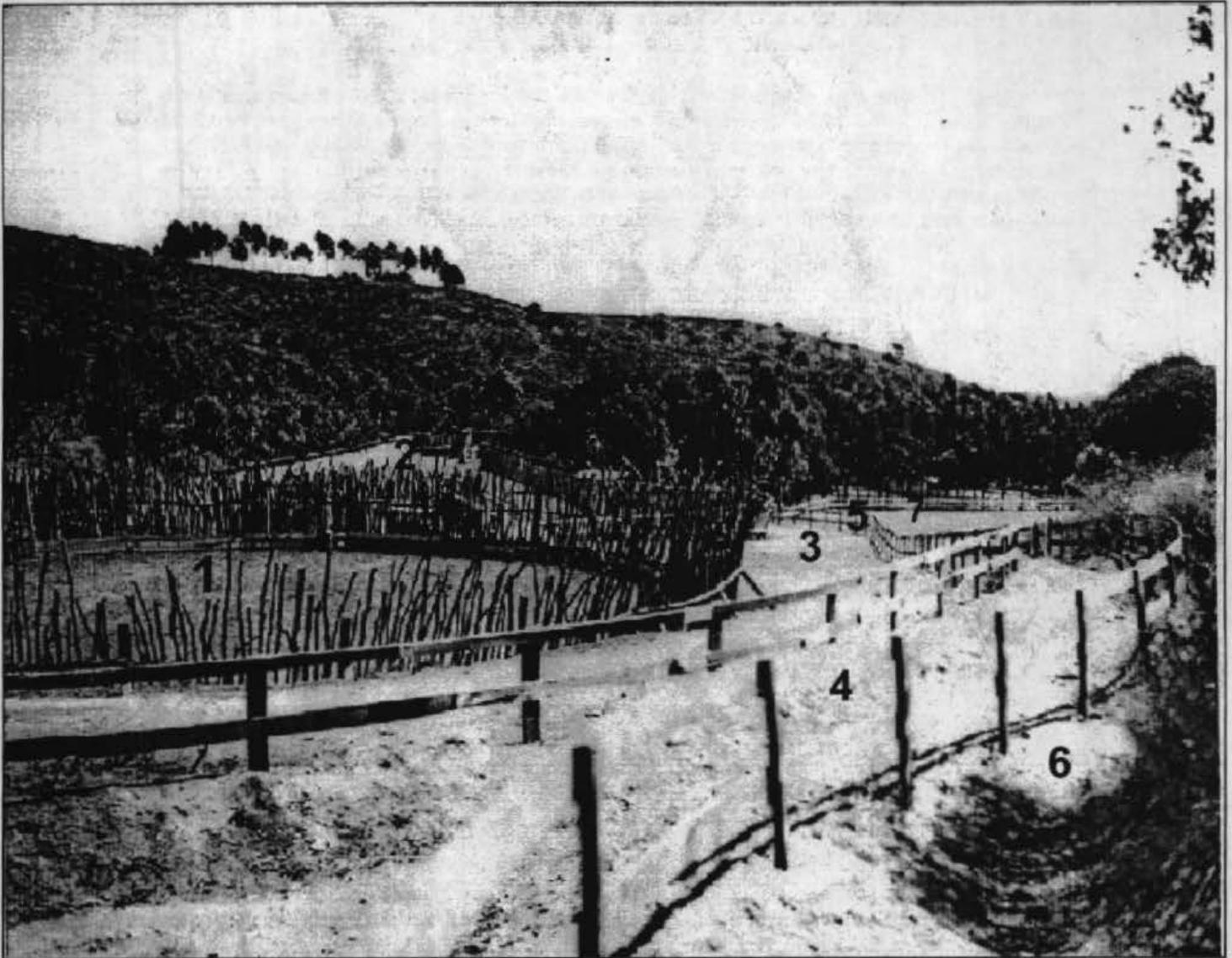


Figure 91: Goat roping pen and Roping corral circa 1933 – 38, looking southerly from Bone Canyon.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Goat Roping Pen. | 5. Extended fence of Heart Canyon Corral. |
| 2. Rebuilt elongated Roping Corral. | 6. Drainage ditch. |
| 3. Road around Roping Corral. | 7. Unidentified building may be the Hay Barn. |
| 4. Rail fence lined path from Heart to Bone Canyon. | |

MITT HEART AND BONE CANYON

Three small canyons were used as pastures. The Mitt Canyon paddock was located behind the Stable (Figure 72)(Photo BSA 3). Heart Canyon was north of the shops and hay barn, and Bone Canyon was behind and to the north of the Roping Corral (See Figures 1 & 3) (Photos A3 & A6). Horses were in these paddocks to graze during the day and returned to the Stable at night. The pastures were planted with alfalfa and surrounded by white wooden rail fences and lines of eucalyptus trees (Figure 73)(Photo C5).

MITT CANYON

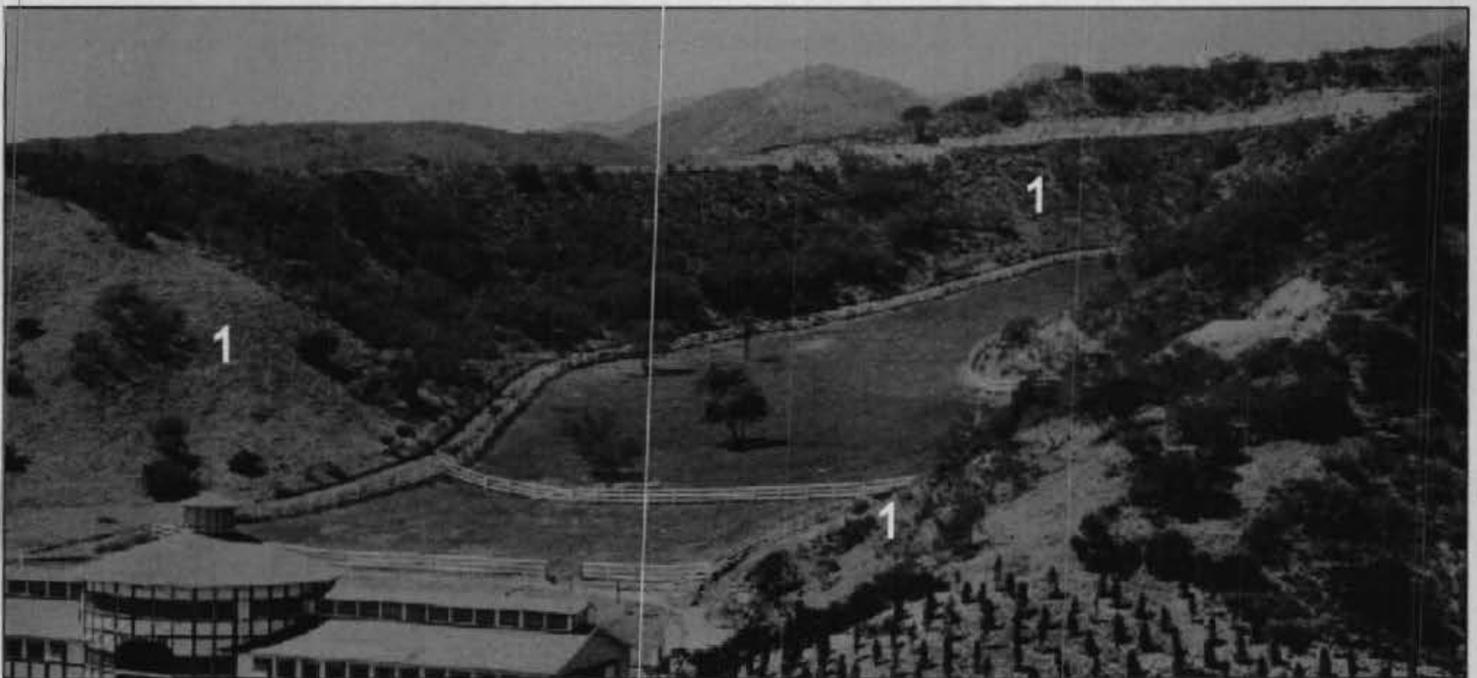


Figure 92: Mitt Canyon 1928-1930

This photograph shows Mitt Canyon planted in grass, and bordered by white rail fences. It has been divided into two pastures. Portions of the hillside have been cleared of brush (1).

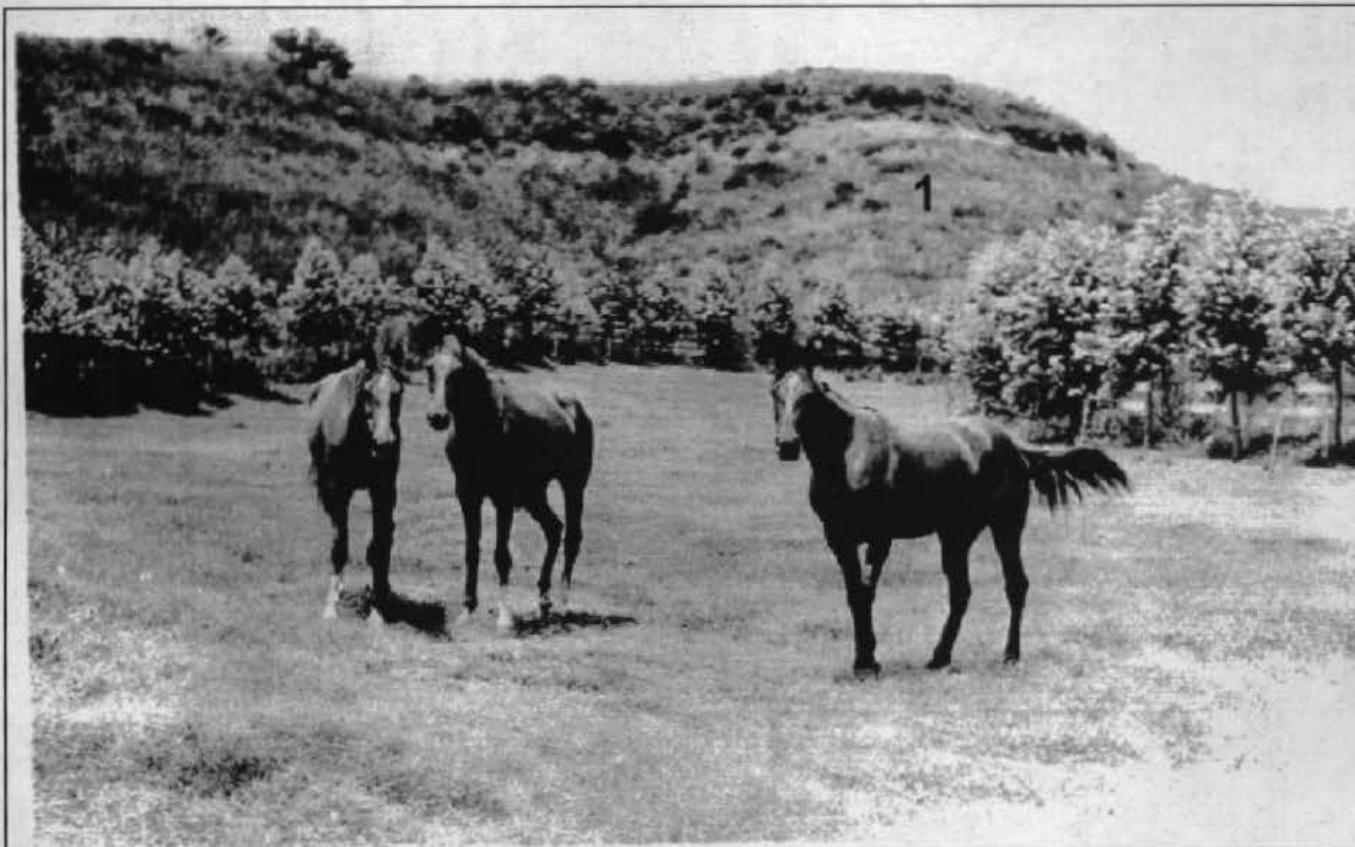


Figure 93: Three of Will Rogers' Polo Ponies in Upper Mitt Canyon, Circa 1935

The perimeter eucalyptus tree line border is established but the trees are not yet extremely large. The lower slope on the hill to the rear appears to have been cleared of brush (1).

HEART CANYON

The original fenced pasture at Heart Canyon was confined to the area between the hills and the fence made a gentle curve to enclose the western end. Around 1933 it was expanded substantially toward the south jogging around the Riding Ring and extending toward the Roping Arena (Figures 74 - 77)(Photos RC 1, BSA 3, C 1, A 3, A 6).

Later Alterations

In the 1960s and 1970s, Heart Canyon Corral was subdivided into more than 30 pens for individually owned horses, resulting in erosion, siltation of drains, and compromising the historic authenticity of the ranch. Some of these internal corral fence lines are shown on DPR drawing no. 11732 in the 1969, "Master Plan" for the barn and corral area on sheet 1 of 4. In 1981, 1400 linear feet of fence around the pasture was rebuilt (Woodward et al. 1992).

Brood Mare Barn

Some of the barns have been moved since Dad's death. The little shed in the canyon Buddy Sterling moved over. That little shed was put there, Buddy put that up after we had the colts and it was used the summer after, the year after Dad died, when the colts were born (Jim Rogers 1976).

The Brood Mare Barn was in all probability a storage shed built in late 1935, after Will's death. Although it may have been associated with the care of young colts it is very unlikely that it was used to keep mares in that were expected to foal. It may not be an appropriate building for the interpretive period.

Dimensions

22' long (n-s) by 19' wide (e-w), one story

Presently used for storage

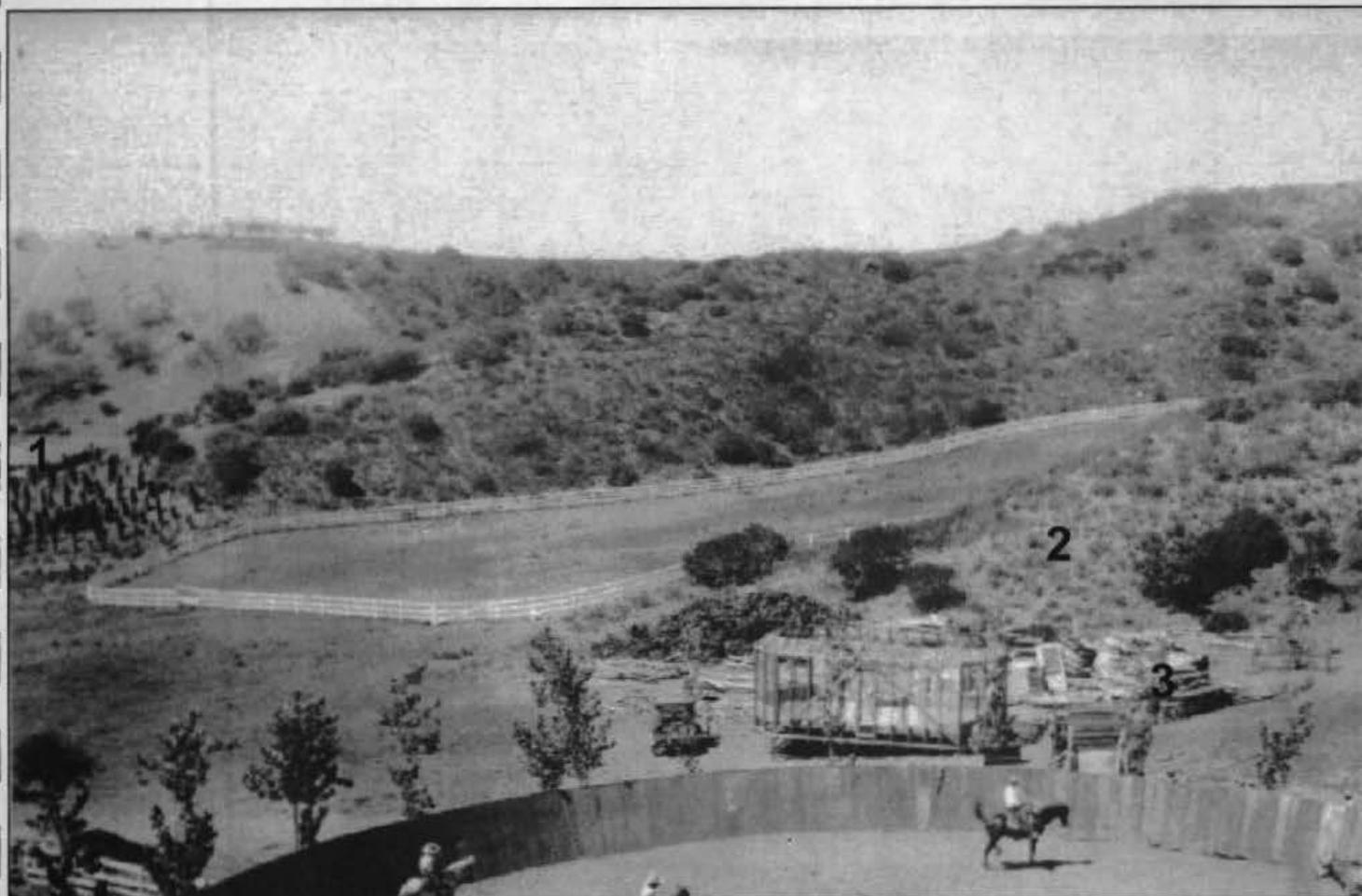


Figure 94: Heart Canyon Circa 1928–1930

The Stable can be seen at the left of the photo (1). A white board rail fence encloses the pasture. This fence makes a gentle curve to enclose the western end of the canyon and does not jog around the riding arena or extend southward toward the roping corral as shown in later photographs circa 1935 – 1938. There is no tree line bordering the pasture. Note the cleared brush hillside (2) and recycled building debris beside the practice polo cage (3).

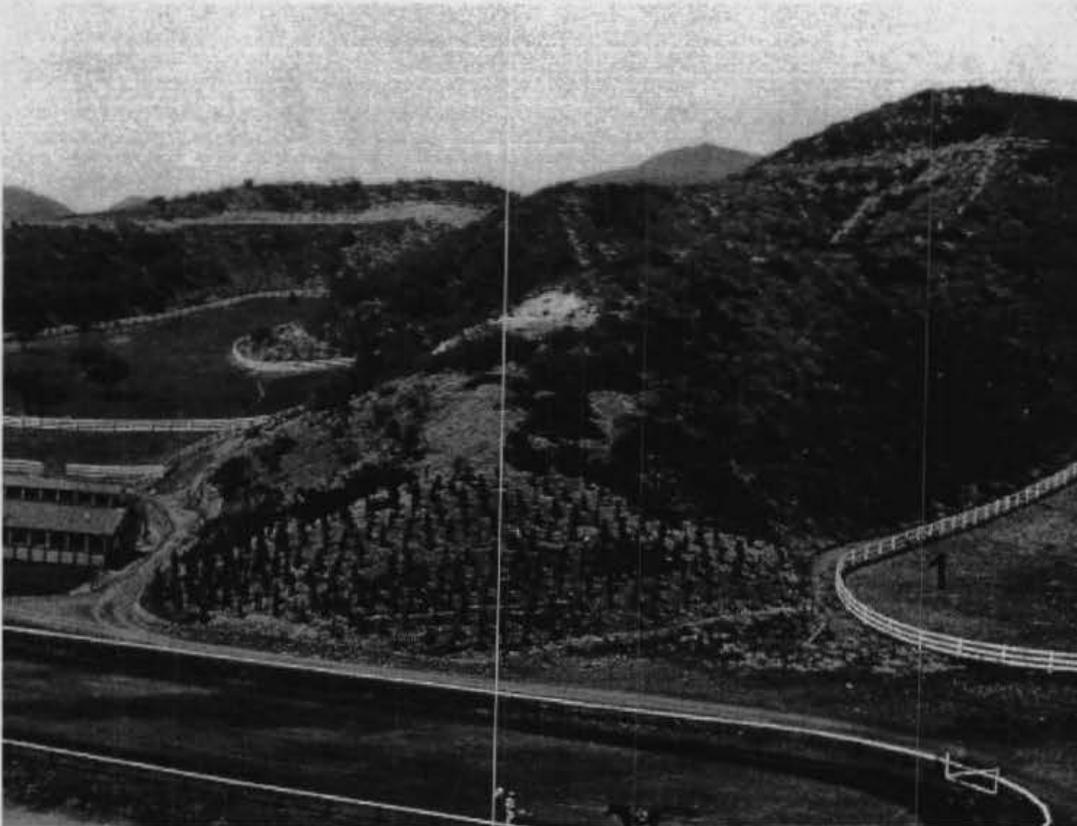


Figure 95: Heart Canyon Fence 1928-1930

The southwest corner of the heart canyon corral is located at the photo's center right (1). The fence makes a gentle curve to enclose the southwestern end of the canyon and does not jog around the riding arena as shown in the later photos circa 1933 – 1938.



Figure 96: Enlargement of Aerial Photograph 1933- 1934

The Heart Canyon pasture has been expanded on the west (1) and now curves around the riding arena (2) and extends to the road on the west side of the enlarged roping corral (3). A tree line now borders the canyon.



Figure 97: Heart and Bone Canyons Circa 1935

The eucalyptus tree lines are quite mature and overshadow the fences in Heart Canyon (1). A row of trees borders the east side of Bone Canyon (2). Note the elongated Roping Corral (3). The slopes have been cleared of brush (4).

LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Certain landscape features were used throughout the ranch and dominate the setting. These include fences, eucalyptus tree lines, and rock work in various forms. Other natural vegetation, especially the brush covered hills, provided their own aesthetics but had to be managed to control the danger of fire. The fences and tree lines combined to define specific parts of the ranch such as the Polo Field, the lawn in front of the house, the Stable, and the pastures in Mitt, Heart, and Bone canyons. They created an aesthetic that carried the eye from one expanse to the next by connecting different living, work, and recreational areas. Rock work in the form of retaining walls, drains, gutters, and planters is found throughout the ranch and contributes greatly to an overall feel of hand craftsmanship, especially around the house and in the area of the Stable, Riding Ring, and shops. The brush covered hills were cleared and cut back in many places around the perimeter of the ranch to control fire hazard. The ridges and slopes were left in a natural state.

FENCING

See those pretty white fences? Every one of them surrounds a mortgage.

After grading was completed Will immediately began to build fences. Before anything else was built distinct neat lines of white painted wooden rail fences defined the ranch property and specific areas within it (See Figures 1, 49, 50, & 78)(Photos A 3 through 6, P 3 through 5, and CA 1 through 4). The *Beverly Hills Citizen* noted in December 1926, that Will Rogers "was very much pleased with the whitewashed fence which was put around the property while he has been away this time" (quoted in Young 1999). The fences confined livestock, defined boundaries and tied the land and buildings into a functional and aesthetic unit (Woodward et al 1992).

EUCALYPTUS TREES

We planted practically all of the Eucalyptus trees. They were all planted out of five gallon cans, practically all of them were. Some of these big trees along the road didn't come in anything bigger than a quart can (Jim Rogers 1976).

At the time of his death in August 1935, eucalyptus trees had become the most important character defining element on Will Rogers' Santa Monica Ranch (See Figures 3 & 78)(Photos A 6, A 7, A 8, A 9). Lines of trees were combined with fence lines to define boundaries, especially around the Polo Field and pastures. They were used without fencing to define the outline of the driveway from Sunset Boulevard and some of the backcountry trails. Additional stands were planted to control erosion and provide a timbered look to surrounding slopes and hillsides. The trees grew rapidly, attaining a substantial height and fullness in only a few short years. Unlike the ornamental oaks around the house the eucalyptus were not brought in as mature plants. They were all planted out of quart and five gallon cans (Jim Rogers n.d.)

ROCK FEATURES

Hand crafted masonry on the Santa Monica Ranch includes drains and gutters around buildings and along trails and roads, retaining walls, and planters. Will had a full time employee to build and maintain the stonework (Sandmeier 1991). This is one of the most unique, interesting, and least maintained group of landscape features in Will Rogers' State Park. The stone gutters along the original entrance road and cobble retaining walls at the Stable are beautiful example of hand crafted masonry not often found in the modern world. Over the years much of the original stone work on the ranch has suffered from deterioration and badly done repairs. Special efforts should

be taken to maintain and restore it to original condition. Not many resources are needed to keep the rock work up, since natural stream stones are used for repair, but greater sensitivity is needed to the style of rock work. Mortar should not be used except where Will Rogers used it and if stones need to be replaced they should be matched to the original material. Repair of the large stone gutter on the bank behind the house destroyed the original configuration and aesthetic of the stone masonry. The cobble retaining wall on the north and east sides of the Stable was replaced in 1980 by stones purchased from a commercial quarry. They lack the individuality of the original material, which should have been salvaged from the original wall or procured from the original quarry less than 40 feet away (Young 1999).

BRUSH COVERED HILLS

We had all this grubbed out. It was kept out. And I don't know what ever happened to it – but my Uncle (Lee Adamson) had a big boiler and incinerator and they would grub all of this out and burn it in that big incinerator. Grubbed out all the way to the top. And he kept it down. And got it out to start with and then he kept it out. And there were people that would come in (to clear brush) and one time he even went as far as to get a tractor in here. . . . before it could get very big he had it grubbed out and took all that big scrub-oak and sumac and all the rest of that (Jim Roger 1976:37)

During Will's lifetime the natural brush covered slopes were kept cleared of brush. The chaparral that covers the hills depends on fire to keep its life cycle in balance. When the Rogers first moved to the Santa Monica Ranch the hillsides had burned less than eight years before and the fuel load was not high (Young 1992). To keep the fire hazard under control Will kept a crew grubbing out the brush all around the ranch and cleared hillsides became another important feature that dominated the landscape (Figure 78). The brush was burned on site in a large incinerator designed by Lee Adamson. It consisted of a big open tank with a screen cover in which the brush was burned as it was cut. The crew would then sow the cleared areas with grass seed (Young 1999; Ed Earl, State Park Ranger notes 1969).

Fire remains an extremely disastrous potential danger at the ranch. There have been two major fires since Will's death – in 1938 and 1978. The 1938 fire destroyed the original roping corral. Both burned all around the house, but firemen, and the presence of a large cleared area behind the house kept the main structure from burning (Young 1999).

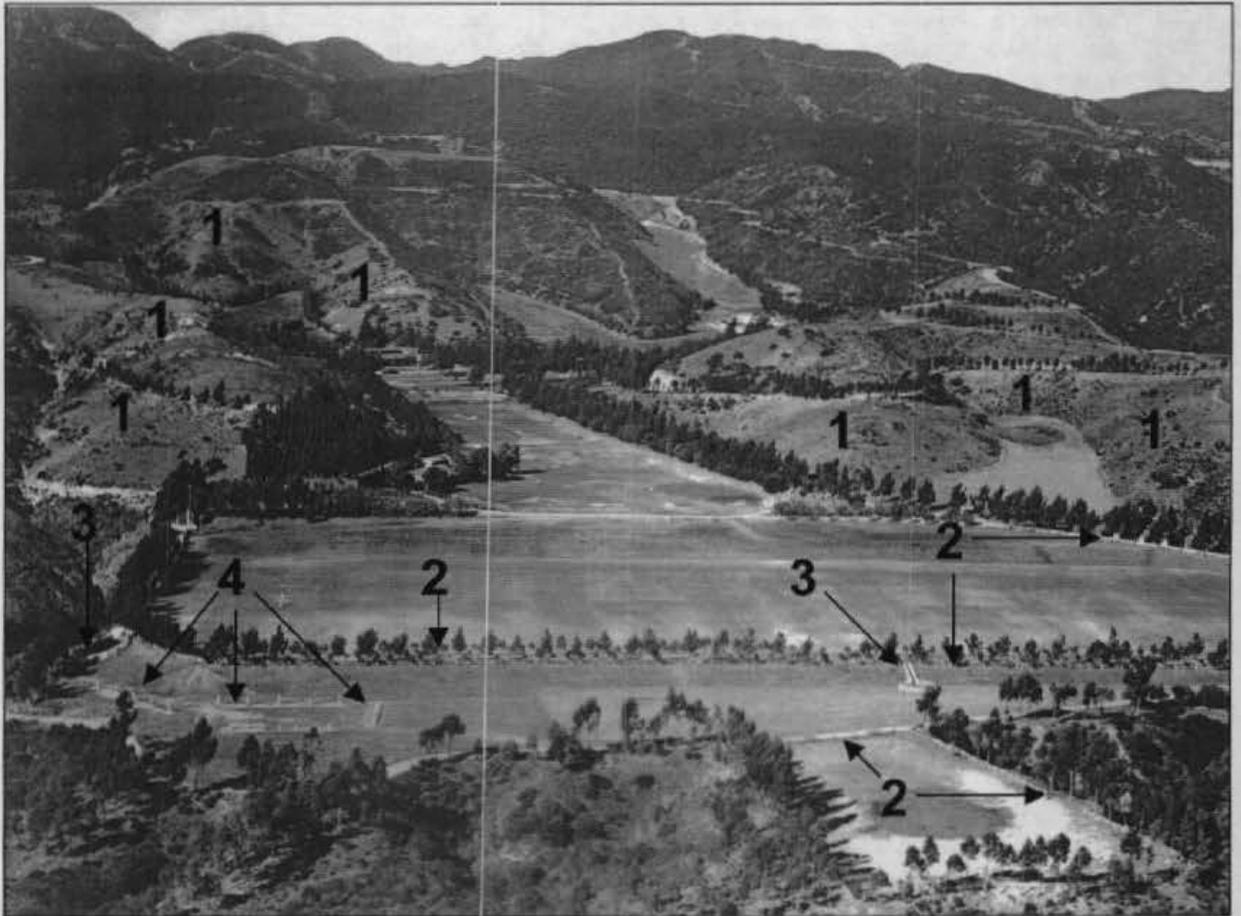


Figure 98: 1933 Aerial Photograph Showing Tree Lines and Brush Covered Hills

This photograph shows how tree lines and open spaces planted in green came to dominate the landscape at the Santa Monica Ranch by the mid 1930s. Also note:

1. Hillsides cleared of brush.
2. Fence lines under the trees around the Polo Field and Share's Pasture.
3. Cattle chutes and corrals at the Polo Field.
4. Picket lines at the Polo Field.

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1992
1999
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INSTITUTIONAL PERIOD

- HOUSE 1944 - 1992

Alterations/Restorations: Toll gate and turnstile added at base of stairway soon after state acquisition in 1944, and later removed; viewing area railing added to living room in 1985; fire detection system added in 1965; intrusion alarm system sprinkler system added to roof for fire protection; fire hose ramadas added to hillside above ranch house, electrical system updated 1979; stone patio or porch stabilized in 1979 with new concrete foundation, reroofed 1982 (Woodward et al. 1992).

- 1947 - Employee residence and garages constructed at western end of park (Drawing 1518 Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1949 - Roping Corral reconstructed (Drawing 1093 Will Rogers State Historic Park)
- Additional park work 1940s (Photographs; 1952 Site Map Will Rogers State Historic Park)

Benches around house along edge of lawn.

Turnstile and metal railings at stairs to house.

Small wooden park signs identifying areas, paths, and regulations.

Parking lot between Polo Field and front lawn graded including new entrance to south of row of pepper trees on old drive. This lot was paved by 1952.

Restrooms and steps constructed south of the Garage.

The glass house, called "hot house," was built by DPR in 1947 - 1948 between Hay Barn and the Roping Corral. Some time in the 1950s a fenced garden was developed on the north side of this structure (Woodward et al. 1992).

- 1949 - Expenditure on Garage \$1020.00 (Budget Summary Southern Service Center)
- 1950 - Lath House No. 2

From Cultural Resource Inventory (Woodward et al. 1992)

This second lathhouse, also called a "lattice garden" is located about 50' north of the hay barn, east of the road to Bone Canyon, and southeast of Heart Canyon. 32' long by 17' wide.

Built by DPR in 1947/48 as a "greenhouse." Also recorded in appraisal report of Miles Allen 1950. Pam Raffetto states in her research that the lath house # 2 was reconstructed in 1961 as indicated in the DPR Facilities index - this reconstruction is not documented. **There has not yet been any evidence that a lath house on this location was in existence during Rogers' time.** Lath house # 2 might have been partially rebuilt in the 1970s after Rustic Canyon fire. It should be considered a part of DPR's early park history. The 1950 survey by Miles Allen and a 1969 DPR utility drawing show that a 18' by 9' glass house was formerly attached to this lath house on the south side. The glass house, called "hot house" was built by DPR in 1947 - 1948. Some time in the 1950s a fenced garden was developed on the north side.

- 1955 – Expenditure on Sewer System \$3000.00 (Budget Summary Southern Service Center)
- 1956 - Expenditure for roofing main house \$3500.00; for natural gas supply \$1100.00 (Budget Summary Southern Service Center)
- 1957 – Repairs to ranch house \$16,000 (Budget Summary Southern Service Center)
- 1959 - Sprinkler Irrigation system in Lawn – Golf Course (Plan dated 11-4-1959 on file at Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1960 - Update electrical and heating system in the North Wing of the ranch house (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1962 - Fire hazard reduction and protection \$3150, water system \$21,400 (Budget Summary Southern Service Center)
- 1962 - Gasoline storage tank and pump installed between Blacksmith Shop and Hay Barn (Drawing 0-5-2042 Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1965 - Alterations and repairs to bunkhouse (Drawing 40-10-007 Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1966 - Replace sideboards on Polo Field (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1966 - Repairs to 4,000 linear ft. of wooden fences, guard rails, barriers, etc. surface of lath house (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1966 - Repaint exterior of house and garage, one coat acrylic white paint. Rebuild fence (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1966 - Lath House # 2: Install blacktop walks to roll hand trucks into building for moving of potted plants (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1967 - Rebuild stone porch along front of ranch house (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1967 - Foreman's Quarter's Stabilized (Drawing D-5-2331 Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1968 - Pipe rail and steps from trail beyond ranch to stables (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1968 - Blacktop roads (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1968 - Parking – paint traffic lines white, parking spurs red, curbs where no parking is permitted (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1968 - Replace flower box on balcony at east end of park headquarters building (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1972 - Blacksmith Shop restored (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).

- 1973 - Replace and repair fences along golf course and barricades on entrance road (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1976 - Kiosk painted (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1976 - Lath house painted, all shop buildings painted, 5 climbing and 10 bush roses of Will Rogers variety planted in front of house (Old Park Files Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1976 - Drive from parking lot to Stable area paved as well as the parking lot west of the tennis court (Department of Parks and Recreation, Will Rogers State Historic Park Paving Plan, On file Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1976 - Pavement failure in drive due to tree roots. Roots removed and holes filled with compacted class 2 aggregate (Plan on File Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1979 - Main House Stabilization (Drawings 40-10-010, 40-10-11, 40-10-12 Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1982 - Ranch House Foundation Repair (40-10-013).
- 1985 - Drainage and erosion control around Roping Corral east and south sides and along channel on hill behind house and golf course (Plan on File Will Rogers State Historic Park).
- 1993 - Major repairs to stables (13 sheets of plans dated 3-26-1993 at Will Rogers State Historic Park).

APPENDIX B
CATALOG OF HISTORIC REFERENCE PHOTOGRAPHS

Will Rogers SHP Photograph Archive

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
A 1	Aerial overview - camp at future house site and mule barn present	SP	12-16-25	YF	-	-	-
A 2	Aerial overview - 3/1927	FAPC	Flt# C-30; D:4	YF	-	-	-
A 3	Aerial overview - 12/1929	WRSHP	Hb8	YF	-	-	-
A 4	Aerial overview - late 1929/early 1930. North wing not built.	OK	-	YF	-	-	-
A 5	Aerial overview - (date 2-16-33?)	UCLA/Dept. of Geo.	E-3923-17-6	YF	-	-	-
A 6	Aerial overview - 1930+, probably before 1935. North wing built, roping ring expanded, north and east wings, mule barn gone, no trees along south edge of polo field.	WRSHP	Hb8[a]	YF	-	-	-
A 7	Aerial overview - 1933-35 (Spence coll.=10/25/1935). South wing is one story.	SP	-	YF	-	-	-
A 8	Aerial overview - Young=1935, Spence=12/3/1938. After 1938 fire, no trees singed.	SP	-	YF	-	-	-
A 9	Aerial overview - c.1935	YF	-	-	-	-	-
A 10	Aerial overview - c.1932-33	YF	-	-	-	-	-
A 11	Aerial overview - 1940	-	-	-	-	-	-
A 12	Aerial overview - 3/1935	Joe T. Keller	9/1967	-	-	-	-
A 13	Aerial overview - 3/1935	Joe T. Keller	9/1967	WRSHP	Hb15	-	-
A 14	Aerial overview - 3/1935	Joe T. Keller	9/1967	WRSHP	Hb16	-	-
A 15	Aerial overview - 3/1935	Joe T. Keller	9/1967	-	-	-	-
BARN/STABLE AREA							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
BSA 1	Overview of barns, stable, corral area - Fall 1930	YF	-	WRSHP	Bill Wise	-	-
BSA 2	Stable and riding arena - 1928-1930. Roof not lowered.	OK	PB11.144	OK	PB11.4	WRSHP	Hb2
BSA 2	continuation	SS	090-2844	-	-	-	-
BSA 3	Stable and riding arena - 1928-1930.	WRSHP	Hb25	WRSHP	Hb3	OKCD	PB11-129
BSA 4	Stable - 1929	WRSHP	Hb1	-	-	-	-
BSA 5	Stable - summer or fall 1930	WRSHP	Bill Wise	YF	-	-	-
BSA 6	Stable - c.1944+. Very overgrown.	SS	090-2960	YF	-	-	-
BSA 7	Stable - 1960s	YF	-	-	-	-	-

Will Rogers SHP Photograph Archive

Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
BSA 8	Stable, horses and handlers named - 1928	SS	090-3121	-	-	-	-
BSA 9	Stable, horses and people - 1929	OK	P11.253	WRSHP	Hd10	YF	-
BSA 10	Riding ring - 1947-1950	YF	-	-	-	-	-
BSA 11	Road and barns - 1959	SS	090-2910	-	-	-	-
BSA 12	Barns - 1970s	YF	-	-	-	-	-
BSA 13	Barn - 1950	YF	-	-	-	-	-
BSA 14	Barn - 1950	YF	-	-	-	-	-
BSA 15	Soapsuds - 1946	SS	090-2835	WRSHP	Hd8	-	-
BSA 16	Soapsuds - 1944-1947 or 1936	OK	PB11.258	WRSHP	Hd5	YF	-
BSA 17	Soapsuds - 1944-1947 or 1936	OK	PB11.258a	-	-	-	-
BSA 18	Barn - 1950	YF	-	-	-	-	-
BSA 19	Practice polo cage? - 1950	YF	-	-	-	-	-
BSA 20	Stable overview - 1935	YF	-	-	-	-	-
BSA 21	Stable - 1967	SS	090-2951	-	-	-	-
BSA 22	Stable entry	SE	31-21	-	-	-	-
BSA 23	Will Rogers in riding ring	OK	PB14.184	OK	PB14.199	OKCD	P14-9
BSA 24	Betty Rogers and sister on horses in stable entry	OK	PB11.158	OKCD	P11-158	-	-
BSA 25	Stable, horses and people - 1929	WRSHP	Hd11	-	-	-	-
BSA 26	Horse and lady - c.1929-1930	OKCD	P10a-85?	-	-	-	-
BSA 27	Horse and lady - c.1929-1930	OKCD	P10b-62	-	-	-	-
BSA 28	Family on horses	OK	PB11.160	-	-	-	-
BSA 29	Family on horses - 1928+	OK	PB11.176	WRSHP	CB7	?	559-1-5691
ROPING CORRAL							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
RC 1	Overview - 1927-1928, includes reversed image	WRSHP	Hb5	WRSHP	Hb4	-	-
RC 2	Roping steer	OKCD	P10-12	-	-	-	-
RC 3	Horses and people in corral - 1928-1933	WRSHP	Hb29	OK	PB11.169	-	-
RC 4	Will Rogers in roping pen	WRSHP	Ab1	OK	PB11.170	OK	PB14.149
RC 5	Roping steer	WRSHP	D68	-	-	-	-
RC 6	Will roping calf	WRSHP	Ab3	OK	PB14.36a	OK	PB11.162
RC 7	Will roping calf	OK	PB11.168	-	-	-	-
RC 8	Overview - 1928-1933	WRSHP	Hb24	OK	PB11.161	-	-
RC 9	Overview - 1928-1933	WRSHP	Hb6	SS	090-2877	OK	PB11.153
RC 10	Overview - c.1925?	WRSHP	Hd1	-	-	-	-
RC 11	Will in corral - 1932	WRSHP	Ab2	OK	PB14.249	OK	PB14.152
RC11	continuation	OK	PB14.36	-	-	-	-
RC 12	Roping steer	OKCD	P10-15	-	-	-	-

Will Rogers SHP Photograph Archive

Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
RC 13	Roping steer	OKCD	P11-155	-	-	-	-
RC 14	Will on horse	WRSHP	Ab9	OK	PB14.28	OK	PB14.99
RC 15	Roping steer	OKCD	P14.56	-	-	-	-
RC 16	Roping steer	OK	PB14.56	-	-	-	-
RC 17	Will roping calf	OK	PB11.264	-	-	-	-
RC 18	Roping steer	OK	PB11.149	-	-	-	-
RC 19	Roping steer	OK	PB11.156	-	-	-	-
RC 20	Roping steer	OK	PB14.48	OK	PB11.155	-	-
RC 21	fencing - mid-late 1930s	YF	-	-	-	-	-
RC 22	Will and others on horses	WRSHP	Cb1	-	-	-	-
CANYONS							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
C 1	says "probably before 35", but corral is elongated.	WRSHP	Hb21	OK	PB11.72	OK	PB11.73
C 1	continuation	YF	-	-	-	-	-
C 2	c.1930	YF	-	-	-	-	-
C 3	Rustic Canyon	OK	PB11.102	YF	-	-	-
C 4	Horses - 9/21/1935	WRSHP	Hd3	-	-	-	-
C 5	1950	YF	-	-	-	-	-
C 6	Fireplace at log cabin -1936	OK	PB11.141	-	-	-	-
C 7	Rogers cabin - 1935	OK	PB11.74	WRSHP	Hb10	SS	090-2856
C 8	Rogers cabin	OK	PB11.128	-	-	-	-
C 9	Rogers cabin	OK	PB11.97	-	-	-	-
C10	Rogers cabin - interior - ca.1929	-	-	-	-	-	-
POLO FIELD							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
P 1	1924-1925	YF	-	-	-	-	-
P 2	1925	SS	090-3040	-	-	-	-
P 3	1928-1930	WRSHP	Hb7	YF	-	-	-
P 4	1929	YF	-	-	-	-	-
P 5	1929	YF	-	-	-	-	-
P 6	-	YF	-	-	-	-	-
P 7	1944 - Pictorial CA	YF	-	-	-	-	-
P 8	-	WRSHP	Hb11	-	-	-	-
P 9	Statue of Will and Soapsuds - c.1946	YF	-	-	-	-	-
P 10	-	WRSHP	Bd5	OK	PB14.227	-	-
P 11	9/8/1931	WRSHP	Db9	-	-	-	-

Will Rogers SHP Photograph Archive

Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
PC 1	Late summer 1930	WRSHP	Bill Wise	-	-	-	-
PC 2	1930	YF	-	-	-	-	-
PC 3	1930	YF	-	-	-	-	-
PC 4	1932-1934 - includes reversed image	WRSHP	Ha8	OK	PB11.44	SS	090-3525
PC 4	continuation	YF	-	-	-	-	-
PC 5	1932-1933	YF	-	-	-	-	-
PC 6	1932-1934 (includes reversed image)	WRSHP	Ha7	OK	PB11.37	YF	-
PC 6	continuation	WRSHP	Ha15	SS	090-3527	-	-
PC 7	BBQing	-	-	-	-	-	-
PC 8	1933-1935	YF	-	-	-	-	-
PC 9	1933-1935	YF	-	-	-	-	-
PC 10	1933-1934 - no picture window	YF	-	-	-	-	-
PC 11	1932-1935 - stairs and arbor added	WRSHP	Ha1	SS	090-3572	-	-
PC 12	c. 1930 or 1944-47? (see PC18)	OK	PB11.35	SS	090-2818	YF	-
PC 13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PC 14	family portrait	OKCD	P16-305	OKCD	P 305	-	-
PC 15	c. 1935	OKCD	P16-308	-	-	-	-
PC 16	1944-1945	YF	-	OK	OB11.29	SS	090-2812
PC 17	1945-1947	YF	-	-	-	-	-
PC 18	12/3/1947	SS	090-2848	-	-	-	-
PC 19	1959	SS	090-2968	-	-	-	-
PC 20	9/28/1965	SS	090-2991	-	-	-	-
PC 21	SHP period	SS	090-2888	-	-	-	-
PC 22	c. 1975	YF	-	WRSHP	Ha16	-	-
ORIGINAL CABIN/HOUSE							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
CA 1	1929	YF	-	-	-	-	-
CA 2	1927-1930	OK	PB11.5	WRSHP	Ha6	SS	090-2860
CA 2	continuation	YF	-	-	-	-	-
CA 3	1927-1930	WRSHP	Ha13	OK	PB11.6	-	-
CA 4	1927-1930	WRSHP	Ha5	OK	PB11.37	SS	090-2842
CA 5	Family on porch	OKCD	P10b-132	-	-	-	-
CA 6	Family on porch - 1928-1930	WRSHP	Ca7	-	-	-	-
CA 7	Family on swing - 1928-1930	WRSHP	Ca1	SS	090-14241	-	-
CA 8	Family on swing with dog and brahma bull - 1928	WRSHP	-	-	-	-	-
NORTH PORCH							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #

Will Rogers SHP Photograph Archive

Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
NP 1	1935	WRSHP	Ha14	OK	PB11.111	SS	090-3532
NP 1	continuation	YF	-	-	-	-	-
NP 2	1932-1934	WRSHP	Da12	-	-	-	-
NP 3	1932-1934 (includes reversed image)	WRSHP	Ha2	SS	090-3573	-	-
NP 4	1930s	WRSHP	Ha9	OK	PB11.58	SS	090-14373
NP 4	continuation	YF	-	-	-	-	-
NP 5	1930s or 1947	SS	090-3136	YF	-	-	-
NP 6	1944+	WRSHP	Ha18	-	-	-	-
NP 7	-	WRSHP	Ha20	OKCD	P16 336	-	-
NP 8	-	YF	-	-	-	-	-
NP 9	c.1935	SS	090-2836	-	-	-	-
HOUSE/LAWN OVERVIEW							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
HLO 1	1930	WRSHP	Bill Wise	YF	-	-	-
HLO 2	1935-1940	SS	090-3045	-	-	-	-
HLO 3	Pre-3/1935	WRSHP	Ha10	-	-	-	-
HLO 4	mid-1930s-early 1940s	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 5	mid-1930s-early 1940s	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 6	1944-1946	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 7	1945-1947	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 8	1945-1947	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 9	1944+	SS	090-3037	-	-	-	-
HLO 10	1947-1950	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 11	early 1950s	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 12	early 1950s	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 13	c.1935	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 14	1955	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 15	1960	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 16	1955	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 17	1956	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 18	1960s	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 19	1960s	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 20	-	SE	31-22	-	-	-	-
HLO 21	1944	SS	090-2825	-	-	-	-
HLO 22	1944+	SS	090-2966	-	-	-	-
HLO 23	-	WRSHP	Ha23	SS	090-2925	-	-
HLO 24	-	YF	-	-	-	-	-

Will Rogers SHP Photograph Archive

Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
HLO 25	c.1964?	YF	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 26	-	SE	31-19	-	-	-	-
HLO 27	1944+	SS	090-3003	-	-	-	-
HLO 28	7/14/1946	SS	090-2837	-	-	-	-
HLO 29	-	SS	090-2996	-	-	-	-
HLO 30	-	SS	090-2912	-	-	-	-
HLO 31	-	OKCD	P11-22	-	-	-	-
HLO 32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HLO 33	1950+	SS	090-24687	-	-	-	-
HLO 34	-	SS	090-24686	-	-	-	-
HLO 35	1952	WRSHP	Ha19	-	-	-	-
HLO 36	1959	SS	090-2914	-	-	-	-
HLO 37	1965+ - reversed image	SS	090-3031	-	-	-	-
HLO 38	9/28/1965	SS	090-2994	-	-	-	-
HLO 39	9/28/1965	SS	090-2998	WRSHP	Ha22	-	-
HLO 40	-	SS	090-3252	-	-	-	-
HLO 41	-	SS	090-2896	-	-	-	-
HLO 42	11/1983	SS	090-14376	-	-	-	-
HLO 43	Pre-3/1935 - reversed image	SS	090-3036	-	-	-	-
HLO 44	1944+ - reversed image	SS	090-3034	-	-	-	-
HLO 45	1950+ - reversed image	SS	090-3033	-	-	-	-
HLO 46	1965	SS	090-2999	-	-	-	-

SOUTH END

Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
S 1	1930	-	-	-	-	-	-
S 2	1944	YF	-	SS	090-2798	-	-
S 3	1945	YF	-	-	-	-	-
S 4	1945	YF	-	-	-	-	-
S 5	1950-1955	YF	-	-	-	-	-
S 6	-	SS	090-3050	-	-	-	-
S 7	Reversed image	SS	090-3035	-	-	-	-
S 8	-	SS	090-24685	-	-	-	-
S 9	1950+	SS	090-3002	-	-	-	-
S 10	-	SE	31-24	-	-	-	-
S 11	-	SE	31-27	-	-	-	-
S 12	-	SS	090-3026	-	-	-	-
S 13	1965	YF	-	-	-	-	-

Will Rogers SHP Photograph Archive

Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
NORTH END							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
N 1	1944	SS	090-2810	-	-	-	-
N 2	1935	YF	-	-	-	-	-
N 3	1950	YF	-	-	-	-	-
N 4	1931-1934	-	-	-	-	-	-
N 5	7/14/1946 - Soapsuds at hitching rail	SS	090-2828	-	-	-	-
N 6	1944-1947	YF	-	-	-	-	-
N 7	-	SE	31-23	-	-	-	-
N 8	1952-1953	SS	090-3054	-	-	-	-
N 9	1959	SS	090-2964	-	-	-	-
N 10	-	SE	31-18	-	-	-	-
N 11	-	SS	090-2890	-	-	-	-
N 12	Soapsuds at hitching rail	-	-	-	-	-	-
N 13	Soapsuds and Will Rogers	OKCD	P14-121	-	-	-	-
N 14	Young man (son?) in riding clothes	OKCD	P10-24	-	-	-	-
GUEST HOUSE/GARAGE							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
G 1	1929	YF	-	WRSHP	Hall	-	-
G 2	1929	YF	-	-	-	-	-
G 3	1969	SS	090-3213	-	-	-	-
G 4	Garage/Office - 1969	SS	090-3202	-	-	-	-
G 5	Garage/Office - 1960s	SS	090-3052	-	-	-	-
G 6	Daughter playing tennis	OKCD	10b-7	-	-	-	-
INSTITUTIONAL PERIOD							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
I 1	1975 - aerial overview of park	YF	-	-	-	-	-
I 2	1980 - aerial overview of park	YF	-	-	-	-	-
I 3	1978 - aerial overview of park	YF	-	-	-	-	-
I 4	1958 - aerial overview of park	YF	-	-	-	-	-
I 5	Overview from hill top	YF	-	-	-	-	-
I 6	1950 - greenhouse	YF	-	-	-	-	-
I 7	1960s - pipe corral	YF	-	-	-	-	-
I 8	1940s - park work, trail signs	YF	-	-	-	-	-
I 9	1940s - park work, signs	YF	-	-	-	-	-
I 10	1940s - park work, trail signs	YF	-	-	-	-	-
I 11	1960s - various shots (10)	YF	-	-	-	-	-

Will Rogers SHP Photograph Archive

Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
I 11a	1960s - lower polo field	YF	-	-	-	-	-
I 11b	1960s - pipe corral	YF	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
M 1	Postcards	YF	-	-	-	-	-
M 2	1946 - postcards	YF	-	-	-	-	-
M 3	1944 - copy of <i>Pictorial California</i> article	YF	-	-	-	-	-
BEVERLY HILLS							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
B 1	Will and children riding horses in riding ring	WRSHP	Cb3	-	-	-	-
B 2	Will and children riding horses in riding ring	WRSHP	Cb6	-	-	-	-
B 3	Will lassoing with the boys	WRSHP	C68	-	-	-	-
B 4	Wife and children - portrait	WRSHP	CA5	-	-	-	-
B 5	Wife and children in front of log cabin	YF	-	SS	090-3146	-	-
B 6	Miscellaneous photocopies from Oklahoma	OK	various	-	-	-	-
B 7	Beverly Hills house	OKCD	P11-191	-	-	-	-
FACES AND PLACES							
Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
FP 1	Will Rogers - Ziegfield Follies	WRSHP	Fa1	OKCD	P93	-	-
FP 2	Will Rogers - Orpheum circuit	WRSHP	Fa2	-	559-X-156	-	-
FP 3	Will Rogers - Ziegfield Follies	WRSHP	Fa4	-	-	-	-
FP 4	Will Rogers with woman and lasso	WRSHP	Fi2	-	-	-	-
FP 5	Will Rogers with horse	WRSHP	Fi3	-	-	-	-
FP 6	Will Rogers - Keystone Cops	WRSHP	Ff2	-	-	-	-
FP 7	Will Rogers - Early Hal Roach Production	WRSHP	Fj2	-	-	-	-
FP 8	Will Rogers with woman, horse and lasso	WRSHP	Fj15	-	-	-	-
FP 9	Will Rogers putting on gloves	WRSHP	H-45	-	-	-	-
FP 10	Will Rogers - the Great Ziegfield - 1935	WRSHP	Eb12	-	-	-	-
FP 11	Will Rogers and young boy	WRSHP	Be5	-	-	-	-
FP 12	Will Rogers - "Steamboat Round the Bend" - 8/16/1935	WRSHP	Fb63 or Fbb3	-	-	-	-
FP 13	Will Rogers (as politician in movie?)	WRSHP	Fk1	-	-	-	-
FP 14	Will Rogers - Mr. Skitch - 1935	WRSHP	Fx1	-	-	-	-
FP 15	Will Rogers - Connecticut Yankee	WRSHP	Fdde	-	-	-	-
FP 16	Will Rogers - County Chairman	WRSHP	Fo4	-	-	-	-
FP 17	Will Rogers - Fox Film player - 8/27/1935	WRSHP	Fg2	-	-	-	-
FP 18	Miscellaneous photocopies from Oklahoma	OK	various	-	-	-	-

Will Rogers SHP Photograph Archive

Photo #	Description/Comments	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #	Repository	Rep. #
FP 19	Will Rogers and horse	WRSHP	Ab11	-	-	-	-
FP 20	Will Rogers and Fred Stone - 1929	WRSHP	Be13	-	-	-	-
FP 21	Will and Betty Rogers portrait	OKCD	P10B77	-	-	-	-
FP 22	Will Rogers in golf clothes with lasso	OKCD	M119 3	-	-	-	-
FP 23	Will Rogers in ring with rope	YF	-	-	-	-	-



**WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**PERIOD MAP -
YEARS 1925 TO 1929**

**DESIGNED BY: KAREN ADAMS
HISTORIC RESEARCH BY: STEPHEN VAN WORMER
DATE: 04-10-2002**

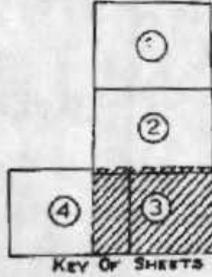


**WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**PERIOD MAP -
YEARS 1930 TO 1935**

**DESIGNED BY: KAREN ADAMS
HISTORIC RESEARCH BY: STEPHEN VAN WORMER
DATE: 04-10-2002**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF BEACHES & PARKS



DESIGNED BY: MARTIN DATE: JUNE 52	WILL ROGERS STATE PARK HEADQUARTERS AREA	CODE NUMBER
DRAWN BY: DATE:		HORIZ. SCALE 1" = 50'
TRACKED BY: BEK DATE: SEPT 52	TOPOGRAPHY & UTILITIES SHEET 3 OF 3	CHECKED BY: LM DATE: 10/29/52
APPROVED BY: <i>[Signature]</i> ASSOCIATE CIVIL ENGINEER		DATE: 6/29/52
APPROVED BY: <i>[Signature]</i> SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER		DATE: 10-29-52
APPROVED BY: <i>[Signature]</i> DIR. CHIEF, DIVISION OF BEACHES & PARKS	DATE: 10-30-52	

**WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**PERIOD MAP -
YEAR 1952**

COMPOSITE OF MARTIN SURVEY MAPS
DIVISION OF BEACHES AND PARKS
JUNE 1952

**WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**PERIOD MAP -
YEAR 2001**

**COMPOSITE OF MARTIN SURVEY MAPS
DIVISION OF BEACHES AND PARKS
JUNE 1952**



**WILL ROGERS STATE HISTORIC PARK: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**HISTORIC FENCES AND WALLS - REMAINING FROM
1935**

**DESIGNED BY: KAREN ADAMS
HISTORIC RESEARCH BY: STEPHEN VAN WORMER
DATE: 04-10-2002**