

THE LIFE OF JOHN ROGERS

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PREFACE

John Ephraim Powell Rogers, a product of rural Missouri, never settled for an ordinary life. Born on April 4, 1890, on a farm in Hickory County, Missouri, he developed certain characteristics which he retained the rest of his life. In 1908, a year after statehood, Rogers came to Oklahoma and began studying to train himself as a stenographer for his brother, Harry, who had a law firm in Wewoka and later in Holdenville. Rogers admired his brother and decided that he also would become a lawyer. Graduating from the University of Oklahoma with his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1914, he then joined his brother's firm in Holdenville. At this time, Harry acquired new clients, Robert M. McFarlin and James A. Chapman, and, through Harry, John Rogers became associated with these men. This relationship lasted the rest of Rogers' life and allowed him to diversify into other areas that interested him: education, religion, civic affairs, and medicine.

This unique combination of people sharing common values and a common heritage resulted not only in millions of dollars being made by these men, but also in millions of dollars being given away as philanthropic gifts. Rogers' clients valued private institutions; they did not want the federal government to have total control of education, medical facilities, or public welfare. Rogers agreed with his clients because of his personal philosophy.

Rogers decided early in his life that he would be a lawyer by profession and a Christian servant by avocation. His strong Christian

beliefs, developed in Missouri, dominated every facet of his career. As a businessman, he advocated less governmental control and more faith in the Christian attitude of businessmen. Because of this philosophy, as well as his rural background, Rogers believed that man should help his fellowman without interference from a cold, bureaucratic government. He not only professed these ideas but also practiced them. This was why he became a leader in Tulsa, in Oklahoma, and, to a more limited extent, in the nation.

In local affairs, Rogers belonged to and led almost every civic organization in Tulsa at one time or another. At the University of Tulsa he helped develop the School of Law and served as its dean. His influence in education also included state schools, for he served as a regent for the University of Oklahoma and later as a regent on the state board of higher education. In addition, he gained national prominence as president of the International Convention of the Disciples of Christ and as a leader in the development of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

Rogers was characterized by his ecumenical spirit. He wanted the world to settle its disputes peacefully, but he was no isolationist. One of the most active laymen in his church in the United States, Rogers saw the need for greater cooperation among churches. He abhorred violence and sought a world of cooperation in all areas because he was a strong Christian.

I acknowledge the help of many people in writing this biography. John Rogers generously provided much of the material used and gave of his time in interview. His associate, Ray Cropper, explained the business side of Rogers' career, which provided me with an idea of the

type of people Rogers had as clients. Also, the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce cooperated in helping me whenever they could.

Financial aid from the Oklahoma Heritage Association, headed by Stanley Draper, enabled me to research and write this book, for which I am deeply grateful. Dr. Odie B. Faulk, editor of the Trackmaker project of the Oklahoma Heritage Association, likewise gave generously of his time and advice. I also wish to thank members of the department of history at Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma, and at Oklahoma State University who aided in my training as a historian. While at Phillips, it was my privilege to study with Dr. Bill Snodgrass and Dean Richard T. Anderson; they are two of the best friends any student could ever have had. Because these men thought so highly of the department of history at Oklahoma State University, I decided to pursue my graduate career in Stillwater. Dr. Homer Knight, former head of the department of history and now retired, prodded me when I was lazy, encouraged me when I was depressed, and had time for me when I needed him. Dr. LeRoy Fischer, Dr. Michael Smith, and Dr. Joseph Stout always have their doors open for students, and I valued their advice. Dr. James Smallwood and Dr. John Milstead also gave generously of their time and thoughtful criticism as I completed my work at Oklahoma State University.

Teachers have always given me more guidance than normal, but they did not have to live with me twenty-four hours a day as have my family; I owe my greatest gratitude to them. They have known me at my worst and, for some unknown reason, still believed in and encouraged me. My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne C. Haun, sacrificed much in helping me through my studies. And, contrary to the typical image of in-laws projected by jokes and critical remarks, I have been fortunate; my mother-

in-law, Mrs. Phyllisjean Newman supported me through some very difficult times, and for this I am most grateful. Finally, I thank my husband, Warren B. Morris, Jr., who has helped me in many ways and has made my life so full.

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CHAPTER I

EARLY LIFE

As John Ephraim Powell Rogers strolled up to the white two-story frame house, he recalled the history of the land on which the house stood. Missouri had changed considerably since the turn of the century, and Hickory County had undergone many transformations. Yet Rogers' old homestead, which still stands, has always been used for the same purpose as it was in 1838--farming. Moreover, the house his grandfather occupied remains, although it has been used many years as a storage shed for the man who manages the farm for Rogers. Today it is easy to travel from town to town. When Rogers was a young boy, traveling to a neighboring town, such as Wheatland, Missouri, or even to the farm down the road was high adventure, a change in his life of hard work and studies. Thus it had always been for the Rogers family until John's older brother, Harry, left for Oklahoma to start his law practice. After Harry departed, the Rogers' children followed one by one. John left Missouri soon after his brother, yet he always felt a fondness for the Missouri prairies and hills; it was there that he had developed his values and the attitudes which he would hold all of his life.

Rogers' grandfather, John Powell Rogers, left Kentucky in 1837 on horseback with a skillet, a musket, a carbon knife, and a blanket to search for free land in the West. He rode to central Missouri where he found that all the best land already had been taken by transplanted

Virginians, North Carolinians, and Kentuckians. Arriving too late for homesteading, Rogers resolutely readied himself for the search that followed. The sun beat down on his head while he rode through the Indian Territory. Perhaps the Republic of Texas would provide the promised land he wanted. He did find rich land in Texas; however, he also found too much turmoil in the new Republic and too little security for himself and his family.¹

Again Rogers returned to Missouri, perhaps passing by what is now Tulsa. This time he found land in southwestern Missouri's fertile prairie. This young man of English descent surveyed 25,000 acres of river bottoms near Weaubleau in Hickory County, Missouri, built a log cabin, lodged his claim at Booneville, Missouri, on the day after Christmas in 1838, and then returned to Kentucky to gather the rest of the family.²

After his return to Missouri, Rogers married Nancy B. Owens, who was twelve years his junior and who had traveled with the Rogers family from Kentucky in 1840. From this union came six children in a period of twenty-four years. The family cultivated land and raised cattle; yet the influence of the frontier engulfed them at the same time. Their days did not always belong to them, for there were neighbors arriving every day who needed help beginning their new lives. The sparsely settled countryside had black oaks, walnut trees, and vegetation to clear before houses could be built. Men would go ten or fifteen miles to invite neighbors to help clear land and build houses. No neighbor dared charge for his services, for this would bring hard feelings. On big, log-rolling days the pioneers would cut and trim timber on the creek and river bottoms. Some of this lumber would be used for houses, while the

rest would be rolled together and burned. The smokehouse, corn crib, and stable would be constructed; then the neighbors wiped the sweat off their tanned, weatherbeaten faces and joined the women.³

The wives and grown daughters often followed their men on log-rolling days, for this meant recreation in the form of quilting bees and dancing; while the men worked during the day, the women quilted and cooked meals. When the day's work was done, someone brought out a fiddle, tuned it, and the hard-working pioneers danced to the tune of frontier music.

When the time arrived to build schools and churches, the people cooperated again. The children who attended these schools sometimes began their education with the fewest of necessities, for they often were bare-foot and ill-clothed. With shoes in short supply because commercially produced shoes were unavailable, the "lucky" children wore home-tanned shoes which required a year to make. The youngsters took their lunches of cornbread and fat meat or lean pork. When Friday afternoon arrived, the young boys hurried home, anxiously awaiting the next day when their fathers would take them to town; there they could hear the conversations of the village and observe fist fights. Pleasant Jasper Rogers, born to John and Nancy Rogers in 1855, often accompanied his father and older brother, Richard, on these trips. When they returned home, they had many tales to tell.⁴

Pleasant Rogers became a schoolteacher in Hickory County. There in the 1870s, he met another schoolteacher, Nancy C. Dent, and he fell in love. The Dent family had arrived in Missouri earlier than the Rogers family. After Rogers married in 1876, he and his bride established a home on 160 acres near Wheatland, Missouri. This union produced eleven

children who were raised as their parents had been raised. John Ephraim Powell Rogers, born at home on April 4, 1890, and the seventh child, remembered that his father often said, "If you want to go to school, then go, but if you don't go to school, you will have to stay on the farm and work."⁵ According to Rogers, this provided all eleven children with the necessary incentive to go to school. However, the children still had long hours of hard work on the farm. On Sunday mornings, they went to church, which was held in a schoolhouse; in the afternoon, they often played baseball with boys who lived down the road. But the rest of the week they got out of bed at dawn to feed and milk the cows. After school, chores had to be completed and school lessons had to be studied. During the week their father often worked for other neighbors so that he could borrow their equipment on Saturday, when all his boys were home to help.

They lived in a two-story, white frame house, which had three rooms downstairs and two upstairs. However, the family never felt crowded because there was a twenty-four year span between the oldest and youngest child; thus many of the children had married or left home by the turn of the century. With communication mostly by wagon or foot, John marveled at the first train he saw and could not believe the great speed with which it traveled. When he went to school, he walked one and a half miles, seldom missing a day or arriving late. In the one-room schoolhouse, young Rogers, clad in clothes his mother had made, studiously listened to his teacher, who often helped him with his most difficult subject--reading. On days that spelling bees were held, Rogers knew he would do well, for spelling and mathematics were his best subjects.⁶

Rogers enjoyed school and tried to learn all he could. During the

regular school term, he went to Morton School, and for summer school he traveled to Wheatland where his grandmother Dent lived. Although he studied hard, Rogers remembered that there were times of frolic as well. Mrs. Rogers loved springtime, for then the children stopped nagging her about when they could go barefoot. She always told them that they could take their shoes off "if they can bring dandelion blossoms in." Christmas holidays differed little from other days in the year, except that the children would hang their stockings up, knowing there would be little in them the next day. In 1896, the Rogers anxiously awaited the return of his father, who had gone to learn the winner of the presidential election, William Jennings Bryan or William McKinley. Rogers' father, an avid Republican, declared that they would have a day of vacation if McKinley won. In fact, he could not wait for the election returns to get to Wheatland so he saddled his horse, named "Mark Hanna," about three o'clock one afternoon and traveled thirty miles southeast of Wheatland to Humansville to learn the results. He returned the next morning at about four o'clock with the news of McKinley's victory. They spent that day in relaxation and celebration.⁷

Rogers' father influenced him politically, while his mother influenced him spiritually. His mother and grandmother were both strong Baptists and took the children to church every Sunday in a horse-driven hack. John had a mind of his own, however, and whenever a revival came to town, he knew his grandmother would take the children. Once inside the revival tent, John often escaped by crawling under the canvas. Yet Rogers still developed strong religious beliefs. When an evangelic preacher for the Disciples of Christ Church came traveling through Wheatland, John, along with his friend, Lee Johnson, joined that church.

Afterwards he walked to his grandmother Dent's home to tell her the news. She did not like what she heard and denounced John's actions saying, "You have taken the first step to Hell! There is only one gate for spiritual salvation, the Baptists, and only they will go to Heaven."⁸

Despite his grandmother's feelings, Rogers stayed in the Disciples of Christ Church, for he believed that no one church had the keys to heaven.

Harry Rogers, thirteen years older than John and a member of the same church, became a teacher and later the Superintendent of schools in Hickory County. He began teaching at Osceola in Hickory County and studied law with a prominent lawyer. After being admitted to the bar in Missouri, Harry moved to Wewoka (Indian Territory), Oklahoma, in 1903. John idolized his brother and followed his example throughout his life. After finishing his schooling, John taught school at Miller District near Quincy. Harry encouraged John to save his money and follow him to Indian Territory. John took his advice, saved one hundred and fifty dollars, said goodbye to his family, and boarded the Frisco Railroad at Springfield in 1908. Once Rogers arrived in Oklahoma City, he walked around in the cold rain until he found a room in a house near the downtown area. And there he enrolled in Hill's Business College on March 10, 1908.⁹

Rogers had never been so far away from home before, and as a "country boy" who had traveled mostly by hack, horse, or foot, traveling on a train was a new experience he thoroughly enjoyed. Oklahoma City was a growing city and there were proposals to make it the capital of the new state. The Daily Oklahoman had numerous articles about the glories of Oklahoma City, replete with its asphalt streets, cement walks, street railways, churches, and schools. One hundred families were arriving each

month, and the Chamber of Commerce offered free factory sites to industrial concerns. Rogers enjoyed city life and knew he wanted to become a part of the making of a new state. At Hill's Business College, he enrolled in shorthand and basic stenography courses, for he realized he needed a skill besides teaching to pay for his education at the University of Oklahoma. After John finished his studies at Hill's, Harry offered John a job in the Crump and Rogers law firm in Wewoka (Crump was an old boyhood friend of Rogers).¹⁰

Leaving Oklahoma City for Wewoka, Rogers eagerly adjusted to a new environment. He served as secretary for the firm in Wewoka, after which he went to Holdenville where Harry had established another law firm. Harry had also met Robert M. McFarlin and James A. Chapman there in 1908, an acquaintance that would begin a long relationship between the McFarlin-Chapman clan and the Rogers brothers.

Having seen his brother as a lawyer, John was convinced that this would be his calling, too. He therefore went to the University of Oklahoma to complete his education by attending law school. The University began offering law courses a year before Rogers returned to school. During his first year, Rogers completed his high school education in the University's preparatory school. This was a period of growth for the University; more students decided to stay at the University until graduation. One reason suggested for the students' decision to stay was the growth of fraternities. Through these organizations, a school spirit developed.¹¹

Rogers, caught up in this fever, joined Beta Theta Pi fraternity and a number of other organizations. As he was paying most of his own expenses and did not want to depend on his brother for money, John took

his classes seriously. The president of the University, Dr. Stratton D. Brooks, appointed Rogers stenographer to Dean Julien Charles Monnet of the Law School. For this work Rogers earned thirty dollars a month. His studies and his work did not occupy all of his time, however. He had never learned ballroom dancing; at home he had square danced but had never waltzed or fox-trotted. To correct this deficiency, young John joined the Tobasco Club, which held organized dances regularly. He knew that in order to participate in this he would need a dance teacher, and therefore he found a girl with whom he struck a bargain: she would teach him to dance, and, in return, he would take her to all the dances of the season. He had met this young lady while at Norman, Helen Ledbetter; she helped him socially--and later would become his sister-in-law. Rogers learned quickly and became a leader on campus. Speaking on behalf of the members of the Tobasco Club, Rogers suggested that the young ladies should shorten their dresses so they would be more comfortable while dancing. Styles were changing anyway and the dresses did become shorter. Rogers seldom missed a dance. In fact, he became known as a "social lion," and would be dethroned only during the last year on campus by a newcomer.¹²

From the first day that Rogers set foot on the campus, he was "the enthusiastic and unbridled champion" of the girls in the Pi Phi sorority.¹³ One afternoon an announcement was made that the ladies belonging to sororities of the University would hold a Pan-Hellenic dance. "King" John, confident that he would be invited, set about winning some easy money from his friends in his fraternity in the form of wagers. Rogers thought he would take a great deal of money the day invitations arrived; yet such was not the case. Not only did he lose his bets but

also his self-esteem. Those who collected money from Rogers passed a resolution that his picture should be draped in green pea vines and that the women of the Pi Phi house should hang a picture of their ex-king in their house. Apparently this suggestion was not followed, but John did not sulk long. There were two other sororities on campus, and there were other dances. Rogers two-stepped to "You Made Me Love You" and tangoed to "Too Much Ginger." His dance cards seldom lacked names.¹⁴

Rogers also enjoyed traveling. Previously he had done little, and was fascinated by the world and by fast modes of transportation. One organization which he joined when he first arrived on the campus was the Young Men's Christian Association. In the summer of 1911, Rogers went to Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, to attend the Institute and Training School of the Y. M. C. A. There several ministers made an attempt to alter Rogers' career from law to the ministry. Rogers gave it some thought and then told the preachers that, although he would not change his plans, he would promise them that his religion would always be foremost in his life.¹⁵

Approximately two years later, Rogers had to withdraw from school for a semester when he thought he had tuberculosis. However, he did not like to be idle, although he needed a rest. His fraternity brothers selected Rogers to represent them at the seventy-fourth national convention of Beta Theta Pi. He accepted, packed his bags, and boarded a train for his destination, Nantasket, Massachusetts. While he was in this part of the country, he went sight-seeing, visiting the homes of American authors such as Nathaniel Hawthorne and Louisa May Alcott, and touring towns he had read about in books on early American history. After this exhilarating experience, he returned home to begin

a new semester with memories of an autumn in New England.¹⁶

Rogers earned a place on the debating team at the University of Oklahoma in 1912. The previous year the University of Kansas, the University of Colorado, and the University of Oklahoma participated in triangular debates, and Oklahoma lost. The following year the students at Norman wanted victory and Sooner debaters won the triangular championship that year. Rogers successfully debated the Kansas team the next year and received the debating "O" for both years. Sooner fans knew Rogers as a man ready with rebuttal arguments, and they praised the entire team for its diligence. They had spent months preparing for this intellectual sport, and their work earned them statewide recognition.¹⁷

After much work and some play, Rogers thus approached commencement the first week in June of 1914. His years at the University of Oklahoma had satisfied him. At the University he had been a member of the legal fraternity of Phi Delta Phi, of the Sooner Bar, and president of the Websterian Literary Society and of the Republican Club, and on the board of the Umpire. Ranking second in a class of fourteen, Rogers received his Bachelor of Laws degree. Although his parents could not attend his graduation, he enjoyed commencement week with its many speeches and senior plays.¹⁸

After graduation, Rogers returned to his brother's firm in Holdenville to practice law for Harry Rogers had gone to Tulsa to work for McFarlin and Chapman. During John's short stay in Holdenville, he became better acquainted with these men, but then, through his brother's influence, was hired by McFarlin and Chapman as an assistant attorney and assistant secretary of the McMan Oil Company. This would allow him to join his brother in Tulsa at the main office of the McMan Oil Company.

On April 4, 1915, he finally arrived in Tulsa on a warm Easter Sunday. That same day he joined the First Christian Church of Tulsa.¹⁹

Tulsa had changed since the turn of the century due to the influence of oil and the men who sought it. About ten miles south of Red Fork (which today is a suburb of Tulsa), Robert Galbreath and Frank Chesley had financed the drilling and wildcatting of a well on an allotment owned by Ida E. Glenn in 1905. This venture became known as the Glenn Pool and was so successful that every major oil developer in Oklahoma operated wholly or partially out of Tulsa from that time forward. McMan Oil Company helped to develop the Glenn Pool, but Chapman and McFarlin had not moved to Tulsa until a few years later.²⁰

The McFarlins and Chapmans had been ranchers in Texas a few years earlier, but had moved their herds to Oklahoma owing to a drought in their homeland. According to one cowhand, this drought was so bad that it took all the moisture from a forty acre lot to rust one nail.²¹ In 1877 McFarlin hunted wild turkeys in the wooded country near his father's farm, not far from Ovilla, Texas. In Hughes County, Indian Territory, P. A. Chapman and his young son, James, used excellent grazing lands to pasture their cattle. In 1892 McFarlin moved to Norman, Oklahoma, to continue farming and stockraising. Three years later he had to lease land in Hughes County for his stock because of a dry season in the Norman area. At this time he joined the Chapmans, a combination which proved lucrative. The McFarlins acquired land near Holdenville, Oklahoma, and reportedly owned one hundred farms in fee simple. Their interest in oil really grew along with the Glenn Pool, which they helped develop in the early stages with such men as Charles Page, Harry Sinclair, and Harry H. Rogers. As a result of this success, McFarlin and

Chapman became influential in the oil capital, Tulsa.²²

With the profits from their ranching and oil enterprises, McFarlin and Chapman expanded their investments by acquiring more ranches and oil wells, and by buying into the banking business. Toward the end of 1909, Farmers National Bank in Tulsa seemed about to fail, for it had only \$400,000 on deposit; the failure of this institution would have been catastrophic for many individuals as well as businesses. Patrick White, Harry Sinclair, and other independent oil men were horrified at the prospect of losing money through the bank's failure. Independent operators found it difficult to finance new leases, drill wells, and sell their product without a local bank's support when they had to compete with the unlimited resources of John D. Rockefeller and other big corporations.²³

In 1910, White, Sinclair, McFarlin, J. H. Evans, F. B. Ufer, and some of their friends collected \$400,000, organized the Exchange National Bank, and took over the assets and liabilities of the Farmers Bank. They announced that all deposits of the old bank would be paid in full, dollar for dollar, with oil money. This not only established this institution as the oilman's bank, but also provided security for other investors. Previously, as the name implied, the Farmers National Bank had been mainly run by agricultural interests not interested in the independent oilman's plight. With the acquisition of the bank by the oilmen, this attitude changed, for the new owners knew conditions in the oil fields and wanted producers to prosper. The Easterners had to wire back for money, whereas the Oklahoma developers had their own source of capital in this new bank. McFarlin, Chapman and Harry H. Rogers became directors of this bank.²⁴

In 1913 the price of crude oil rose to one dollar a barrel, and production doubled. The assets and deposits of Exchange National Bank multiplied accordingly. It then absorbed the Union Trust Company and the Colonial Trust Company. Meanwhile, the Cushing Field was discovered about thirty-five miles west of Tulsa. The Chapmans had moved to Tulsa several years before this discovery; thus McFarlin had a family representative present in the oil capital. Serving as their legal council, as well as an investor, Harry H. Rogers had moved to Tulsa in 1913. The new field in Cushing held great promise for oilmen and various concerns, such as Shell, Midcontinent, Carter, Pure Oil, and what would later be known as Skelly Oil Company. Numerous companies associated with Standard Oil--the Magnolia Petroleum Company, Ohio Oil Company, Stanolind Oil & Gas Company, and Prairie Oil & Gas--also joined the rush. The leases were developed "by the best oil men who ever wore shoe leather," and thousands of barrels came in during the first twenty-four hours.²⁵

This production did not always run smoothly, for the oilmen had their problems from the beginning. The Cushing Field blew in the most spectacular production for its size in the world. Wild gushers initially broke out of control with streams of oil trickling down in creeks and ravines until dams were thrown up to prevent waste. In the spring of 1915, the Oklahoma State Corporation Commission held hearings on the question of conservation in this field. At this time McFarlin was president of the biggest oil producing concern in the world, for the Cushing Field had been a successful venture for him.

For 114 consecutive days, McMan Oil Company had built a new steel tank that would hold 55,000 barrels. McFarlin contended that oil in

tanks brought better prices than oil in the well, for it could be offered in larger lots at seventy cents a barrel rather than a forty-five cents a barrel from the well. Purchasers knew that he could fill their orders and that they would not have to wait. The people in the pipeline business wanted to sell more pipelines and argued before the Oklahoma Corporation Commission that oil in tanks evaporated. McFarlin denied this, saying that his production was declining at about one thousand barrels daily, but that when new pipeline was laid he would have less need for storage. Even with his daily loss, he was still sending sixteen thousand barrels of oil a day by rail to the Magnolia people and tanking sixty percent of production.²⁶ The next day the Commission found that the producers were actually practicing conservation by the use of tanks. The pipeline business thereby lost.²⁷

As part owner of the McMan Oil Company, Harry Rogers had begun to abandon his law practice as the years went by in favor of overseeing his business interests. However, when the opportunity arose to sell the McMan Oil Company to the Magnolia Petroleum Company, which was a subsidiary of Standard of New York, Harry handled the transaction. In this sale, in which the owners of McMan Oil collected \$39,000,000, Harry received a large commission, and afterward he became general attorney and a member of the board of directors of Magnolia. Thus Harry severed his ties with McFarlin and Chapman in the oil business, as well as with his younger brother, John, who became the general attorney for the new McMan Oil and Gas Company.²⁸

In these proceedings and others that followed, John was not the courtroom lawyer. His practice involved researching a case and not presenting it in court. For the presentation, he would hire the best

courtroom lawyer he could find; when in the courtroom, he was there only in an advisory capacity to the lawyer who represented McMan.²⁹

During these years, Rogers' activities outside his practice were centered mainly around his church. During the school year 1915-1916, two high school teachers, Ethel and Flemman Snidow, sponsored a Bible study class for high school credit. They knew Rogers as a man who really understood the Bible and therefore asked him to speak before their class on the ascension of Jesus Christ. He was so popular that he was asked back for several other lessons. He and his brother were quite active in their church. After World War I, John would become a teacher in Sunday school at the First Christian Church.³⁰

When the United States entered the war, Rogers felt obligated to represent his family in the conflict, for he was the only one who did not have a family. Thus in April 1917 he entered military service and attended the First Provisional Officers' School at Fort Logan H. Roots in Arkansas. With no previous military training, Rogers felt insecure, especially when he discovered that over half of the men at Fort Roots did have previous military training. But he made first lieutenant and soon found that an officer needed more talents than he had thought.

While at Little Rock, Rogers' dancing ability helped him. One day he was called in to see the general. Rogers could not understand what he had done to warrant this attention and nervously went to see him. The general then proceeded to question Rogers about his background; Rogers responded to these questions, still wondering what the general was trying to determine. When his superior asked if Rogers would be willing to take his daughter to a dance, Rogers, relieved and somewhat amused, answered that he would. Rogers' pleasant nature once again

helped him, for the general later had Rogers assigned as battalion adjutant to the 348th Infantry.³¹ Rogers went to New Jersey where he became a personal adjutant and, just before he went overseas, he made captain and remained adjutant to the regimental headquarters of the 348th Infantry.³²

Rogers considered his duty in France as rewarding because he was able to see so much of the countryside and to meet so many people. His regiment, located near Bordeaux, continued to train after it arrived, for it was to be among the forces which would counter the next assault. Rogers was popular in his regiment for he served as paymaster. He also kept a record of the location of the soldiers, which meant that he had to travel around France to the various companies of the regiment. Although he did not speak French, he met a French girl who spoke English one Sunday and found that she had been tutored by an English governess. She invited Rogers to meet her family, who lived in a chateau outside of Bordeaux. Rogers dated this young woman and learned about the upper class in France. Her mother always accompanied them as a chaperon, and most of their hours together were spent with the daughter translating what Rogers had said to the mother. This social system certainly differed from that which Rogers had experienced at the University of Oklahoma. Yet Rogers remained fond of the French who treated him so well during the war.³³

While Rogers was in France, Robert McFarlin and Harry Rogers participated in community affairs. Tulsans wanted to do their part in the war effort, and they organized a Tulsa Council of Defense. This board coordinated the various groups which had developed to help the cause. McFarlin was active on this board and served as a member of its finance

committee. To do this he practically ignored his own business; he advanced more than \$20,000 to make the work of the council more efficient, and helped to finance the Home Guard, the Navy League, and various other organizations. Harry Rogers took part in the District Draft Board as Chairman of Division No. 2, the Eastern District of the State, and also helped in the Liberty Loan drives.³⁴

During the second drive for Liberty Loans, McFarlin gave a luncheon on Liberty Day, October 24, 1917, and invited as his guests a representative body of businessmen from Tulsa. Inasmuch as McFarlin was the president of the Chamber of Commerce in Tulsa, he knew many influential people. One of those invited failed to attend the luncheon, but twenty men did come. After the meal was over, McFarlin asked those present to give whatever they could for the second issue of bonds. They promptly replied by subscribing a total of \$41,850,000. The next day, the guest who failed to attend went to make his apologies to McFarlin and added his subscription of \$75,000.³⁵ In most of these drives, Tulsa led the state, far outdistancing Oklahoma City.

To maintain the natural resources necessary for the successful conduct of the war, the federal government created the War Industries Board and divided the country into regions; each of these was subdivided into districts. McFarlin, appointed chairman of the Eleventh District of the Fourteenth Region, created a complete organization for his district, placing all necessary information on file for the use of the government. In March 1917 England lost thousands of trucks in the drive for Flanders and the Romanian oil fields. Thus the allies needed lubricating oils, and the Mid-Continental oil operators were urged to increase their output by twenty-five per cent. Labor conditions worsened during the war

because so many men had left the oil fields for the battle fields. C. H. Fenstermacher of the Cosden refinery had volunteered and left for war service in the Young Men's Christian Association, but he was brought back to speed up production. Other companies increased their output to help the allied cause.³⁶

From 1917 to 1920 either McFarlin or Harry H. Rogers headed the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce. At that time, McFarlin, who was Oklahoma's wealthiest citizen, was also one of Oklahoma's busiest citizens because of his participation in civic affairs. Tulsa rapidly developed during this period, and much of its expansion was due to the efforts of McFarlin and his associates at the Exchange National Bank. Building the reputation of this bank became the same as building the reputation of Tulsa. The more businesses which were brought to Tulsa, the more likely the Exchange National Bank would succeed, especially if the new businesses were connected with oil. Most of the men on the board of directors of this bank were associated with the oil business. Thus they were more sympathetic to those trying to establish companies for oil field equipment, tools, and lumber, and they provided them an incentive by offering bonuses or building sites to bring these types of businesses to Tulsa.³⁷

Seven years after the Farmers National Bank had become the Exchange National Bank, a new building was needed to house the growing business. On November 11, 1917, a permanent home for the Exchange National Bank opened at the corner of Boston Avenue and Third Street. When it first opened for business on a cold day in February, 1910, it had only \$410,000 in resources; seven years later its resources totaled \$21,000,000. A month after settling in the new location, the directors

decided they wanted the cashier and vice president of the rival Planter's National Bank to join them, but the skillful cashier, W. A. Brownlee, would not agree to this. To acquire the talents of this man as well as more accounts, the board of directors of the Exchange National Bank bought the Planter's National Bank.³⁸

When John Rogers returned home in 1919, he found additional changes. Judge H. L. Standeven recommended to E. W. Sinclair and McFarlin that it was unfair to allow Easterners to run the trusts of dead millionaires who had made their fortunes and lived in Oklahoma. These men decided to establish the Exchange Trust Company, which opened on August 1, 1918. Three men who had been associated with McFarlin became a part of the board of directors of this company: E. P. Harwell, Harry H. Rogers, and Chapman. At first, this company handled estates, trust accounts, and made mortgage loans; later its functions broadened.³⁹

Prior to John Rogers' departure for the war, the men he associated with had been well-known for their money, but it was while he was away that these men, especially his brother and McFarlin, became known for their civic activities. The war provided the extroverted and big-hearted McFarlin with opportunities to aid his community.⁴⁰ During the "great war," he headed substantially every important patriotic work that was undertaken in Tulsa.⁴¹ Tulsans used to say "to assure the success of any local enterprise" all that was needed was "the endorsement of R. M. McFarlin."⁴² As president of the Chamber of Commerce in 1917 and 1918, as one of the other groups in which he served, McFarlin gained prestige for himself and those associated with him.

A good example of one such person associated with McFarlin was Harry H. Rogers. A friend of the McFarlin and Chapman families since his

days in Holdenville, Rogers had the opportunity to council these families legally and to invest his own money in their financial projects. His wealth grew as did that of these families. When McFarlin, as president of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, appointed a Finance Committee in February 1919, he had on this committee fifty names of Tulsans whose wealth was estimated at one million dollars or more each. One of the names on this list was Harry H. Rogers.⁴³ However, Rogers was his own man as evidenced by his participation in the McMan Oil Company transaction; he made millions when this company was sold to Magnolia Petroleum and left his old position to become the general attorney for the same company under new control. However, he continued to participate with the McFarlin and Chapman clan in banking interests.

Harry H. Rogers was also well-known outside Tulsa, for he was a member of the Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma and a member of the Board of Trustees for Phillips University, a school located in Enid, Oklahoma, affiliated with his church, the Disciples of Christ. During the war Rogers was chairman of the District Draft Board, which had authority in most of eastern Oklahoma, and he was the popular choice among Republicans for governor of the state, a nomination he declined. As president of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce in 1919, Rogers also was active in matters having to do with the improvement of education in Tulsa.⁴⁴

Over fifty years later, John Rogers publicly alluded to the impact these people had on his career. On January 22, 1974, the John Rogers Hall in the College of Law at the University of Tulsa was dedicated. At a dinner held that night in the Great Hall of the Camelot Inn in Tulsa, John Rogers was honored and was asked to speak after an address

by the Honorable William H. Rehnquist, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. With no prepared speech, Rogers did not know what to say to his audience, which contained attorneys, teachers, and prospective lawyers. He moved his wheel chair to the podium. Looking for the younger faces in his audience, he said, "My advice to those who want to become lawyers is this: first, study hard," and with a twinkle in his blue-green eyes, "second, before you graduate, try to find one or two good clients." The crowd roared with laughter over his last understatement, for his clients were well-known to them.⁴⁵

This comment shows Rogers placed great emphasis on the role other people played in his life. Whenever he spoke to someone about his life, he stressed that he had enjoyed a good life and that many people had helped him along the way. Perhaps this is modesty on his part, for heritage and background cannot be discounted when dissecting the various causes of his successes.

His grandparents had been pioneers in southwestern Missouri, frontier people to whom hard work and neighborly cooperation were the route to success in the softly rolling hills of the northern Ozarks. The same situation existed for his parents. With thirteen mouths to feed, the family had to share the hardships of farmlife. Because both his parents had been school teachers, Rogers realized the importance of an education. Also, those children who did not go to school had to work fulltime on his father's farm. Rogers did not want to be a farmer; his earliest inclination for a career had been in science. Yet when his oldest brother, Harry, decided to teach, John went into teaching, for he respected his brother. Another factor in his early life which was important was his decision to join the Disciples of Christ Church when

most of his family were Baptists. This showed his spiritual independence, and it was also a good example of his religious philosophy: there are many ways to Heaven, and no church has a monopoly on spiritual salvation. Rogers acquired certain values from his heritage which he adhered to the rest of his life: admiration for those who worked hard and who stressed cooperation, a strong desire for an education, and a deep Christian philosophy.

However, if taken alone these values were not enough to guarantee him success. In his admiration for his brother, John found an example to follow. John followed his brother in his choice of careers, in his civic work, and in his spiritual life. They were both initially teachers who became lawyers. John also would become active in education, in the Chamber of Commerce, and in the Disciples of Christ Church, and he would hold some of the same positions as Harry had in those areas.

John's personality helped his career, too. While at the University of Oklahoma, he was well-known and well-liked, and his fellow students admired his ability to lead. He had to work to pay for his education, but he still managed to have an active social life, so much so that he was tagged a "social lion." His interest in other people later helped him when he was in France.

From all of these influences, the mature John Rogers had emerged. He believed in hard work, he enjoyed people, and he had an ecumenical attitude towards spiritual matters. These had sustained Rogers the boy, the student, the novice in the law profession, and the soldier. His religious nature once caused ministers at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, to attempt to persuade him towards a career as a minister. Yet Rogers believed that a layman could serve God in other ways and that this service,

if devoted and consistent, could be just as useful to the Christian faith as that of a minister. Therefore he told these men that, although he would continue with his plans to become a lawyer, he would make service to Christ his avocation. He kept this promise when he joined the First Christian Church of Tulsa the first day he arrived in that city. When he was asked to speak at church or in Bible classes, he made his audiences aware of the importance of Christianity and of Biblical study, and they would ask him to return. His background in debating aided him in speaking and made him aware of the importance of thoroughly researching and preparing a speech before he made it. This ability in persuasive speeches would later make him a popular speaker in civic circles.

John Rogers was a fortunate man. He had the personality, character, and drive to succeed and he knew and associated with men who appreciated him. These men, Robert M. McFarlin, James A. Chapman, and Harry H. Rogers, agreed with John Rogers' philosophy of life. They increased their personal fortunes and became well-known figures in Tulsa and Oklahoma. They did not want merely to be famous millionaires; they also wanted to help their community and their country. Therefore, while John Rogers served his country on the battlefield, his friends and brother became leaders in civic affairs in Tulsa and Oklahoma. They used their money, their talents, and their positions to build Tulsa and a community spirit. After John Rogers returned from the war, he had an excellent position to establishing himself in Tulsa. In the years to come, he would marry and become a leader in civic affairs and in state and church matters. He would associate with men of great wealth and become financially secure. This new way of life excited John Rogers, a man of modest beginnings.

FOOTNOTES

¹Jo Ann Boatman, "John Rogers," Tulsa, September 7, 1967, p. 12; The Tulsa Tribune, May 14, 1933, p. 8.

²Ibid.

³B. B. Ihrig, History of Hickory County, Missouri (Warsaw, Missouri, 1970), pp. 378, 18.

⁴Ibid., pp. 39-40, 378.

⁵Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 10, 1973. This can be found in the Rogers' Collection at the Oklahoma Heritage Association in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Hereafter, this will be noted by the initials R. C.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Ibid.

⁸Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974, R. C.

⁹Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 10, 1974, R. C.

¹⁰The Daily Oklahoman, March 1, 1908, p. 2; The Daily Oklahoman, March 15, 1908, p. 19; Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 10, 1973, R. C.

¹¹Roy Gittinger, The University of Oklahoma: 1892-1942 (Norman, 1942), p. 68.

¹²Paper in the John Rogers scrapbooks. This collection is located at the Rogers home, 3727 South Xanthus, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Hereafter sources found in the Rogers Papers will be cited as R. P.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Ibid.; Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 10, 1974, R. C.

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷The Umpire, April 12, 1912; St. Louis Republic, February 4, 1912; The Wichita Eagle, March 3, 1912; The Daily Oklahoman, April 13, 1912, p. 5.

¹⁸Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 10, 1973, R. C.

¹⁹Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 17, 1973; R. C.

²⁰Colonel Clarence B. Douglas, The History of Tulsa, Oklahoma (Tulsa, 1921), p. 206; Angie Debo, Tulsa: From Creek Town to Oil Capital (Norman, 1943), p. 87; Interview with Ray Cropper by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974, R. C.

²¹C. B. Glasscock, Then Came Oil: The Story of the Last Frontier (New York, 1938), p. 217.

²²Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 29, 1973, R. C.; The Tulsa Democrat, July 28, 1915, p. 2; Douglas, p. 209.

²³Douglas, p. 595; Glasscock, p. 215.

²⁴Douglas, p. 599.

²⁵Glasscock, p. 232; Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 29, 1973, R. C.; Interview with Ray Cropper by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974, R. C.; The Tulsa Democrat, April 10, 1915, p. 4.

²⁶The Tulsa Democrat, April 28, 1915, p. 2.

²⁷The Tulsa Democrat, April 29, 1915, p. 2.

²⁸The Oklahoma City Times, April 21, 1932, p. 3; Interview with John Rogers, March 15, 1973, R. C.

²⁹Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974, R. C.

³⁰Edith and Everett Ellis to John Rogers, March 29, 1964, R. P.

³¹Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974, R. C.

³²Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 17, 1973, R. C.

³³Ibid.

³⁴Douglas, p. 381, 397.

³⁵Douglas, p. 416.

- ³⁶ Douglas, p. 461.
- ³⁷ Glasscock, p. 216; The Oklahoma City Times, April 21, 1934, p. 3; Douglas, p. 592.
- ³⁸ The Oklahoma City Times, April 21, 1934, p. 3.
- ³⁹ The Oklahoma City Times, April 24, 1934, p. 14; The Oklahoma City Times, April 25, 1934, p. 15.
- ⁴⁰ Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 29, 1973, R. C.
- ⁴¹ Douglas, p. 628.
- ⁴² Ibid.
- ⁴³ Ibid., p. 616.
- ⁴⁴ Ihrig, p. 379; Douglas, p. 538.
- ⁴⁵ Program for the Dedication of John Rogers Hall, R. P.; Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, January 24, 1974, R. C.

CHAPTER II

A SOLDIER COMES HOME

John Rogers never regretted his service during World War I. In fact, when some veterans returned and began demanding additional compensation for their contributions to the war, he was astonished. "I would give \$2,000 today for the benefits conferred upon me by the government during the war," he stated in 1923 during the heated debate surrounding the Bonus Bill, which had been introduced in Congress.¹ To him the thought of additional compensation in the form of a bonus for military service conflicted with his concept of patriotism.

In those years immediately following the end of the war, Americans such as John Rogers were filled with a patriotic fever. An offshoot of this enthusiasm was the creation of the American Legion. This organization was born at a caucus of American servicemen held in Paris, France, in mid-March of 1919. Almost two months passed before another meeting could be held in the United States; when ex-servicemen did finally gather in the United States, they officially adopted the name American Legion, drafted a temporary constitution for the organization, and named temporary officials who were to serve until the first national convention could be held. This national convention was to convene in November 1919. The national founders of the organization hoped that, in the interim, representatives of all ex-servicemen would effect a temporary organization in each state.²

A state caucus, to be held in Oklahoma City on May 3, 1919, needed delegates from throughout the state; in Tulsa, sixteen representatives were selected to fill this need. As a part of the delegation, Rogers enjoyed meeting former soldiers and trading tales about war experiences. When the Tulsans returned home from the state gathering, they called a meeting for May 21, 1919, to seek a name for their post and to elect officers. That day the local unit was named after a Tulsa hero, Joe Carson, who had died in France. They elected Horace H. Hagan post commander and John Rogers post adjutant. The Joe Carson Post, due to the enthusiasm of the men of Tulsa, became the first chartered post in Oklahoma.³

Having achieved this honor, the new officers of the post decided to inaugurate a membership drive, which began on June 7. Nine teams of men stationed themselves at each theater in the city every evening. Rogers served as captain of one of these teams, and although he did not bring in as many members as some of the others, he joined those who cheered when it was announced that eight hundred new members had been signed.⁴

Four months later at the state convention, the Joe Carson Post's leaders dominated the proceedings. A few days before the convention, the members of the Tulsa post unanimously endorsed this post commander, Hagan, for the position of state commander, with Rogers heading the Tulsa delegation. Because the state commander, Ross Lillard, had resigned, Lee Daniel of Tulsa presided over the deliberations at the convention. The Tulsa delegation campaigned vigorously for their candidate and Hagan won. Rogers became the representative of the First District on the state executive committee. Another Tulsan, J. C. Chatfield, would be selected in December by the state executive committee as

assistant state adjutant and would have complete charge of the headquarters at the State Capitol Building in Oklahoma City.⁵

In November 1919 the first national convention of the American Legion was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Rogers, Hagan, P. A. McNeal, and R. H. Berry attended. At this convention, the Tulsans participated actively in various committees. Rogers served on the Committee on Resolutions. The resolutions from this committee indicated the national sentiment of the organization. During and after the war, many Americans feared alien immigration. They believed that not only did aliens work cheaper, thereby taking jobs away from native Americans, but also that they brought with them dangerous philosophies. This was the period of the Russian Revolution. In addition, hundreds of strikes had occurred after the war, some of which became extremely violent. Some Americans blamed these strikes on revolutionaries, foreigners, or communists. In 1915, a new Ku Klux Klan had been organized which stressed Americanism, prohibition, and Christian morality, while also berating Catholics, Jews, Negroes, immigrants, and radicals. The Klan grew in the South, Middle West, and the Far West and hit its peak in numbers in 1924-1925. Thus many of the resolutions of the American Legion in its first convention reflected the feelings of many post-World War I Americans.⁵

These resolutions, which Rogers participated in writing, censured the Department of War for contributing to the spread of the anti-Americanism through leniency with conscientious objectors. They wanted the honorable discharges given to the objectors withdrawn and any aliens among these objectors deported. They also recommended that the Legion adopt resolutions advising that two years of probation was necessary for

immigrants, that they should be taught English, that no softness should be shown for military prisoners who refused to serve in the army, that the records of immigrants should be filed with every naturalization court, and that restrictions on foreign language newspapers should be made. They condemned the "parlor socialists" and Bolsheviks and urged the Justice Department to act against them instead of being a "mere passive evidence collecting agency."⁶

The committee also resolved that congressional action was needed in Centralia, Washington, where legionnaires had been attacked during an Armistice Day parade. Since this attack occurred during the convention, many of the two thousand legionnaires present anxiously awaited news of the incident. The Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) allegedly attacked and shot three legionnaires, wounding three others. According to the I.W.W., legionnaires had attacked their hall and thus their action been in self defense. The truth was impossible to discern, and the delegates at the convention did not hear the union's story. However, the I.W.W. consisted of many transient workers and aliens, professed a socialist doctrine, and had opposed the war; thus, the legionnaires disliked them before the incident at Centralia. Twelve members of the I.W.W. were arrested in Centralia, and, when it was mentioned at the convention that a mob had lynched one of those arrested, cheers filled the hall. To many delegates, this incident justified the resolutions they had made during the convention.⁷

On the evening of November 12, the convention delegates passed several resolutions as they closed their first meeting. They pledged to be non-political, allowing no Legion officer of any rank to hold a salaried elective office. Those present also agreed that they were

against compulsory military service in times of peace and that they were opposed to a large standing army, for they thought it was undemocratic. However, they strongly supported universal military training.⁸

Rogers and his fellow delegates from Tulsa returned home with stirring accounts of the national convention. Prior to the convention, fellow legionnaires elected Rogers post commander, but as the dues had been raised in Minneapolis the officers of the Joe Carson Post feared that membership might decrease. However, a second membership drive proved these fears unfounded; by February 1, 1920, the post had more than one thousand paid members. This was of particular importance because General John J. Pershing was scheduled to appear in Tulsa in ten days, and the officers of the post wanted a strong Legion to greet him in a parade which would begin at the railroad station and end at his hotel. On this day, which was proclaimed Pershing Day, the general presented, on behalf of Fitzhugh Lee Camp of the Spanish War Veterans of Tulsa, a stand of the national colors. Originally Pershing was to have presented the American Legion colors, but they arrived after he left. A few days later, Rogers received a letter from Pershing which complimented the Joe Carson Post on its splended progress.⁹

Under Rogers' leadership, various social functions became a part of post sessions to keep interest active in the Legion. The committee appointed to oversee these functions organized smokers, which filled the City Auditorium to capacity almost every meeting.¹⁰ Much of what the American Legion members, including Rogers, professed to believe sounded overly nationalistic, but this was an era in which many of the ideas enunciated by aliens and some Americans sounded revolutionary. The labor strikes which immediately followed the end of the war appeared

to be partially responsible for ruining the prosperity which the United States had been enjoying. Being prosperous and powerful were entwined to such an extent that anything which disrupted prosperity and power was considered un-American.

Rogers' work for the McMan Oil and Gas Company as general attorney and vice-president did not prevent him from participating in other activities in addition to the Legion. In the Tulsa City Club, which met every Saturday, Rogers engaged in open discussion on all civic matters, and in the Lions Club he devoted some of his time to the charitable projects they supported. After the war, a group of young men organized the Se-Co-T-Y-M Club (Serve-Community-Through-Young-Men) to get young men back into the physical activities of the Y. M. C. A. and to return them to their Sunday school and church activities. A secret membership committee passed on all applications for membership. Once a member reached the age of thirty-one, he would be regularly graduated; thus Rogers left this organization in 1921. However, during the time Rogers was a member, this club organized the Junior Chamber of Commerce and aided the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., the Salvation Army, and the Red Cross in their financial campaigns.¹¹

The Tulsa Junior Chamber of Commerce, composed of young men between the ages of eighteen and thirty-two, originated in March, 1920. It cooperated with the Chamber of Commerce in many of its activities. Within this organization, Rogers sat as one of the eighteen directors. Still, Rogers did not have enough to satisfy his need to keep busy. When a group of representative businessmen organized the Civitan Club of Tulsa on May 15, 1921, Rogers added one more civic group to his list. A week later, the members elected Rogers their president.¹²

Rogers' interest in the Se-Co-T-Y-M Club's program was easy to trace, for he had been interested in the Y. M. C. A. since his college days at the University of Oklahoma, and he had been active in church affairs in Tulsa since his arrival. It was possibly in church circles that his influence was most widely felt. In addition to being one of the youngest officiating deacons of the church board, Rogers taught the Philathea Sunday School Class for several months, held the position of superintendent of the Young Peoples Department, and gave Sunday morning talks to the Christian Men Builders.¹³ As can be seen by all the activities Rogers was involved in, he did not like to be idle. Rogers declared, "Our greatest problem is what to do with our leisure time. A strenuous life is one of the essentials of a Christian life."¹⁴

In 1920, when the American National Bank faltered, the Tulsa Clearing House Association held an intense conference for an entire day and almost all night. When McFarlin, chairman of the board of directors of the Exchange National, went home exhausted and unhappy with the decision made to close a rival bank's doors, he tried to sleep but he could not. He got up, dressed and went downtown at dawn. Rumors spread rapidly about the American National Bank, and a host of people assembled at the bank's doors early. McFarlin watched these people as they roamed the street around the Daniels Building, which housed the broken bank. Their faces showed their despair of the situation, and they fidgeted nervously with their apparel as more people approached the sidewalk in front of the bank. At eight o'clock McFarlin called a meeting of the directors of the Exchange National Bank and proposed to the directors that their bank guarantee the deposits of the American National Bank. Before they worked out all the details, McFarlin put on his hat and went across the

street.¹⁵

When the doors of the Exchange National Bank opened and those of the American National Bank did not, the people panicked. McFarlin could not gain their attention at first, so he climbed on top of a parked car. He shouted to the crowd who he was and whom he represented. Everyone anxiously grew quiet as he told them that their deposits would be guaranteed by his bank one hundred cents on the dollar if they would come back the next day. The crowd slowly dispersed as McFarlin returned to the bank. The next morning, people crowded into the lobby of the American National Bank and withdrew their deposits to see if McFarlin meant what he had said. After they reassured themselves in this way, they then redeposited their money in the Exchange National Bank instead of the American National Bank. The action of the board of directors saved Tulsa from a run on banks but it also cost their bank more than one hundred thousand dollars.¹⁶

Although John Rogers was not one of these directors, his brother was, and this helped to enhance the Rogers' name in Tulsa. In the same year Harry Rogers' wife became ill and they moved to San Antonio, Texas. Harry retained his holdings and offices in Tulsa, but when he arrived in Texas, he began to build his fortune by purchasing a cotton mill, building a hotel and two office buildings and taking over the Uvalde and Northern Railroad. He also built and marketed more than four hundred and fifty homes in the San Antonio area. His own home was said to be the finest in the Alamo city. In his new location, Rogers became president of Central Trust Company and of the Travis Investment Company. His leadership did not stop there, for he was also the largest stockholder and president of the City National Bank of San Antonio. He organized

the Milon Company, an investment brokerage, and became its president. To add to his growing prosperity, he consolidated five major lumber companies.¹⁷

While his older brother expanded his operations in Texas, John Rogers continued to participate in civic organizations. The Ku Klux Klan, which had grown in popularity in the post war years, was strong in Tulsa. Many prominent citizens joined, including Rogers; however, he did not approve of the violence which the Klan promoted.¹⁸ While Rogers was in France, the Klan in Tulsa had taken a party of I. W. W. members from the police to the edge of town, whipped them, tarred and feathered them, and then ordered them to leave town. In 1921 an estimated fifteen hundred men stole out of Tulsa to watch the Klan's initiation ceremonies. In short, the ideas of the Klan agreed with those of many Tulsans of the period; this is readily apparent in the manner in which the daily newspapers referred to Negroes. It was considered scandalous if a white person were seen in "Little Africa," as the black section of town was called. Jokes appeared in the newspaper which degraded Negro intelligence and character.¹⁹

Yet, when a race riot occurred in Tulsa on May 31, 1921, many Tulsans were shocked. The trouble began with the arrest of Dick Rowland, a Negro charged with assault on a white girl. About dusk a crowd of white men gathered around the courthouse where Rowland was jailed. To prevent his lynching, a large number of Negroes in cars came to the courthouse and paraded around the block several times. The crowd of whites broke into hardware and sporting-goods stores to get guns and ammunition, soon becoming an uncontrollable mob. A police officer stopped a Negro to disarm him and met resistance. Frightened, the

policeman shot him.²⁰ Some people blamed the blacks for the problems which ensued, saying they had been provoked by white agitators, reds, and bolshevists.²¹

Early the next morning, from about midnight to six o'clock, the heaviest fighting took place, with mobs of white men invading Little Africa intent upon killing every Negro in sight. The whites carried kerosene and other inflammable substances with them and started fires. By daylight, they reduced Little Africa to smouldering ruins. Frequent calls were received following this incident from Negroes, singularly and collectively, asking for protection. Responding to this call, volunteers and police collected the frightened blacks and took them to the convention hall and baseball park where the men were separated from the women and children.²³

Governor J. B. A. Robertson declared martial law about 11:30 A.M. that morning, notice having been received at the time in the form of a telegram from the governor by Adjutant General Charles F. Barrett. He arrived with three companies of guardsmen from Oklahoma City and established headquarters in the office of Police Commissioner J. M. Adkison. That evening an armed guardsman stood on every street corner, challenging pedestrians and motorists who ventured out. If these people could not produce passes properly signed by the adjutant general, they had to get off the streets without delay or face arrest.²²

Those who were responsible for restoring the city of Tulsa to normality had a difficult job ahead of them. The city's black population had to be fed, and Mayor T. D. Evans named a military commission, approved by Adjutant General Barrett, which handled this problem. The commission also was charged with investigating the riot and, if possible,

determining the guilty parties involved in instigating it. More than twenty people sat on the commission, most of them ministers and leaders of civic organizations. Rogers, as a part of the commission, represented the Civitan Club in the effort to feed the five thousand blacks. After the situation calmed down, the authorities discovered that thirty-three persons had lost their lives by gunfire or in burning buildings, and two hundred and forty had been injured. Rumors continued to circulate in Tulsa, however, that the Negroes were planning a concerted attack on Tulsa to destroy the business section and public utilities. In the end, both political parties made various charges, each trying to blame the other. On June 3, the governor revoked martial law and the troops returned home. Members of the American Legion were sworn in as peace officers. Rogers thought the race riot occurred because of "bad management on both sides" and that there was no excuse for it.²⁴

Although there seemed to be little love in Tulsa, early in 1921, romance entered Rogers' life at that time. On February 19, 1921, he married Hazel Mallory Beattie, who was a teacher in Shawnee, Oklahoma. His family was very happy, for Rogers was almost thirty-one years old, and they told him that he should be getting married. Her family background was similar to that of Rogers, for her ancestors had come to Missouri from Virginia about the same time that Rogers' grandparents did. However, after all her brothers and sisters were born in Missouri, her family had moved to Oklahoma City. She graduated from Central High School the same year that Rogers graduated from the University of Oklahoma. While he was attending school at Norman, he had met Hazel's older sister, Helen, and Helen's future husband, Gene Ledbetter, who

had entered law school the same time as Rogers. At various times during those years, Rogers had met members of Helen's family, including Hazel; however, Hazel, who was in high school, did not travel in the same social circles as John did at that time.²⁵

Almost seven years later, however, Rogers happened to meet Hazel's younger brother at the railroad station in Tulsa. Beattie's parents were returning to Oklahoma City after a trip into Arkansas and he was going to Oklahoma City to see them. Rogers went along and met the Beattie parents, Walter Newton and Lillian (Mallory) Beattie. At this time he saw Hazel, whom he found very attractive, and he discovered that she was a member of Phi Beta Kappa (a national scholastic honor society). A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree, she was also a member of Phi Beta Phi social fraternity. All these qualities endeared Hazel Beattie to Rogers. They seemed to agree on most other things except politics, for she was a Democrat. Yet they began to correspond and see each other whenever the opportunity presented itself.²⁶

Rogers discussed marriage with Hazel, but until the third week in February he had been too busy for the ceremony. At that time a lawsuit in Sapulpa he was handling was delayed for two weeks. Having two free weeks, he called Hazel and, according to Rogers, "neither one of us could think of any better way to spend two weeks," so they got married. John confided to a few of his friends in the church about his fiancée and asked them to be nice to her when she came to Tulsa, but he shyly refused to reveal her name.²⁷

The wedding took place at noon on a Saturday in the home of Hazel's parents in Oklahoma City. Immediately afterward they boarded a train

for New York City for their honeymoon, where they spent most of their time seeing Broadway shows and sightseeing. They both were interested in drama, especially Hazel who had majored in English in college. From the Hotel Astor, they went to the Apollo Theater to see Lionel Barrymore in Macbeth or they went to the Ziegfeld Follies. Upon their return home, Rogers got off the train at Tulsa, and Hazel returned to Shawnee to finish teaching. When school was over, Mrs. Rogers came to Tulsa, where they lived in the Ketchum Hotel until they found an apartment.²⁸

The Rogers' marriage succeeded because they worked as a team. Rogers always contended that a wife can "make or break" a man's career.²⁹ Hazel became socially prominent in Tulsa, attending the various teas and serving her church. Shortly after her arrival to Tulsa, she became a director on the board of the Young Women's Christian Association. Described by one of her former teachers as "at once dignified and pleasant," Mrs. Rogers also wrote for her church's magazines and journals.³⁰

In December of 1921, Rogers had to assume a new role other than that of lawyer and civic leader. A special meeting of the county commissioners and Sheriff W. M. McCullough concerning the appointment of four proposed deputy sheriffs developed into a citizens' mass meeting. Tulsans came to complain about the manner in which the sheriff carried out his duties. After much heated debate, the enraged citizens decided to gather that night at the First Baptist Church. The crowded courtroom began to empty while those present reached a compromise, which was proposed by A.A. Small. This compromise suggested that a committee of three meet with the sheriff and the commissioners and make a report that evening. The committee consisted of Reverend Harold G. Cook, chairman, Reverend C. W. Kerr, and E. E. Short, city treasurer. Their primary

duty was to select four vice crusaders to be reported later that evening.³¹

On that cold winter night, the Tulsa Law Enforcement Club was organized in the church, which was filled to capacity. The club chose as its direct representative a committee of five leading citizens: Alf Heggem, a local engineer, L. E. Abbott, a retail merchant, Carl Duffield, an oil operator, E. E. Short, the city treasurer, and John Rogers. The club charged these men with the duty of meeting with the sheriff and the commissioners to help select the four special deputies, who would wage war against the "dives" of Tulsa County and the criminal element. The next morning when the meeting was held, only two of the committee attended. Abbott, Duffield and Rogers sent representatives who were accepted. After deciding to hold the meeting in private, they adjourned behind locked doors and plugged keyholes. All day long, the two members of the "enforcement committee," the three representatives of the other members, the county commissioners, and the sheriff sat in session.³²

While the discussions continued in the small jury room, rumors ran rampant in the corridors about the special meeting. Various officials reported to the session, but when they left the room they had nothing to say. County Attorney Seaver and several justices helped put the law enforcement system into harmonious working order. To do this the justice courts and the books of the three justices dealing with criminal cases had to be reviewed. McCullough told those at the meeting that they should not even consider selecting new deputy sheriffs until the report of this audit was heard. If the report showed criminality in the courts, new justices would be appointed. Before the streets of Tulsa could be cleansed of illegal activities, they had to be certain that the courts

were kept honest.³³

When reporters saw the doors of the jury room open, they rushed to interview those leaving. However, they could not get a word from anyone; even the committeemen and commissioners remained silent, saying only that E. S. Hutchison would have a news release later in the evening. Hutchison came voluntarily to the office of the Tulsa World with a four-point summary of the day's meeting. This assured the public that there was a spirit of cooperation between the county attorney, the sheriff, and the law enforcement committee, and that they would all work to cleanse the county of its criminal element. Furthermore, they agreed that no prisoner would be released on bond in felony or criminal cases unless the bond was approved by a committee composed of W. A. Brownlee, cashier at the Exchange National Bank, Arlie Cripe, manager of Jenkins Music Company, and Charles T. Abbott, realtor. Clemency could not be extended by the county attorney in any criminal or felony cases unless the prosecuting witness and the officer making the arrest approved. The last point decided upon by those in the meeting dealt with the auditing of the books of the justices. The matter of the four special deputies was delayed until a later date.³⁴

The sheriff finally chose the "cleanup squad" to serve as night riders in a systematic war on lawlessness. The county commissioners and the representatives of the Law Enforcement Club joined with the sheriff to back these special officers in their purge of the unprincipled elements in Tulsa. Rogers, caught up in the enthusiasm of the announcement, stated, "When we say Tulsa county will be clean, we realize crime cannot be wholly suppressed, ...but we propose that it shall be minimized."³⁵

The auditing portion of the program seemed to produce the greatest

problems. When the deputy state examiner, Ed O. Cassidy, reported on his audit of Justice S. R. Hallman, a short fist fight between Hallman and County Investigator F. J. Bays erupted. Both charged the other with misappropriation of funds, and Hallman, who was standing behind the seated Bays, hit Bays, only to be floored by one of Bays' deputies. Finally someone separated them, and the sheriff took Bays' gun from him. Peace was restored, but the rest of the meeting was marked by tenses-
ness.³⁶

Cassidy found various discrepancies in his audit of the justices' records, including a lack of record for search warrants, missing files on criminal cases, and the payment of fees to salaried law enforcement officers. Hallman reported that the files missing had been stolen a week before the audit; however, Cassidy said that many important facts about search warrants were still missing as were several other files. This made a complete audit almost impossible in the absence of such important facts. Near the end of the meeting the committee reprimanded the justices. Cassidy warned that he had heard rumors about misconduct by law enforcement officers when handling confiscated property and money. Some officers reportedly seized evidence and then sold it back to defendants and took bribes. A month later, at the next meeting, the law enforcement committee decided to withdraw after the selection of a man who would be a link between the committee and the special vice squad.³⁷

The effort to cleanse government did not come to an abrupt halt, for within Tulsa there was a noticeable change in leadership, especially in the civic clubs. In fact, many oldtimers, aware of this trend, warned everyone to watch out, for things would change once fresh ideas were introduced by these youngsters. Rogers, who was thirty-one years old and

thus considered a part of the young group, became a part of this effort through his work on the cleanup committee for law enforcement and through his diligent work in the Republican Party. Having gained recognition not only in his profession but also as president of the Civitan Club, Rogers became chairman of the Tulsa Republican city central committee. When elected, he was congratulated and praised as the only person who could make the organization a live one. Many spoke of running Rogers for mayor of Tulsa because he had a pleasing personality, could make decisions, and had not made any enemies within the party. Although he reportedly was not as accomplished a speaker as his brother Harry, John had been in constant demand as lecturer by many civic organizations. He spoke most frequently on Lincoln, the American flag, the government of the United States, and other topics of historical interest. However, Rogers would not be the Republican candidate for mayor, for his friends had greater plans for him--the state Senate.³⁸

It took these friends months of pleading with Rogers to get him to consider the idea; however, the Democrats nominated a man who had the support of the Ku Klux Klan, Wash Hudson. Rogers believed that there should be more business in government and less government in business. In addition, he wanted politics eliminated from the State Highway Department and favored practical legislation for an efficient system of road construction and maintenance. In the area of education, he strongly advocated support of public school education, and he argued that school districts unable to finance ample educational facilities should be given state aid. Having been associated with men who had agricultural interests as well as oil interests, Rogers knew many of the problems of the farmer in Oklahoma. Thus he supported cooperative methods for the

production, marketing, and distribution of farm products, and he favored legislation which permitted and protected cooperative enterprises of all kinds. Perhaps part of his belief in the cooperative method of farming was based on his background, where he had seen farmers who worked together enjoying greater success. His supporters emphasized two other factors in his campaign: he was a veteran, and he knew the oil business.³⁹

Yet Rogers did not win the race for the state Senate in 1922. The Klan was too popular. Rogers credited this experience in politics as instrumental in keeping him from ever attempting to run for a political office again. Rogers often said jokingly that he owed the Klan a lot because it kept him out of politics; had he been successful in 1922, he would not have been able to participate in church affairs, in the area of education, and in community activities. Also, he soon became a family man, and his wife and son had many health problems which required his devoted attention.⁴⁰

On national issues during this period, Rogers had definite opinions. Restrictionists had tried for years to reduce the number of immigrants coming into this country. In 1921, Congress passed a bill which slightly revised Representative Albert Johnson's bill of 1920; it provided that the number of immigrants from any nation who might be admitted each year should be no more than three percent of the number of foreign-born of that nationality living in the United States in 1910. When asked his opinion of the new law, Rogers agreed with it, for he thought too many foreigners were entering the United States without assimilating. He also felt that Southern European immigration had been far too rapid.⁴¹

When veterans of World War I, supported by the Oklahoma American

Legion, tried to procure a Bonus Bill for themselves, Rogers denounced it. In a debate with another former commander of the Joe Carson post, Rogers spoke against the bill, while Horace Hagan spoke for it. Hagan reminded his listeners that the American soldier had come home barely able to purchase the civilian clothing he needed, while those who had remained home had become wealthy. Many of the jobs left behind by the serviceman had been filled and continued to be held by those who stayed behind. This was not an attempt, Hagan stated, to "loot the treasury," but merely an "effort to obtain justice."⁴²

Rogers replied that the soldiers were just being selfish and that the bill was both economically unsound and fundamentally wrong. "It is purely a gratuity," he said, unless it was honestly adjusted.⁴³ As the bill was written, Rogers feared that the Southern Negro, the bootlegger, the gambler, and the town loafer could receive the same compensation as the soldier who had suffered economically during the war. He warned that the passage of the bill would hinder the plans of the government to take care of the disabled veterans and that the bill would be so expensive that the cost of living would rise and taxes increase to a point where industry would be stifled.⁴⁴

Rogers mentioned the food and lodging the soldier had received during the war, to which Hagan replied that Rogers might be glossing over the reality of what they had actually received. But Rogers remained adamant, retorting that he knew of a company of Creole Frenchmen from Louisiana who had weighed an average of one hundred and seventeen pounds when they had enlisted, who when they were discharged had gained an average of forty-two pounds. While neither man actually won the debate, the bill was passed by the United States Congress but vetoed by

President Warren G. Harding, whose reasons for vetoing were similar to Rogers'.⁴⁵

These problems might have perplexed Rogers and might have caused him to question the motivations of the people he knew, but he soon had other worries within his home. He and Hazel were expecting their first child, and his wife's health was delicate. On May 25, 1924, their son was born by a Caesarean delivery; afterward Hazel developed an infection. While Rogers awaited the news, the doctor came out and told him that Hazel was experiencing a difficult delivery. He asked the worried father what should be done if only one could be saved. Rogers, thinking about it for a moment, told the doctor to save his wife if that became necessary. Fortunately, both mother and son survived, but the Rogers, who loved children, were told that she could never have another baby. Although the news hurt them, they still had their son, John, Jr., who would become the pride of their lives.⁴⁶

As a youngster John, Jr., developed bronchial asthma and required special attention. He spent most of his life indoors, playing quietly, for an undue excitement would arouse his asthma. When he started school, the younger Rogers had to spend part of his years in Arizona with his mother during the colder months of the year. To the Rogers this separation, however painful, protected the life of their only son.⁴⁷

During the early 1920s, Rogers became involved in various law cases (to be discussed in a later chapter). Yet his practice was never confined to a law office, for the family he worked for had Rogers represent them at ceremonies throughout the state. R. M. McFarlin's health began to fail him about this time and, when ground for the McFarlin

Memorial Church in Norman was broken on April 5, 1923, McFarlin requested that Rogers act as his agent at the ceremony, along with Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Holloran. The church, which also contained a school of religious education and would also serve as a community recreation center, cost three hundred thousand dollars to build; according to the church architects at Nashville, Tennessee, it was the finest Methodist Episcopal Church in the South. Mrs. McFarlin watched Rogers as he spoke about her son, for whom the church would serve as a memorial; he said the church not only memorialized her son, who had died in Norman a few years earlier, but also would do the same for all the sons and daughters of Oklahoma who would attend the University of Oklahoma in future years. This Gothic church, which still stands today, would be just one of the philanthropic endeavors of the McFarlin and Chapman families in which Rogers would be their personal representative.⁴⁸

Dr. Stratton D. Brooks, president of the University of Oklahoma, attended this ceremony. As president since 1912, Brooks had seen the University grow. Not too long before that day in April of 1923, a new governor, John C. Walton, had been inaugurated. The governor began to change the boards of state schools during the spring after his inauguration; by the end of that semester he had removed five members of the University Board of Regents and appointed five new members. He was attempting to build partisan support for his position in Oklahoma politics.⁴⁹ Brooks, who recently had declined an offer to be president of the University of Missouri, might have been able to fight these changes, but, when he was told by the regents in Missouri that he could still have the job, he resigned. Brooks' background as an educator was flawless; he held degrees from the University of Michigan and Harvard and

had held an administrative post as superintendent of the Boston city schools.⁵⁰

After Brooks and his family departed for Columbia, Missouri, Walton became more obvious in his attacks on institutions that were not political in nature. In a speech to a group of farmers in Shawnee, Walton declared Brooks had been more an organizer than an educator and that Brooks had used the alumni organization to oppose Walton when he ran for governor. Combined with his treatment of criminals, his declaration of martial law in Tulsa at a time when many citizens felt it was unjustified, and his attempt to reduce the legislative appropriation for University maintenance from \$700,000 to \$500,000 Walton seemed to be asking for impeachment. The Tulsa Tribune led the state in calling for impeachment of the chief executive. When a grand jury was called to investigate the charges against the governor and other state officers, Walton placed the entire state under martial law. He ordered national guardsmen to stand in front of the doors of the jury room to prevent a session of the grand jury. Military force prevailed when the legislature attempted to meet in the Capitol on September 26 without a call from the governor. Petitions circulated to legalize the meeting of the legislature, and the governor could not prevent the submission of the initiated measure to the voters in a special election he had called for October 2. The issue to be voted on was a proposed bonus for veterans. The governor then tried to stop the election, but the election officials opened the polls and the people voted to remove Walton.⁵¹

After the governor was impeached, Lieutenant Governor Martin E. Trapp replaced him and began a complete reorganization of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma. Only two of Walton's appointees

refused to resign, Mrs. J. N. Schwoerke of Oklahoma City and George Bowman of Kingfisher. Governor Trapp appointed Rogers, Orel Busby of Ada, A. A. McDonald of Hugo, and reappointed Frank Buttram and Mont F. Highly. On June 3, 1924, Judge A. A. McDonald became president of the board, and, although it would be years until Trapp's appointments would be approved by the senate, the board soon began its work.⁵²

Their immediate task was to secure a new president of the University. On July 1, 1923, James Shannon Buchanan, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, became acting president of the University. He did far more than mark time, and the following year he became the permanent president. The regents planned for the erection of the Oklahoma Memorial Union and the Memorial Stadium. Buchanan launched the public drive for funds by first stating that there was an immense need for expansion all over the University, including the library, gymnasium, and the faculty. However, he said that the state legislature could not be expected to finance all this as well as the stadium. Thus he left it to the alumni and the students to provide the million-dollar stadium. As their share in the drive, the Rogers gave seven hundred and fifty dollars. When President Buchanan was in Tulsa to launch the drive, Rogers presided at the banquet. After Buchanan finished his speech, Rogers stated that he would accompany the president to Norman to go over the budget for the University and then would take the estimate to Oklahoma City and present it to Ben Harrison, state budget officer, and to Governor Trapp. Thus the expansion of the University continued under Buchanan.⁵³

On July 1, 1925, William Bennett Bizzell became president. The regent's only other choice for the post had been Dr. Archibald Henderson

of the University of North Carolina. At the time Henderson was being considered, the editor of The Tulsa Tribune said that the University of Oklahoma needed a man who could "enlighten" Oklahoma's state legislators. He insisted that the University could have a "wonderful money value" for the state.⁵⁴ When Henderson decided to remain at Chapel Hill, the regents unanimously chose Dr. Bizzell, who was considered the foremost educator in the Southwest. Bizzell, president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas at the time of his selection, and former president of the Texas State College for Women, had graduated from Baylor University at Waco, Texas, had completed law school there, and then had received his Doctor of Philosophy degree from Columbia University. Rogers and the other regents rejoiced when Bizzell accepted the position.⁵⁵

Governor Henry S. Johnston had the power when he entered office in January of 1927 to remove those regents he wanted eliminated. By this time the regents had already selected Frank Buttram as president of the Board of Regents and John Rogers as vice-president. The legislature had been trying for more than four years to modify the law so that the governor would not have the sole power of removal of members of this board. Finally, in March of 1927, a bill passed which stated that the regents could be removed only by the legislature and then only after impeachment and trial. This bill came to the governor on a Wednesday, and he, intending to sign the bill later that evening, removed George L. Bowman of Kingfisher as well as the rest of the regents. However, when he submitted his new list, Bowman was the only one not mentioned. Rogers' name and that of his fellow regents were confirmed the next day. Meanwhile the governor signed the new law, which President Bizzell said

would greatly improve the University's image. This new stability also brought in substantial endowments from several sources that prior to the passage of the law would never have contributed.⁵⁶

The seven years Rogers worked on the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma were a time of expansion.⁵⁷ There is a reason for this which goes beyond the mere physical growth of the University. More degrees were granted during this period than in the first thirty-two years combined, and the campus expanded in sheer numbers of buildings. These seven years, due to the efforts of Presidents Buchanan and Bizzell, the legislature, the board of regents, students and alumni, insured that the University would have quality and depth.⁵⁸

To handle a massive student body, new buildings were necessary. Besides building the new stadium, there were many other new structures added: the Liberal-Arts building (Buchanan Hall), the Field House, Hester Hall and Robertson Hall as dormitories, the Memorial Union, the new University Library, Ellison Infirmary, a building in Oklahoma City for the School of Medicine, and a hospital for crippled children. These facilities were built and maintained by legislative appropriations, lobbied for by presidents and regents, and through public support.

In September, 1924, the regents reorganized the School of Fine Arts into the College of Fine Arts with three subordinate schools: painting and design, dramatic art, and music. That same month they established the School of Petroleum Engineering as part of the College of Engineering. The regents, particularly Buttram, actively planned this new school. Furthermore, they re-established the Oklahoma Geological Survey, making it a part of the University. Three years later, the regents created the Bureau of Business Research and the Oklahoma Biological

Survey. The Bureau was to make scientific studies of practical economic and business problems in Oklahoma, while the second other department was to work to understand, conserve, and control the state's biological resources. Also, two new schools were established during that year: the School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and the School of Geology.⁵⁹

An important agency of the University which began in 1929 was the University of Oklahoma Press. The University previously had had a printing plant for its bulletins and other supplies, but the new press had a larger purpose: the publication of worthy books. This contribution to scholarship cannot be measured, but for many historians, as well as other writers, this press has done much for Oklahoma.

Rogers' term on the board of regents expired in 1931. During his years he had worked to develop those areas in which he was interested: business, petroleum engineering, medicine, and civics. By 1931 Rogers' activities in Tulsa began to control most of his time, but nine years later he again would serve on the Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma.

While Rogers sat on the Norman Board of Regents, he also served as a trustee of the University of Tulsa. When the editor of the Oklahoma Daily, the University of Oklahoma student publication, charged that many people might question whether Rogers could maintain allegiance to both schools, which conflicted in aims and methods, Rogers replied that he knew of numerous people who sat on several boards. The student editor said that the University of Tulsa charged a high tuition while the University of Oklahoma did not, and the young journalist felt that this might be the reason for Rogers' strong stand for high tuition at the University of Oklahoma. Rogers flatly denied that he had taken a strong

stand for high tuition and confessed that he favored the policy of graduated tuitions as a state policy for all institutions of higher learning. He added that the time for this would come, but that he was not recommending it for the present.⁶⁰

During the period Rogers sat on the Board of Regents, he also took a great deal of pleasure in what was happening at home in Tulsa. His older brother, Harry, had been asked to return to serve as president of the Exchange National Bank. This bank had become the largest bank in Oklahoma, and the board of directors wanted someone who could handle it. When he first accepted the position, Harry said he would only stay for a year, but there problems ahead that he did not foresee, problems which would demand his attention and hurt his health. He arrived in 1928; the panic of 1929 and the ensuing depression kept Rogers in Tulsa until 1932 when he would resign and return to Texas.⁶¹

Harry Rogers was the most likely choice for the position of president of the bank when James J. McGraw died. His varied talents in law, oil, and banking were well known. He was the International President of Rotary from 1926 to 1927 and had attended the International Rotary Convention in Ostend, Belgium, in 1927, where he received the Order of the Cross from King Albert of Belgium. In Texas, the Republican party had considered him as a possible nominee for governor. After his arrival in Tulsa, building began to flourish. In July 1928 the directors of the bank decided to create an affiliated company to deal in bonds and mortgages and to carry on the business of general investment. By this time the Exchange Trust Company had loaned twenty-five million dollars on Oklahoma real estate. Home building in Tulsa became possible through this company, which also had loaned money on farms in fifty-four of

Oklahoma's seventy-seven counties.⁶²

To satisfy a need, the Exchange group chartered an auxiliary bank, the Southwestern Bank. They also enlarged the Exchange National Bank, adding, among other things, a block long lobby. Italian marble set off with ornamental fixtures of bronze and iron and an Italian renaissance ceiling showed the grandeur which the bank had achieved in Tulsa. In 1929 the bank bought the Central National Bank and Trust Company. The directors then decided that the mounting deposits demanded, with approval of the stockholders, additional capital investment. After this approval was gained, they reduced the par value of the stock from \$100 to \$20 and offered twenty-five thousand additional shares to stockholders of record at \$60 a share. This stimulated trading, and five months later another issue of stock was sold. This brought new blood into the stockholders and allowed the officers and employees a chance to purchase. The resources of the bank almost doubled, and the bank helped to finance more building in Tulsa: the Tulsa Hotel, the Hunt Building, the Wright Building, the Bliss Hotel, and the Alvin Hotel and apartments. It also financed other hotels throughout the state. Then came the Great Depression of 1929.⁶³

Oil almost dropped to twenty-nine cents a barrel, and in East Texas it dropped to a dime a barrel. This imposed a severe hardship, for oil had once been \$3.50 a barrel. Many wealthy men in Tulsa who had over-extended themselves in their investments were impoverished. Deposits began to decline in the banks in Tulsa, including the Exchange National Bank. Chapman returned from Colorado Springs, Colorado, and offered to deposit five million dollars if an additional five million could be put up by others. At various times Chapman had as much as a million dollars

in cash in the bank, but other Tulsans had their fortunes in diverse investments. Thus the solution suggested by Chapman could not be arranged. Some of the more doubtful frozen assets were segregated and taken over by the men who had the means to do so. Chapman advanced seven hundred thousand dollars in cash for this purpose. The situation was tense, and John Rogers saw his brother's health deteriorate during the period he was president of the bank.⁶⁴

Just over a year before the stock market crash, John Rogers became even more active in local affairs by entering the race in the Tulsa school board election. He and two other men ran together against three incumbents. Rogers' group felt that too much money was being spent foolishly, and that the school board should be closer to the public. The people in Tulsa had just rejected a \$1,500,000 bond issue; Rogers himself said he did not know if one was necessary. If it was, he felt the board should have told the public why rather than expect Tulsans blindly to accept anything the board proposed.⁶⁵ In addition, Rogers had doubts about the use of the platoon system of teaching in the lower grades, a proposal which Superintendent of Schools P. P. Claxton was advancing. Rogers favored an impartial survey to determine the needs of Tulsa and its school system. During the race, Rogers openly voiced his opinions about how the school system was being run and the changes that needed to be made. He opposed people who were drawing a salary from the city of Tulsa campaigning to re-elect the old school board members; in the black section of town some sixty teachers and two principals were working hard for the re-election of the entrenched school board. The Tulsa Tribune in an editorial after the election charged that the citizen's ticket, which included Rogers, had published an eleventh-hour

list of citizens supporting their ticket, who, in fact, did not. Nor did the paper like the effort of the citizen's ticket to make it appear that Claxton was actively supporting the re-election of the school board members. Rogers replied to this editorial by saying that there had been many things done in the election by both sides which ought not to have been done, but that he did not feel his supporters had done as many unethical things as the opposition had. In the election, Rogers lost, but he hoped that the strength of his support would be a message to those re-elected and that they would act with that message in mind.⁶⁶

While addressing the Men's Dinner Club of his church one evening seven months later, Rogers, in speaking on the Christian life, said that a strenuous life was one of the essentials of a Christian life. For those who were concerned over attacks on the church by believers in the theory of evolution, he answered that one of the most foolish things which could be enacted into law would be anti-evolution legislation. He maintained, "Evolution hasn't anything to do with Christian faith, and whatever is true about either is going to endure."⁶⁷ He felt what was wrong with education was not that evolution was being taught, but that the personal part of education was being killed. Education was becoming a machine whose only concern was standardization. In closing, he said that a diploma did not mean that a person was educated, even if that diploma was an A. B. degree. From this speech, Rogers' philosophy of education was quite apparent: he believed in a broad, liberal arts education which was personalized, and he did not eliminate personal experiences outside of the classroom from the definition of an education. He was concerned about the quality of an education, which meant that as a regent or a trustee of a university Rogers always wanted the best-

qualified teachers hired. His ideas did not always correspond with those of the students at the University of Tulsa, however.⁶⁸

The McFarlins and the Chapmans admired the educational system as practiced in private universities. For this reason they gave a great deal of money to these schools over the years. Chapman feared that if private schools did not have the necessary financial support, they would fail, and all education would be controlled by the state. By 1929 the McFarlins had financed the building of a girls' dormitory at Westmoreland College in Texas and a magnificent auditorium at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. In May of that year more than 500 people attended ground-breaking ceremonies for the McFarlin Library at the University of Tulsa. On hand for this event were the McFarlins, who scooped a shovelful of dirt, and the guest of honor, Alice M. Robertson, who had become known as the "mother of the University of Tulsa." John Rogers gave the principal address, saying that this building, which cost \$275,000, would probably be the most important building on campus, for it was where some of the finest wisdom would be stored. This ceremony also marked the beginning of an extensive building campaign which would include a fine arts building and a petroleum engineering building. These would be donated by Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Tyrrell and Waite Phillips respectively. At this same time J. A. Chapman purchased a building which would house the Downtown College of the University of Tulsa. This would not be the last time Rogers represented the McFarlin-Chapman families in their philanthropic endeavors, for contributing to private universities would be a lifetime project of these people. After the death of R. M. McFarlin, the Chapman family continued to contribute to various schools, but, owing to his desire to keep out of the public eye, Chapman's

philanthropic gifts would remain anonymous to all but those close to him. Much of Rogers' career and service to Chapman involved advising his employer on the legal aspects of making these gifts.⁶⁹

The 1920s were exciting and eventful years in Rogers' career. As a returning soldier with a good job, Rogers had many opportunities. The pattern of his college days seemed to repeat itself as he became one of the young leaders in Tulsa. His attitude toward labor unions, strikes, and the violence which accompanied them was one of fear, a fear which was shared by many in the United States in the post-Russian revolutionary period. Communism was gaining popularity among some people in the United States, and those who adhered to its ideals were increasing. Thus the resolutions prepared by Rogers' committee at the national convention of the American Legion reflected public opinion at that time. Perhaps these people were paranoid about foreigners and foreign philosophies, but the fear of the 1920s differed little from the fears that were felt in the 1950s.

Rogers' activities in various civic clubs displayed his talent for leadership, a talent which was recognized statewide when he was selected to be a regent of the University of Oklahoma and when his party nominated him for state senator. In the Tulsa race riot, Rogers cooperated with officials, and, as a part of a select committee, he helped to gather aid for the homeless and hungry blacks; although he once had belonged to the Klan, Rogers did not believe in violence.

Rogers was a born leader, but the people he associated with, who also were leaders--and very wealthy, cooperated with him. This was important, for had his employers and family disagreed with him about his duties to the community and state, Rogers might have had to stifle his

desires to lead to keep his job and family. Yet these people gave him the moral support, money, and time which he needed. Their interests were the same.

During this period it became obvious that Rogers was an individualist not afraid to disagree with his friends when he felt they were wrong; for example, he disagreed with the American Legion on the Bonus Bill. He believed in economy in government and quality in education; he did not approve of dishonesty in government whether it was at the local, state, or national level. He did not make excuses for the Harding scandals despite the fact that Harding was a Republican.⁷⁰ During this period, many Tulsans who were making a reputation and money were also foolishly investing their money. Rogers, to whom any amount of money was new to his experience, cautiously invested his money. Not until after the panic did Rogers buy a home; previous to the crash of the stock market, when most Tulsans were buying property and homes, Rogers lived simply with his wife in a rented apartment. During the next ten years, however, Rogers would change his life style and build a lovely home, that was the same period in which he saw the onslaught of a bigger federal government, of which he did not approve.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹The Tulsa Tribune, April 4, 1923, p. 8.
- ²Douglas, p. 495; The Tulsa Democrat, April 25, 1919, p. 12.
- ³Douglas, p. 496; The Tulsa Democrat, May 21, 1919, p. 17.
- ⁴Douglas, p. 496.
- ⁵The Tulsa Democrat, November 12, 1919, p. 1.
- ⁶Ibid.
- ⁷Ibid.; David A. Shannon, Twentieth Century America: The United States Since the 1890s (Chicago, 1963), pp. 182, 84-85.
- ⁸The Tulsa Democrat, November 12, 1919, p. 1.
- ⁹Douglas, p. 500.
- ¹⁰Ibid.
- ¹¹Ibid., pp. 551-52.
- ¹²Ibid., p. 557.
- ¹³Lucy May Marquis, "John Rogers," The Crusader, 1920, R. P.
- ¹⁴The Daily Oklahoman, December 13, 1928, p. 13.
- ¹⁵The Oklahoma City Times, April 26, 1934, p. 15.
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- ¹⁷The Oklahoma City Times, April 27, 1934, p. 16.
- ¹⁸Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974, R. C.
- ¹⁹Debo, p. 101.
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- ²⁸Ibid.; Mrs. Walter Beattie to Mr. and Mrs. John Rogers, February 21, 1921, R. P.; Statement of cost of room from the Ketchum Hotel to John Rogers, March 16, 1921, R. P.
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- ³²Ibid.; The Tulsa Daily World, December 31, 1921, pp. 1, 16.
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- ³⁹Ibid.
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- ⁴²The Tulsa Tribune, March 7, 1922, p. 11.
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- ⁴⁹McReynolds, p. 343.
- ⁵⁰Ibid., p. 344.
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- ⁵²The Tulsa Tribune, June 3, 1924, p. 13.
- ⁵³Gittinger, p. 128.
- ⁵⁴The Tulsa Tribune, February 6, 1925, p. 2.
- ⁵⁵The Tulsa Tribune, July 1, 1925, p. 17.
- ⁵⁶Gittinger, p. 129.
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- ⁵⁹Ibid., pp. 126-27, 135-36.
- ⁶⁰The Tulsa Tribune, December 9, 1928, p. 11.
- ⁶¹The Oklahoma City Times, April 30, 1934, p. 3.
- ⁶²Ibid.
- ⁶³The Oklahoma City Times, May 1, 1934, p. 12.
- ⁶⁴Ibid.
- ⁶⁵The Tulsa Daily World, April 11, 1928, p. 6.
- ⁶⁶The Tulsa Tribune, May 17, 1928, p. 13.
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CHAPTER III

A MAN WITH SOLUTIONS

John Rogers did not foresee the coming of the depression. During the 1920s he had enjoyed his life as a regent, lawyer, civic leader, and husband. He was not ignoring what was happening in Tulsa, for he was too close to his brother, Harry, not to know. Because he had been conservative with his money, John had reason to be optimistic about the future after the depression started. His wife, Hazel, began consulting with the architect in planning their new home. This would be their dream house with room enough to entertain, for John, Jr., to roam about in and work at his hobbies, and for the parents to have their library. They would finally have enough bookshelves built into one room to house the 2500 volumes they had collected over the years. Two of Rogers' favorite topics were history and religion. His history books concentrated in three areas: George Washington and the revolutionary period, Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War, and the post-World War I history. He attempted to obtain a biography of every signer of the Declaration of Independence.¹

John took great pride in his brother's accomplishments during this period. When they were not busy working or contributing to civic affairs, the two Rogers families frequently socialized with each other. Harry was a celebrity in their church, for he had been elected president of the International Convention of Christian Churches, the highest

position a person could hold in the Disciples of Christ Church. He was the first layman to hold this position. But John saw the strain of business problems on his brother's face after the depression hit. The people John worked with tried to keep the Exchange National Bank afloat. By February of 1932, Harry no longer could contend with those problems, however, and Chapman, McFarlin, and the Sinclairs had to find someone to replace Harry when he resigned at last. These men were desperate. They needed a man with good business sense, at last selecting Elmore F. Higgins, vice president of the National City Bank of New York.²

Higgins' tactics did not win him many friends in Tulsa. A cold, impersonal man accustomed to the practices on Wall Street, Higgins tried to save the bank, but by March 1, 1933, he decided it was time to call officials in Washington to notify them that the Exchange National Bank would not open its doors the following day. Once other Oklahoma bankers heard of this, calls flooded the offices of Governor Murray and the state banking department. The Tulsa Clearing House Association met and decided that if the Exchange did not open its doors, then the rest of Tulsa's banks could not either. If this happened, many banks in Oklahoma City could not open, and banking all over the Southwest would be disrupted. After a conference in Oklahoma City, W. J. Barnett, State Bank Commissioner, declared a banking holiday for all Oklahoma on March 2.³

During the holiday, officials of the Exchange National determined that the bank's indebtedness amounted to \$4,500,000. The directors decided to seek government assistance and to reorganize the bank. Chapman advanced \$1,750,000, the Sinclairs advanced \$2,125,000 and the others of the board gave \$125,000. The Reconstruction Finance

Corporation, by authority of the Emergency Banking Act of 1933, could buy preferred stock of banks, and the Federal Reserve Banks were authorized to lend money to state-chartered banks. The Emergency Banking Act was passed when congressmen learned that the banking situation had deteriorated nationally. And President Franklin D. Roosevelt was forced to declare a four-day banking holiday beginning March 6. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation soon subscribed an additional \$4,000,000 in preferred stock to the Exchange National, and thus with the advances of Chapman, the Sinclairs, and the directors, the bank had a capital structure of \$8,000,000. The new bank, renamed the National Bank of Tulsa, assumed all deposit liability for savings accounts in the Exchange Trust Company.⁴

Yet many of the beneficiaries of estates and trust accounts became alarmed when their incomes stopped, and they began to file suits. This resulted in the Trust Company being put in the hands of the bank commissioners for liquidation on June 29, 1933. The stockholders and directors of the Trust Company and the Exchange National Company had lost \$3,600,000 of paid-in capital and surplus. Another \$5,000,000 had gone to save these debits. The critics of such men as Chapman and the Sinclairs said that they had put up additional money only to save their own investments. Chapman, who held less than five percent of the stock in these companies, could have written a check which would have covered the assessment of his stocks and walked away, but he did not. Instead he dipped into his personal assets, depleted his individual fortune, and advanced more than \$6,000,000. Sinclair meanwhile had advanced a total of almost \$3,000,000.⁵

After the Exchange Trust Company closed, the bank commissioners

audited its books and found 600 life insurance trusts involving \$16,000,000, 1,600 wills in its care, and \$23,000,000 in estates, trusts, mortgages, and various types of investments. These accounts were audited in two months, and then liquidation began. Early in 1934 Governor William H. Murray directed a special audit of the trust company and appointed J. M. Springer of Stillwater as special prosecutor in connection with the investigation. When the first group of charges were filed, they were made against twenty-five of the former directors of the trust company. These charges involved seven counts of embezzlement in 1931. The second group of charges named three additional defendants, Higgins, Joseph McGraw, and P. M. Miskell. Springer filed a total of seventeen charges alleging misappropriation of \$265,245.95 from various trust estates. In the trials which followed, John Rogers was one of two dozen lawyers for the defense. Three people who were close to Rogers were charged as defendants: his brother, Harry, J. A. Chapman, and R. M. McFarlin.⁶

On March 12, 1934, the seventeen cases charging embezzlement against the twenty-eight former directors of the Exchange Trust Company were given a preliminary hearing. The sandy-haired, spectacled Judge Bradford Williams of common pleas court surprised those present when he brought three fellow judges of common pleas to the bench with him: William Randolph, Leslie Webb, and John Woodward. He explained that the verdict would be his own but that the others would sit as advisors to him.⁷

As the courtroom filled, the atmosphere was tense, for within the room as defendants were the men who had made Tulsa. Each of the defendants was free on bond of \$4,000. This trial would surpass any held in Tulsa to that time in the number of people involved: four bailiffs at

doors, four court reporters working in ten-minute shifts, two dozen lawyers for the defense, and seven lawyers to prosecute. Not all of the defendants were present. J. S. Pearce had been granted a postponement with the understanding that if the others were held for district court trial, he would waive preliminary hearing, and if they were freed, he would be also. "Uncle" Joe Evans was so old that he was allowed to leave, and R. M. McFarlin was ill in a Kansas City sanitarium and could not appear.

Springer began his case by presenting his evidence in the three cases involving the main points of accusation. All but McGraw, Higgins, and Miskell were charged with the embezzlement of \$1,000 in March of 1931, \$65,000 in April of 1931, and \$1,699 in September of 1931 from the estate of George L. Miller of the famous 101 Ranch near Ponca City. The prosecution depended on the intent of the directors of the Exchange Trust Company, the question of whether the Miller fund was an estate or a partnership account, and on the legality of account number 1200 in the Exchange Trust Company.⁸

During the days which followed, fewer and fewer people came to the trial as testimony grew more technical. Some would come for a few minutes to get a glance at the defendants, and then they would leave. On March 22, 1934, the case closed, and the judge promised to render a decision the next day. At 10:00 A.M. the judge walked into the courtroom and stated that the evidence did not show intent to defraud, and thus the demurrers of the defense lawyers were sustained. The judge dismissed the criminal charges, but he said that this did not mean that he approved of all of the practices of the directors.⁹ Despite the outcome of the trial, those who had been involved felt disgraced that they had

been suspected of such charges.

John Rogers never practiced law in the courtroom personally. Rather he hired the best lawyers he could find for his clients and remained available for advice should that be needed at a later date. However, he was involved in some interesting cases during this part of his career. One such case involved a man who was hit in the eye by a golf ball while playing on a course owned by R. M. McFarlin. The injured party sued McFarlin for \$20,000 damages; inasmuch as McFarlin lived in San Antonio at the time, Rogers managed to have the suit transferred from a district court to a federal court. Many of the cases Rogers worked on were not as simple as this one was.¹⁰

One suit contesting the ownership of a \$1,000,000 oil lease located in Hardin County, Texas (near Fort Worth), involved the McMan Oil and Gas Company and the Gilliland Oil Company. The Gilliland Company went into receivership after it had sold the 200-acre lease to the McMan Oil and Gas Company. After the company went into receivership, the receivers contended that the lease sale was consummated with intent to defraud the creditors of the Gilliland company. The McMan company defended the suit on the grounds that it had paid an adequate consideration and in good faith. The Gilliland interests were favored twice in various courts before McMan won the case on appeal to the fifth circuit court in New Orleans. By the time of this decision, the McMan company had about seventy-one producing oil wells on the lease and had received about \$2,000,000 worth of oil from the wells. As a vice president of the company, Rogers was affected by the decision, and he made certain that the company had an excellent attorney to represent it.¹¹

On July 30, 1930, the Superior Oil Corporation went into

receivership and was placed under a reorganization committee consisting of A. Perry Osborn of New York City, Harry H. Rogers of Tulsa, and Patrick O'Neill of Los Angeles. John Rogers was named receiver for the corporation; this meant that he had to spend much time in New York City. Whenever possible, Rogers took his wife and son with him, but for the most part he had to go alone. For Rogers this was a very lonely period in his life. He dreaded weekends in New York City, for usually he spent this time with his family. His working days were exciting in that he came in contact with many famous bankers, and he could enhance his education by watching the dealings of Wall Street businessmen.¹²

Apparently Rogers succeeded in this position, for Superior's stock was listed on what Rogers calls "the big board" all the time it was in receivership, a rare occurrence. The reorganization plan, which Rogers submitted to District Judge Thurman Hurst and then was approved by a majority of the stockholders, proposed that, after receivership was lifted, the committee members would receive 100,000 shares of stock and an option to buy an additional 100,000 shares at one dollar each. He also proposed that the attorneys for the receiver get certain fees; for Edward P. Marshall, he suggested \$35,000 and for Felix Bodovitz, he recommended \$11,500 and 10,000 shares of stock. John Rogers and his attorney, N. A. Gibson, asked for \$25,000 each.¹³

When this compromise was agreeable to the judge, Hurst decided that the receivership would be lifted March 31, 1933. The members of the reorganization committee received 62,500 shares jointly, an option for another 52,500 shares at one dollar each within one year, and another option for 50,000 shares at two dollars each to be exercised within two years. Marshall received \$27,500, while Bodovitz received \$12,500.

Rogers and his attorney were not allowed fees other than those already received and whatever salary might be due them; however, Rogers became the president of the new corporation. On March 31, Rogers made his final report and, at the court's order, retained a small amount of money to meet outstanding indebtedness.¹⁴

Rogers soon resigned as president, for he considered his duties with the Chapman-McFarlin interests to have first priority. Also, he was anxious to return to Tulsa and his activities there, such as the Young Men's Christian Association and the National Recovery Act program. When Rogers attended the Y. M. C. A. camp at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, in 1911, he had decided against full time Christian service, but pledged to himself that he would make the Christian life his avocation. Later, while running for the Tulsa school board, Rogers had stated that he considered "physical and mental health and social well being" as essential as the three Rs.¹⁵ He contended that the problems of social maladjustment, juvenile delinquency, and crime could be solved if a broad form of recreation was maintained in the schools. Rogers not only promoted this idea as president of the Young Men's Christian Association but in his private life as well. For example, when John, Jr., was six years old, he looked out the window of the Rogers' home on Xanthus street and saw two huge bulldozers moving onto the open lot next door. He rushed to his father and, with tears streaming down his pink cheeks, begged his father to do something so that his and his friends' ball park would not be ruined. Rogers went outside to speak to the owner of the lot and managed to stop the dozers while he made a deal to purchase the lot. Thus the children of the neighborhood continued to have their ball park years after Rogers' own son had outgrown it.¹⁶

The depression hurt institutions as well as people in the early 1930s. Those men who had most vigorously supported the Y. M. C. A. prior to that time had also been severely hurt financially by the stock market crash. With other problems weighing on their minds, they could hardly be expected to help the Y. M. C. A. which was "drowning" in its debts. After Rogers' election to the presidency in 1931, he proposed that the Y. M. C. A. be both membership-centered and building-centered. Centralization of the activities of the "Y", Rogers believed, would reduce costs by thirty percent, and the program would be more efficient and effective.¹⁷

One of the first things Rogers did was to bring into the organization men of means who previously had not been active in the association. Rogers also had to find men who could bring in members, yet at the same time decrease expenses. One such man was Hastings Harrison, a lifetime friend who had been active with the "Y" in Texas. Another outstanding citizen of Tulsa who aided this cause was W. Harry Clarke, who also was active in the Chamber of Commerce. In the first membership drive during Rogers' administration, Clarke gathered 160 men to work. One of the goals of this drive was to get a cross-section of Tulsa's young men and boys as members.¹⁸

Harrison became the general secretary for the "Y" and joined the other secretaries. Rogers told them that secretaries of the "Y" were destroying any possibilities of becoming rich personally as a result of their association with the "Y". The Tulsa association had a rule that service to churches, public institutions, welfare, and other organizations and to individuals--such as writing addresses, serving on committees, singing, teaching, preaching, refereeing, umpiring, coaching,

or writing articles--was to be considered part of working for the association, and was to be given without charge. In special instances, where the service was continuous, any money received went to the association. Rogers also insisted any secretary who was not a college graduate and who did not have at least a two-year apprenticeship in the service of the association would not be certified a secretary. He said the secretaries had to work fifty-four hours a week, including two evenings a week.¹⁹

By enforcing these regulations, Rogers and the directors made sure that the program at the Tulsa "Y" was efficiently controlled with qualified personnel. I. N. Fornell, Harrison, Guy Tetirick, and W. D. Thomas had all graduated from special Y. M. C. A. training schools. Max Morrison, Tetirick, and Thomas held Master of Arts degrees, while John Braselton and Graydon Markland had graduated from college. Thus all the secretaries were qualified for their positions. Fornell, who had been associated with the "Y" for twenty years, ran an employment bureau, and in this position he secured more jobs for unemployed persons than any man in Tulsa. Tetirick headed the men's division, Morrison, the boys' division, and Braselton assisted Thomas in the physical department. Markland handled the lobby desk.²⁰

Harrison, an extremely capable man in matters of finance, oversaw the budget for each year. The association budget for the year before Rogers' presidency and Harrison's arrival had been \$110,000. In 1931, the budget was \$65,000, and the following year it decreased by \$5,000. This reduction in the budget was made possible by the retirement of outstanding obligations. The first financial drive netted \$27,297 which supported the association's program for nine months. Four division

majors, seventeen captains, and approximately eighty workers attended a kick-off breakfast on October 13, 1931. Rogers accepted an assignment to raise \$2,000 in special gifts. Harrison explained to those present that the association was deliberately non-self-sustaining and that the membership fee was fixed so that the public could afford membership. For each boy's fee of five dollars, he received six times that amount in benefits. If a young man could not afford the fee, the association had a program which allowed him to join and pay the fee when he obtained a job. Some 300 boys took advantage of this program in 1931, and the association found jobs for two thirds of them.²¹

In an effort to economize, the association cut the number of secretaries to seven, half the number of previous years and reduced the pay roll forty percent; moreover, five of the fulltime secretaries voluntarily took salary reductions of twenty percent. The Tulsa association was distressed that it could not contribute to important Y. M. C. A. work in the state or abroad but the officers realized that, if they could ever hope to do this in the future, they would have to keep their own association out of debt.²²

During Rogers' administration, women petitioned the association to become associate members so that they could enjoy some of the same privileges. After this was approved, the women soon began to find jobs through the Y. M. C. A. Rogers later suggested that the "Y" building be adapted so that housing facilities would be made available for young women as well as young men. He had seen such facilities in Philadelphia, where they had been in use for twenty years. Rogers' proposal called for a reorganization of the building to provide social rooms for segregated and collective use, arranging the dormitories to allow one floor

for men and one for women, with separate and exclusive entrances, and occupancy of these rooms for men and women of limited incomes. He also requested an increased emphasis on social and recreational programs, participation of junior and senior high school girls in the recreational program of the Y. M. C. A., and equal representation of men and women on the program and, as soon as possible, on the "Y" staff.²³

All of the financial drives made by the Y. M. C. A. during Rogers' five years as president were successful. The youth program expanded, became co-educational, and conformed to the needs of the times. Rogers saw the budget balanced year by year, payment made on the interest on indebtedness, and the indebtedness reduced by \$8,000. These accomplishments were not all due to Rogers, for he had many masters subordinate to him, men such as Harrison and Clarke. However, Rogers, in selecting his subordinates and in directing them, showed his good judgment of men. Because of this quality, he proved to be an excellent administrator. Harrison, who was a good friend who came to Tulsa at Rogers' request, later said that working with Rogers during these years was the equivalent of a college education.²⁴

Despite the many problems he faced, Rogers always maintained a vigorously optimistic attitude during those depressing years. Also, the program of the Y. M. C. A. improved by a launching of a religious education campaign which brought well-known men in religion to speak in Tulsa. Three men, Francis S. Harmon, Dr. Illion T. Jones, and Sherwood Eddy, came to speak in the early months of 1933. Harmon, general secretary of the international committee of the Y. M. C. A., spoke of the association's potential value in Europe in promoting internationalism to oppose the "raging forest fire of nationalism sweeping half the countries of

Europe."²⁵ He also stated that there was no equivalent association of the American type in Germany leaving the youth to Hitler and his regime. He condemned the movement led by Hitler on the grounds that it rekindled a rabid nationalism, a "sword-rattling Prussianism," lessened women's rights, throttled freedom of speech, and persecuted the Jews. Harmon discovered from a Jewish Rabbi while in Berlin that one third of his funerals were suicides.²⁶

A few weeks later, Dr. Jones spoke before Hi-Y clubs for boys and girls. Eddy spoke in Tulsa on the "Menace of Hitlerism." Rogers said that Eddy was perhaps the most influential American citizen in governmental and religious affairs in foreign lands and that he was well-known in China, Russia, and Germany. When each of these speakers came to Tulsa, the Rogers' family opened its home to them for breakfasts or evening meetings. Certainly these lectures were a valuable addition to the cultural life of Tulsa.

In 1935 the association elected Rogers president for what proved to be his final year. At the time Rogers accepted with the reservation that a committee be chosen with the purpose of determining his successor in 1936, for he felt that five years as president was long enough. In 1936, with the election of Harry Clarke, Rogers, the "Panic President as he called himself," stepped down. Those associated with him through the years in this organization decided to honor Rogers on March 20, 1936. Several hundred friends gathered to pay tribute to Rogers and his wife. People came representing every age group, from the directors of the "Y" to representatives from the University of Tulsa and from the Tulsa city schools. One young representative said that Rogers exemplified the kind of person that many Tulsans wanted to be.²⁷

Although the Y. M. C. A. was one of Rogers' chief interests in the early 1930s, other areas demanded his attention also. As a trustee for the University of Tulsa, Rogers aided in 1934 in a campaign to cover a deficit of almost \$30,000. Had the campaign been unsuccessful, the University might have closed. Rogers pleaded with the citizens of Tulsa not to allow the doors to be closed and told businessmen that they would lose money over the years if the University collapsed. The most generous contributors to this campaign were the oilmen in Tulsa and the surrounding area, men such as Waite Phillips.

Rogers' church recognized his administrative talents, just as did the University of Tulsa.²⁸ Having been a Sunday school teacher, an elder, and the chairman of the missions and benevolence functional committee in his church in Tulsa, Rogers further expanded his work for the church in state, national, and international areas. In 1930 at the Washington Convention, Rogers' fellow churchmen elected him to the Board of Managers of the United Christian Missionary Society and a few years later to the Board of Managers of the Elective Committee. The United Christian Missionary Society had difficulties getting professional and businessmen to serve on its board, but John managed to be present at the monthly meetings. As chairman of the budget and finance committee for more than fifteen years, Rogers helped as a lawyer in working out the financial difficulties and in bringing the society out of debt. The society had made some bad investments, and Rogers, an expert in this field, helped them reorganize their financial structure so they would not make the same mistakes again. He also tried to raise the salaries of those working for the society.²⁹

To make the society operate more efficiently, he established a new

managerial chart from the president down. In trying to reorient the organization, Rogers, as a member of a special committee, recommended that the focus of the society should be narrowed, for its duties had been too encompassing in the past. He suggested that two departments be separated from the society's work: benevolence and church erection. The international convention accepted this proposal.³⁰

A man as busy as Rogers was during these years often neglects to make friends. Not John Rogers. At this time he was a man in his early forties, with a few gray hairs beginning to show in his dark hair, still thin, and rather austere in appearance. He was once described as having the appearance of a typical businessman.³¹ This description brings to mind a back-slapping, cigar-smoking, loud-spoken "wheeler-dealer" individual. According to those who associated with him at this time, however, he was not this type of person. He always dressed conservatively and with a degree of meticulousness.

His effect on people and his ability to make friends was shown by those who described him. Jessie M. Trout at first was frightened of Rogers when she became executive secretary of the United Christian Missionary Society and had to report to the board. Her fear vanished and in its place came respect for Rogers, who comprehended the total scope of the Society's work.³² Charles B. Tupper saw Rogers as devoted, filled with integrity, unselfish, and genuinely kind. He marveled at Rogers' "penetrating insight."³³ Probably the comments most often made concerned Rogers' business sagacity, fairness, liberal outlook, and indefatigable enthusiasm.³⁴ Rogers' patient participation in Society deliberations often took the form of remarks which resembled sermons; when discussions became heated, Rogers calmly gave his counsel without trying to use

pressure.³⁴ What amazed many members was that Rogers retained the affection of those who disagreed with him.³⁵ Whenever there seemed to be a problem, Rogers tried to approach it logically without becoming bogged down in "red tape."³⁶

According to those in the Society who knew him best, Rogers worked well with all people and had a "basin and towel" love for others.³⁷ An unpretentious man, Rogers was also known for his sense of humor when the sessions were over and laughter would fill the room.³⁸ To the people on the board, Rogers was a gentleman. Although his family's health was poor and his professional life was hectic, Rogers more than met his obligations to his church.

Rogers always believed that individuals should help each other and that they should not depend on the government for aid. He felt that charity was a Christian's duty; he also thought that people would lose initiative and creativity if the government became involved in individual lives. This explains why Rogers participated in civic affairs. In June of 1933, the federal government tried to revive industrial and business activity through the National Industrial Recovery Act, which was based on the principle of industrial self-regulation, operating under government supervision within a system of codes of fair competition. General Hugh S. Johnson served as the head of the N.R.A. This agency ultimately affected about 500 different areas of business with 22,000,000 employees.

Johnson designated Cyrus S. Avery, president of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, as general chairman of the campaign in Tulsa. On the last day of July, Avery called a meeting of representatives from civic clubs and other commercial and professional groups. This group chose Rogers as the general and Mrs. Ira Bond, past president of the Tulsa Parent-

Teacher Association, as the lieutenant colonel for the citizen's army in the N.R.A. campaign. Rogers said the organization would be composed of three colonels in charge of publicity, education, and sales or matters dealing with enforcement of code arrangements. Firms would sign agreements to comply with the blanket codes at the post office. By August 1, 1,200 organizations had pledged to the codes and 600 jobs had become available. With the advent of the forty-hour week in offices, stores, and shops where the code was inaugurated, 7,583 old employees went on an average of six and one-half-hour work day for a six-day week. The same schedule applied to those newly employed. Participating industries and businesses displayed a blue eagle symbol to show their compliance with the N.R.A. code.³⁹

This program did not succeed in many businesses because employers had to pay a minimum wage of fourteen dollars a week. Some employers said that they did not have workers worth that much. The law especially hurt curb service help. However, Rogers put Tulsa on its honor to rally behind the re-employment campaign.⁴⁰

As colonel in charge of publicity Rogers selected William B. Way, Clyde King was colonel in charge of manpower, and Horace Hagan was colonel in charge of education. General Rogers let the colonels choose their own majors. Rogers warned that they "were going into this movement with wholehearted enthusiasm." He wanted neither ballyhoo nor coercion. He compared the situation to war, but a conflict worse in many ways than World War I where soldiers at least could see and hear the enemy.⁴¹

Avery appreciated Rogers' work, saying he was extremely satisfied with the number of businesses and organizations promising 100 percent

support of N. R. A. goals. Speaking to the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, Rogers explained that the N. R. A. campaign was not to be a parade of signs, but rather would be directed toward President Franklin D. Roosevelt's goal of increasing employment. He said he and his committee had surveyed businesses in Tulsa to ensure that those who had signed agreements were complying with the code. Rogers called for the businessmen to realize that the time had come when private profits must be subservient to the public good or capitalism would be doomed. He declared that the depression had the potential to bring about the downfall of the nation; he concluded, it "is more important to keep the stars and stripes floating over our public buildings today than it was in 1917 to carry them to victory on foreign soil."⁴²

During this initial phase, Tulsa led the state in the number of Blue Eagle employers. However, problems quickly developed. Many people, placed on split shifts, found their entire day wrecked and complained that this was not in compliance with the spirit of the code. Also, employers wondered if employees working on a commission basis would be required to work the forty hours required by the regulations. Employers also had problems with the minimum wage when they had to pay more money to employees. Johnson responded that employers legally could increase their prices to meet increased costs, but no more.⁴³

With approximately ninety three percent of the manufacturers and thirty four percent of the wholesalers in Tulsa participating, Rogers could be satisfied that Tulsans were attempting to cooperate. To ensure that the momentum would continue, he asked various influential citizens to speak to citizens' groups. Then in the fall of 1933, an important guest agreed to come to Tulsa--General Hugh S. Johnson. A native of

Ada, Oklahoma, Johnson had a brother living in Tulsa, and would be in the city on November 10 and 11. Rogers, Avery, and Frank Buttram (of the Oklahoma City N. R. A. office) headed a reception committee for Johnson at the airport, which was followed by a dinner at the Chamber of Commerce. During these two days stores in Tulsa lowered their prices both in honor of his visit and as an Armistice Day sale. Also, on the day of his arrival, bands and a special parade greeted him, adding a festive spirit to an otherwise chilly day.⁴⁴

In 1935, however, the Supreme Court of the United States declared the N. R. A. unconstitutional. The business community liked the N. R. A., which had originated with the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and which originally had a small faction of Roosevelt's advisors supporting it. In practice the N. R. A. had been used by some businessmen to suppress competition, to limit production, to set noncompetitive prices, and by such means to govern itself. With anti-trust laws temporarily shelved, employers had shortened working hours, raised wages, and promoted employment. Yet in passing this legislation, Congress had added a section guaranteeing employees the right to organize and bargain collectively, to join unions of their own choosing, and to insist upon conditions of employment approved or prescribed by the President. Businessmen soon recoiled at the realization of what they had allowed to become law.

To settle disputes between labor and management, Roosevelt had established a National Labor Board headed by Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York. This board had some success, but it lacked the authority to enforce its decisions. By this time Rogers had begun to dislike the direction the government was taking. As a member of the Chamber of

Commerce's National Legislation Committee, Rogers opposed the Wagner-Connery Labor Relations Bill as a long "step taken towards Fascism and Nazism." This bill stated that the policy of the United States was to protect the rights of laborers to organize and to bargain collectively with employers through representatives of their own choosing. It also authorized a new National Labor Relations Board which could halt unfair practices by employers and seek enforcement of its orders through the federal courts.⁴⁵ This bill became law on July 5, 1935.

Rogers also questioned the value of social security. In August of 1935, Congress established a Social Security Board which was to provide for old age annuities, unemployment insurance, and more adequate care for the needy, the dependent, and the disabled. Almost a year after this board was enacted, Rogers and Hastings Harrison went to a regional Y. M. C. A. student conference in Hollister, Missouri. There Rogers debated the topic of social security with Dr. John Ise, head of the department of economics at Kansas University. Rogers took the "practical" approach, while Ise took the "theoretical" side.⁴⁶ Dr. Ise, a plump man who walked with a decided limp and who talked deliberately and mildly, stated that government control was the only means to social security. He thought there was very little security in America and that the competitive system had done little to provide Americans with the security they needed. In concluding his argument, he stated that without some form of social security, most Americans, who had mortgages to pay and children to raise, would not be secure until they were ready to die.⁴⁷

Rogers, who spoke with "impressive rapidity," countered with the proposition that the only way to security was through abundance, and the only way to abundance was through free enterprise. Admitting

weaknesses in the present capitalistic system, Rogers maintained that it could and must be improved to provide more security. However, he stated a preference for an individual approach to social security rather than a government one. Rogers thought that with control by the national government, society would become little more than a group of people living off the government. He concluded that social security, as it had been enacted, did not provide a living.⁴⁸

Rogers therefore was a conservative in his beliefs about the government. With many other Americans, he had a great fear of socialism. Yet he was not an advocate of business shunning its responsibilities. In his speech to the Chamber of Commerce in 1933 on the subject of the N. R. A., he said businessmen should be Christian in their attitude towards labor; then there would be no need for governmental interference.

Not only did he preach that individuals should help each other voluntarily, but also he practiced this concept. When a business in Tulsa was in financial straits in the early 1930s, the members of that company often turned to Rogers for help. This also was true of the Y. M. C. A. and the United Christian Missionary Society. Both these groups almost collapsed as a result of the depressed economy. It took a special type of person to assume leadership during those trying times. To aid him in this task, Rogers always selected men who could help. If a man did not give a 100 percent to the honored positions he accepted, Rogers did not have use for him.

Even after some men involved with the Exchange Trust Company felt their reputations had been hurt by charges of embezzlement, charges on which they were acquitted, Rogers was as popular as ever. The people he and his brother Harry worked for did not suffer a blow to their

reputation, or else John, as a close associate and their lawyer, would not have been so respected. John had an opportunity to redirect his life into a regular business profession when he was named president of Superior Oil Corporation, yet he was fond of his life with the Chapmans and McFarlins and he felt a profound sense of responsibility to them. When John Rogers became associated with a group, he remained loyal to it.

Rogers' acceptance of responsibility in the N. R. A. drive was typical. He believed that businessmen could and should be unselfish in such troubled times, for such was the Christian approach. His closest associates--his brother, Chapman, and McFarlin--held a similar belief. These men had made millions of dollars, but they also were philanthropic with their money and their time. Rogers' attitude later would cause others to call him "naive," but he followed his concept of "right."

FOOTNOTES

- ¹The Tulsa Tribune, May 14, 1933, p. 8.
- ²The Oklahoma City Times, May 1, 1934, p. 12.
- ³The Oklahoma City Times, May 12, 1934, p. 12.
- ⁴Ibid.
- ⁵Ibid.; The Oklahoma City Times, May 3, 1934, p. 11.
- ⁶Ibid.
- ⁷The Oklahoma City Times, May 3, 1934, p. 11.
- ⁸Ibid.
- ⁹The Oklahoma City Times, May 5, 1934, p. 3.
- ¹⁰The Tulsa Tribune, November 18, 1924, p. 5.
- ¹¹The Tulsa Tribune, February 21, 1928, p. 17.
- ¹²Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 17, 1973, R. C.
- ¹³The Tulsa Tribune, March 1, 1933, p. 4.
- ¹⁴The Tulsa Tribune, April 11, 1933, p. 15.
- ¹⁵"Statement by John Rogers," No Date, R. P.
- ¹⁶The Tulsa Tribune, March 5, 1954, p. 23.
- ¹⁷The Tulsa Tribune, May 31, 1931, p. 19.
- ¹⁸Ibid.
- ¹⁹The Tulsa Tribune, October 8, 1931, p. 15.
- ²⁰Ibid.
- ²¹The Tulsa Tribune, April 29, 1932, p. 2; The Tulsa Tribune, October 13, 1931, p. 5.
- ²²Ibid.

- ²³The Tulsa Tribune, August 25, 1933, p. 7.
- ²⁴The Tulsa Daily World, March 11, 1936, p. 13; Hastings Harrison to John Rogers, January 6, 1966, R. P.
- ²⁵The Tulsa Tribune, January 17, 1933, p. 8; The Tulsa Tribune, February 2, 1933, p. 9.
- ²⁶Ibid.
- ²⁷The Tulsa Tribune, January 30, 1935, p. 11; The Tulsa Tribune, May 14, 1933, p. 8; The Tulsa Tribune, March 20, 1936, p. 17.
- ²⁸The Tulsa Tribune, March 14, 1934, p. 12; The Tulsa Tribune, February 2, 1934, p. 12.
- ²⁹Christian-Evangelist, July 15, 1957, p. 8; Albert H. Martin to John Rogers, No Date, R. P.
- ³⁰Ibid.
- ³¹Newspaper article found in the Rogers Papers, which was unidentifiable as to name, date or page.
- ³²Jesse M. Trout to John Rogers, March 16, 1965, R. P.
- ³³Charles B. Tupper to John Rogers, No Date, R. P.
- ³⁴Leslie R. Smith to John Rogers, February 26, 1965, R. P.; William A. Shullenberger to John Rogers, March 28, 1965, R. P.; Frank G. Helme to John Rogers, March 30, 1965, R. P.; Mary Campbell Metcalf to John Rogers, March 20, 1965, R. P.
- ³⁵Virgil A. Sly to John Rogers, March 4, 1965, R. P.
- ³⁶H. B. M. McCormick to John Rogers, March 19, 1965, R. P.
- ³⁷Alberta Lunger to John Rogers, March 3, 1965, R. P.
- ³⁸Mary Campbell Metcalf to John Rogers, March 20, 1965, R. C.
- ³⁹The Tulsa Tribune, July 31, 1933, p. 1; The Tulsa Tribune, August 1, 1933, pp. 1, 3.
- ⁴⁰The Tulsa Tribune, August 3, 1933, pp. 1, 3.
- ⁴¹The Tulsa Tribune, August 4, 1934, p. 1.
- ⁴²The Tulsa Tribune, August 5, 1933, p. 3.
- ⁴³The Tulsa Tribune, August 12, 1933, p. 1.
- ⁴⁴The Tulsa Tribune, November 7, 1933, pp. 1, 6.

⁴⁵ Tulsa Municipal Chamber of Commerce, Minutes of Directors' Meetings, January 8, 1935 to December 29, 1936 (April 16, 1935).

⁴⁶ "Practical and Theoretical Clash in Y. M. C. A. Conference,"
No Date, R. P.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

CHAPTER IV

A MAN OF PEACE

Despite the many activities in which he was engaged in the 1920s and 1930s, John Rogers always had time for his family. His son, unable to withstand Oklahoma's sometime harsh winters owing to his bronchial asthma, spent his winters in Tucson, Arizona. Mrs. Rogers accompanied her son as his nurse, friend and mother, although her own health was fragile at times. Hazel was an unusual woman in many ways. While studying at the University of Oklahoma as an English major, Hazel had developed an interest in writing. One of her professors, Walter S. Campbell, noticed her talents and praised her. Campbell wrote several books on the Southwest under the pen name Stanley Vestal, and had been Oklahoma's first Rhodes scholar. In a letter of recommendation, Campbell said that Hazel not only was intelligent, but also strong in character, dignified, pleasant, and conscientious. He said he knew of no one at the University whom he could recommend so heartily.¹ This evaluation of Hazel Mallory Beattie proved justified in the years after her graduation.

After her marriage to Rogers, Hazel also became active in community affairs. From 1921 to 1926, she served on the board of directors for the Young Women's Christian Association and helped organize the Girl Reserves, an outgrowth of the Y. W. C. A., in the Tulsa public schools. This tiny woman with large eyes and friendly smile also participated

heavily in church affairs, for she was a devout woman. She and John went to church regularly, and they sponsored the Fellowship Sunday School Class for young adults. Her outside activities centered around the church, literary clubs, and educational organizations. When it became necessary for her to take her son to Arizona, she decided that she would use this time advantageously by securing a Master of Arts degree at the University of Arizona. She had taken some course work at the University of Tulsa, and this transferred toward her degree in Arizona. However, this part of her education had to wait until late in 1935, for her son's strength caused her great concern in the early 1930s.²

Because she was fascinated with writing, Mrs. Rogers combined her studies of religion with writing to produce articles for World Call, an international magazine of the Disciples of Christ. Two of these articles concerned the value of the church. She maintained that the proper antidote to panic was Christian faith; she also stated her belief that faith had been kept alive in rural communities because farm women wanted their children to know God, regardless of the denomination of the church.³

She corresponded during this period with her writing coach, Viola Roseboro'. Roseboro', a former actress turned writer, had worked on the staff of McClure's Magazine, where she was responsible for bringing good manuscripts to the attention of S. S. McClure. Booth Tarkington's "The Gentleman from Indiana" and O. Henry's first short story, "Whistling Dick's Christmas Stocking," were two of Roseboro's discoveries. Her criticism of young writers in her later years contained the same honesty that she liked in literature. After receiving Hazel's manuscripts, Roseboro' wrote that the writing was stilted because Hazel was too

self-conscious. However, Roseboro' knew she could help this aspiring author. In a letter Hazel had written to Roseboro', Hazel proved that she could write. Roseboro' wanted the same type of freedom in Hazel's stories that had been shown in the letter.⁴ For each lesson by correspondence, Hazel paid two dollars.

She kept busy with her writing, but on Sundays, after church in Arizona, she and John, Jr., always became lonesome. To make life more exciting for her son, Hazel tried to figure out different things to do. One Sunday after a spring snow in the Chiricahau Mountains, about one hundred and fifty miles southeast of Tucson, Hazel and John, Jr., drove to see the Wonderland of Rocks. Traveling down dirt roads through a thick dust storm they were determined to have an adventure. When they finally arrived at the museum, they ate their lunch in front of the ranger's stove and then proceeded up the mountain to their destination. Little John enjoyed the trip because he got to see snow, a rarity to him while he lived in Tucson. To the Rogers, their son was very precious; thus the family was a close-knit one.⁵

Rogers traveled to Tucson as often as possible, and air travel made it easier for him to see his family with his busy schedule. During some of these trips, Rogers, who had become a veteran of air travel quickly inasmuch as he had to travel frequently, had to calm down novices to airplanes. Every jolt or peculiar noise would send them into a panic. Once when he observed two women experiencing some difficulty, he told them that he had traveled in planes for quite a while and that, on the basis of this experience, he found that too tight of clothing sometimes would make people sick. He suggested that they go back into a little closet and loosen their undergarments. Having taken his advice, the women came

back to their seats, resting comfortably the rest of their trip. Rogers never hesitated to tell people something if it was for their own good.⁶

During his visits to Arizona, Rogers enthusiastically listened to his wife as she told of her latest interests. In her studies at the University of Arizona, Hazel was an "A" student, as she had been in her undergraduate training. She also was ambitious in selecting her thesis topic, which was "The Making of the Old and New Testaments." However, in 1939, Rogers proudly told his friends that his wife had received her Master of Arts degree. Her thesis later would be published and receive favorable reviews because it was written in a manner which the reading public could understand.⁷

While Hazel and John, Jr., spent their winters in Tucson, Rogers tried to keep as busy as he could so he would not get lonely. He partially filled his vacuum by working with the Chamber of Commerce in Tulsa. On February 4, 1936, Rogers was appointed to the presidential board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce. One duty he enjoyed that first year was going to Washington, D. C., as a delegate to the United States Chamber of Commerce convention, for he was able to take his wife with him.⁸

At this meeting, the delegates discussed unemployment and taxation. They concluded that the government could not solve the unemployment problem, but that if government and private industry cooperated the people might be helped. The convention charged the federal government with using its power of taxation to change the entire social and economic order rather than to raise necessary revenues.⁹

All discussions in the Chamber of Commerce were not quite so serious, however. One afternoon in Tulsa, Director Rogers rose to speak.

With a serious expression on his face, he talked of his home county in Missouri. Hickory County, he said, normally received little national recognition, but, he announced, within recent months the situation had been rectified. Hickory County had been the only county in Missouri to give a majority to Republican Alfred M. Landon in the presidential election of 1936. Also, one of its products, Sally Rand, had become a famous fan and bubble dancer. Rogers invited all members of the Chamber of Commerce to be certain to attend the Chamber luncheon on December 31, 1936, for the guest speaker would be Sally Rand.¹⁰

Needless to say, this luncheon drew a big crowd; in fact, Ralph Henderson, chairman, said he welcomed "gentlemen whom I have never seen at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon before."¹¹ Inasmuch as Rand and Rogers came from the same county in Missouri and were relatives by blood as well as by marriage, Rogers had the honor of introducing her. Miss Rand said she was glad that Rogers had introduced her because she was always afraid she would not be recognized with her clothes on. After the laughter ended, Miss Rand looked at the more than 200 faces and said she was in Tulsa to encourage local citizens to expand manufacturing. She said she had started in show business with just one small fan, but then had expanded to where she had a baggage car of scenery and fifty actors. Therefore Tulsa, with its resources, should expand to where it could manufacture anything from dresses to furniture. She thought Tulsa was ignoring the cosmetic business, which would be practical in the oil capital of the world, for all cosmetics were made from oil by-products.

Most of those who spoke before the Chamber were not as glamorous as Sally Rand. There were the usual civic recommendations, as when Rogers suggested that the fire protection system should be improved. Yet there

also were speakers of national prominence. The president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Harper Sibley, and his wife came to Tulsa on February 11, 1937, while touring various chambers of commerce. Sibley, a banker, financier, civic worker, lumberman, and large scale farmer, suggested at a banquet held in his honor at the Mayo Hotel that a tenant farmer in the United States needed to have assurances that if he made improvements on his land he could stay on it as long as he wanted. He agreed with the federal government's Good Neighbor policy toward Latin America, for without friendly relations foreign trade would be hurt. The national Chamber of Commerce also supported an improvement in civil services and recommended creation of a cabinet-level department for public works. In referring to Roosevelt's attempt to "pack" the Supreme Court, Sibley said he stood firmly against this. He concluded that, as far as possible, business should regulate business and that, in collective bargaining, there could be no fair bargaining while one side held a pistol to the head of the other.¹³

After Sibley finished speaking, Rogers rose to introduce Mrs. Sibley, whom he called "the outstanding American woman in public affairs today."¹⁴ She warned those present that the philosophies of Communism and Fascism were trying to influence the thinking of young people and some older people, but said she had faith that young people would resist.¹⁵

A few months later, Rogers was the principal speaker at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon at which almost half the graduating class of the University of Tulsa was present. He likewise warned against the collectivism, which he defined as that "state under which the decisions in economic life are less and less the decisions of individuals"; rather

these were "more and more the decisions of groups such as corporations, labor unions, farmers' associations, governmental bodies, and the national state."¹⁶ To Rogers, collectivism diminished the individual's sense of responsibility and power and made people more likely to turn either to the radical or fanatic.¹⁷

In 1938, members of the Chamber of Commerce in Tulsa elected Rogers as their president. Unhappy with the reduced number of businessmen joining the Chamber, Rogers, in a speech to the directors, chastized those in business and industry in a community who selfishly were doing more to endanger stability and recovery than the New Deal. Rogers declared this fostered unrest and a communistic spirit.¹⁸

While Rogers was president, Mayor T. A. Penny asked him to appoint a special committee to consider the feasibility of a bond issue that would be used for capital investment in municipal departments. Rogers appointed J. Noble Thompson, an oil man, to be chairman of this committee. This committee recommended that the city commission call a special election for the submission of bond questions involving slightly more than \$2,000,000. If the federal Public Works Administration (P.W.A.) then granted forty-five percent matching funds for some of the work on the city water system, parks, and streets, and if the Works Progress Administration also provided some funds, the bond issue would make some \$4,000,000 available to the city.¹⁹

Members of this committee also considered the need for a permanent Chamber committee to monitor the affairs of the local government. The twenty-two persons suggested for this committee represented corporations and individuals who paid sixty percent of the city's taxes. In their letter recommending the bond issue, these men suggested to the mayor that

the city try to find other ways to raise additional city revenue in the future so that the voters of Tulsa would not have to be called on every time new equipment was needed. They proposed to raise new revenue from the installation of parking meters, the adoption of a sewage disposal charge, the enactment of a garbage collection fee, and occupation taxes. They also suggested that many people in areas outside Tulsa's limits were receiving all the benefits of those who lived in the city, but were not paying for them. To correct this, they recommended that these areas be annexed. However, years would pass before many of these recommendations could be implemented.

Rogers also believed in self improvement for more than the male half of the population. Married to an intelligent woman who had a mind of her own, Rogers realized that it was ridiculous to expect women to be interested only in homelife. His liberal attitude toward women can be seen not only in the area of his wife's education but also in his wife remaining a Democrat, while he was a registered Republican, and in his wife's secondary careers in writing and in the church. Speaking to a group of alumni and students at the University of Tulsa at the annual alumni-senior banquet, Rogers said that the opportunities for men and women in industry were boundless. In another address before the Chamber of Commerce, he spoke more directly on the subject of "women in business." He contended that a married woman's first responsibilities were to her home, but this did not necessarily preclude her from other activities. Because of the uncertainty of the future, a woman must be prepared to earn her own living; however, Rogers added, she must also know how to run her life if she marries. In short, Rogers did not think that a woman wasted her education by marrying.

When Rogers was succeeded by Edward W. Thornton as president of the Chamber of Commerce, he reminded the directors that they should be committed to their own businesses, to cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, and to the fight to save the private enterprise system. A few weeks later, when he was one of twenty-three Tulsans to receive merit awards for service to Tulsa in 1938, Rogers reminded labor of its responsibilities. He wanted to see labor and management settle disputes around a conference table rather than through strikes which interfered with business and which hurt society.²² A year later Rogers again would receive this award; the second award was for his work with the Community fund campaign.²³

Rogers was opinionated about the roles business and labor should play in the American economy. He believed that as a Christian he should speak out for what he thought would be the most Christian behavior. During the late 1930s, Rogers continued to travel to Indianapolis, Indiana, to attend the monthly meetings of the United Christian Missionary Society, and he tried to attend as many of the annual national conventions of his church as he could. Yet his work for the church extended beyond just traveling and participating in its national and international organizations. Years before, while delivering a speech at the dedication of the First Christian Church in Norman, Oklahoma, Rogers spoke about the need for the church to keep itself sufficiently modern so that young people in the community would be attracted to it. In Norman there were many young people seeking an education, and Rogers wanted his church to train students in moral integrity. Rogers felt that character was more important than scholarship, and that virtue was more important than scientific achievement. For this reason he believed it important for his

church to remember its duty in the area of education. Moreover, he wanted this to be an education that would adapt the Christian teachings of the past to the needs of the present.²⁴

Rogers practiced what he preached, for he continued to serve as a Sunday school teacher at the First Christian Church in Tulsa. His class for young adults was always filled, and, when he taught the Young Men's Bible class, it was the largest class in all of Tulsa. Rogers did not limit himself to his own church as his popularity as one of the best speakers in Oklahoma spread.²⁵ On October 16, 1936, he traveled to Kansas City, Missouri, to speak before the International Convention.²⁶ Following the advice he had given in 1929, Rogers declared that the Christian Gospel was relevant and necessary for the entire world. However, the "growth of a materialistic philosophy of self-sufficiency," the development of nationalistic policies and ideals, economic changes, Communism and Fascism, and a decrease in support for the churches challenged Christianity. He urged his fellow churchmen to forget their differences with other religions; for, he said, these other denominations were not destroying civilizations whereas Communism and Fascism were. As a strong believer in peace, Rogers bewailed international wars caused by conflicting nationalisms and said that domestic revolutions were the results of clashes between pagan philosophers. To prevent wars which seemed to destroy reason overnight, Rogers prescribed a dose of the Christian Gospel. The delegates received his speech well, and at that convention, they elected him one of the three vice-presidents of the International Convention of the Disciples of Christ for the following year.²⁷

When Tulsans received news of the atrocities in Germany against

Jews, Rogers' words seemed to be coming true. Civic leaders denounced these indignities towards the Jews, and Rogers, in a radio address, reiterated, "the suppression of minorities, the inflaming of racial hatreds and the spirit of intolerance are dangerous philosophies" which must be checked before they destroy civilization. He criticized Germany for allowing art and newspapers to become vehicles for propaganda and for allowing its educational system to become a training camp for soldiers.²⁸

Rogers, when he was president of the Chamber of Commerce in Tulsa, also was asked to deliver an address at the International Convention of the Disciples of Christ's symposium on "The Church and the Capital-Labor Controversy" on October 18, 1938. Convention officials expected Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers of America, or his representative to be on hand to express his views. However, Martin, who found at the last minute that he could not be present, sent a 5,000 word telegram; in this he challenged the Christian Church to become realistic and leave the middle of the road where it had traveled. If the Church failed to do this, he said it would lose labor's interest. James A. Crain read the entire telegram to the audience of more than 2,000 people. Martin concluded that labor merely wanted to raise the public standard of living, bring about better working conditions, and prevent a rise in crime.²⁹

In his address Rogers, giving his personal views rather than those of any association, defined the factors involved in any business venture, stressing the risks a businessman had to take. Of course, a good businessman wanted to increase wages, Rogers admitted, for without good wages, labor could not afford to purchase goods and services and business would fail. He claimed that the Wagner Act had made a conflict between

labor and management more likely and that laborers must approach problems with an understanding of the whole of business. Rogers closed by saying that he did not think the Church should become partisan in such an issue.³⁰

Edwin A. Elliott then spoke for the National Labor Relations Board. He startled many of his listeners by saying the Wagner Act was labor's law and that the board intended to administer it as such. He declared that those who refused to acknowledge labor's rights under the law were like medieval "feudal lords."³¹ After each man spoke, he received a round of applause. Those who later criticized Rogers' speech said that he did not truly represent the attitude of capital. No one doubted his sincerity, for he was a high-minded Christian. Perhaps his problem was that he did not represent an extreme capitalistic view that ethics should not interfere with business.³²

In addition to his many speeches, Rogers continued his other charitable work. He still participated in the Y. M. C. A., and in 1936 he was named vice-president of a committee for the new southwestern area of the United States (which included the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas). He and Hastings Harrison went to Dallas to help organize this new board which would govern the tri-state area. This board replaced the former individual state boards and would be centered in Dallas. A similar type of reorganization had begun in Tulsa with the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. while Rogers was president of the Y. M. C. A. However, this reorganization was not completed until April after Rogers had left office. In Tulsa these two associations adopted a plan of confederation, placing many of their financial operations and program activities under single control and management. Each organization retained its own

name and separate control of its property, income, and contributions, as well as all earned income except from memberships. However, they did have a unified budget which was controlled and supervised by a joint executive committee; this committee had charge of fund-raising campaigns and the operation of a consolidated business office.³³

The members of both boards of directors were enthusiastic about this unified program which would increase efficiency and be more economical. An eight-member committee composed of four members from each organization coordinated activities, and Rogers participated in this committee. When programs were approved by this board, the budget also had to be approved. In conducting membership drives and other efforts to raise revenue, the secretary of the Y. M. C. A., acting under the executive committee, was in charge, but he could act only after consulting with the secretary of the Y. W. C. A. When consolidation was needed, either on the local or regional basis, the individuals involved always included Rogers.³⁴

As a Christian, Rogers opposed war and believed that, if individuals could cooperate with each other as they were doing in Tulsa with the new executive committee of the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A., nations should be able to do the same. Therefore this veteran of the first world war became chairman of Tulsa's Peace Council. Various organizations in Tulsa affiliated with the council, such as the Business and Professional Women's Clubs, the Y. W. C. A., the American Association of University Women, the Council of Jewish Women, the Parent-Teacher Association and the Woman's Alliance of the Unitarian church. Many people in the United States feared another world war, and they became isolationists. In 1935, when Italy attacked Ethiopia, Congress passed an act

which required the President of the United States to impose an embargo on the shipment of arms to belligerent nations and authorized him to prohibit Americans from traveling on the ships of belligerents. The following year, Congress passed a second act which maintained these provisions but prohibited the floating of loans in the United States by non-American belligerent nations. The members of the Peace Council in Tulsa organized to stimulate interest in legislation which would affect international relations and keep America out of war. According to Rogers, this in no sense was a pacifist organization.³⁵

In issuing an invitation to the public to hear a speech by a minister, Dr. James Workman, Rogers succinctly stated the real purpose of the council when he said that all persons interested in keeping America out of war and in keeping war out of the world should attend. During that winter, Rogers even used world peace as a topic for his Sunday school class, saying that organized religion could bring peace in the world if it were based on the teachings of Jesus. In January of 1937, another minister came to Tulsa; known as the "flying preacher," Dr. Roy L. Smith spoke to a mass peace meeting in the Convention Hall. His topic was the need for the United States to be an economic leveler for the world. He argued that the United States should share its mineral resources with all nations, conceding something to everyone to avoid disaster. Americans did not need to rush into a world conflict, as they had done twenty years before. Distance from an enemy made an attack almost economically unfeasible, he argued, and said that Europeans had become used to living under undemocratic governments so that they no longer looked to the United States as a savior.³⁶

The Peace Council also took part in a "no foreign war" crusade,

which was sponsored by the National Emergency Peace Campaign. This crusade took place from April 6 to May 9, the twentieth anniversary of the entrance of the United States into the World War. In addition, this council kept in contact with other state organizations working for peace, such as the Southwestern Youth Conference for Peace, which was held at Phillips University in Enid.

In the summer of 1937, Russel S. Rhodes reported to the Chamber of Commerce concerning the likelihood of Tulsa's getting an R. O. T. C. unit at the University of Tulsa. Although the Chamber favored this, Rhodes declared that securing the unit was doubtful at this time. Later that year, the Peace Council held a forum on the subject; Rogers favored optional and not compulsory training. At this meeting he announced that on November 22, the Peace Council would bring Jeanette Rankin to speak in Tulsa. Miss Rankin, who was from Montana, had been the first United States Congresswoman and a suffragette, and she had voted against the United States declaration of war in 1917. Since she was the legislative chairwoman for the National Council for Prevention of War, she appropriately spoke on "Can Congress Keep Us Out of War?" Years later, when the United States entered the Second World War, Miss Rankin, in Congress again, voted against entry.³⁷

While Tulsans were organizing their Peace Council and having speakers, the United States Congress was expanding the previous Neutrality Laws so that American merchant ships could not carry munitions to belligerents or arm themselves against attack. The President also was authorized to forbid American ships to transport commodities of any kind to a belligerent nation. He could require all shipments to be made on a strictly "cash and carry" basis, and he might exclude enemy warships,

submarines, and armed merchantmen from using American ports.

Rogers felt there were three possible ways to keep America out of conflict if "the world warred again." America could prepare, he said, but this had never stopped wars before; it could cooperate in looking for international peace, but none of the nations seemed to want to do this on a sound basis for the "have nations" would not make concessions to the "have-not nations." Or, he said, Americans could stay home. Rogers was sorely distressed by the neutrality acts; he believed these aided the Germans and kept the war in Europe going. He urged their repeal, as a means not only of ending the war for the allies, but also of forwarding the commercial interests of the United States.³⁸

Rogers was never a conscientious objector, yet he did not approve of war. He felt that nations should work together peacefully and settle their problems at the conference table rather than on the battleground. However, he was in favor of defending his country if it was attacked. Some students at the University of Tulsa had joined the peace movement and were opposed to having an R. O. T. C. unit on their campus. Rogers, as a member of the University's board of trustees, had voted to apply for an R. O. T. C. unit. In doing this, he said that this form of national defense was a lot better than a standing army and that he did not favor a compulsory program. Many student leaders disagreed with him and said that military training had become compulsory at the University of Oklahoma and at Oklahoma A. & M. Rogers was not a pacifist, but a man who favored seeking peaceful ways to solve international disputes.³⁹

From 1936 to 1939, Rogers was extremely busy. On the average day, Rogers rose at 5:30 A. M., read the newspaper, ate breakfast, and drove to his office in the Drew Building. He never had to punch a time card

for the McFarlins or the Chapmans but the only real vacation which Rogers had until he began to retire was in 1936 when he took his wife to Washington, D. C. However, when Rogers needed time for his church or civic activities, his bosses encouraged him to go. To Rogers these trips were his vacations, for he did not relish the idea of days during which all he had to do was lie in the shade at some beach or mountain resort.⁴⁰

His family life at this time and through the 1940s was not normal. He and Mrs. Rogers had only one son because of Hazel's difficulty in giving birth to John, Jr. Johnny's health was poor much of the time he was in school for he had to live in a warm, dry climate during the winter; this his parents secured for him in Tucson, Arizona. Hazel and her son used this time as advantageously as possible, and Rogers tried to see them often. Both Hazel and Johnny attended school while they were in Arizona, and Rogers could look forward to receiving letters about their progress, which was always superior. This separation from his family played an important role in Rogers' life.

Had he and his wife been able to have more children, or had their own child been healthy, Rogers might not have been able to devote so much time to his other activities. A devout Christian, Rogers would probably have spent many hours with his children trying to teach them Christian values. This was not the case, however, and Rogers had to rely on his wife to oversee most of Johnny's development. Hazel seemed the perfect wife for this duty. When she took her son to Arizona, she displayed a great sense of independence. She had never traveled far from home without her husband before for such an extended period of time. Yet in Tucson she set up her small household and tried to make it easier for

Johnny to be away from his father and friends by spending most of her time with him. The mother and son became very close in the Rogers family and had many interests in common. Both enjoyed drama and good music to such an extent that whenever Rogers could take them with him to New York, he made certain that they went to the theater.

On one such occasion, Johnny caused his parents worry when they were unable to find him in their room or anywhere in the hotel. Johnny had hopped into a cab and traveled across New York City to see an exhibit. His parents were relieved and surprised when he told them about his adventure later that day. This small episode showed the degree of independence and curiosity which their son had developed.⁴¹

During this period in his life, Rogers was a man who believed that individuals should work out their problems peacefully. As a member and as president of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, he agreed with the national policy of that organization concerning the proper relationship between labor and business. He became distressed with the direction the government seemed to be taking, and feared that it would lead to a socialistic government. He strongly supported the free capitalistic system and felt that the government should interfere only if there was no other alternative. Having worked with men who had been unselfish in aiding in the development of Tulsa, Rogers could not understand why labor could say such derisive things about businessmen. His philosophy in this area resulted from his Christian beliefs and from his observation of world affairs.

Rogers never believed in violence as a means to achieve an end. In international affairs, he approved of war only for self-defense, and then only if differences could not be settled peacefully at the

conference table. He applied this same principle to American problems, whether these were between labor and business or in civic affairs. In his personal life he tried to avoid disputes by being a mediator whenever possible. If he encountered a person with whom he could not agree, he tried to avoid being around that person. He did not like to waste his time in involvements which could not be fruitful.⁴²

His conservative attitude toward the government was based on his idea of what constituted democracy. He believed a government which called itself a democracy had to have citizens willing to contribute their share for the upkeep of the government. In a socialist or fascist country, Rogers did not see any place for individual responsibility, and he therefore could not comprehend how the bureaucracy in those nations could respond to the needs of all its citizens quickly and efficiently. Rogers felt that most local problems could best be solved by those within that community.

This concept seemingly contradicted some of Rogers' actions in Tulsa, such as his working to coordinate the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. and to combine the state boards of the Y. M. C. A. into one which would govern the tri-state area of Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Texas. Certainly this could be called the building of a bureaucracy. However, these were more confederations than federations, and the organizations involved did not surrender their individual sovereignty to any central authority; they still maintained the right to a separate identity within the confederation.

Rogers' firm belief that people should not surrender their obligations to an unfamiliar party would continue to govern his actions in

years to come. This meant that he would have to devote much of his time to civic and church affairs, but he did not balk. He felt he had to accept his responsibilities if he expected as much of others.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹W. S. Campbell to Dr. R. H. Pendleton, December 11, 1916, R. P.
- ²The Tulsa Tribune, August 9, 1966, p. 17; Viola Roseboro' to Mrs. Hazel Rogers, May 14, 1935, R. P.; S. F. Pattison to Mrs. Hazel B. Rogers, September 10, 1935, R. P.
- ³Beverley R. Jouett to John Rogers, December 9, 1932, R. C.; Harold E. Fey to Mrs. John Rogers, February 23, 1934, R. C.
- ⁴Viola Roseboro' to Mrs. Hazel B. Rogers, April 8, 1935, R. C.
- ⁵John Rogers, Jr., "The Wonderland of Rocks," R. P.
- ⁶Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 29, 1973, R. C.
- ⁷S. F. Pattison to Hazel B. Rogers, September 10, 1935, R. P.; Los Angeles Times, December 13, 1953, p. 16; Watchman Examiner, May 20, 1954, no page.
- ⁸Tulsa Municipal Chamber of Commerce, (February 4, 1936).
- ⁹Ibid., (May 19, 1936).
- ¹⁰Ibid., (December 22, 1936).
- ¹¹The Tulsa Tribune, January 1, 1937, p. 5.
- ¹²Ibid.
- ¹³The Tulsa Tribune, February 11, 1937, p. 9.
- ¹⁴Ibid.
- ¹⁵Ibid.
- ¹⁶The Tulsa Tribune, May 30, 1937, p. 2; The Tulsa Tribune, April 5, 1937, p. 4.
- ¹⁷Ibid.
- ¹⁸Ibid.
- ¹⁹The Tulsa Daily World, August 12, 1938, p. 1.

- ²⁰ Ibid.
- ²¹ The Tulsa Tribune, May 31, 1938, p. 4.
- ²² The Tulsa Tribune, January 11, 1939, p. 15; The Tulsa Daily World, December 21, 1938, p. 7; The Tulsa Tribune, December 21, 1938, p. 5.
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ John Rogers, "An Adequate Christian Program," The Christian-Evangelist, August 8, 1929, pp. 1031-1032.
- ²⁵ Memo of The First Methodist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, R. P.; The Christian, February 25, 1938, p. 1.
- ²⁶ Kansas City Journal-Post, October 16, 1936, p. 8.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ The Tulsa Daily World, November 20, 1938, p. 13.
- ²⁹ The Denver Post, October 19, 1938, pp. 1, 4; Edwin R. Errett, "Denver, Session by Session," Christian Standard, November 5, 1938, p. 7.
- ³⁰ Ibid.
- ³¹ Christian Standard, November 26, 1938, p. 4.
- ³² Ibid.
- ³³ The Tulsa Daily World, April 5, 1936, p. 3.
- ³⁴ Ibid.
- ³⁵ The Tulsa Daily World, October 22, 1936, p. 3.
- ³⁶ Ibid.; The Tulsa Tribune, January 18, 1937, p. 5.
- ³⁷ The Tulsa Tribune, September 4, 1937, p. 9.
- ³⁸ The Tulsa Daily World, September 6, 1939, p. 2.
- ³⁹ The Tulsa Tribune, August 18, 1938, p. 5.
- ⁴⁰ Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 27, 1973, R. C.; The Christian-Evangelist, July 15, 1957, p. 9.
- ⁴¹ Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 27, 1973, R. C.
- ⁴² Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974.

CHAPTER V

CIVIC LEADER

In keeping with his personal beliefs about individual responsibility, Rogers accepted an appointment by Mayor T. A. Penney to a new committee. The mayor's goal was to modernize the old charter under which Tulsa had operated since 1907. He charged the committee rewriting the charter to consider a citywide job security system for municipal employees and to consider a provision giving the city authority to purchase parking meters and pay for them out of revenues received. He warned the committee that he did not want the present form of city government changed and would not consider a managerial or aldermanic system. Those who served on this committee with Rogers were E. J. Lundy, an attorney in the Hunt Building; Roscoe Harper, an attorney in the National Bank of Tulsa building; Arthur Lewis, director of the Tulsa Institute of Governmental Research; and Falkner Broach, vice-president and bond expert for the National Bank of Tulsa. They were to work with Milton J. Hardy and E. M. Gallaher, who were assistant city attorneys.¹

These men worked months studying the old charter and discussing some of the problems which it had caused in modern Tulsa. When the final report of the group was completed, it was not in the form of a proposed charter, as had been expected, but consisted of an eleven-page compilation of general observations and recommendations. The committee suggested that a person with an intimate knowledge of governmental forms

and their practical workings and shortcomings should be commissioned to prepare the revision of the charter. The mayor, disappointed in the failure to draft a proposed charter, declared that the hiring of experts was out of the question. He stated that he had been led to believe that a charter draft had been typed by the city legal department. Lundy agreed that this had been the case, but that none of these drafts had been submitted to the mayor.² The commission also added that if a charter proposal was to be voted on by the people, it would have to be in the form of an amendment to the old charter since the old charter did not provide for any means of replacement.

The most controversial area of change proposed was in the form of administration for the city's government. The committee suggested that the executive and legislative duties of officials be divided carefully, placing more authority in the mayor's hands and removing much administrative and executive power from commissioners. The commissioners would be allowed administrative powers only under the direction of the mayor. The mayor would be excluded from a legislative veto except in cases of a tie vote, and his veto would be limited to a "disapproval," requiring the matter then to be set aside for a definite number of days. The mayor would have the power to appoint departmental heads, subject to the approval of the commissioners, and he would have the power to remove those heads. Finally, the committee proposed that there be one mayor and two legislative commissioners.³

In the area of civil service, which the mayor had wanted to become citywide, the committee suggested that police and firemen be selected from a roster prepared under the direction of an independent civil service board. The committee also proposed that there should be provisions

for sick leave, disability, and retirement benefits. Under this plan the city auditor would be elected, while the city treasurer would be appointed.⁴

The mayor criticized the committee for its failure to bring forth a draft charter which could have been submitted to the voters, for he had recently struggled to get the money necessary for a special election. He also did not approve of the committee's proposals for civil servants. The committee members reminded the mayor that they had been required to work on their own time without financial aid or other facilities, that they had worked for months, and that the fundamentals of government, not merely the mechanics, were at stake. The committee said that its members had intended that the civil service proposal be larger in scope. They further declared that the old charter had many portions which should remain intact.⁵

The reaction to this report varied. Some citizens agreed with the mayor that a special expert need not be brought in, for they thought that those on the committee were practical and capable men. However, an expert would later be added. Concerning the distribution of power, the provisions for a strong mayor frightened many citizens, for they did not want a dictatorial mayor or machine politics in Tulsa. Those who agreed with the committee stated that there was so much confusion and competition within city government that little was done besides squabbling. Those who worked in city government feared that if the proposals concerning civil service in a new city charter were passed, they would lose their jobs. This was not true.⁶

After the committee revised the old charter, a date was announced for voting on it. Those who supported the changes would have until

January 16, 1940, election day, to campaign for it. In the first public hearing called, Rogers and Lundy were to explain the various provisions in detail to 500 to 740 employees of the city in the Convention hall. However, when the night of the meeting arrived, a small group of city employees walked to the doors of the Convention hall, only to find them locked. They did not know that during the day Mayor Penney had fought many obstacles to hold the meeting, only to fail when he found that Rogers would not be able to attend. Having studied his speech of introduction, Penney received a call that afternoon from Reuben Leekley, the Convention Hall manager, who informed him that union stage hands said a ten dollar fee had to be paid for them to raise the curtain for the meeting. Penney decided that he could not legally appropriate money from city funds for charter promotion, so he proposed to have the speakers explain the draft in front of the stage.⁷

A few minutes later the mayor received another call from Leekley, who informed him that the lights could not be turned on unless a union stage hand was paid ten dollars. The mayor hung up and then called the business manager of the stagehands' local, appealing to his civil pride to get this fee waived. Having won this battle, the mayor had a call from Chairman Lundy who informed the mayor that Rogers was out of the city and would not be available for the charter session. Lundy said he could not explain every phase of the charter without Rogers' aid. At this point Mayor Penney relented and called the radio stations to ask them to announce a last minute postponement of the meeting. He then informed every department head of the change. As the announcement was being made on the radio, Lundy came into the mayor's office and said that he had contacted Rogers and that Rogers would be there. The mayor told

him it was too late, and that they would have to wait until later in the week to have the meeting.⁸

Rogers had many opportunities to sell the new charter. He spoke before the Chamber of Commerce several times, the Tulsa League of Women Voters, the Democratic Forum, and various Republican organizations. In these speeches he informed his listeners that a nonpartisan government failed in most cases because it was not responsive to the people. Government ran most smoothly and efficiently, according to Rogers, when it was responsive to the will of the majority of the people. His greatest quarrel with the New Deal had been that the administration of government was being removed from citizens and was being delegated to bureaucrats responsible to no one except the executive empowered to make their appointments. He warned that if this tendency continued, the democratic system of American government would be revolutionized into totalitarianism similar to that in Central Europe.⁹

For those who feared the strong mayor system, Rogers said that no "Hitler" could function from city hall because department heads appointed by the mayor and all city employees were prohibited from indulging in political activity. This would prevent the building of a "machine." In revising the charter, the committee decided that five commissioners would be kept instead of the two or three they had recommended previously. They would be answerable only to the people and could override a mayoral veto by a three to two vote. To those who thought that Mayor Penney was setting himself up to be a dictator, Rogers said that the mayor definitely would not run again.¹⁰

Rogers said that the committee had studied city government in 1,800 American cities and had decided that the new charter they proposed

would do the best job for Tulsa. It was broad, and it could be amended in future years. Those who were campaigning for the new charter had the support of The Tulsa Tribune and The Tulsa Daily World, who attacked those opposing the new charter as self-centered, power-hungry fogies who wanted to keep Tulsa in the hack and muddy road stage of 1907. In an editorial, one newspaper warned the public not to be indifferent to the approaching election, for if they were the charter would fail. A few of the Tribune's editorials blatantly blasted the veterans' organizations for saying that the new charter would lead to a dictatorship. The paper said that veterans had taken this position because the new charter failed to have a provision granting them preference for certain city jobs. Another group declared that the section on elections in the new charter was "radical." In reality this section had been lifted from the old charter; the only change was a decrease from thirty days to ten to file for contests. Despite the efforts of those who supported the new charter, it was defeated in the election. There were two reasons for this: the prejudicial attack of the opposition, and the poor turnout of voters. Rogers in later years supported a strong charter but to no avail.¹¹

In September of 1939, Rogers became the general campaign chairman for the Tulsa Community Fund. The campaign budget of \$241,114 amounted to less than had been asked for the year before. Most of the items in the budget had been reduced because the federal government had removed support for some of the projects it had started. The directors of the Tulsa Community Fund denounced the federal government's starting programs and then turning them over to the city. Rogers, in appealing to the public in the campaign, took a different viewpoint. He wanted such

organizations as the Community Fund to eliminate the need for federal relief, for federal relief was making paupers of too many Americans. He thought that prosperity and happiness would not come to America again until the nation returned to the American way of living, in which charity was a private institution.¹²

Rogers believed that before the start of the Great Depression, men and women trained in charitable work had almost eliminated the "real bums" in America. Charity had been made unattractive, and people had pride, self respect and wanted to achieve. However, the federal government had changed all that by allowing people to become lazy. In his speeches Rogers said that he was only directing the campaign; it was up to the people to make it a success.¹³

On November 6, 1939, the campaign began with a kick-off breakfast which used the slogan, "Give Voluntarily--the American Way--Through Your Tulsa Community Fund." Every day of the eight-day campaign at a luncheon, reports were made. The campaign failed to reach its goal, and in January, Rogers made some recommendations to improve future drives for raising funds for social welfare.¹⁴ After seeing Tulsa fall short of its goal of \$241,114 by \$33,000, Rogers said in a nine-page report that Tulsa needed a closer relationship between the Tulsa Community Fund board and the boards of the constituent agencies of the fund. He also suggested strongly that one-half of the board members of the Community Fund Board should be women. The general chairman and the chairman of the different divisions had managed most of the campaign of 1939. While these people did most of the work and "burned" themselves out, other members of the board of the Community Fund remained inactive. Rogers wanted future workers not to limit solicitations to those who had

contributed heavily in the past, but to go out to everyone they encountered. Also, he suggested that the time for the drive should be extended to a month.¹⁵

He advocated making the public aware of the difference between private social welfare and public social welfare, for the two were competing with each other for funds. The best way to accomplish these objectives, he said, was to establish a council of social agencies. Four months later, this council was formed, and a fifteen-member executive committee was chosen. Of course, Rogers was one of those named. This council had two representatives from each of the thirty-one eligible agencies in Tulsa and representatives from the state department of public welfare, the state board of public welfare, the county welfare department, the city health department, and the Works Projects Administration. Rogers was named the first president of the Council of Social Agencies. He recommended that the Council concentrate its efforts that first year on family relations and that it also serve as an accreditation bureau for any organization wanting to enter the field of social welfare in Tulsa. He chiefly wanted welfare agencies to learn to operate on less money and to have quality programs.¹⁶

Rogers wanted quality in anything he was associated with, and this applied to the field of education. Living in Tulsa and having a wife who often took courses at the University of Tulsa, Rogers watched it grow physically through the donations of private individuals, usually oilmen, and he appreciated the strict standards the University had for admitting students. Since this was a private institution, it had to charge a higher tuition than did the state colleges, and Rogers did not like to see a student pay all that money only to fail in his coursework

during his first year. Rogers began his association with the University of Tulsa in 1926 as a member of the board of trustees. In 1932, he again became a trustee and retained that position during the next two decades. When he was president of the Chamber of Commerce, he named a committee of three from that body to aid in the University's expansion program.¹⁷

While he served on this board, Rogers promoted the physical development of the University so that it would have the proper facilities to educate its students. In 1943 his years of work culminated in the University of Tulsa School of Law, successor to the Tulsa Law School which had been incorporated in 1923. Getting this law school for the University was no easy task, for he wanted it to have the necessary accreditation to attract students. This meant persuading the rest of the board of trustees that a law school was feasible; once that was done, he had to get the board to approve appropriations for qualified faculty, improvements in the library, and for administrators. When these matters were taken care of, the American Bar Association accredited the new school.¹⁸

Rogers also sat on the Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma from 1924 to 1931. Governor William H. Murray failed to reappoint Rogers, and it was not until 1940 that he returned to the board, having been appointed by Governor Leon C. Phillips to succeed Rogers' brother-in-law, Eugene P. Ledbetter. Rogers had known Phillips since the days when they were both studying law at the University of Oklahoma.

Rogers over the years had kept in close contact with his alma mater and even had been the speaker at its commencement ceremonies in the spring of 1939. His address entitled "Industry and Democracy" had

repeated some of the themes which he had used in other speeches; he denounced the federal government's attempt to manage business instead of just regulate it. In speaking of creeping socialism, Rogers said that it began in the home when parents gave their children allowances instead of making them work for their money. The child then grew up expecting everything to be given to him, so he was not offended when the federal government offered to take care of him. The child became an adult who lacked character and tenacity.²⁰

Rogers went on to say that this paternalism was being propagated by those who wanted to see business and democracy fail and Communism to succeed in the United States. In his view, however, business needed to flourish and expand. To get the necessary capital for this expansion, people needed to have confidence that their investments were safe. If a business did not have the labor necessary to maintain expansion, it would fail. Thus Rogers recognized the importance of labor and said that employers also must recognize it. Working together, realizing each others need, and trying to satisfy those needs through good planning, labor and management could ensure prosperity for all. Rogers pointed out that many labor unions were being infiltrated with Communists who wanted violence and class warfare. This bred suspicion in those who employed labor, along with a fear that whenever there were differences between labor and management, labor wanted to crush business. Labor needed to rid itself of these influences, while management had to realize that labor needed business to survive.²¹

In his conclusion, Rogers said that if government would realize that it had been founded by people who understood the value of work, it would become less socialistic and would help to rebuild the character of

American people. "Force, violence, intolerance, and repression" were inconsistent "not only with the democratic viewpoint but also with the Christian viewpoint."²² In this statement Rogers was stating his Christian philosophy, one which he felt government, labor, and business should follow.

There were some repercussions after Rogers gave this address. When Rogers had agreed to speak, the University had promised him an honorarium of \$150. However, after Rogers received the check, he returned it with a letter requesting that it be used for scholarships. One newspaper story commented that if all journeymen, orators, forum leaders, and professional toastmasters organized into a union, they certainly would leave Rogers out. This did not mean that Rogers was a poor speaker or that his speech was not worth \$150, for such was not the case; rather the article stated that the wealthy Rogers did not need the money, whereas his returning the check had set a dangerous precedent and might deprive some future speaker, who really needed the fee, of his "bread and butter."

This incident was minor compared to the denunciation of his speech by Arthur B. Adams, dean of the College of Business Administration at the University of Oklahoma. Before a conference of the Presbyterian Church held in Durant, Oklahoma, Adams indirectly assailed Rogers' ideas about industry and democracy. Adams said he could not understand how any serious observer of national economic problems could advocate that the federal government adopt a laissez faire policy toward business. Rogers had stated that business had grown wiser as a result of the depression; Adams contended that business had caused the depression, and that the policies of the federal government between 1929 and 1933 had

progressively worsened the depression. He called any suggestion of truce between government and business "idle prattle." He concluded by saying that democracy could only endure if the business problems which had caused the depression were cured. According to R. M. McClintock, the reporter who covered this speech for The Oklahoma City Times, Adams' position better represented the sentiment on the campus of the University of Oklahoma than had Rogers in his commencement address.²³

However, Adams' opinion of this speech did not change the governor's impression of Rogers. The genial, cigar-smoking governor made a special trip to Tulsa the next month to hear the Tulsa Symphony Orchestra with his wife. Rogers introduced the governor at the conclusion of the program and remarked that Phillips had done more in the six months of his administration than many governors had accomplished in their entire four year terms. Perhaps the reason for this comment, besides the fact that they had been friends in school, was that the governor was working to achieve economy and a balanced budget.²⁴

When Rogers again became a member of the Board of Regents for the University of Oklahoma in June of 1940, President William Bennett Bizzell was planning to retire after that school year was completed. The main job of the regents that year thus was selecting a successor to Bizzell. They also voted the addition of a Naval R. O. T. C. unit and they agreed to accept title to Max Westheimer Flying Field. This airstrip was a 160-acre tract located some three miles northwest of the University, and was a gift of Walter Neustadt of Ardmore, who represented the Max Westheimer estate. This was to have been developed as a center for student pilot training under direction of the Civil Aeronautics Authority; however, early in 1942 the field was leased to the

Navy Department for use as the nucleus of a large naval air base. In addition to these changes, more faculty came to the University that year, and the regents had to vote on each of these.²⁵

To take Bizzell's place as president, the regents selected Joseph August Brandt, who had served as a director of the press at the University from 1928 to 1938. In 1938 he had departed to become director of the Princeton University Press. He had received a degree from the University of Oklahoma, had attended Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, and understood Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma. The regents believed he was well qualified to guide the University. Brandt planned to have the faculty assume a larger role in determining University policies, and he wanted younger faculty members to be educated about the needs of the institution. In previous years the University had been known as conservative; Brandt wanted to change this image.²⁶

The law school under Dean Julien C. Monet was one of the first areas to get the attention of the board. Monet had been the dean of the law school since it first opened its doors in 1909, and Rogers had been his secretary when he attended law school. Monet became dean emeritus in the fall of 1941 to be replaced by John G. Hervey.²⁷

On March 11, 1941, a constitutional amendment established the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The amendment charged this nine-member board with coordination of the programs of all the colleges supported wholly or in part by state appropriations. The governor talked to Rogers about this new board and its possibilities, then asked Rogers if he would resign from the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma so that he could be appointed to the new board. Rogers agreed, and on March 31, 1941, the governor fulfilled his promise.²⁸

During the academic year of 1941-1942, the board undertook a careful study of the educational activities of the state, trying to determine methods whereby the educational system could be made more efficient. Where programs were duplicated, the board ordered needed changes, and it made the decision as to where the facilities were best qualified to teach particular programs. The board also studied the tuition to be charged at all institutions of higher learning.²⁹

In the spring of 1941 he had seen his son graduate from Will Rogers High School in Tulsa. John, Jr., always interested in photography wanted to make that his profession. However, his mother thought chemistry might prove more challenging to someone as intelligent as her son. That fall he enrolled in the School of Business at the University of Tulsa and made the honor roll as he would several times thereafter. He was initiated into the Intercollegiate Chamber of Commerce, an honor which he shared with the daughter of Dr. C. I. Pontius, president of the University of Tulsa. But John, Jr., did not have a chance to complete his college education, for the United States had entered World War II and soldiers were needed. He volunteered for military service on November 6, 1942, while attending the University. The following May, he was called to active duty and went to Camp Maxey, Texas. The Rogers did not believe that their son would be physically acceptable for service because of his asthma. However, he was accepted, completed his training, and was sent to Europe.³⁰

Early in the evening of December 18, 1944, Mrs. Rogers received a telephone call from a friend whose son was involved in the Battle of the Bulge with John, Jr. The friend told her to go out and look at the moon, which that evening was one-third full with the Star of Bethlehem.

Hazel went into her yard and stared at the sky; she recalled later that a feeling of serenity flowed into her. When she could not sleep that night, she decided to get up and write her son, asking him to remember and write her about what he had been doing. The next morning her sister called to tell her that the 99th division, John's unit, was surrounded. The sister said she hoped God would help Hazel that day. Hazel replied that He already had. Weeks later she learned that on the night of December 18, John, Jr., and six fellow soldiers had been caught in the basement of a building in the village of Rothroch-Krinkelt on the German-Belgian border. Heavy fire had surrounded them, and they had not slept for three days and nights. But on the night that Mrs. Rogers had prayed so intently for her son, word came of a breakthrough in the German roadblock between Eisenborn and Kinkelt. The soldiers crawled out of the building and made it to safety through the line.³¹

While in Europe, John, Jr., participated in the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central European campaigns. He was discharged on March 16, 1946, as technician, fifth grade in Service Company, 393rd Infantry Regiment. When he came home, his parents had good reason to be proud of him, for he had received the World War II Victory Ribbon, a Good Conduct Medal, an American Theater Ribbon, an European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, and three bronze stars. As a combat photographer with the 393rd Infantry, John, Jr., took 159 pictures in action, including many at the famous Battle of the Bulge; these were included in a book, 393rd Infantry in Review. The Rogers could be proud, but mostly they were happy that John, Jr., had not been ill while in Europe.³²

Rogers did not slow his activities during the war. For example in

1945 he was given Tulsa's "Man of the Year" Award. That year he was president of the Community Chest, chairman of the Tulsa War Council of the Office of Civilian Defense, a member of the Council of Social Agencies, a director of the Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Chamber's national Federal Finance committee, a member of the board of trustees of the University, actively participating on two of its committees, and a member of the State Board of Regents for Higher Education.

However, these were not his only involvements that year. He served on a citizen's committee seeking improvement of the physical plants in the Tulsa school system, had a personal hand in improving the Law School at the University of Tulsa, attended the meetings as a trustee of the United Christian Missionary Society, was chairman of the Society's finance committee, participated in war bond campaigns, served as chairman of the Tulsa juvenile board, and taught the largest Sunday school class of the First Christian Church. What amazed the people at the ceremony was that one man could find time to do all these things so well. Yet Rogers never accepted a position unless he felt he could devote the necessary time to do the job; he did not want the finished product to be anything but the best.³³

With all these activities, Rogers also continued to serve as attorney for the Chapman-McFarlin-Barnard interests. In 1930 they had sold the McMan Oil and Gas Company to Standard Oil of Indiana in an exchange which involved both cash and stocks. Six years later Chapman and E. B. McFarlin, nephew of the deceased R. M. McFarlin, had formed a partnership to develop oil and gas properties. This partnership was successful in drilling wells in Creek, Hughes, and Okfuskee counties in

Oklahoma. The company also had extensive leases in Northcentral and West Texas, the most successful of which was an 11,000-acre lease, known as the Cogdale Lease, in Kent County, Texas. All these properties were developed and operated until Chapman's death in the 1960s.³⁴

However, the McFarlins, Chapman, and Barnard centered their interests around the land which was their heritage. Their ranches were extensive. Chapman had one ranch north of Tucumcari, New Mexico, which extended into several counties and contained more than 100,000 acres. In Murray County, Oklahoma, Chapman owned the Arbuckle Ranch of some 27,000 acres, and between Roff, Oklahoma, and Hickory, Oklahoma, he had the Roff Ranch, which was approximately 11,000 acres. He had smaller ranches in Hughes and Okfuskee counties in Oklahoma, and also he had a half interest in the Chapman-Barnard Ranch in Osage County, north of Pawhuska, which was in excess of 100,000 acres.³⁵

Rogers considered the oil business of this group his basic responsibility; however, he also represented these men in other matters such as banking in the 1930s. Rogers advised these men in legal matters in such a way as to help them increase their fortunes. But his duties to these men did not end with their deaths. When R. M. McFarlin's wife died, she left an estate of \$5,000,000. John Rogers was the estate attorney who saw that the proper taxes were paid to the state and federal government, a sum that came to more than \$2,000,000; more than \$1,000,000 went to the R. M. McFarlin trust fund; the rest was left for her family. Ida M. McFarlin died in 1938, but it took more than four years to settle her estate.³⁶

Rogers liked these people, and found his work extremely interesting. He and Chapman also were close because they were approximately the same

age. Chapman kept a tight rein on his business and, according to Rogers, had a very precise mind. He enjoyed getting into his work clothes and walking around his ranches and inspecting his oil fields. Chapman, a quiet and introverted man, associated mostly with those with whom he worked, but he did not like to talk about his business or his success. Once, when he was listed by a national magazine as one of the fifty wealthiest men in the United States, he became angry. However, Rogers had his complete confidence, something which few others enjoyed. When anyone wanted to approach Chapman about a special project, he would contact Rogers, who, if he thought the idea acceptable to Chapman, would then talk with his boss about it. Rogers thus became known as the "guiding hand" of Chapman's philanthropy.³⁷

In trying to decide what to do with millions of dollars as advisor and lawyer for the Chapman-McFarlin-Barnard interests, he had to devote much of his time to investigating institutions and charities in which they were interested. One day Chapman came to Rogers' office and said he wanted to write his will. He wanted most of his money to go to education and medicine and insisted on it being kept in Middle America. This posed no major problems for Rogers, for much of his time previously had been spent in aiding many charities.³⁸

These were the "plateau" years of Rogers' life, years when he seemed to be involved in every activity in Tulsa. Although the city charter he helped draft was rejected by Tulsans, he retained his interest in the city's government into the 1970s. His philosophy about government and private industry remained consistent, although he did mellow somewhat in his attitude toward labor. Always a leader, he regretted that more people did not want to be leaders. He could inspire, demand, and

create. This explains why he frequently was the person asked to head programs and campaigns. Even when he "retired," he still was asked for his support in public affairs in Tulsa.

Always he showed concern for people through his work with charitable causes such as the Community Fund and the Council of Social Agencies. He believed the New Deal had made charity an ugly word because it had created a welfare class, one made up of many people physically and mentally capable of supporting themselves. This had led to a diminishing of the work ethic among those who sweated for their livings and then saw their neighbors sitting on their front porches every day with nothing to do but collect their checks. Rogers believed that only when private charity again became popular and acceptable, only then would people regain their pride in work. Raised in a community where every man achieved success or failure on the basis of the work he did, Rogers had seen many men who had been generous with their neighbors. He believed that this Christian philosophy would save the world from degradation.

FOOTNOTES

- ¹The Tulsa Daily World, June 7, 1938, p. 5.
- ²The Tulsa Tribune, July 28, 1939, p. 1; The Tulsa Daily World, July 28, 1939, p. 1.
- ³Ibid.
- ⁴Ibid.
- ⁵Ibid.
- ⁶The Tulsa Daily World, July 28, 1939, p. 6.
- ⁷The Tulsa Tribune, August 10, 1939, p. 1.
- ⁸Ibid.
- ⁹The Tulsa Daily World, July 25, 1939, p. 2.
- ¹⁰Ibid.
- ¹¹The Tulsa Daily World, January 10, 1940, p. 3; The Tulsa Tribune, January 12, 1940, p. 20; The Tulsa Tribune, January 15, 1940, p. 16.
- ¹²The Tulsa Tribune, September 22, 1939, p. 1; The Tulsa Tribune, November 2, 1939, p. 12.
- ¹³The Tulsa Tribune, November 2, 1939, p. 12.
- ¹⁴The Tulsa Tribune, November 6, 1939, p. 3; John Rogers, "Good Tulsans Are Good Neighbors," The Daily Campaigner, January 12, 1940, p. 9.
- ¹⁵The Tulsa Tribune, January 12, 1940, p. 1.
- ¹⁶Ibid.; The Tulsa Daily World, April 17, 1940, p. 2; The Tulsa Tribune, June 4, 1940, p. 9.
- ¹⁷The Tulsa Tribune, July 6, 1966, p. 35; The Tulsa Collegian, March 25, 1938, p. 6.
- ¹⁸The Tulsa Daily World, May 28, 1954, p. 14.
- ¹⁹The Tulsa Tribune, July 19, 1939, p. 6.

²⁰ John Rogers, "Industry and Progress," an address given at the forty seventh annual commencement day at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma, June 5, 1939. John Rogers Biography File, Tulsa Municipal Chamber of Commerce.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid.; The Tulsa Tribune, June 12, 1939, p. 24; The Oklahoma City Times, June 12, 1939, p. 9.

²³ The Oklahoma City Times, June 13, 1939, p. 13.

²⁴ The Tulsa Tribune, July 18, 1939, p. 31.

²⁵ Gittinger, pp. 162-163.

²⁶ Ibid., pp. 166-167.

²⁷ Ibid., p. 168.

²⁸ Ibid., pp. 163-164; Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 29, 1974, R. C.

²⁹ The Tulsa Tribune, April 1, 1941, p. 5.

³⁰ History of Oklahoma: Family and Personal History at the Golden Anniversary of Statehood, Vol. III (4 vols., New York, 1957), p. 37.

³¹ The Tulsa Tribune, December 16, 1954, p. 35.

³² History of Oklahoma..., p. 37; Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 29, 1973, R. C.

³³ The Tulsa Tribune, November 7, 1945, p. 1; Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974, R. C.

³⁴ Interview with Ray Cropper by Cheryl Haun Morris, January 24, 1974, R. C.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ The Tulsa Tribune, December 14, 1942, p. 1.

³⁷ Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974, R. C.; Boatman, p. 14; Interview with Ray Cropper by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974, R. C.

³⁸ Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974, R. C.

CHAPTER VI

THE HUMANITARIAN

The day Chapman walked into Rogers' office that day to talk about his will, both men knew this was a monumental decision involving the distribution of twenty million dollars. The Chapman family had generously contributed millions of dollars to education, medicine, and civic affairs already, most of it anonymously. However, this time, Chapman wanted a portion of his trust to go to medical research, and the money had to stay in the vicinity of Oklahoma. The state did not have such a medical center, but it did have a fine medical school, one which Rogers had supported as a regent for the University of Oklahoma and on the state board of regents. Inasmuch as Tulsa lacked a medical school, Rogers reasoned that the best location for such a center would be in Oklahoma City near the medical school. Chapman agreed, and Rogers contacted some of his friends in Oklahoma City.¹

Rogers' interest in medical research had begun when his wife was struck with pernicious anemia. She had become so emaciated that she could not walk. They then heard of a doctor in Kansas City who was connected with research relating to anemia and contacted him. This doctor told them of research conducted in Boston's General Hospital with raw calf's liver. This diet counteracted the destruction of red blood cells. Mrs. Rogers regained some of her health, but thereafter was never in good physical condition. Also, because his son had been ill

most of his childhood, Rogers knew of the research necessary in the field of medicine and the expense involved in such a program.²

Through his experience as a regent and as a member of the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce, Rogers knew many of the influential people in Oklahoma City. These people shared his interest in building Oklahoma's educational facilities, and they knew that by doing their share Oklahoma eventually would profit. In August of 1946 the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation was chartered as a charitable, non-profit research organization for medical science. Together with such men as D. B. Eddie, an Oklahoma City industrialist, Harvey P. Everest, an Oklahoma City banker, and Stanley Draper, a leader in the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Rogers helped to organize the foundation. In October of 1947, Rogers and his wife were in Miami Beach, Florida, when they received a phone call from Ardmore, Oklahoma. The voice on the other end of the line was familiar, for it belonged to Stanley Draper. Rogers asked Draper if he was in Ardmore preparing to annex it to Oklahoma City. Draper chuckled and said not, adding that he wanted to talk to Rogers about the medical foundation. Draper knew that in order to ensure its success, the medical foundation would have to be well organized, and he wanted Rogers to head its first meeting. Rogers readily accepted this responsibility.³

Rogers thought perhaps he was "going out on a limb" with establishment of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in that it was the only organization in Chapman's trust which was in the embryonic stage of development. This made him all the more determined to see it succeed. He spoke with administrators at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine about the program; they naturally were enthusiastic about it. He

and Chapman strongly favored the decision to locate the foundation near the medical school because of the tremendous potential for the students who studied nearby to learn about the latest developments. Also, with the able men who taught at the medical school, there would be additional mental resources available besides those who worked in the foundation full time. The Chapman contribution to the foundation was the largest made by any individual, but Rogers did not stop there. He knew that research of this kind would be extremely expensive and needed the financial support of more than just one man.⁴

In a statewide campaign to obtain this support, Rogers traveled to make speeches and gently cajole his many friends to make contributions to the foundation. He was not alone in this effort, for Stanley Draper also was enthusiastic about this project. According to Rogers, Draper was an extremely powerful force in the Oklahoma City area for the foundation. With the efforts of men such as Rogers and Draper, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation was bound to succeed.⁵

The Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation was to be housed in "the shadow" of the School of Medicine in Oklahoma City. In 1948 General Leslie Groves, the coordinator in developing the first atom bomb, dedicated a weed-grown parking lot as the future home of the foundation. That evening in the Oklahoma City Municipal Auditorium 1,500 persons gathered to hear Groves speak, while Rogers acted as the Master of Ceremonies for the occasion. The following year noted British scientist Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of penicillin, came to Oklahoma to dedicate the new building for the foundation.⁶

In 1955 Rogers became the third president of the foundation, a position which he held until 1970. He served on the Executive Committee

and as Chairman of the Board of Directors. In 1974, as a result of the efforts of men such as Rogers, Chapman, Draper, Everest, and Eddie, the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation had a twenty-bed research hospital, an outpatient clinic, and a new five-story office building which was named the Rogers Building. At the foundation the highly qualified staff was conducting research about cancer, chemotherapy, blood diseases, heart and blood vessel disorders, proteins, biomembranes, vitamins, and nutrition. Although the emphasis was on research, the center maintained a hospital and an outpatient clinic, with forty physicians serving as the attending staff, and there was a long-term follow-up program for outpatients.⁷

The foundation had two basic functions: to do medical research, and to conduct educational and training programs. The latter included scholarships and a lecture series. The Sir Alexander Fleming Scholarships were jointly sponsored by the foundation and the Frontiers of Science Foundation of Oklahoma, Inc., and were given to six to eight juniors in high schools throughout the state who competed to get the award. Those who won spent two months of summer study at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and elsewhere in the Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. The Colin Munro MacLeod Graduate Fellowships were given annually for the training and development of scientific personnel seeking careers in the medical sciences. While pursuing their Doctor of Philosophy degrees at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, students with this fellowship received up to four years of financial aid. The Hugh G. Payne Nursing Scholarships were offered each summer to men and women who were juniors in high school; these students learn basic nursing skills. The special lecture series was a service for

Oklahoma physicians, as well as the teaching staff, research scientists, and students at the medical center. All this was a result of a "dream in the minds of a handful of dedicated men."⁸

Besides handling the trust and will of Chapman during the late 1940s and early 1950s, Rogers also found time to be dean of the School of Law at the University of Tulsa and president of the Tulsa Council of Churches. His position as dean was more an honor than an administrative position, but he did teach some classes. Rogers enjoyed teaching and being around young people, and he did not ask for a salary for his services to the University. While he was dean, the School of Law obtained housing at 512 South Cincinnati. In 1951 he endowed the John Rogers Chair of Law, and two years later the American Bar Association gave full approval to this school. In 1957 classes began in the full time division of the School of Law.

Rogers was intensely interested in the faculty at the University of Tulsa, and he and his wife attended most of the faculty functions--from teas to seminars. He was chairman of the Faculty and Curriculum Committee at the school, and thus felt obligated to know those who were hired to teach. He wanted the best-qualified professors that the University could get, and he supported a curriculum which would challenge the student and broaden his education. He donated hundreds of books to the University's library; these dealt mostly with the history of the United States and were by noted historians. This type of generosity also extended to the library of the School of Law. If a student of law in this school or any other law school had a problem, Rogers readily listened to it and tried to find a solution. Many of the graduates of this University owed their careers to Rogers; some of these people have

achieved great fame.⁹

Fame was not limited to Rogers or his students, for at this time Rogers' son and wife were making themselves known nationally. After John, Jr., was discharged from the army, he decided not to return to school. His lifetime passion for photography had become his career during the time he spent in the army. With this decision made, John, Jr., went to Los Angeles where he attended the Art Center School. His mother spent much of her time with him, for the climate in California also agreed with her. For a short period of time, they shared a home where Hazel would cook his meals for him and make sure his room was free of any dust that could cause him to have hay fever. John, Jr., studied hard, so hard that friends thought he would become a recluse and an introvert, but he was determined to learn everything he could so that he could get an excellent job when he got out of school.¹⁰

Hazel worried about her son's health. Many nights passed when he would get just two hours of sleep because of his respiratory problem. She thought of remaining in California to help him, but he would not allow it. He found an apartment, in which he could work all night long if he wanted, so that she could go home and take care of his father. Young John had grown up, even starting to give advice to his parents. For years John's father had driven a Buick, but in 1948 John, Jr., thought this automobile was too dangerous to drive. He suggested that his father buy a Chevrolet. Young John continued to show this type of concern for his parents across the years.¹¹

After he graduated from the Art Center School, John, Jr., established a studio in Dallas in the fall of 1950. While in Dallas, he met a young lady whom he soon married. A few months after their marriage, John, Jr.,

was working at his studio on a Sunday afternoon. His new bride was to drive him home after he finished. When she did not appear, he became worried and called the police department. Someone there told him that his wife had been in an automobile accident and had been hospitalized. He raced to the hospital, but she never regained consciousness. Her untimely death shocked the Rogers family. John, Jr., seemed to bury himself in his work, eventually becoming well-known in his field.

The father and son, although working at completely different careers, had one aspect of their professions in common--travel. John, Jr., specialized in architectural photography, which meant that he spent much of his time traveling for his clients, which included such well-known magazines as American Home and Better Homes and Gardens. He had one-man shows of his photography at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, the Philbrook Art Center and the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa. Rogers glowed with satisfaction when his son displayed some of his photographs at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in July of 1958.

While her son was becoming famous in photography, Mrs. Rogers received accolades for her master's thesis, which had been published by the Exposition Press.¹² Hazel had worked for two years after she graduated from the University of Arizona to get her thesis in publishable form. Her central theme in The Making of the Old and the New Testaments was that the Bible was the product of many minds, a progressive revelation of God, with Christ as the ultimate meaning, and to explain the dependence of the New Testament on the Old. When it was published, the reviews commented favorably about its simplicity of language, its brevity, and its scholarship. Hazel deliberately wrote a book which could be used by laymen and in religious classes, and the reviewers stated that the book

satisfied this goal. Hazel sent many copies of her book to friends, relatives, and church groups.¹³

When she received letters from people who had read of her book, she could not help but be pleased at the broad spectrum of people who wanted a copy of it. One such letter was from Rabbi Kurt L. Metzger, Hebrew chaplain of Great Meadow Correctional Institution in Comstock, New York. He wrote that some of the inmates there spent their spare time reading, and that one of the books they most often requested was The Making of the Old and the New Testaments, which they had read about in the New York Times Book Section. Hazel also sent copies of her book to ministers and libraries in the Philippines.¹⁴

Knowing of her bad health, many Tulsans were surprised that Hazel would have time for writing. However, she always had time for her church and her spiritual services. She tried to organize her time between the book, written under her maiden name of Mallory Beattie, and various church functions. Traveling was nothing new to her by this time, and she attended the International Christian Women's Fellowship assembly on the Purdue University campus in Lafayette, Indiana. She served as a member of the official board of her church, as well as a deaconess. In addition, she acted as vice-president of the Tulsa Council of Churches. After her book was published, various civic groups often asked her to speak, which she did on occasion; however, she had another book which she was researching, The Prophet Isaiah, and this took much of her time.¹⁵

Also, there were many occasions when her husband was invited to speak at various schools in the state, and, when she could, Hazel traveled with him. In May of 1946, Rogers traveled to Stillwater,

Oklahoma, to deliver the commencement address at the Agriculture and Mechanical College, the present day Oklahoma State University. His topic was "The World You Face," in which he stated that people must develop habits, skills, and personal worth so they could be self-sufficient and independent. The world, according to Rogers, placed too much emphasis on social security rather than personal security. He realized that old age assistance, unemployment insurance, and other forms of federal social security were necessary, but warned the 261 graduates that personal security would aid them in their careers much sooner than would social security. Rogers then spoke about federal price controls, which had been imposed during World War II; he said such controls should be lifted as soon as adequate supplies of a given commodity were available. He also urged that individuals and groups should develop a new sense of their community of national interests, of self-restraint, and cooperation. If this were done, management and labor would be more concerned with public interests. He touched on the field of race relations when he said that the Negro in Oklahoma must be furnished with a system of public schools comparable to those in the white community, regardless of the cost. In this address Rogers was not as harsh towards labor as he had been in his previous speeches.¹⁶

Whenever possible, Rogers tried to bring the subject of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation into his speeches. In May of 1950 he told the students in an assembly at Seminole High School that they would never be remembered for the selfish things they did or the material gains they made, but for the service they rendered to their fellowmen. He cited, as an example of the kind of service of which he was speaking, the foundation for medical research, which many civic minded Oklahomans

supported. He noted that this privately financed, privately controlled, public-subscription research foundation was the first to be developed in the United States, and that it was benefiting Oklahoma. That same day Rogers addressed the Seminole Rotary Club on the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

Almost a year later, Rogers appeared in Chickasha, Oklahoma, when the new library for the Oklahoma College for Women was dedicated. In this speech, Rogers charged the people of Chickasha, with the responsibility for the college, for it would be what they wanted it to be. He said that as a regent he had worked hard on a program to make possible an attractive library building of high utility and with adequate books for every senior college campus in the state, and that he had almost succeeded. Because reading had been one of his greatest loves, he rejoiced when any library was built, for "by reading one becomes the contemporary of the great minds of the ages."¹⁸

In this same speech, he reminded his audience that the state regents for higher education could only present the case for education to the proper legislative committee. From that time forward, it was the responsibility of the state legislators to see that higher education got its fair share of the available funds. But the community of Chickasha should make known their support for their college and for women in Oklahoma.¹⁹

Rogers was not always the speaker when he visited campuses around the state. There were times when he was honored or when he just wanted to see others honored. Such was the case in May of 1954 when he attended a Tulsa Chamber of Commerce forum-luncheon. Dr. George L. Cross, president of the University of Oklahoma, the principle speaker that

day, paid tribute to Rogers as the "type of man that the institutions of higher education" were trying to produce, a man who had high moral and ethical standards and who lived by the Golden Rule. Edwin Booth Moffett, Jr., co-chairman of the law school alumni association, seconded Dr. Cross' statements, while presenting Rogers with a scroll containing a tribute from the alumni. Rogers modestly responded, "I am honest enough to know that what has been said concerning me is not true, but I am vain enough to appreciate them."²⁰ At this same meeting an oil portrait of Rogers was presented to the University of Tulsa as a tribute to the dean. The faculty and alumni of the School of Law and some of Rogers' friends had commissioned this portrait painted by Robert Blum, a German artist. Dr. C. I. Pontius, president of the University of Tulsa, said the portrait would hang in the campus library and lauded Rogers' service to the school and the state.²¹

Rogers, who had attended his class reunion just a month before this occasion, had no plans for retirement although he was sixty-four years old. He neither looked nor felt sixty-four, and he still was actively planning for the future. The month after he was honored at the University of Tulsa, he and his wife drove to Stillwater, Oklahoma, to meet Haile Selassie I, the Emperor of Ethiopia. When the Emperor arrived at last in Stillwater, he appeared tired, for he had directed his pilot to circle his plane over the Grand Canyon and the Hoover Dam; this had delayed his arrival in Oklahoma. Once in Stillwater, he was given the traditional honor for visiting dignitaries--induction into an Indian tribe; he was given the name "Great Buffalo High Chief." His son and daughter also received special Indian titles. He then had to change from his military uniform, which had nine rows of military decorations

on the tunic, to a plain black tuxedo for the formal banquet in the Student Union Building.²²

The Emperor came to Stillwater because the late Dr. Henry G. Bennett, former president of Oklahoma A. and M., had visited Ethiopia and had counseled its ruler that his country should develop its agricultural resources. Years later, when the Point Four program of assistance to Ethiopia began, Oklahoma A. and M. was placed in charge of training and education. Since then, Ethiopia had established agricultural and mechanical training schools. Rogers and his wife sat through the banquet and heard the Emperor speak in Anharic, his native tongue, to the audience. Of course, a translator stood nearby rendering his words into English. During the reception which followed, the Emperor and his family stood in line for an hour and a half until the last of 1,300 people had passed by.²³

Rogers felt the people of the world should work in harmony, after hearing the Emperor's speech, he understood the direct benefit of cooperation between two countries. Rogers thereupon decided that his church could play an important role in developing harmony in the world. In 1942, just after World War II began, Rogers went to Washington, D. C., to attend the installation of Dr. J. Warren Hastings as minister of the National City Christian Church. Rogers, in his speech to those gathered for this occasion, suggested that members of his audience should use their Christian influence on world leaders. He argued that if the world contained more people who were just, peaceable, honest, intelligent, and morally and socially responsible, then there would be less trouble in the world. He thought Americans should strive to develop such qualities and practice them in relations with people around

the world. He concluded by recommending effective preaching to bring Christians out of their lethargy.²⁴

Rogers made a similar address at the seventy-fifth anniversary of The College of the Bible in Lexington, Kentucky. In this he stressed the important role of the ministry. As an official in his own church, Rogers often had aided in selecting a new preacher. Those whom he helped choose had been men of varied interests and talents. One of them, Dr. Hallie G. Gantz, stayed with the First Christian Church in Tulsa for more than ten years and then became the president of Phillips University, an institution affiliated with the Disciples of Christ Church. Under Gantz' direction, the physical facilities of the University expanded greatly. Here was a man who agreed with Rogers that Christians should revitalize their educational programs.²⁵

Rogers, never sectarian in his religious beliefs, had always wanted the various denominations to become closer and to reject the destructively competitive attitudes which he had seen while growing up in Wheatland, Missouri. In Wheatland there had been five churches, two of them across the street from each other. When the members of one church would sing "Will There Be Any Stars in My Crown," the other congregation would sing "No Not One." Rogers denounced this kind of denominationalism, saying Christianity would be better served if there had been just one church with an efficient program. Based on his past experiences, as well as on his knowledge of history, Rogers thought that the Christian faith would become more powerful if it united. For this reason he supported the Federal Council, a cooperative agency through which twenty-seven denominations coordinated matters of common concern. Late in 1949 and early in 1950 the Federal Council was attacked by people who called it

an agent of Russian Communism. One pamphlet issued by the American Council of Christian Laymen was entitled "How Red Is the Federal Council of Churches," and had a hammer and sickle imprinted in vivid red on its cover. It attacked liberals far more than it attacked Communists. Rogers thought the pamphlet's authors could not distinguish between progressive views of social reform within the American system and Communism which sought to overthrow the system. Rogers said it was this type of confusion which benefited the Communists.²⁶

Rogers also attacked businessmen and others who circulated material such as this, saying they were deluded if they thought they were preserving freedom. In reality, he argued, they were destroying it. Rogers further suggested that American Protestants should rally around the National Council of Churches of Christ, which would be "born" in Cleveland late in 1950. The new organization would be comprised of twenty-five Protestant, Anglican, and Eastern Orthodox communions, and would be an agency through which these denominations could work throughout the world.²⁷

Rogers worked harder for Christian organizations than for any of his other charities. As a young man, he had attended church regularly with his family and had become a member of the Disciples of Christ Church. When he had moved to Tulsa, one of his first actions was to join the First Christian Church wherein he became a frequent speaker in Sunday school classes. After his marriage to Hazel, they had taught young adults in church and sponsored many of their activities. During the depression years of the 1930s, Rogers presided over the Young Men's Christian Association and served on the board of the United Christian Missionary Society. Both these organizations benefited from his

knowledge of finances and his administrative ability. He continued to serve these same groups during the 1940s and 1950s. In his church in Tulsa, Rogers was an elder, as well as the chairman of the board of elders, and he served on various committees for his church. In 1951 he headed the Tulsa Council of Churches. And in his profession he dealt with many church-related colleges because of the charitable contributions of the Chapmans and McFarlins. His employers understood and supported his interest in his church work, and they allowed him to spend the time necessary to travel to various meetings, conferences, and conventions which this entailed.

As an active Christian layman, Rogers was honored by his church in 1956 when he was elected president of the International Convention of the Disciples of Christ. He was the second layman of the church's history to be elevated to this post. The first layman had been Harry H. Rogers, John's brother. Although the brothers' careers had diverged, John was still achieving similar recognition. John Rogers was elected in Des Moines, Iowa, at the convention presided over by Riley B. Montgomery, president of the College of Bible at Lexington, Kentucky. More than 9,000 people were there, breaking all previous records for attendance.²⁸ And in the new \$5,000,000 Veterans Memorial Auditorium these delegates elected Rogers the president of the convention for the following year. This was the highest office attainable in the Disciples of Christ Church, one taking a good organizer who had a thorough knowledge of the church's organizational structure and the people working within it. Therefore it was a high honor indeed for Rogers, a layman, to be elected to this position, one indicating Rogers' intense participation in his church's affairs during his lifetime.

At this meeting the delegates decided that the next International Convention would be held in Cleveland, Ohio, between October 10 and 16, 1957. Thus Rogers did not have to bother with this detail. However, committees had to be appointed to work on the program, arrange facilities, and handle public relations and communications. The planning committee decided that the theme of the convention would be "His Love We Share." Rogers spent much of the next year traveling and corresponding with fellow churchmen to settle the arrangements for the convention. This convention did not break any attendance records, but more than 8,000 people came. However, the convention was noteworthy for its excellent planning, for the courageous resolutions advanced, and for having speakers with a positive message.²⁹ Trumpets heralded the opening session of the assembly, followed by a pageant containing 2,000 members of the church from the Cleveland area.

Rogers called the meeting to order, and, after the processional ended, he delivered his address on the convention theme.³⁰ He stated that despite all the material comfort people were enjoying, they still were plagued by such evils as alcoholism, juvenile delinquency, crime, family breakdowns, and world tensions. Immorality and corruption existed in both public and private life. Atheistic Communism and the threat of nuclear warfare were additional threats to the complacent materialism of the 1950s. Rogers, having lived in a time when communication was more difficult, said that all these evils were widely known to the public because of television, radio, and the daily press. Rogers stated his belief that the people of the world could feel the urgency of these problems with a great intensity. And all people could overcome these evils if they followed the teachings of Jesus; the Son of God had

given principles of living to his followers on which all true morality and wisdom had to be based. Rogers told the assembly that Jesus had said to love God first, and then they must love their fellowmen as they did God. Rogers reminded them that Jesus' greatest anger had been shown toward those people who were proud and self-righteous and who exploited others. If individuals, churches, or nations failed to heed these teachings, they would fail to find peaceful existence.³¹

Because of this belief, Rogers supported the ecumenical movement then growing among churches; he felt this movement would cause churches not to be self-centered but to become part of the church universal. Rogers reminded those present that "God's church is more than the little church at Fifth and Main."³² In his view, an informed church would not be afraid of losing its identity through efforts to attain Christian unity. Through this movement people would find the fullness of life by reaching beyond themselves. He did not confine this form of love to any race or culture because he did not believe that Jesus set boundaries for love.³³

As a layman speaking to the other laymen present, Rogers recommended that they concern themselves with Christian education by reading Christian literature and by supporting Christian colleges and seminaries. He told the delegates that the responsibility for success in church endeavors did not belong to the minister but to the lay people of that church. He argued that a Christian must have a deep concern for others and a Christian benevolence, and that this could not be practiced by proxy. The individual had to make the effort. Lay people must "accept a much more exacting attitude toward our stewardship to Christ in time, talent, and material resources."³⁴

In concluding his address, Rogers noted that God owned all things and that man was the trustee of material possessions. Thus man should administer these material possessions for the well-being of humanity. The delegates received his speech well with sustained applause. For Rogers this was one of the notable occasions of his life.³⁵

During the convention there were a variety of events scheduled, including breakfasts and Bible lectures, these kept the delegates busy. On Sunday afternoon, October 13, thousands of people gathered in cooperation with the Cleveland Church Federation for an ecumenical communion. All the agencies of the church had meetings in which elections were held and plans were made.³⁶ At the time of the convention, domestic and international tensions surfaced as various resolutions were discussed and voted. There was racial turbulence in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Russians fired a satellite into earth orbit, and the Asian flu was killing many people. The Committee on Resolutions became important at the convention because it was difficult to discuss resolutions in an assembly of thousands of people. Also, in the committee, the churches had equal representation so that sheer numbers from certain areas of the countries did not dominate the making of resolutions. One important innovation made in the Rogers' administration was that the resolutions were sent to local churches prior to the convention so that they could be discussed and suggestions for changes would be more representative of local churches.³⁷

The convention voted on which resolutions would be adopted only after the Committee on Resolutions had made its proposals. The convention passed a resolution on disarmament which called on the government of the United States to take an active position of leadership in all

noble efforts through the United Nations to bring about disarmament. In addition, the convention also suggested that all Christians should acquaint themselves with the problems involved in disarmament. Another resolution stated the delegates' disfavor with capital punishment. Moreover, they voted to change the name of the International Convention of Disciples of Christ to the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ).³⁸

On the subject of racial relations, the convention resolved that local churches should make it unmistakably clear that their congregations were open to all, and that local churches also should try to eliminate racial barriers in the community. They also recommended that all ministers and churches should be ready to "bear the cross of persecution or reprisal brought upon them" by their work towards racial harmony. In doing so, those who were persecuted would have all backing, both moral and financial, that the agencies of the church could give. The delegates provided a press room where writers, editors, and radio and television representatives could gather to write their stories or exchange information.³⁹

Before Rogers and his wife went home, they had the pleasure of seeing the convention pass a resolution urging more local financial support for the National and World Council of Churches. Years later, Rogers would be called upon to refute attacks made against the National Council of Churches.

During the late 1950s, Rogers began to resign from some of the activities which so often had taken him away from Tulsa. In 1956 he gave up his position as honorary dean of the School of Law at the University of Tulsa, and two years later he resigned from the United Christian

Missionary Society. When his term expired with the state board of regents for higher education, he did not want the appointment renewed, and he so informed the governor. His stated reason was that he wanted to leave before he lost his usefulness; he did not think it right for people who no longer could make a contribution to continue holding a position on committees or in organizations.⁴⁰ Yet those who knew Rogers would not let him retire peacefully. True, he had grown heavier, his hearing was not what it once was, and his eyes had grown weaker. But many people still valued his wise counsel. They knew that when Rogers spoke on a subject, he did so after considerable thought on the matter and that he tried to weigh all aspects of a problem with an objectivity found in few men.

By the 1950s, Rogers began to slow down and to narrow his interests. As a member of the state board of regents, he had helped in its organization and had been a determined advocate of improving the libraries at senior state colleges. He also had favored eliminating duplication in programs in the state colleges. He saw no reason for two or three schools to offer degree programs in the same area; he thought this was not economical. He had served the state at his own expense, for he had declined to file claims for travel or other expense at these regents' meetings.⁴¹

At the University of Tulsa, Rogers had served as dean of the School of Law. In the process he had managed to upgrade the faculty, library, and curriculum so that the Law School had been accredited by the American Bar Association. Thousands of the books in the library of the School of Law were gifts from Rogers. Also, Rogers taught as a part-time instructor at the School of Law for no salary. His service to the

University of Tulsa as chairman of the board of trustees, a position he filled in 1952 when Dr. C. I. Pontius resigned, was valuable, he had led the trustees in a successful fund drive to raise \$2,000,000.⁴²

Always a dynamic leader in fund raising campaigns, Rogers had helped establish and make successful the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. When Chapman wanted to aid a medical research foundation in his will, Rogers determined that it should be located near the University of Oklahoma's Medical School; this was an institution he had supported as a regent, and he knew this would benefit it and the state. He well realized the high cost of medicine because of health problems in his own family. Locating such an institution in Oklahoma at least would reduce a portion of such expenses by cutting the amount of travel necessary for the sick and their relatives. Rogers' belief in private charity played an important role in his supporting this foundation. As a Christian he felt that the individual owed his service, time, and financial aid to his fellowman and that this form of humanitarianism was far better than relying on the federal government for help.

When he became president of the International Convention of his church, he achieved the pinnacle of recognition from his fellow churchmen. In his speech before the convention at Cleveland, Rogers had expressed his own Christian philosophy, the one which he had tried to follow throughout his life. Rogers was a Christian first; all his other roles were secondary. Rogers might retire from all his other duties, but he would never retire from being a Christian.

FOOTNOTES

¹Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, September 6, 1973, R. C.

²Boatman, p. 37.

³Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, pamphlet, 1973, p. 18; Ben C. Wileman to John Rogers, June 5, 1967, R. P.; Mike Monroney to John Rogers, June 21, 1967, R. P.; Harvey P. Everest to John Rogers, June 21, 1967, R. P.; William T. Payne to John Rogers, June 20, 1967, R. C.; B. D. Eddie to John Rogers, June 22, 1967, R. C.; Interview with John Rogers, September 6, 1973, R. C.; Stanley Draper to John Rogers, June 22, 1967, R. C.

⁴Hugh Perry, "Mr. John Rogers, Oklahoma Medical Sciences Hall of Fame Induction Statement," 1958, R. P.; Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, September 6, 1973.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Perry, p. 2; Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, pamphlet, p. 16.

⁷Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, pamphlet, p. 14.

⁸Ibid., p. 16; Harvey P. Everest to John Rogers, June 21, 1967, R. P.

⁹"Law Building Due on Campus," The University of Tulsa Magazine, Winter, 1971, pp. 23-25.

¹⁰Hazel Rogers to John Rogers, May 26, 1948, R. P.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²The Tulsa Tribune, February 4, 1957, p. 27; The Tulsa Daily World, February 26, 1959, p. 18; Oklahoma City Advertiser, July 4, 1958, no page.

¹³Mallory Beattie, The Making of the Old and the New Testaments (New York, 1953); Watchman Examiner, May 20, 1954; Interpretation, July 24, 1954; Christian-Evangelist, March 9, 1955; Los Angeles Times, December 13, 1953, p. 16; The New York Times, January 10, 1954; The Jewish Ledger, December 18, 1953, p. 11; John O. Moseley to Hazel Rogers, August 24, 1955, R. P.; M. A. Nash to Hazel Rogers, November 9, 1953, R. P.; Roger T. Neill to Hazel Rogers, November 9, 1953, R. P.

¹⁴Rabbi K. L. Metzger to Hazel Rogers, January 5, 1955, R. P.; The Tulsa Daily World, December 29, 1953, p. 2.

¹⁵Edith Eberle Yocum to Hazel Rogers, July 3, 1957, R. P.; The Tulsa Daily World, December 29, 1953, p. 2.

¹⁶The Stillwater News-Press, May 27, 1946, p. 1.

¹⁷Producer, May 10, 1950, p. 1.

¹⁸The Chickasaw Daily Express, April 23, 1951, p. 1.

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰The Tulsa Daily World, May 28, 1954, p. 12.

²¹Ibid.

²²The Tulsa Tribune, June 19, 1954, p. 3.

²³Ibid.

²⁴John Rogers, "The Challenge to the Church," The Christian-Evangelist, August 27, 1942, pp. 938-940.

²⁵John Rogers, "What the Laity Expects of the Ministry," The Christian-Evangelist, September 26, 1940, pp. 999-1001; Hallie G. Gantz to John Rogers, February 16, 1965, R. P.

²⁶John Rogers, "The Wider Fellowship," The Christian-Evangelist, November 8, 1950, pp. 1126-1128.

²⁷Ibid., p. 1128.

²⁸"A Significant Assembly...The 1956 International Convention," The Christian-Evangelist, October 24, 1956, p. 1069.

²⁹"The Convention in Cleveland," The Christian-Evangelist, November 11, 1957, p. 1372.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹John Rogers, "His Love We Share," The Christian-Evangelist, October 21, 1957, p. 1292.

³²Ibid., p. 1293.

³³Ibid.

³⁴Ibid., p. 1317.

³⁵Ibid.; Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, September 6, 1973, R. C.

³⁶"The Convention in Cleveland," pp. 1372-1373, 1378-1381, 1388-1390.

³⁷"Cleveland Convention Issues," The Christian-Evangelist, November 11, 1957, p. 1374.

³⁸"The Convention Resolution," The Christian-Evangelist, November 11, 1957, pp. 1376-1377, 1390.

³⁹Ibid.

⁴⁰Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, September 6, 1973, March 15, 1974, R. C.

⁴¹"Resolution of Appreciation to John Rogers from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education," March 23, 1959, R. P.

⁴²The Tulsa Daily World, June 29, 1966, p. 1.

CHAPTER VII

RETIREMENT WITH HONORS

A few months after John and Hazel Rogers returned from Cleveland, Ohio, they were informed of the death of his brother Harry. Almost thirteen years older than John, Harry had led a full life, made many friends, and given much of his time to the Disciples of Christ Church, education, and civic affairs. Moving from Tulsa to San Antonio, he had continued his successful career in business. While John was busy in 1947 with the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Harry was serving as Chairman of the Rotary International Foundation Committee. The Foundation had been created in 1928, but had not been made financially secure. Under Harry's leadership, more than \$2,000,000 was raised and was used to fund the Rotary International Fellowship program. John therefore had lost not only a brother but also a friend, one with whom he shared a similar philosophy.¹

When Rogers resigned from the board of regents for the state in 1958, he received tributes from his fellow regents, as he was receiving recognition from many other sources. That same year he was inducted into the Oklahoma Medical Sciences Hall of Fame. At that ceremony, Dr. Hugh Perry reviewed Rogers' contributions to society, especially to the School of Medicine and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. He lauded Rogers for the key role he had played in 1947 in securing for the foundation \$2,100,000 in pledges from residents of every county in the

state.²

Almost a year later, more than 500 people filled the Crystal Ballroom of the Mayo Hotel to honor John Rogers. The award he received there was the Brotherhood Citation of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. This organization, founded in 1928, promoted justice, amity, understanding, and cooperation among Protestants, Catholics, and Jews, and it analyzed, moderated and strove to eliminate prejudice. The members of this organization worked to improve relations among persons of all religions, races, and nationalities. Rogers, who was on the board of directors of the Tulsa chapter of this organization, could not understand why he had been selected to be honored, but apparently the 500 people who paid \$25 a plate that evening did. He was cited for standing by people at times of crisis and for his services to young people.³ The citation said that as one of the outstanding citizens of Tulsa, Rogers had been an energetic, selfless leader.⁴ While these flattering words were being spoken, the modest Rogers seemed uncomfortable, but his wife glowed with pride.⁵ Previous to his retirement, Rogers already had received many awards, honors, and tributes. For example, in 1954 Governor Johnston Murray had appointed him Commodore of the Oklahoma Navy.⁶ Yet the award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews underscored his many contributions in religious, social, civic, and educational affairs, and thus was one of the most important honors of his life.

Rogers' association with the University of Oklahoma had not terminated when he resigned from the state board of regents. During the school year 1959-1960, a committee of faculty members and alumni evaluated the records of many outstanding citizens who had served Oklahoma

and the nation to determine those who warranted a distinguished service citation from the University. In March of 1960, President George L. Cross sent a telegram to Rogers informing him that he had been unanimously selected as one of the five to receive this recognition. Rogers tried to telephone Cross to tell him how grateful he was and say that he would be there to receive the award at the spring commencement. However, Cross was not in his office; therefore Rogers sent a telegram instead. Rogers already had received two honorary degrees: a Doctor of Humanities degree from Phillips University in Enid in 1958, and a Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Tulsa in 1958.⁷

Yet it was a special experience for him to return to the school where he had received his Bachelor of Laws degree in 1914 for this award. Those who also received a citation at the noon luncheon in the ballroom of the student union were K. S. Adams, chairman of the directors and chief executive officer of Phillips Petroleum Company, Van Heflin, an actor, Dr. Edwin C. McReynolds, a historian, and Dr. Dean Wooldridge, a businessman.⁸

By this time Rogers and his wife seemingly were attending banquets and ceremonies in their honor. On November 16, 1961, they traveled to Oklahoma City to the Skirvin Tower Hotel where Rogers was inducted into Oklahoma's Hall of Fame. Rogers and his wife sat at the head table with the other inductees: W. K. Warren, chairman of the board of Warren Petroleum Corporation of Tulsa; United States Senator Mike Monroney; Fred E. Tarman, editor and publisher of the Norman Transcript; Virgil Browne, president of Coca Cola Bottling Company of Oklahoma City; and Joe W. McBride, co-publisher of the Anadarko Daily News. The featured speaker was United States Senator and former governor of Oklahoma Robert

S. Kerr; his subject was the contributions of Oklahoma Indians to the state and the nation. Mrs. Anna B. Korn, the ninety-two-year-old founder of the Oklahoma Memorial Association conducted the induction ceremony. In presenting Rogers, she spoke of his work in Tulsa as a civic leader, as dean of the School of Law at the University of Tulsa, and as a regent for the state.⁹ Despite all the ceremonies Rogers attended at this time, he continued to get up at 5:30 every morning and, after breakfast and reading the newspaper, went to the Drew Building where he had his office.

In 1961 he went to Dallas for the rededication of the McFarlin Memorial Auditorium, which had been renovated and remodeled. Rogers, speaking for the McFarlins, traced the history of the auditorium, and lauded the University's administrators. Mrs. J. A. Chapman and Mrs. F. P. Walter, daughters of R. M. and Ida McFarlin, thereupon established a perpetual trust for care and maintenance of the auditorium. This ceremony was the first step in completing the University's \$5,500,000 Fine Arts project. Earlier in the year, Rogers' son had represented his father and the Chapman and Walters families in Dallas at a dinner for donors of sums up to \$75,000 in connection with the project. John, Jr., had sat at the head table with such people as Charles Meyer, national vice-president and Southwestern division manager of Sears, Roebuck & Company, and Stanley Marcus of the famous Neiman-Marcus Department Store. John Rogers had made a generous gift toward the construction of the Hall in the Fine Arts Center, which was named after his longtime friend, Hastings Harrison.¹⁰

This was but one school in Texas which the Chapman family had benefited. In May of 1964, Rogers represented the Chapmans when he

presented the keys of the Chapman Graduate Center to President James W. Laurie of Trinity University in San Antonio. This complex cost \$1,500,000 and memorialized Alexander Chapman and his wife, Roxana McFarlin Chapman. The Chapmans of Tulsa, who primarily were responsible for endowing the center, and two of P. A. Chapman's children, Ruth Chapman Cowles of San Antonio and Fred Chapman of Ardmore, Oklahoma, were present for the occasion. This was the first center of its kind built exclusively for graduate study by a college or university in San Antonio. Members of the Chapman family had attended Trinity University since 1869. The center was designed by architects O'Neil Ford of San Antonio and H. G. Barnard, Jr., of Tulsa, whose father was a ranching partner with Chapman and who was permanently endowed as a part of the gift.¹¹

From 1963 to 1966, Rogers served the World Council of Churches as the vice-president. In May of 1965, his article appeared in The Christian answering various questions about the council and some of the charges made against it. He labeled individuals and groups who deliberately spread untruths about the council "unscrupulous," saying there was nothing wrong with questioning the council or of differing with its opinions.¹² He acknowledged that the council was not perfect. However, he denied charges that the council was "soft" on Communism or was Communist-infiltrated; he cited the council's policy statement of 1953 which voiced opposition to Communism. In April of 1961, he noted, the council had won a Freedoms Foundation award for its "Pilgrimage" series on "Christianity and Communism," which had been carried on the American Broadcasting Corporation radio network.¹³ Rogers also wrote about the commission of the Protestant Episcopal Church which had gone

before the House Committee on Un-American Activities and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to determine if this accusation against the council was true. It had learned there was no evidence to substantiate such accusations. J. Edgar Hoover, chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, had told this commission that he had never criticized the Federal Council of Churches or the National Council of Churches (N. C. C.). To the charge that Communist sympathizers had worked on the Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Rogers replied that this had come from the period in World War II when the United States and Russia were allies, an era when many responsible people belonged to organizations concerned with Soviet-American friendship.¹⁴

Rogers dispelled the accusation that the N. C. C. had sponsored an "invasion" of Mississippi by student volunteers in the summer of 1964. The sponsor of this project was the Council of Federated Organizations. When the N. C. C. had learned that many of the students belonged to churches holding membership in the N. C. C., youngsters who had been recruited and then not given adequate orientation and training, the council's Commission on Religion and Race offered to prepare the volunteers. Two week-long orientation courses for these students stressed non-violence and the traditions of Mississippians, white and black. Minister-counselors were recruited and sent at their own expense with the students to give spiritual guidance. Also, said Rogers, during this orientation course, the N. C. C. had not advocated "subversion" of parental authority, as critics had charged. Some consultants had spoken about the normal differences of opinion between youths and their parents on the subject of race relations. Rogers asserted that the N. C. C. had always promoted strong family ties.¹⁵ The rest of his article refuted

accusations that the N. C. C. supported "free love," promoted the reading of obscene literature, and wanted to unite church and state. Rogers concluded by saying that the N. C. C. did not presume to speak for people who belonged to related communions, rather it spoke to these people, not for them.¹⁶

Early in 1965 some members of the First Christian Church in Tulsa began preparing a recognition day for John Rogers. On April 4, 1965, he was to celebrate his seventy-fifth birthday and fiftieth anniversary of belonging to First Church in Tulsa. Board President Eli McRorey of the First Christian Church asked Donald and Mary Francis Hayden to serve as chairmen for this event. This couple asked Oras and Thelma Shaw, Hansel and Opal Johnson, and Merwin and Jane Hargrove on the committee with them. The Haydens then called Dr. Hallie Gantz, president of Phillips University and former minister at the First Christian Church in Tulsa, Stephen England, a professor at the seminary at Phillips University and a long-time activist in the Disciples of Christ Church, and Virgil Sly, president of the United Christian Missionary Society. These people, especially Sly, spread the word about the upcoming event to as many people as they could. Donald Hayden, dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Tulsa, told Rogers' associates on that campus.¹⁷ Those who worked on the committee were determined that Rogers would have proper recognition and took care that he did not hear of the event and try to foil it. When Rogers became president of the International Convention of Christian Churches in 1957, his fellow churchmen in Tulsa tried to honor him, but he had turned the event into a tribute to the church. Letters of tribute began arriving from across the country from people in all walks of life. Two books of letters were to

be presented to him, along with a resolution citing his work for his church. When April 4 arrived, the Rogers arrived in church to find flowers on the altar in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Rogers. Dr. Lin D. Cartwright, minister ad interim, based his sermon on God's call to service and a righteous man's wholehearted response--as exemplified by John Rogers' life. Dr. M. M. Hargrove gave a brief biographical sketch of Rogers' life, and Eli McRorey, president of the Official Board, presented him a citation. Then a proclamation by Mayor James Maxwell was read naming April 4, 1965, "John Rogers Day."¹⁸

The letters received for this occasion came from all over the country and from people working in many different fields, but many of them repeated the same theme: John Rogers was not a man presenting a different personality in each of his fields of interest; repeatedly he was called "honest," "energetic," "wise," "generous," "religious," and "modest." He also was called a "gentleman with a sense of humor."¹⁹

Those letters also referred to Hazel as a loving Christian woman who had shared her husband unselfishly with their church, and they noted her many unusual qualities. Since the birth of her son, she had never been very healthy; yet she had traveled with her sick son to Arizona and had set up housekeeping while he was in school there. In short, she was no "clinging vine," but an independent woman. She had never changed her affiliation from the Democratic Party although her husband was a Republican. Drawing on her own talents and interests, she had written articles and a book on subjects of a religious nature.

Moreover, Hazel Rogers was recognized as an extremely intelligent woman. She had been a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and since then she had helped many young people in their educational pursuits. For example,

she had helped a young girl at the University of Tulsa go on a trip to New York City with a drama organization. The young lady never knew who had made the contribution which had made her trip possible.²⁰ When Hazel's book had been published, she had sent numerous copies at her own expense to churches, a prison, and to missionaries. As the letters of tribute recognized, she had been generous not only with her husband, but also with her time, money, and talents.

Although involved with her church and her writing, she had been a good mother and was an excellent wife. Her constant concern and care for her son continued until the day she died. Rogers always stressed to his younger colleagues the important role that a wife played in a man's career. Hazel Rogers had teas, went to teas, gave dinners, attended dinners, hosted receptions, went to receptions, gave speeches, and went to speeches all her life. When she did these things, she helped her husband establish closer relationships with those with whom he worked in his many activities. She had maintained her own identity, but simultaneously she had been a great asset to her husband.

When Hazel entered St. John's Hospital in January of 1966, Rogers naturally worried, for he deeply loved and respected his wife. Her illness was diagnosed as angina, a disease marked by spasmodic attacks of intense suffocative pain, but it seemed to be clearing in the middle of February and she was allowed to go home. However, her illness recurred on the last day of February, and she had to return to the hospital. Three days later she suffered a severe coronary attack, and the doctors placed her in the intensive care unit for observation. Two heart specialists told Rogers and his son that there was little hope for recovery. John, Jr., thereupon went in to see his mother and told her

that he was going to marry Georgette DeBruchard, a French girl he had met in Dallas. Her gentle face showed her approval. Her son's failure to remarry after the death of his first wife had caused her great concern.²¹

John, Jr., and Georgette hastily arranged wedding plans. They were married in the chapel at St. John's Hospital. The bride's mother, who was in New York City at the time, flew to Tulsa for the ecumenical ceremony; a minister of the Disciples of Christ read an Episcopal service in a Roman Catholic chapel. Two nurses took Hazel to the chapel. She later told one of her nurses, who informed her husband, that the wedding had eased her mind; she knew that her son had a wife who loved him and who would take care of him.

She lived for almost five months after entering the intensive care unit at the hospital although her doctors did not understand how she managed it. Her husband said that love for him and their son gave her the determination to live. However, on August 9, 1966, Hazel Mallory Beattie Rogers died. Funeral services were held the next day in Memorial Chapel of the First Christian Church, after which she was entombed in Memorial Park Mausoleum.²² Although Rogers mourned her deeply, his suffering was tempered by his thanks to God that Hazel had not suffered during the last six weeks of her life.

Just a month later Rogers lost another person very close to him, James A. Chapman. With the death of his friend and client, Rogers immersed himself in the work of settling of the estate estimated at approximately \$100,000,000.²³

A few months before his wife's death, Rogers had retired from the board of trustees of the University of Tulsa. At the time he told his

fellow trustees that, although he was leaving the board for reasons of age and health, he would continue to take an active interest in the University and would arrange the program for the dedication in the fall of 1967 of the new addition to the McFarlin Library. The trustees responded by naming him an honorary life member of the board. In an interview a few days later, Rogers said that he hoped to live another ten or fifteen years in order to see the changes which would take place at the University. He declared that the next several years would be a period of academic growth at the University, which already had the necessary physical plant. What was needed were more scholarships, an expansion of the graduate program, good graduate students to hold the teaching and research fellowships, and top quality students and faculty. Rogers stated that freshman enrollment should continue to be limited to 1,000 a year and that entrance requirements should be raised. He felt that poor students suffered by paying high tuition and then failing in their coursework. When asked if a new public junior college in Tulsa would hurt the University, Rogers replied that he did not think so; there were many students who could not afford or need more than two years of college. Also, a junior college in Tulsa would be a source of transfer students for the University.²⁴

A year after his wife died, Rogers decided to establish a memorial for her at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. This was to be in the name of "Hazel Mallory Beattie Rogers," in recognition of her family background, of which she was very proud. For years she had worked on a manuscript about the movement of her ancestors on both sides of her family from Virginia to Lexington, Missouri. Rogers felt it was fitting to recognize her efforts and donated \$2,500 to the Foundation of the

Disciples of Christ Historical Society.²⁵

A month later Rogers was surprised when he attended a Chamber of Commerce forum luncheon in Tulsa. The announced subject was the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. As president of that Foundation, Rogers was seated at the head table. After he finished eating, he was expecting to hear an address by Dr. Albert Baird, one of the country's leading authorities on blood chemistry. However, Mayor J. M. Hewgley, Jr., stood and began reading a resolution commending Rogers to the 200 people there. This "flabbergasted" Rogers. And when Baird spoke, he also lauded Rogers and told of the research being accomplished at the Foundation.²⁶

And his church honored Rogers again in September 1967. Willis R. Jones of Nashville, president of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society, called Rogers to the chancel and gave him the position of life patron of the Society. Rogers thus presided over the Society during the next year.²⁷

For years the Chapmans had shunned publicity about their philanthropy, but Rogers saw Mrs. J. A. (Leta) Chapman honored in November of 1967 when she was inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. At the ceremony in the ballroom of the Sheraton-Oklahoma Hotel in Oklahoma City, Rogers served as Mrs. Chapman's escort. The director of these ceremonies, Mrs. George L. Bowman, made the introductory remarks before Mrs. Chapman and Rogers entered. She informed the audience that Mrs. Chapman's parents had been inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1935, and she told of the charitable trust established by Mrs. Chapman and her sister, Mrs. E. P. Walter; funds from this trust had been used to build the McFarlin Auditorium on the campus of Southern Methodist University in

Dallas and to build an addition to McFarlin Library at the University of Tulsa. Mrs. Chapman had also waived the right to one-half of her husband's estate so that the James A. and Leta M. Chapman trust could be settled. This trust was to be divided so that twenty percent of its earnings would go to the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation in Oklahoma City, thirty percent would go to the University of Tulsa, twenty-five percent to Trinity University of San Antonio, ten percent each to St. John's Hospital and Hillcrest Medical Center of Tulsa, and five percent to John Brown University of Siloam Springs, Arkansas. The Trust also made an annual donation to the operating fund of the Tulsa Community Chest in keeping with contributions from major Tulsa firms.²⁸

The Chapmans also had created the Ida M. McFarlin Trust, a perpetual charity, to benefit the Children's Medical Center in Tulsa. Mrs. Bowman also told the audience that the American Association of Fund-Raising Council, Inc., had reported in 1966 that the Chapmans were the most generous family in America.

While these remarks were being made, an organist played "You've Got to Have Heart" and "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You." Then the organist rendered "Pennies from Heaven" as Rogers and Mrs. Chapman entered, after which the audience heard "Mr. Lucky" as Rogers was introduced.²⁹ Rogers was very happy to see Mrs. Chapman publicly honored, for her husband had been painfully shy and had refused recognition. James Chapman had been the type of man who was more concerned over the loss of one cow than a sizeable business loss. When he died at the age of eighty-five on September 22, 1966, few Tulsans knew him. Mrs. Chapman, more an extrovert, enjoyed the tribute paid her and, indirectly, her husband that evening.³⁰

In May of 1968, Rogers traveled again to Dallas. As a lawyer, he had been admitted to practice before the Supreme Courts of Oklahoma, and the United States and before the Circuit Court of Appeals, Tenth District, early in his career. He was a member of the Tulsa Bar Association, the Oklahoma Bar Association, and the American Bar Association and was a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a member of the American Judicature Society. All of this, plus the service he had rendered to the School of Law at the University of Tulsa, brought him the Hatton W. Summers Award, which he received from the Southwestern Legal Foundation in Dallas. A trustee of this foundation for twenty years, he had helped establish it. This was the thirteenth award given by the foundation; previous winners had included Supreme Court Justices of the United States; therefore this was a high honor for a practicing lawyer from Tulsa.³¹

Inasmuch as Rogers recently had received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from John Brown University, a school which he had served as a trustee, and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Southern Methodist University recently, there seemed little else for which he could be honored. Yet on January 19, 1969, Rogers met with the officials of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, the members of its staff, its board of directors, close friends, and relatives to receive an award for bringing the Foundation to national prominence as a center for the study of incurable diseases and for training Oklahoma scientists. Reece McGee, vice-president and director of administration of the Foundation, unveiled a bronze bust of Rogers to be displayed in the Foundation's lobby in Oklahoma City. Rogers sat with his head slightly bowed and a hand cupped over his eyes during most of the program, while the

master of ceremonies, Gaylon Stacy, read telegrams from President-elect Richard M. Nixon and Senator-elect Henry Bellmon complimenting him for his service. Rogers replied that although he did not deserve it, he enjoyed people thinking he was better than he was.³²

Ten days later, Rogers was honored at the First Methodist Church of Tulsa as "Mr. Ecumenism." Those present at the dinner included delegates to the (Roman Catholic) Southwest Liturgical Conference and the World Council of Churches' executive committee.³³

At this time, although he supposedly had retired, Rogers still went every day to his office, which had been moved to the National Bank of Tulsa Building because of urban renewal. However, his working days no longer were as long; he went to work at 9:30 in the morning and left in the afternoon at 4:00. His health had begun to fail, and he had to use crutches to walk. After seeing a doctor, who told him he had arthritis and gout, Rogers began taking pills which made him drowsy, but which simultaneously enabled him to get rid of his crutches.³⁴

This did not stop him from celebrating his eightieth birthday. On April 4, 1970, Rogers invited his many friends to an open house at his home on Xanthus Street. In honor of his birthday, Mrs. James Chapman gave a check to the First Christian Church in the amount of \$125,000 to be used to purchase and install an organ, to be known as the Rogers Memorial Organ. She dedicated the organ to the memory of Rogers' brothers, Harry H. and Albert H., his sister, Anna H. Rogers, and his wife, Hazel, and presented it to John Rogers and the First Christian Church on January 17, 1971. Rogers then gave a stained glass window behind the organ in memory of his wife.³⁵ In addition, Mrs. Chapman's sister, Mrs. Frederick P. Walter, honored Roger's birthday by sending

a check for \$5,000 to the University of Tulsa to be utilized by the College of Law to fund a fellowship, scholarship, or loans. To have his church and the law school aided in this way pleased Rogers, for both his avocation and his vocation were honored.³⁶

In the spring of 1971, Mrs. Chapman contributed a million dollars to a building fund for the College of Law, which was to be named John Rogers Hall. She did this anonymously, after which the University started a campaign to raise the additional \$500,000 necessary. The County Bar Association named Rogers Tulsa County's "Lawyer of the Year" that same year. When the plaque for this award was given to him, he received a standing ovation from the 400 county lawyers and guests present.³⁷

The settling of the James A. Chapman estate and trust took longer than Rogers thought it would. By January of 1974, however, he had filed the final accounting with the probate court; the total assets were \$130,905,898. That same month he attended the opening of John Rogers Hall; there he made an impromptu speech to the law students present at the banquet, stating that they should find good clients like he had. Mrs. Chapman was quite ill at the time and could not attend; a few months later, on March 13, 1974, she died.

Rogers was co-executor with the National Bank of Tulsa of her estate. To her son, Harry Allen Chapman, Mrs. Chapman left the sum of \$1000, stating that she and her husband had already made provisions for him, his children, and his grandchildren. To her sister, she left the apartment in which the sister lived, along with all her personal possessions. However, most of the estate went to the Leta McFarlin Chapman Memorial Trust to be used for educational, scientific, literary, and

charitable purposes. Those to receive money from this trust were the University of Tulsa, Trinity University, John Brown University, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Hillcrest Medical Center, and St. John's Hospital and Nursing School.³⁸ She also made a gift of \$1,500,000 to the University of Tulsa so that Kendall Hall, the oldest building on campus, could be replaced, providing that it kept the same historic name in order to preserve ties to the school's Indian Territory heritage. Other specific gifts included \$3,000,000 toward the construction of a downtown theater complex, \$200,000 to Trinity University for supplemental air-conditioning plant and equipment, and \$300,000 for the benefit of McFarlin Auditorium at Southern Methodist University.³⁹

In addition, she also left specific bequests of \$300,000 to the Protestant Episcopal Church Foundation of the Diocese of Oklahoma, and \$100,000 each to Trinity Episcopal Church of Tulsa, the Children's Medical Center, Holland Hall School, Tulsa Recreation Center for the Physically Limited, St. Simeon's Episcopal Home, the Arts and Humanities Council of Tulsa, Oral Roberts University, Phillips University, the Oklahoma Bar Foundation, and the Southwestern Legal Foundation.⁴⁰ Her husband had already left bequests of \$2,000,000 each to the Holland Hall trusts, the Protestant Episcopal Church Foundation, the Tulsa Psychiatric Foundation Trust, and the Trust of the United Presbyterian Home in Waxahachie, Texas. Together they already had been major supporters of the Goldman Chair of Human Relations, the first interdisciplinary program in human relations at the University of Oklahoma, and they had aided several Indian minority educational programs.⁴¹ In all, Rogers had to handle more than \$2,000,000 in trust funds for the Chapmans; this did not include the many philanthropies they supported

during their lifetimes.

On the day following Mrs. Chapman's funeral, Rogers was in a quiet, reflective mood. With the deaths of the Chapmans and his wife, Rogers felt lonely. However, he still was a spirited man who looked forward to the frequent trips of his son and daughter-in-law to Tulsa. At that time, he came to the office every week day at 10:30 and left by 3:00 in the afternoon. At home he read, watched television, and tried to keep abreast of world affairs. On Sundays he listened to the sermons broadcast on the radio from his church, and occasionally he went to church to let them know he still was alive and interested in what they were doing.⁴²

When people talked to Rogers about current events, they found him knowledgeable and, at the same time, distressed. He disliked the idea that Richard Nixon's Committee to Re-Elect the President in 1972 felt it necessary to violate the law. When minions of this committee broke into Democratic National Headquarters in the Watergate buildings in Washington, D. C., and were caught, investigations began concerning campaign activities. The "Watergate scandal" brought allegations of criminal involvement by men close to the President and even an impeachment hearing about President Richard M. Nixon. As a lawyer, Rogers was disturbed that so many lawyers were charged with obstruction of justice and perjury in this scandal. He decided that if these men were found guilty they should be disbarred, for they had violated principles sacred to a lawyer.⁴³

On July 16, 1973, the Senate Watergate Committee discovered that the President had taped all conversations and phone calls in his offices, in the Lincoln room, and at Camp David. This caused a great

excitement in the nation's capitol, for these could show the extent of involvement by members of the White House staff and even the President himself in the Watergate affair and its aftermath. However, release of specific tapes proved difficult because Nixon claimed this would endanger national security and set a dangerous precedent. Rogers did not agree with Nixon although he had supported the President in the past. Rogers said that Nixon should release all the information he had when the scandal was first disclosed. Concerning Nixon's possible involvement in the break-in and subsequent "cover up," Rogers had serious questions. He did not see how so many men close to Nixon could be involved in the planning of the break-in without the President knowing of it; if Nixon knew about it, Rogers decided the President either was too stupid or else too incompetent to hold his office.⁴⁴

As to Nixon's refusal to reveal the content of the tapes, Rogers feared that the President was trying to protect himself behind the shield of his office. On April 29, 1974, President Nixon made a televised address to the nation, saying he would release edited transcripts of certain subpoenaed tapes. The disclosures of these transcripts shocked Rogers, not only because of the distasteful language used but also because of the lack of ethics and morality which they implied on the part of the President and his advisors. Of course, Rogers hoped that by following the constitutional process of impeachment and that by the revelations which were made, the democratic process would be refreshed and strengthened.⁴⁵ Subsequent events proved him correct.

Rogers also worried about the drug problem of the world. He did not understand why people felt they needed drugs to face everyday life. Inasmuch as he had always been interested in young people, Rogers was

particularly disturbed by stories of drug abuse. He thought that drugs decayed the sense of values of young people and led to sexual promiscuity. Rogers wondered how such people ever would know the beauty of a lasting relationship with one person.⁴⁶

Another subject about which Rogers has tried to keep informed in recent years is the economy. He questioned all the recent shortages of goods that America has experienced, thinking that some of these have been artificially induced. He still wanted to see a responsible attitude on the part of business, government, and labor. In economics, as well as in foreign policy, Rogers had not become an isolationist.⁴⁷ To Rogers, there was no room for isolationism on any level of human experience, whether as an individual or as a nation. Rogers wanted to see an ecumenical movement in all areas of life, for he thought this was the only way humanity could survive and prosper.⁴⁸

Rogers frequently stated how much he had enjoyed his life and the people he had known. He did not complain about his health or denounce people who had disappointed him. If he did not agree with someone, or if he found a person's presence disturbing, he tried to avoid them. This attitude, as well as much of what he did in his life, can be traced to his heritage in rural Missouri. Rogers believed this was a basis for everything he had done in his long and full life.⁴⁹ When he had been growing up, Rogers and his family had not enjoyed much leisure time, and communication was difficult. Thus their relationships with other people were treasured; they did not want to waste their time hating. In rural Missouri, neighbors had to help each other survive, and people had valued the principles of keeping busy and working diligently. They had not known the forty-hour work weeks. As Rogers had matured, he kept

these principles with which he had been raised.

In addition, Rogers' family had been religious. However, he was not comfortable in the Baptist church, which his mother and grandmother attended, but he did believe in the Christian faith and became a member of the Disciples of Christ as a young man despite his grandmother's disapproval. This denoted both his independence and his concern about his spiritual life. As a student at the University of Oklahoma, he had joined the Young Men's Christian Association and went to its Institute and Training School at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. There, after speaking with ministers and a bishop, Rogers had decided to make his religion his chief avocation. For the rest of his life he was involved in business, education, and community affairs, but all his speeches reflected his Christian faith.

Rogers' admiration for his older brother, Harry, had brought him to Oklahoma and influenced his choice of career. When Harry became associated with the Chapman-McFarlin family, he had introduced John to them. Although this family's background in ranching was more extensive than that of the Rogers brothers, they held similar values. All these people believed in private charity rather than governmental welfare, and they favored working for success rather than having things given to them. Chapman's ideals were discernable in a comment he once made to one of his employees, Ray Cropper; he told Cropper that he never wanted to take advantage of another man's misfortune. When he purchased property or equipment, Chapman insisted on paying a fair price. He was a clever businessman, but he did not want to take advantage of another person; to do so would hurt someone else as well as disgrace the Chapman reputation.

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Rogers always acknowledged that his clients had allowed him time with his non-business activities. Also important, however, was his personal desire to serve his fellowman. This combination of character, Christian beliefs, rural heritage, and the Chapman's philanthropic spirit was crucial in Rogers' life.

Although Rogers was a Republican, he did not always vote for candidates from that party. In fact, he believed it probable that he had voted for more Democrats than Republicans. This was because he did not believe that the Republican party always nominated the best people. In other words, he voted for the candidate with whom he most agreed regardless of party. He had not changed parties because his father had been a Republican, a reflection of the strong ties he had to his heritage. Rogers also was basically conservative regarding the role of the federal government, yet he was extremely liberal in his personal dealings with people. This was due to his rural background where people helped each other rather than seeking governmental aid, and to his Christian philosophy which demanded self-sacrifice for the love of humanity.

Some people, viewing the life of John Rogers, might conclude that he achieved position, acclaim, and honor merely because of luck, but such was not the case. His origins were humble, but he overcame that through work. He confronted illness, both personal and in his immediate family, but always emerged stronger and more dedicated. And never did he lose sight of his Christian faith and his belief in giving of himself to aid others. In the process he compiled a record of achievement and contribution for which all Oklahomans and Americans can be thankful. The world would be a far better place if others followed his example.

FOOTNOTES

¹"Harry Rogers--A Tribute," The Wheel of Fortune, December 13, 1957, p. 3; Donald Adams, "Harry Rogers--An Appreciation," The Rotarian, February, 1958, p. 29.

²Perry, pp. 1-3.

³Ivan J. Singleton to the National Conference of Christians and Jews, April 14, 1959, R. P.

⁴E. K. Gaylord to John Rogers, April 29, 1959, R. P.

⁵The Oklahoma-Eagle, May 7, 1959, p. 1.

⁶Certificate of Commission from Governor Johnston Murray to John Rogers, February 17, 1954, R. P.

⁷George L. Cross to John Rogers, March 30, 1960, R. P.; John Rogers to George L. Cross, March 30, 1960, R. P.

⁸The Daily Oklahoman, June 6, 1960, p. 6; O. U. College of Law Association Newsletter, October, 1960, p. 1.

⁹The Tulsa Daily World, November 17, 1961, p. 1; The Oklahoma City Times, November 17, 1961, p. 22.

¹⁰Hastings Harrison to John Rogers, April 6, 1961, R. P.; Hastings Harrison to John Rogers, January 6, 1966, R. P.

¹¹San Antonio Express/News, May 30, 1964, pp. 8-A, 12-A.

¹²John Rogers, "Factual Answers to the Charges," The Christian, May 9, 1965, p. 16.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 17.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Ibid., p. 18.

¹⁷Mary Francis and Donald E. Hayden, to John and Hazel Rogers, March 20, 1965, R. P.

¹⁸The Tulsa Tribune, April 3, 1965, p. 7; The Tulsa Herald, April 12, 1965, pp. 1-2; James L. Maxwell, "Proclamation," April 4, 1965, R. P.

¹⁹Rogers has dozens of these letters, cards, and telegrams, which comprise two scrapbooks entitled, "Mr. John Rogers: Distinguished Discipline," Volumes 1 and 2, R. P.

²⁰Ben Henneke to Hazel Rogers, May 14, 1941, R. P.

²¹John Rogers to Mrs. Clyde Wyant, February 16, 1967, R. P.; Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, September 6, 1973, R. P.

²²Ibid.; The Tulsa Tribune, August 9, 1966, p. 17; The Tulsa Daily World, August 10, 1966, p. 1.

²³The Tulsa Tribune, March 14, 1974, p. 12.

²⁴The Tulsa Daily World, June 29, 1966, pp. 1, 21; The Tulsa Tribune, July 6, 1966, p. 39.

²⁵John Rogers to Willis R. Jones, May 3, 1967, R. P.; Willis R. Jones to John Rogers, May 11, 1967, R. P.

²⁶The Daily Oklahoman, June 23, 1967, p. 3; The Tulsa Daily World, June 23, 1967, p. 34; "Resolution by Mayor J. M. Hewgley, Jr., in honor of John Rogers," June 23, 1967, R. P. Over a hundred telegrams and letters were sent to Rogers paying him tribute at this time.

²⁷The Tulsa Daily World, September 25, 1967, p. 20.

²⁸"Introductory Remarks at Mrs. Leta McFarlin Chapman's Induction to the Oklahoma Hall of Fame," November 16, 1967; The Research Reporter, July, 1963, p. 2.

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰The Research Reporter, p. 1.

³¹The Tulsa Daily World, April 11, 1968, p. 11.

³²The Tulsa Daily World, January 19, 1969, p. 16.

³³The Tulsa Daily World, January 29, 1969, p. 1.

³⁴Interview with John Rogers by Cheryl Haun Morris, August 2, 1973, R. C.

³⁵Leta M. Chapman to the Rev. Frank Edmunch See, March 25, 1970, R. P.; Tulsa Daily World, January 10, 197, p. 1.

³⁶Mrs. Frederick P. Walters to Dr. Edgar H. Wilson, April 1, 1970,
R. P.

³⁷News from Home Federal Savings and Loan Association, Spring,
1971, p. 5; The Tulsa Daily World, January 16, 1971, p. 1B.

³⁸The Tulsa Daily World, March 14, 1974, p. 1.

³⁹Ibid.

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Ibid.

⁴²Conversation with John Rogers and Cheryl Haun Morris, September
6, 1973, R. P.

⁴³Conversation with John Rogers and Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15,
1974, R. P.

⁴⁴Ibid.

⁴⁵Ibid.

⁴⁶Ibid.

⁴⁷Ibid.

⁴⁸Ibid.

⁴⁹Boatman, p. 37.

⁵⁰Interview with Ray Cropper by Cheryl Haun Morris, March 15, 1974,
R. C.

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