

# WILL ROGERS

## *Childhood adventures with an Oklahoma legend*

BY CAROLYN ESTES

### CHAPTER 3: *A day on the range*

“Wake up Frank, we gotta get an early start,” Pa said.  
“It’s still dark outside,” Frank said as he rolled toward the window for a quick look.

“It won’t be for long,” Pa said. “By the time we have a few vittles and saddle up the horses it will be light enough. We have to meet up with Mr. Rogers and Will.”

Pa lit the lamp in Frank’s room so Frank could get dressed.

Ma was busy in the kitchen. The pans on the wood cook stove kept her attention as Frank and Pa settled down in their chairs at the table.

“Son, we are going to help with the roundup today. The drovers are bringing in some longhorns so we can get ’em ready for the cattle drive to market up in Kansas City,” said Pa.

“Will and Mr. Rogers will work with us, so don’t forget your rope!” he said as they finished up their meal.

Ma packed some food into their saddlebags and waved as they headed out.

As they rode down by Four Mile Creek they could hear the cowboys bringing up the herd. Their hoofs were kicking up a cloud of dust on the trail.

“Hey, Frank,” Will yelled as he kicked his horse to a gallop in order to catch up.

“Let’s round up a couple of strays,” he said with a big smile as he got his rope off the saddle horn.

“Giddy up,” said Frank as he urged his horse into a gallop alongside of Will.

Will and Frank had spent a lot of time at Dan Walker’s place learning how to rope. Dan was the best roper on the ranch.

Will and Frank liked to help during

roundups and branding. The boys would catch the calves any way they could. Their roping skills were not quite honed. Sometimes they would loop around the neck and sometimes it was the leg, making it harder for the steer to move back to the herd.

Frank and Will helped the wranglers move the herd to Four Mile Creek for water before letting them graze on the bluestem. The rest of the day would be spent bringing Mr. Rogers’ herd in to join the longhorns brought up from Texas.



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Photo courtesy of the Will Rogers Memorial Commission

CHAPTER 3 - 6.4375x10.5

### NEWSPAPER ACTIVITY

1. In this newspaper find some animals for sale.
2. Write a classified ad for the sale of a Longhorn cow.
3. Discuss with your class why you think the Longhorns were going all the way to Kansas City to be sold.

NEXT WEEK: CHAPTER FOUR

*Sleeping under the stars*

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