

# Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beard

**A**ND speaking of school superintendents, it has been pleasant to work with Superintendent DAN BAKER, '26ma, of Pryor who "orders" teachers for his school system from the University of Oklahoma Placement Bureau in gross lots. While not actively superintending the school system at Pryor, Dan is guiding the destiny of a large ranch some two miles out of Pryor that is one of the most modernly-equipped ranches in this section of the country. MRS. BAKER, '26ma, as well as MRS. CLARICE BAKER BAL-LARD and other members of the Baker household have enjoyed work on the University campus...

... That banker across the desk with the "steel glass eye" is no other than the financial wizard of McClain County, CY ELLINGER, '26, of Purcell. The morning I worked with him I was privileged to meet his young sons who in the course of a few more years will be following Dad's footsteps around the Phi Delta Theta house primarily, and the University campus secondarily... Do all bankers have the steel glass eye? At any rate, in working just a few days later with County Advisory Council Chairman EDWIN P. HORNER, '37bus, whose bank is located in Davis, I received the impression that all bankers apply the steel glass eye to any work they are doing. What a swell job Ed has accomplished for the Alumni Association as head of his Advisory Council, by helping us on that occasion and other occasions prior to this visit by running down lost Sooners who

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**PANAMA CANAL ZONE**—Subert Turbyfill, Balboa; Capt. A. A. Albright, Mrs. Gladys Kimbro Knox, Cristobal; Lewis McBride, Corozal.

formerly lived in Davis but have moved elsewhere.

... In the midst of the work with Ed, there appeared over the desk JOHN TURNER, '33ed. m, now in a federal position with offices in Oklahoma City, who was in Davis with other relatives for funeral services of his father, a pioneer in that section of Oklahoma. Not until Ed explained to me after we exchanged greetings with John did I realize that Turner Falls bears the name of John's father and the Turner family who located in that section of the Ar-buckles many, many years ago.

... How the trend of years changes situations! The gentleman on the inside of the window as I peered at the stack of mail from the outside in the postoffice at Sulphur was Postmaster C. E. FAIR, '17ex. C. E. has held the position as postmaster at Sulphur for several years after some thirty or forty years of active work as superintendent in various educational institutions in the State, including, away-back-when, a term as superintendent at Red Oak, Oklahoma. He explained to me that the leader of the Dirty Dozen Gang back in that year 1901 was FRANK CLECKLER, '21, later alumni secretary and now head of the Veterans Administration at Mus-kokee.

... And was that a pleasant suprise in Hugo! Breezing out of the Federal Courtroom was O. A. "DUTCH" BREWER, '20law, arm in arm with FRANK WATSON, '25law, federal district attorney from the Muskogee office. These two battling legal Sooners had just opposed each other across the counsel tables in a most important federal lawsuit. One had lost; the other had won. But here, three minutes later, due to Sooner loyalty and friendship established years before on the campus of the University of Oklahoma, they were breezing along downtown to have a pleasant dinner meeting together. And, of course, we had to spend some time swapping yarns about the various boys scattered over the country, and in appreciating Dutch's point of view about the remarkable record made by his young daughter who was a freshman student at the University last year.

... Swinging on through "Little Dixie," we spent a pleasant hour's work with R. L. BUR-TON, superintendent of schools at Idabel whose wife is the former MIRIAM ANTHONY, '26, in checking the various Sooner grads of McCurtain County to find, by personal interview, those whose addresses had changed, those who had gone on to "greener fields," or those who were still in the enthusiastic Sooner group of Deep Southeast Oklahoma ... In Atoka—well, of course there was "Prexy" MEMMINGER, '14, '33law, and other loyal Sooners having a mid-afternoon coke at the drug store as we drove into town. Various interests were represented in this Sooner assembly: former football stars, outstanding men in the field of education, outstanding attorneys, and others. Two hours later, with the other two-thirds of the Beard household, we were fivering along across country to Highway 77 leading into Norman, and in the late hours of the evening it was stimulating to glance back over a Southeastern tour of Oklahoma and think about how the school-day ambitions of many alumni have been fulfilled by their prominent places in the life of Southeastern Oklahoma.

... It is just a little early this Tuesday morn-ing of July 26 to be sipping coffee at the Biltmore, but the alumnus across the way and my breakfast companion on this occasion is none other than United States SENATOR JOSH LEE, '17, who seems to be enjoying the "Oklahoma-made" coffee after a strenuous session in the United States Senate and a whirlwind shift across the seventy-seven counties of the State, in the space of eight days and nights in the interests of the Democratic campaign. It's fine that we can enjoy the food on this occasion without the topic of local, state, or national politics entering into

the breakfast discussion. The fact of the matter is, it seems like some of the "old days" when Josh was the public speaking "teacher" at the University and I was the Extension Division hired hand, during which hours we would slip off between classes at 10 o'clock and go over to the recreation room of the Oklahoma Union and have a bottle coke with Bill Owen. And Josh has just told me about what three fine days and nights he spent on his ranch in western Oklahoma, while MRS. LEE, '23ex, and the children also enjoyed being "out where the West begins." Well, we will see them often now because they are moving back to their Oklahoma home on Lahoma Avenue, in Norman, and Josh declares he will be here as a resident until about the first of January, when he goes back to his task in the halls of the United States Senate ... And coming out of this Biltmore breakfast, on my way to the assigned work of the morning in the Civic Room of the Biltmore, who is the distinguished looking gentleman that I find at the registration desk but GEORGE HANN, '36ed.m, who for a number of years was the very successful superintendent of public schools at Clinton and just a few weeks ago moved his family to Ardmore where he now heads the Ardmore schools as superintendent. The authority papers that he seems to be signing here are for J. C. BARNETT, '32ed.m, of Southwestern State Teachers College at Weatherford, and JERRY TEBBEE, '21law, attorney at law, Perry, who are two of the dozens of delegates to the 124th District Rotary Officers Convention held at the Biltmore July 26.

... And breezing through the lobby before we entered the sacred sanctum sanctorium of the Rotary brethren from the seventy-seven counties, we see the flaming redhead, Lee B., on his way to the courtroom to "present justice." The flaming red-head, of course, is LEE B. THOMPSON, '27law, prominent young Oklahoma City attorney. Then, too, another early morning caller at the Biltmore on a business mission was MARY FRANCES CARPENTER, '36ex, who is now secretary to the post-graduate study committee of the Oklahoma State Medical Society, located in the Osler Building ... And what is this that I am bumping into in the Civic Room? Here's the very gracious B. C. SWINNEY, a friend of the University, who for a number of years has headed the public school system of the City of Lawton, here as a Rotary delegate from his home group ... And the good Old Man of Oklahoma English education, Professor F. C. OAKES, '03, from Central State Teachers College at Edmond, who has been there since—well, I don't know when—but I know long enough to expose "yours truly" to a very fine class in Argument and Debate, in his English department back in the summer of 1915 ... The morning is quite warm outside, but there is air-conditioning in the Civic Room, for there is CLARENCE "JACK" FROST, '31, a Sooner graduate of Hobart, who is here as another Rotary Delegate. And, of course, there is smiling, freckle-faced, red-headed NEIL KELLER, '33law, secretary of the Norman Rotary group, parked confidentially with his chief, President HAL MULDRON, JR., '28bus, of the Norman group, receiving the instructions of the morning from the Bigwigs of the session ...

... But I must away from the Rotary session and meet a special committee of other alumni on business in connection with the construction work on the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building on the campus at the University ... Making four strides in one, I see other Sooners in this bird's eye view across Main and Broadway—There's R. M. MCCOOL, '31ex, strolling along talking with some gentleman as they proceed north ... then there's NEWT DOWDY, '18ex. He, too, is in a rush about something, making his way through the filled lobby of the Midwest Building, impatiently waiting for the elevator to come to his rescue ... A dash into Rothchild's to buy the proverbial five-cent handkerchief that I left on the dressing table at home bumps me face to face with SAM SULLIVAN, '38law, recently elected legislator from Bryan County. Sam is, of course, making his plans for various types of legislative work for the ensuing session ... And so, that is the run of the morning—a most interesting one, and as usual filled with meetings with Sooners from here, there and everywhere.