

# Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beaird

**T**HE Trail of *Cheers*—that's it, "cheers" for those ambitious and talented youngsters who each April and May find that by hard work and extra burning of midnight oil they have earned their way into the state finals of extracurricular educational competitions! A fine crew, we'll say! Check these kids over the past thirty-year period—the ones who have participated as state and national finalists in various educational activities events, and you will find state and national leaders in the ranks.

And who have been some of the men and women behind the scenes, sponsoring this work?

Well, there's DR. J. W. SCROGGS (eighty odd years old and the retired dean of University Extension work); JOSH LEE, '17, Junior United States Senator from Oklahoma; WILL ROGERS, '30ed.m, Oklahoma Congressman-at-Large; FRANK G. TAPPAN, "century-plus" engineering professor at O. U.; BEN OWEN, grand ole man of O. U. athletics; JOHN O. MOSELEY, '16ma, new dean of students at the University of Tennessee; WALTER ISLE, '15, President of Southwestern State College at Weatherford; State Representative MOSS WIMBISH, now a law student at O. U.; WALTER B. EMERY, '34law, on leave from O. U. to work for a doctor's degree to be received this June at the University of Wisconsin; PERRILL MUNCH BROWN, '14, '38ma, popular speech teacher at O. U.; DON WRIGHT, student, the boy of boys as O. U.'s speech activity director of '39; E. E. BRADLEY, '37ex, professor at Panhandle A. and M.; ROY JONES, '37ph.d, director of such work at Central State College; HERBERT SCOTT, '26 ma, director of the O. U. Extension Division; HOMER R. HECK, '35ex, director of WNAD radio station; HAROLD HENDERSON LEAKE, '37fa, production manager of WNAD; CHARLES PRICE GREEN, '25, head of O. U.'s speech department; RUTH GOBER, '25fa, '28, Blackwell, state president of the Speech Teachers Association; JOE CALLAWAY, '39ex, the Shakespearean specialist of New York's World Fair, formerly of O. U.'s School of Drama; ALMA SHAW, '34ex, of Federal Theater fame; MARY GRAY THOMPSON, '21fa, head of the M. G. T. School of Speech at Oklahoma City; JIM ROBINSON, '32, '32law, head of the Speech Department at Northeastern College, Tahlequah; J. F. MALONE, '36ex, now of Atlanta, Georgia, formerly with O. U. in various "directing" capacities; J. C. BARNETT, '32ed.m, of Southwestern College.

*The Tillie the Toilers*—yes, they too have helped by doing all the work at the state office at the University of Oklahoma while we "directors" have directed! Down through the years those who have labored long and hard in carrying forward this 77-county-wide program are: HICKS EPTON, '32law, now a prominent attorney at Wewoka and Alumni Executive Board member; D. E. "BILL" HODGES, '25, '27law, outstanding attorney at Oklahoma City and former assistant United States District Attorney under HERBERT (SLICK) HYDE, '18ex, who as an O. U. student was *no slouch* in oratory, and was "tops" as blind rider to Dallas for the O. U.-Longhorn football brawl; MARGUERITE MADDOX, '23ex, now married and somewhere in California; BERNICE EDWARDS, '26ex, she too now married and in Oklahoma City; NENA RUTH GIBBINS, '36, married and somewhere in Texas or Louisiana; LELA GIBBINS, '28ex, who graduated in journalism at the University of Missouri due to the influence of Bob Hill (alumni hired hand at M. U.), now at Idabel with the State Employment Service; CHARLES W. HAXEL, '28ex, for the last twelve years

with the Continental Oil Company at Ponca City; RUEBEN McCORNACK, '30law, "the blue bird philosopher," now at Arkansas City, Kansas.

ARTA MAGINNIS JAMES, '32bus, the Lakeland, Florida product, is no longer the "Tillie" in the state office but is now the manager de luxe of Ted, Sr., (the hubby) and Ted, Jr. (the young manager of the household), supervising the work with the Federal Government in the Kansas location. PAULINE GRAY ROBINSON, '29, no longer makes up "brackets" for active participation, but for some years now has made up beds for husband MARVIN, '29ex, and the charming young daughter in the Robinson household in Oklahoma City. PATRICIA LYON MANNEN, '34ed, has now become the "glamour girl" for the New Deal Agency in her Washington, D. C. office. Indeed, it is reported that she just about runs the Treasury Department. However, she too had excellent training in the state office managing the state youngsters in their active work down through the years. HELEN KELLER, '31ex, along with husband NEIL KELLER, '36law, have, in a like manner, worked for years in the interest of speech education in helping Oklahoma youngsters.

All these, along with some 200-plus others have been instrumental in developing educational activity work, and steering students in this field on to state and national recognition at various periods during the last thirty years, particularly in the field of speech education.

But, who are some of the many men and women on the firing line in the senior high schools and colleges of Oklahoma, training day after day and week after week each season, these successful young citizens? Let's look!

B. L. WERTZ and PARTHENIA GREGORY, '16, at Central High School in Muskogee; C. E. GRADY, '30ex, (Pop and Colonel to his associates, and father of two fine sons sent to O. U.) and MRS. HAMPTON TUCKER, JR. (Elaine Johnston, '29ex), of Classen at Oklahoma City, the old wheel horse JAKE HOOVER, '28, of Central at Oklahoma City. Another who has made more than one national contribution in his work is HAROLD NETHERTON, law student, of Capitol Hill at Oklahoma City. EULA BOULWARE PETERSON, '35ex, what a teacher, what a trainer of the Altus Junior College students! And incidentally, "Unc" Clifford, fine young husband of Mrs. Peterson, has contributed his share in this work in more than one way. State newspapers report he has been advanced to high school principalship in Altus, taking the position held for the last six years by Sooner ROY DAVIS, '23, '34ed.m, who goes to Grandfield as superintendent of schools.

IRENE SHAUL, '33fa, '36, Idabel teacher (and how she has developed students in the deep Southeast). She'll be back with us at O. U. next year for graduate work, WNAD work, Union work and general work just as she did in the days of Sylvia Mariner and YVONNE DYMOND, '35fa, and others, in our palmiest day in '35 (of course MRS. C. GUY BROWN, '32ex, should be included in that wisecrack). In Broken Bow High School, LOUIS NANCE, '30law, also has done *his* part.

EDWARD E. BATTLES, '26, superintendent at Henryetta, and L. F. BATTLES, '21ex, superintendent at Carnegie, are two who have won many flank attacks in this battle-of-words war! DAN BAKER, '26ma, superintendent at Pryor, and O. H. HOLMAN, '19ex, superintendent at Wynona, are a pair that have been with us down through the years in student guidance and good will ambassadors of speech education in Oklahoma high schools.

From his days as superintendent of schools at Shamrock and during the last nine years of his superintendency at Washita, Superintendent C. W. GUISSINGER, '31ex, has been one of the most enthusiastic speech education promoters in the Southwest.

ROY GRANTHAM, '34, '34law, popular young instructor in Ponca City High, along with WOODSON TYREE, '26, of the same department, have never let down in this educational training with their students. Others? Yes, scads of 'em, among whom we find JOE JACKSON, '34, Bristow High School; HURST SWIFFART, '31ex, Cushing High School; HENRY FORD, '27ex; Clinton High School; E. R. ARMSTRONG, '26ex, Cooperation High School; WARREN KLEINSTEIBER, '37ex, Bartlesville; HARVEY CROMWELL, '38ex, El Reno; MRS. BOYD GILKEY (JESSE LONE CLARKSON), '27fa, of Chickasha; NELLIE WATERMAN, along with the sage of many, many banquet speeches and strings of oratory, ELMER FRANKER, '20, '38ma, both of Chickasha High School; ELBERT COSTNER, '29, '39ma, superintendent of schools of Panama; LESTER M. "DUTCH" DOUGHTY, '24, superintendent at Tahlequah; C. C. "CHET" BEAIRD, '29ms, at present educational field representative for a state business college; HENRY HANSON, '29ex, Ardmore—along with the "lesser lights" of the same city school system; Superintendent GEORGE HANN, '36ed.m, and Senior High School Principal BEN OGDEN, '26ma; RALPH BRAND, '33, '38ma, and his sidekicks JAMES R. "JIMMIE" FRAZIER, '24, '32ed.m, the ole master of "Queens" in O. U. days, and hard hitting Superintendent HARRY SIMMONS, '24, of the Wewoka school system; D. J. NABORS, of Horace Mann School (East Central State College High School at Ada); MRS. IONA B. FREEMAN, '31ex, of Ada Senior High with her Superintendent, DAN PROCTER, '36ed.m, as a guiding influence in the background. HOMER REESE, '22, '29ma, of Heavener High School; MRS. MAE O'BANNON, '28, of Miami, along with CHLOE ARMSTRONG, of the State Junior College in Miami, have contributed more than their part. RUBY RUTH VINCENT, '24fa, '25, '36ma, Cameron College of Lawton, never hesitates! Superintendent BENNIE McELYEA, '27, '36ed.m, Hobart—indeed, that boy must include eighty per cent of his budget in promoting practical training (extracurricular work), at any rate his assistant TOM BARKER, '25, '38ed.m, does things in the way of training Hobart youngsters. MARY BLACK, '23ex, the redhead of Duncan High School, and how she rates in her work with her superior officer, Superintendent N. L. GEORGE, '26, '31ed.m. GEORGIA LEDBETTER, '34fa, Alva, gets the job done, and incidentally her Superintendent HORACE HENSLEY, '37ed.m, (or was until last week) says, "One activity teacher in America is Georgia"! JEAN HOLLAND, '27, '29ma, of the State College at Alva—swell girl this Jean—also fine brothers, some of whom are LOYAL B. "JACK" HOLLAND, '18, of Illinois oil fields and other parts; WEAVER HOLLAND, '13, of Dallas; RANSOME HOLLAND, '29eng, of Ponca City, recently of South America. And there's HARLAN MITCHELL with a fine national record at Seminole High School, and MARY "MARY MERRILLY ANN" HACKETT, '31, '33ma, who also is an outstanding teacher there. BRYAN GRIFFIN, '22, Lawton, is another we find contributing much to American youth. We find them everywhere as we Ride the Sooner Range!