

# Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beard

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Subert Turbyfill, Henry K. Goetz, Balboa; Lewis McBride, Corozal; Mrs. Gladys Kimbro Knox, Cristobal.

### HONOLULU, T. H.

Lieut. Perry B. Hackett, chairman.

THAT Southwest again! Back home and it looks like the whole southwestern tier of counties had assembled that January evening for the 7 o'clock alumni banquet in the New Orient Hotel at Altus. Just fifteen minutes late getting to the banquet table, but at that we have enjoyed seeing a lot of old friends in the lobby. BLAIR THORPE '21—the neighbors must have been good to him as he has gained considerably in weight in these twenty-five years—or is it thirty some odd since we were in grade school together in the "gyp country" of Eldorado? A brief chat with DUTCH CULLEN. Dutch of course never attended the University of Oklahoma, but he is ready to stake the Coca Cola Bottling Company and all he has in the interests of the University. Then the old banker, OTIS ROWE, '18ex, recently married, after proving that the bank at Blair, Oklahoma, is the only financial institution of the southwest. At any rate, he was a good roommate at the University of Oklahoma before he was a good banker in the interests of Jackson County.

So on into the banquet room where some 170 loyal Sooners from some ten counties of the southwest are ready for the big evening. The University gang had beaten me to the draw. They were already assembled at the head table ready for the fireworks when I finally made it from the lobby floor. In this assembly was HERBERT H. SCOTT, '26, '26ma, J. F. MALONE, '36ex, C. C. BEARD, '29m. ed, PETE SMITH, '38ex, ROSCOE CATE, '26, DOC ERSKINE and TOM STIDHAM. And were they all consuming this "southwestern Oklahoma beef"!

To my left as I am seated I hear the command of the Quarterback, HARRINGTON WIMBERLY, '24, yelling for the signal calling to start. The first signal caller was none other than WALTER W. ISLE, '15. Walt, as you know, is president of the Southwestern Teachers College at Weatherford. He rang the gong as an after dinner speaker, as usual, and made his most gracious bows in presenting the musical numbers at the banquet that evening, a student trio from the college.

The silent signal caller is the quiet but very efficient chairman of the Jackson County Advisory Council, PAUL F. PEARSON, '23ex. I'll bet that bird failed to get one bite to eat all evening. He was bouncing around like the proverbial cork on rough waters. ROY H. DAVIS, '23, '34m.ed, of the senior high school was strutting his stuff with special introductions; while DR. JAMES E. ENSEY, '28med, another member of the Advisory Council, was giving his most gracious bows in acknowledging new friends and greeting old ones. DR. JOHN REID (well, he used to be John up at Blair and in those days chased around the race track carrying the southwestern colors) is now chasing over southwestern Oklahoma performing outstanding surgical work.

Over in the corner is "Old Faithful" MILES TOLBERT, '23law, the attorney of Hobart and Kiowa County, who has with him as special guests of the evening DR. and MRS. J. WATKINS, PLACE MONTGOMERY, '25law, STUB

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CLAY, '32law, COACH DUPREE and MARVIN CHENEAULT. Of course old Greer County (how I remember old Greer County as a good wind storm center in kid days) was represented by the Mangum delegation headed by LEM H. TITTLE, '15law, and Mrs. Tittle (MALLIE JO MILLER, '15), and accompanied by MR. and MRS. JOE TUTIN with two of the '39 senior boys from Mangum, CHARLES McCAUL and HARRISON MCGREGOR.

Frederick, the Tillman County seat of activity, was represented by Coach JOHNNY GREGG, who, early next summer, moves up into Jackson County as head coach at Altus. Coach Johnny had with him three '39 seniors of Frederick, GLEN DOBBS, All-State Quarterback, JAMES WADE, All-Conference Tackle, and G. W. TUCKER, All-Conference Center. (What a bunch of "All's" that Coach Johnny has developed! Wonder what he will do in Altus in future months?)

One University of Texas man, a football official for the Southwestern Conference, along with his colleague, a T. C. U. man and another football "hot shot" who calls them when they are struck below the belt, were there in attendance from Chillicothe, Texas—W. W. BRAGG and LAWRENCE CHAMPION, respectively.

Their immediate guest is O. U.'s ROY HOLLINGSWORTH, '37ex, the boy who is doing the swell job at Walters. The three of them are talking over some problems of war with Supt. A. G. STEELE, '33m.ed, and Principal CLIFFORD PETERSON, '36ed, of the Altus public school system. That O. U. dad, CLYDE STEPHENS, who now has a daughter and son in the University, MARY J. and JOFFRE STEPHENS, is there from Walters with senior high school son, Sammy, and is he proud of those children!

And then that good old Jackson County center, Eldorado, was represented by our "age old" friend, H. P. KUSER, '27, city superintendent of schools, who introduced us to J. D. WESTFALL, '38m.ed, his Junior High School principal.

DAD D. F. SMITH, the fine old gentleman of Jackson County, was there from Eldorado attending the banquet with his daughter, Dean EMILY B. SMITH, '31ma, of the Altus Junior College. Supt. D. L. BOYER, '36ex, was there as the "single hand" representing the Elmer-Hess Schools as superintendent. The man of men in my young life was there with his 17-year-old son who soon comes to the University to pursue his course in business administration. He is my old friend J. FRED EAKER, at present superintendent of schools at Olustee, but for "nigh onto a century and a half" headed the "largest little school in America," Blair, Jackson County, Oklahoma.

And then of course Central State Teachers College of Edmond always sends outstanding representatives to this southwestern assembly. On this night, O. U.'s CLAUD E. REED, '14, the Central athletic director, was accompanied by ERNEST HOWELL, '15, '35m.ed, of the college staff as representative from Edmond. It is peculiar that STEWART HARREL, '36ma, spent his evening somewhere between Lawton and Altus in a wreck (no, not a serious wreck—it's the kind that Stewart and I drive all the time and it failed to breathe hard enough to make Altus on schedule).

Well, we'll be back again, we hope, in '40, and several more of the '40s to follow, because this all-southwestern alumni banquet usually proves to be one of the high lights of the entire season.

The evening papers in Tulsa (that's the Oil Center of the Universe, so old ELTON HUNT, '13law, BILL EAGLETON, '19law, FLOY ELLIOTT COBB, '17, and dozens of these other "settlers" of here tell me) show in glaring headlines that on this Wednesday evening, February 8, the "school marms are coming to town." I

can testify to one thing as I look over this sea of faces in the lobby and elevators of the Mayo Hotel, that not all of the 20-odd thousand teachers in Oklahoma are coming to town, because it seems that several thousand of them have already arrived.

This annual O. E. A. session brings together probably more thousands of O. U. people than any other one function in the course of the year. I know that with PREXY BIZZELL'S assistance, EMIL KRAETTLI'S interference running, ROSCOE CATE'S tackling, HOMER HECK'S maneuvering, and the efficient work of former employee of the Alumni Office, MARGARET ANN HAMILTON, '38ex, who is now with an oil company in Tulsa, we have said How-do-you-do's, signed up alumni attendance cards, sold alumni dinner tickets, to thousands upon thousands of teachers, but of course it's all in the run of the convention, and this one's beginning early.

It is peculiar how some of these orators make the headlines because they have "expostulated" on some theory of student management, but I wish you would look at this *Tribune* report tonight of the big speeches of O. U.'s Counselor of Women, MARGARET STEPHENSON, and her assistant MARGARET ANN GESSNER, before the Oklahoma Council of Deans of Women. And then somebody said after those two big splurges of oratory that the hundreds of ladies who attended that session mobilized on the mezzanine floor of the Mayo and sipped tea and swapped ideas.

I guess MALVINA STEPHENSON, '36ma, is still the excellent reporter, because here she is breaking out during this convention with the art of art work on the front page of the *Tulsa World*. The subject (or should I say *subjects*)—DEAN ELLSWORTH COLLINGS in his cowboy boots, breeches legs rolled to the knees, dancing the Highland Fling, and the dancing maiden is reported to be a primary teacher of Maud, Oklahoma. Malvina always scoops! We remember other occasions when she has made news out of news—well, when it was not even there!

The convention goes on, the teachers learning how to teach, educators learning how to educate, and hired hands realizing that it is hard to make a living registering and directing people of this mob proportion.

But the real goal of the convention, so far as Sooners and O. U. are concerned, was reached on Friday evening, February 10, at which time the Tulsa County Advisory Council and officers of the Alumni Association sponsored what has been up to this date the largest Alumni dinner this year. The University Club was stacked to the ceiling.

An overflow crowd was even sent to the main dining room and after consuming a well-balanced dinner came back for the indigestion measures in the form of two-minute speeches which, incidentally, were greatly relieved by Prexy Bizzell's address which followed later in the evening (and he rang the gong), with the evening being tapered off with JAP HASKELL, '22, and PETE SMITH presenting motion picture films of the Orange Bowl escapade.

In looking back it's stimulating to see how well C. C. INGLE, '24, the immediate man in charge, along with his co-workers, GEORGE L. SNEED, JR., '37law, FLOY ELLIOTT COBB, DR. OLIVER HODGE, '33m.ed, '37ed.d, DR. J. T. WADE, '24ed, '35ma, JUDGE HARRY L. S. HALLEY, '17law, DR. HUGH PERRY, '26med, DAVID MILSTEN, '28law, CLAUD ROSENSTEIN, '13law, ELTON HUNT, BILL EAGLETON, and DR. FRANK R. PAULY, '17, really managed this dinner. And of course all of us look forward to two years hence when this same committee will welcome hundreds of O. U. grads again.

Well, that's the way it goes in the run of the month. I sometimes wonder if the other half of the world is meeting the first half of the world coming home from O. U. dinners!