

Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beard

ALL-FOOLS-DAY (April 1, 1940) passed ten days ago! Is it "foolish" to think of 'em—that array of Sooners who have helped "the hired hand" to Ride the Range for years plus years? Maybe so!—But here goes for an intimate glance (in most cases) into their likes and dislikes as we (meaning I) have personally known them!

This serving on an important policies-determining commission (the Alumni Executive Board) is not all roses—indeed, I have long since learned just that! It requires TIME—it means SACRIFICE—it means one (or many) must have DEVOTION to a "cause"! Each year, a group who have served three full years in the shuffle, determined the rules of the game, weathered the storms, and in short, doped out the destiny of what they consider a greater University of Oklahoma, retire to sober meditation. Who—in 1940—retires to the "rockin' chair"? The six who have served well, made their contributions, and can well afford to take their curtain calls in June, now pass in review.

GRAHAM JOHNSON, '19, Norman—("Fat" to you football fans of the late 'teens) will, after his term expires in June, be able to devote more time to managing his various interests, but we hope will continue to counsel and advise with us. HARRY L. S. HALLEY, '15, '17law, Tulsa—our classification of an outstanding judge, a square shooter, and a man among men. JOHN R. PEARSON, '29, '29law, Pawhuska, "Fair-Square-John"—interested in his fine family, interested in his profession, interested in his University—What more could one want?

COLEMAN HAYES, '24, '26law, Oklahoma City—a chap of few words—but action! We have seen him under the acid test—BUT never wanting! MILES TOLBERT, '21, '23law, Oklahoma City—yes, Oklahoma City, but at heart still a *Hobart*, Oklahoma boy! One of the Tolberts who, in the run of years plus years, has made their contributions to O. U.! And—number six to go off the board—but indeed *not least*, ELTON B. HUNT, '13law, Tulsa, a fine dad of an outstanding young son and daughter. Not only a good Executive Board member of the O. U. Alumni, but in the rate book of Sigma Chi one of the outstanding national officers of America! Yes, his advice and counsel will be missed as a board member upon expiration of his three-year term, but we hope a friendship developed will be a lasting chain on to the 1990's!

So—off they go, these six, and—"many happy returns to each of you!" Thanks for three pleasant years! Our appreciation to you for time that (we feel) was well spent! And—now that you are an "ex"—well, don't feel on the outside; indeed, the water is fine; stay in the swim!

In the course of the next thirty-five days, six persons will be elected by O.U. alumni members (world wide) from the list of eighteen nominees presented by the nominating committee, to take up the torch from the "rockin' chair crew" listed above!

Six men (and women) who will serve until 1943 on this policies determining commission—let's look 'em over! Who are they? What are their likes and dislikes? Indeed, how did they "get that way"? WILLIAM R. WOLFE, '26eng, '38prof.ec, Muskogee—the "Belle Isle Beach" (summer gift to ladies) life guard in student days! Winner of the coveted Shrine Ring in 1937 and the present state prexy of the Oklahoma Society of Professional Engineers. JAMES L. ROBINSON, '32, '32law, Tahlequah—Orator de luxe! An educator who educates! As a 4 a.m. paper delivery boy in the late '20s at O.U., he earned his way through school. Yes, indeed, he was "up" then (deliverin' papers)—since that time has been going up in his profession! JEWELL RISINGER

DITMARS, '19, Muskogee,—a 'teen days buddy and co-worker at O.U. Today, (after a session of "school-marmin'")—the wife of SIDNEY F. (LIFE MEMBER) "DIT" DITMARS, and the charming mother of Sid, Jr., 15, and Jewell Maurine, 12. And what fine times they have with our BEN COOLEYS and daughters on visits to Norman. ERNEST H. BLACK, '19, Bristow—yes, since 1916 we have known him. His "ladder" has been in place year by year! During his years as president of Lions, president of O.E.A., president of Department of Oklahoma School Superintendents, president of the Oklahoma Tuberculosis Association—indeed, plus his golfing, fishing, and Phi Delta Kappa days, months and years—it has been a pleasure to be associated with him! RANSOME G. HOLLAND, '29eng, Ponca City—that Ransome boy (now the man) was "the kid next door"—our neighbor! More than five years on an important work assignment in South America—then back home, and now the proud daddy of Nancy Jean (near three years) and Barbara Jo (near three months) and the fishin' companion of CHARLIE HAXEL, '27ex, Ponca City. CHARLES H. FAWKS, JR., 19, Snyder—Yes, he too, remembers the early day "twisters" (while we were all kids) in Snyder! Took his fling as a "G-man" (Federal Land Bank employee *once*)—all-around activity man in O.U., including Student Council, Junior Prom, *Sooner Yearbook* staff, and topped off by Pe-et and Letzeiser Medal! Nice going, Charlie,—and, it's fine to hear from you again! DENVER D. KIRKLAND, '33ed.m, Coalgate. As superintendent of Coalgate Schools—well, he is doin' things! Not only an outstanding school administrator, but ranch-man (and, boy what a ranch!), a hunter, and "dry land fisherman," BUT he finds time to serve (and serve well) as present president of the Oklahoma School Administrators!

W. HARRINGTON WIMBERLY, '24, Altus, newspaper publisher deluxe! (Later, April 25 to be exact, this outstanding chap finds it impossible to allow his name on the ballot due to other "civic" work in the State Press Association and with the Oklahoma Society for Crippled Children.)

CLEO C. INGLE, '24, Tulsa—No banker has a "glass eye" to compare! A fine and enthusiastic business man. As prexy of the Tulsa Real Estate Board and president of the Tulsa Institute of Governmental Research, plus his keen interest in son Donald (age 6) and tiny Sue Carol (age two) he is, in adult life, carrying forward as a true "cadet major" as he did in his activity work while at O.U.! JAMES A. (that "A" is for *Ardell*) STRICKLAND, '21pharm, Nowata—retired Pill Roller but an active drug business owner. As the original and first prexy of the O.U. Pi K.A. chapter (1920)—Jimmie is today (and will be for years to come) remembered by his associates from coast to coast, for many outstanding contributions—and soon he is to send us his daughter, Lou Netti, to become a daughter of "O.U.-ville."

FRANK S. HORNE, '24, Barnsdall. Born in Denver, Colorado, educated at O.U., married at Winfield, Kansas—with a "complex" in hobbies and interest, namely, fishing, fishing, fishing and hunting—this "ole time cronic" still finds time for all Masonic Orders (plus Shrine and Shrine Patrol)—to do his bit in the American Legion and then to fill plenty of hours of labor as refinery superintendent for his company!

Gosh! Why did our classes fail to meet in 1921 at the same hour and place? I'll take this item up with the Geology "hot shots." VIC MONNETT, DOC A. J. WILLIAMS, DOC DECKER and others of the O. U. Geology School should have outlined the schedule so Ted Beard could have been associated with the now DOLLIE RADLER HALL, '20, '21ms, Tulsa! What a

"nominee" on the ballot!! Zeke says, "She's tops,"—and Zeke (JAMES HARVEY VAN ZANT, '23, '26ms, Enid) is always right! At present (and since 1921) geologist for the Amerada Petroleum Corporation, Dollie has "done things and gone places"—even Phi Beta Kappa (ten years after O.U. graduation, as recognition of accomplishment).

PAUL W. REED, '16ex, Sulphur. Our idea of a chap who gets the job done! Indeed, *only one Paul W.* in the O. U. records! Native Sooner (and what I mean Native!) As Chamber of Commerce prexy at 21 years of age—a "gob" during the World War—an advocate of ED MEACHAM'S, BEP HUITTO'S and DON NICHOLSON'S Kappa Sig order—as a fine husband to a gracious Oklahoma Aggie Pi Phi wife—as a real dad to Paul, Jr. (who, at 12 years of age doesn't know any other school but O. U. exists)—as a Rotarian, 32° Mason, and Shriner, plus an outstanding businessman, who for the past year, has been a successful alumni representative on the O. U. Athletic Council—well, he's just "it."

HAL MULDRON, JR., '28bus, Norman—polished, dignified, and a "completer"! Outstanding in state circles since his graduation in '28 in the same manner in which he was a student leader in O. U. Tonight, as this "Range Sketch" is written, the metropolitan press of the nation carries headlines about one of his more recent accomplishments. What an honor! During his term as president of the Norman Rotary Club—well, to quote the press, it says, "World hears of Norman—Award for Foreign Service, by Norman, Oklahoma Rotary Club to be Presented at International Convention in Havana, Cuba in June—Competing in international service activities against more than 5,000 Rotary Clubs in 60 foreign countries and the United States, Norman, Oklahoma walked off with first place."

ELVIN D. FREEMAN, '17eng, Oklahoma City, as a member of the O. U. varsity track team in 1915-16 and a winner of the coveted "O" in pole vaulting in 1916—achieving the distinction of honorary member of the Sigma Tau and successfully filling the presidency of the A. I. E. E.—this engineer is still climbing high as superintendent of transmission and distribution for his company. MRS. EULA PETERSON, '35ex, Altus—the proven Southwestern Oklahoma product who has, over her series of years in teaching in senior high school and junior college, made an outstanding contribution! Being awarded the National Recognition Plaque in 1936 for the greatest contribution in speech education in senior high school and junior college circles of the entire country is characteristic of Eula Boulware Peterson!

W. NEVILLE GILLUM, '35law, Sayre. As student assistant in the University of Oklahoma, "Gilly" was for years the right-hand man in the Public Information Service of the Extension Division. Since graduation he has found time to "list services well done" as county attorney since 1937. Just now a one-year-old son, Gary Patrick, is causing the young dad to file many a brief in the interests of the Gillum household. FINLEY McLAURY, '16law, Snyder—still carrying through with military precision in the same characteristic McLaury fashion exemplified during the World War, at which time he graduated from the School of Military Aeronautics, Austin, Texas, and the School of Fire, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, topping off as second lieutenant in the observation section at the close of the War. This chap Finley, with daughter Mary now a junior in the College of Business Administration, and son Steve a sophomore in Arts and Sciences, has more than passing interest in his University.

So-o-o—there they are, eighteen of 'em—in the race and off to the May 15, 1940 finish line when exactly six—one-third—will break the tape in the home-stretch! Power to you, eighteen strong! A lot of your friends and former associates will be askin' about you as we cover the Range!

Yes, and I must be off—Kansas City, St. Louis, Terre Haute (and other "inland sea ports") all set for late-April dates with "O. U.-ites" who are already screamin'—"Get movin'", cow-hand—it's time to Ride the Sooner Range!"