

Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beard

YEA Bo! "It takes a heap o' livin' "—in a state university and "a heap o' tradition and lore" to make any state university respect its landmarks! In the "nigh onto one-half century" that the University of Oklahoma has been privileged to serve its clientele world wide, many fine traditions have been planted and have lived down through the years!!

The Dads' Association, at one of its earliest meetings in 1926, set up by official convention resolution one of the finest traditions of O.U., namely, the selection annually of the most outstanding young man and the most outstanding young lady from the thousands in the student body of the University proper. To each of these so selected each year, there is presented a magnificent loving cup at the annual Dads' Association meeting. This gesture has indeed proven a tradition and an honor sought for by the more serious minded students in the various fields of training.

Let's drop back and review the case history of some of these young men and young women who have been selected as the honor students by the Dads' Association in former years. DILLON ANDERSON, '28bus, the first young man selected as the outstanding *male* student, is now, as he has been for a number of years, located in Houston, Texas; while his colleague on the *feminine* angle of the 1927 selection is now MRS. NELLIE WEAVER WILL, '28, of Tulsa..... Then look at the selection in the fall of 1928. BRUCE DRAKE, '29phys.ed, now the youthful head basketball coach of the University of Oklahoma, and chief director of the nationally known Boy Scouts, was then in his palmist hours as one of the most outstanding basketball players of all time on the O. U. squad. The feminine colleague of '28, selected by the Dads was the charming MEX RODMAN, '29, now MRS. MEX RODMAN FRATES, a University representative in the younger set of Oklahoma City.

....It was in October, 1930, that the "boy of boys" was selected by the Dads, namely, CARL B. ALBERT, '31, national orator, Rhodes Scholar, and an outstanding student of students during his days at the University, leading on to his record breaking work at Oxford, England, and now the prosperous O.U. attorney in the new oil fields of Mattoon, Illinois..... The natty Beau Brummel selected by the Dads in 1931 was no other than AL M. MULBROW, '33law, who now with his fine young family manages quite an alfalfa estate near Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, and who last week received quite a Masonic honor in the McAlester Consistory..... In the fall of '33, the Dads again selected an outstanding young man, EARL SNEED, JR., '34, '37law, who for many months has been one of the younger life members of the University of Oklahoma Association and who is doing a swell job in his profession in his home city of Tulsa. In the same year of 1933, the outstanding MARGARET ROYS, '34, now MRS. MARGARET ROYS STEVENSON, of Ithaca, New York, was designated as the best all-around woman student. And back in those years, we were privileged (with a lot of pleasure) to be associated in work with Margaret while she was on this campus....

Soon after taking over the duties as "hired hand" in the Alumni Association, the late JAMES F. HAWES, '35, came to our attention as a student employee of the Association. In checking his personnel record we found that "Jimmie" was employed by the Association as an advertising man for *Sooner Magazine* after his outstanding selection on the part of the Dads in the fall of '34. We were privileged to work with him only a few brief months, but those months meant a great deal to us because of the many fine contacts and hours of work we spent together prior to his passing..... In the fall of 1935, the Dads

selected another outstanding girl, BETTY HUME, '36h.ec, now MRS. BETTY HUME BLACK, of Rochester, Minnesota—and how many years this young lady's dad has spent in the interest of the University!.... ARTHUR LEROY ELLSWORTH, '38, now an official of the University, was selected above all other young men by the Dads in 1937, and at the present time, as well as when he was an undergraduate student, is doing a very very successful piece of work.....

In the fall of 1938, the Dads selected as the outstanding man, GEORGE T. MONTGOMERY, '39, who is a graduate student in the University of Oklahoma at the present time—polished, refined, well-trained, and the son of a fine "old block of O.U. granite," President T. T. MONTGOMERY, '26ed.m, of Southeastern State College. The feminine representative in 1938, selected along with George Montgomery, was the talented and gracious BETTY COE ARMSTRONG, '39, a young lady who possibly has made the most outstanding contribution in student activity work that we have had in the University in recent years. Betty Coe is head of the speech department at the Sulphur High School, and we are privileged occasionally to have dinner with her fine dad who resides in Ponca City..... Often we hear the cry at a football game, "Give it to Jones," or "Give it to Smith," as the case may be, but in selecting the outstanding girl in 1939, the Dads evidently could give it to no other individual than a "Davis." In this case, it is MARGARET E. DAVIS, a senior in arts and sciences at the University, and an outstanding young woman student.

Thus, over the span of thirteen years, the Dads' Association has established one of O.U.'s traditions!

And what are some of the other more recent traditions that come down through the years? A lasting tradition as symbolical as the construction (years and years ago) of the Spoon-Holder in front of the Administration Building on the campus, the installing of the '06 Granite Rock on the main oval of the University, the building of Arched Gateways, the symbolizing of the now defunct organization (or I ask you—I ask you—is it?) the D.D.M.C.'s—it is the President's Honor Class.

This Honor Class is one of the more recent traditions. It is a class of hand-picked, outstanding young men who have won their spurs—a class not to exceed twenty young men students. These young gentlemen meet with the president in his home each Thursday evening.

And what have some of these people accomplished since the first selections in 1931? DR. OLIVER E. BENSON, '32, '33ma, has gained high recognition in educational circles in the United States and Europe. Today he is one of the young progressive faculty members of the department of government of the University, and Sunday, December 10, the literary pages of the metropolitan press were covered with book reviews dealing with his book to be released the next week. *Through the Diplomatic Looking Glass*. CHARLES LESLIE PAIN, '35, '35law, a chap who has earned all down through his life and all honors that came his way—the hard way—is doing a swell job in his work with a well known light and power company with headquarters at Chickasha, Oklahoma.

In the same honor class (1931), DAVID ST. CLAIR, '33, '33geol, began showing outstanding characteristics in his profession and as a leader in scientific research, and today holds one of the ranking positions with a Cuban mining company. Who were some of the outstanding young men in the President's Honor Class of '32? Naturally, we can't mention all of the top-notchers in any one year, even though many of them should have

direct recognition. In '32, JOE FRED GIBSON, '34, '36law, now with the State Insurance Department in Oklahoma City and president of the O.U. Alumni Club in Oklahoma City, began to be recognized as an outstanding leader. He has not "sidestepped" that recognition to date.

BILLY LONGMIRE (DR. WILLIAM POLK LONGMIRE), '34, of Sapulpa, Oklahoma, really travelled on to the top in the medical profession, receiving advanced medical theory throughout the East, and today he stands out as one of the leaders in the class of '32. In that same year, another St. Clair boy, JOHN Q. "by handle," '34, made his contributions in petroleum engineering work as a student, and today in Johannesburg, South Africa, is putting into practical application the theories he conquered at O.U..... In '33, the tall, lanky, dark-eyed FRED BEHRINGER, '35, '35ma, appeared on the scene of an Honor Class selection, and in public life for the past several years he has performed a fine piece of service, based on the training he received at the University of Oklahoma.

DR. DICK ROYS, '35, '39med, now of Seattle, Washington, was in the Honor Class of 1933, completing his intensive studies of higher mathematics and science in preparation for his medical training, and today has reached his goal in good fashion; while ROBERT H. SLOVER, '35, of Salt Lake City, Utah, was an Honor Class student in '33, and the "hired hand's flunky" back in the days of his extension work in the University of Oklahoma. No young man in recent years has received the rapid promotions in public life as has Bob Slover..... In '34, many outstanding young men bloomed forth in the President's Honor Class. DAHL DUFF, '36journ, now with the Oklahoma Publishing Company; JOHN WESLEY KITCHENS, '36, '37ma, now on the staff of the State University of Iowa; EARL T. WARREN, '36, '38law, on the legal staff of a large petroleum corporation in Venezuela.

.... In '35, the Honor Class welcomed such men as RICHARD L. DISNEY, JR., '37journ, who made an outstanding contribution as a journalist and is still carrying on in his chosen field; ALFRED NAIFEH, '37, who made a great contribution in student activity work, as well as outstanding scholastic work; WIP ROBINSON, III, '38, '39ma, still the "active Man Friday" of VIC MONNETT, '12, as executive secretary in Vic's office in the School of Geology; and last but not least, JAMES H. TABOR, '37, '39law, now of Honolulu, T. H., who received in those six years of his University course, excellent training to carry on in the land of the flowers, blossoms, and what have you.

.... And who were some of the outstanding men in the President's Honor Class developing a real O.U. tradition for scholarship and individual contribution to their University, their State, and their Nation in '36, '37, and '38? To name a few, we find in '36, JOHN W. GITTINGER, '38, '39ms, a chip off the old block (his father, ROY GITTINGER, '02, dean of administration, now connected with the University for 37 years); JOHN D. HADSELL, '38, now of Cambridge, Massachusetts, another chip off an old block (DR. S. R. HADSELL, '04, professor of English, who has been with the University of Oklahoma for the last 35 years); JACK LUTTRELL, '38, recently sent home from war-torn Europe, as an outstanding Oxford student; HOWARD M. WILSON, '38journ, now on a leading magazine staff in New York City.

.... In '37, one of the many Brixey boys—this one A. M., '39; WILLIAM W. MUSSER, JR., '39, of Enid, and how many hours we have spent with that little red head in public speaking contests in staid old colleges and universities throughout the North and East; KENT R. RUTH, '39, graduate student at the University and a man who has "gone up" battling against all odds.....

Yes, it takes years to develop tradition and lore! And in the "Range" for this month we have mentioned merely two of the newer traditions that are being effectively carried out in developing a greater University of Oklahoma. Others will appear on the horizon as together we "Ride The Sooner Range."