

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

THEY say—those who *know*—Cedarvale, located in the heart of the Arbutle Mountains, "hanging just under" the famous Turner Falls—well, they say it's a swell place for a group of friends, who have been associated together over a series of years, to spring a surprise dinner on a new enthusiastic—still *innocent* alumni prexy! *What* they say is indeed true, and for the friends of Alumni Prexy NORMAN BRILLHART, '17ba, who heads the parade for the 75,000 former students and graduates of the University of Oklahoma, 1940-41, along with his fine companion, co-worker, and director, MILDRED COLBY BRILLHART, '22fa,—that Saturday night, September 21, was one to be long remembered due to the surprise dinner for the "Brills."

For weeks, "the boys" had been secretly planning this affair for Brill and Mildred, and it made the main street of America (Highway 77) easy to take when we were requested to do a little Riding the Sooner Range down Turner Falls way. Yes, they came in from all over, the long time friends of Brill and Mildred, including (as he puts it) ED MEACHAM, '14ba, and VIC MONNETT, '12ba, who *tolerated* him years and years ago, as a geology student at the University of Oklahoma, and of course, MRS. VIC and MRS. ED (RAY FERRELL, '13) were there to see that these two cronies of Brill galloped back homeward on schedule. A new associate of Brill's, C. O. HUNT, '38bs, '40law, swooped down from the capitol of McClain County (Purcell) and paid his respects to the new alumni prexy. BEP HUTTO, '10ba, and MRS. HUTTO (BERTHA BESSENT, '07) were there as long time associates of the Brillharts. And Brill's partner in the "cause of oil" HOWARD McCASLAND, '16ba, of Duncan, along with MRS. McCASLAND, came over from Duncan way. PAUL REED, '16, accompanied by his charming Aggie wife, Ford-ed it over from Sulphur to join in the evening activities. O. F. MULDROW, '22, along with MRS. MULDROW (MARGARET DANNENBERG, '30), really pulled the drop-kick play by having the Brillharts visit with them at their home in Ardmore for the evening and drive toward Turner Falls for a little air. The Oklahoma City O. U. prexy, JOE FRED GIBSON, '34ba, '36law, along with his "personal prexy," MRS. JOE (MARION HAUCK, '35) represented and paid respects to the Brills on the part of the hundreds of Oklahoma City alumni. DR. J. B. MILES, '27med, and MRS. MILES, of Anadarko, were there and the Doctor (Bus to his old mountain climbin' and hobo-hikin' colleague, HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma) assembled to exchange greetings about way back when—the 22-hour rod ride without food or water, Pikes Peak on high—etc., etc. The baby member of the crew, AL NAIFEH, '37ba, '40law, Norman, breezed back by for the special surprise dinner from his work at the U. S. Navy station in Dallas where he had been convincing the Naval powers that be during the daylight hours, then dashed on to the University of Michigan for a special year's study. Immediate past alumni prexy, HICKS EPTON, '32law, Wewoka, accompanied by the remainder of the Wewoka "Sooner Quartet," namely, CALVIN SMITH, '40m.ed, FRANK CRIDER, '30ba, and MARSHALL HUSER, '25, pulled up to the stop sign on the scheduled hour to report, "All is well." Four other O. U. officials, THURMAN WHITE, '37, J. F. MALONE, '37ba, ROSCOE CATE, '26ba,

joined forces with M. L. WARDELL, '19ba, and MRS. WARDELL, all of Norman, to complete the University's representatives on this special occasion. Yes, the food was good, Brill's friends were lively, and as usual, before the zero hour was reached, this new prexy was assigning the hired hand plenty of duties and starting him back to Riding the Sooner Range on other missions!

Indeed, it is interesting to note the enthusiasm in the grass roots of state citizens toward the University. And we saw a lot of 'em, DR. E. E. DALE, '11ba, MRS. DALE (ROSALIE GILKEY, '17ba), plus your hired hand, when we attended on September 20, the dedication of the new educational plant in the Jackson County city, BLAIR. Not only enthusiasm for the State University was displayed on this particular dedication day; but in the spirit of the hundreds of old timers assembled there, we witnessed 25 years after—Whew, whatta span of time—more old time community loyalty than we have been exposed to in many many moons.

Out of the fire, into the frying pan, or vice versa. That's the way the work of utility men (and women) around alumni headquarters must go. And on this Sunday afternoon and evening (September 29, 1940), we are both out of the frying pan into the fire and vice versa because we are spending a series of 7½ hours with a group of men vitally interested in co-operative programs sponsored by alumni, the Athletic Department, as well as the University administration proper. It being Sunday afternoon and evening, the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building is more or less the personal property, during this series of hours, of the 28 men in conference. No outside interference, and what a review over a series of 30-odd years these men gave in the joint meeting. The occasion is the joint meeting of the Trustees of the Stadium-Union Memorial Fund, Inc., along with the officers and members of the University of Oklahoma Athletic Council, plus three "special invited guests." And progress was made in that meeting. Men grew to know each other better. Men became acquainted with the other fellow's problems. Men interested in a common cause, working for a common purpose, probably understood each other better than they had in years. In attendance were MAJOR RICHARD H. CLOYD, '19ba, '28law, up from Fort Sill where he is spending a year in special army work; RAYMOND TOLBERT, '12ba, '13law, Oklahoma City, long time associate of the men present, and a long range worker in the interest of the University covering a series of years; BILL CROSS, '09ba, business manager of the Athletic Association; PROFESSOR L. N. "FESS" MORGAN, known to thousands upon thousands of English students of the University of Oklahoma; DR. V. E. MONNETT, '12ba, and DR. M. L. WARDELL, '19ba, both of the University faculty; TOM CAREY, '08ba, C. P. A. of Oklahoma City and long time Trustee, as well as staff member, and in other official capacities of the University; Alumni representative on the Athletic Council, PAUL REED, '16, of Sulphur; ERRETT R. NEWBY, '07bm, '08ba, Oklahoma City, Life Membership Trust Fund Trustee and a gentleman who has held various positions and important assignments for his University years upon years; NORMAN BRILLHART, '17ba, as special guest, representing alumni interests as Alumni Association president; BILL WOLFE, '26eng, '38ec, alumni representative on the Ath-

letic Council, over from Muskogee, TOM STIDHAM, athletic director, and "general chief" of the Athletic Division; A. N. "JACK" BOATMAN, '14ba, '16 law, Okmulgee; FAYETTE Copeland, '17ba, Norman; FRANK CLECKLER, '21ba, Muskogee; DR. E. D. MEACHAM, '14ba, Norman; ROSCOE CATE, '26ba, Norman, representing the alumni publications division of the Association, as special guest; HOMER R. HECK, '35, assistant manager of the Oklahoma Memorial Union; and the Master of Ceremonies NEIL JOHNSON, '15ba, '17law, Norman; flanked by three O. U. staff members and official members of the athletic Council, Architect JOE SMAY; WALTER KRAFT (of Northwestern College—was University until the Sooners made a trip up there last fall); and MAJOR JOHN STEWART, of the University of Oklahoma Reserve Officers Training Corps. That's the crew—that *was* the occasion—and that's that!

Months ago, in writing of traditions while Riding the Sooner Range, we mentioned the President's Honor Class. You will hear more of it in the future months because that class, 200 strong, covering a series of years from the year 1931-32, meets as a special alumni group on Homecoming Day at noon, November 16, and those young gentlemen will perfect many plans.

Telephone calls, wires, letters from all directions, alumni on the alert! N. L. GEORGE, '26ed, '31m.ed, superintendent of schools at Duncan, Oklahoma, making a special proposition to the Board of Trustees of the Life Membership Fund. . . . ROLF ENGLEMAN, '21ba, the Shreveport, Louisiana, chap rushing a check in for membership in the Association, and that being the result of their special chicken barbeque where the O. U.-ites assembled in Shreveport last December. GLENN R. WATSON, '39law, Okemah, dropping a note over alumni headquarters way. . . . HENRY W. ROLLMANN, '29ms, Jefferson City, Missouri, sending us a "Hi there!" plus a \$3.00 check. OLIVE LEEPER, '11ba, Los Angeles, California, check for \$6.00 with a notation, "Schedule me as paid for 1940 and 1941. . . . J. N. TIDWELL, '33, an official of the Westminster College of Fulton, Missouri, back home for duties after a year's leave of absence spent in special graduate work in the North. . . . JOE FUNK, '27, Arden, Texas, dashing us a note, and yes, he will be at the Dallas alumni breakfast. . . . MRS. E. DeGOLYER (NELL GOODRICH), '06bm, '07ba, Dallas, Texas, supplying us with a renewal for membership, and getting ready for the O. U.-Texas tilt and special alumni breakfast.

And last minute arrangements being made by DOW HAMM, '22ba, plus his four members on the Houston, Texas Advisory Council, DR. JOE WALKER, '20bs, '22med; MRS. DONALD W. CROSBY, '27; PAUL HUNTER, '23ba; and WALLACE THOMPSON, '20bs, to receive Alumni President Brillhart plus wife, Mildred, plus the hired hand, this Thursday evening, October 10, and how they (and we) will strut our stuff with the many many O. U.-ites in the city of Houston! Yes, they will probably keep us up till the wee hours, but the next morning Brill, Mildred, and yours truly will be headed north some 250 miles to Tyler, where ED HOWARD, '31geol, the Tyler O. U. "Hot Shot" plus the O. U. Advisory Council of Tyler, Chairman A. C. WRIGHT, '20ba, '21ma; RAY H. HORTON, '30geol; DR. H. C. SEHESTED, '31med; and M. M. CHURCHWELL, '26ed, '37m.ed, will have the coffee boiling and the chicken barbecued at the lake, three miles out of town, on Friday evening, October 11. This will be just another of the Tyler, Texas-O. U. "shindigs." From that point, we will breeze on to Dallas in time for the 10 o'clock alumni breakfast at the Adolphus Hotel, and then to meet the Texas Longhorns. Well, in passing, I'll venture the assertion that Mildred (as you know, the better two-thirds of the Brillhart household will, on this particular pilgrimage, grow *unaccustomed* to Riding the Sooner Range.