

Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beaird

THIS spinnin' of yarns—well, that's a Sooner tradition! Often in this Range column traditions and landmarks have been discussed. But on Sunday afternoon and evening of June 2, 1940, this hired hand (thanks to being one of the *younger* alumni) had the pleasure of seeing a cross section of Sooners covering a 40-year span, heard their "swappin' of yarns" and learned more of O. U. traditions than in any assembly we have ever been privileged to attend! And what was the occasion? The class reunions of five-year classes—whose graduating years beginning in 1900 up to and including the graduates of 1935—were held on the Sooner campus.

These five venerable *young gentlemen* seated around the hired hand's desk, reminisce about events between the 1895 mark and the 1900 climax hour—well, they represent 50 per cent of their graduating class of 1900! A class of fourteen members, four in the meantime being deceased, and then to have 50 per cent return forty years later for a reunion parley—that is something! For two hours it was our pleasure to listen to this exchange of "old times" with C. ROSS HUME, '98, '00ma, of Anadarko; JOHN H. ASBURY, '00pharm, of Centralia, Illinois; REUBEN D. ALEXANDER, '00pharm, Oklahoma City; ALFRED C. DAVIS, '00pharm, of Woodward; and HORACE A. SOMMERS, '00pharm, of Helena. (In another section of this issue of the *Sooner Magazine* you will find a picture of these early day graduates.)

The class of 1905 was in full vogue, and a lot of good humor and exchange of past events were "swapped" between CLARENCE REEDS, '05, Oklahoma City; MRS. CHARLES H. PHELPS (CARRIE WARREN), Oklahoma City; and MAUDE AMBRISTER WYCHE, '05, Norman.

The Scene: the Spoonholder. The Time: 4 o'clock on the afternoon of June three, nineteen hundred forty. The Audience: your hired hand. The Actors and Actresses: a swell gang of the class of 1910! And to watch these early day tradition makers as they search the old Spoonholder on the main oval where their names had been scratched and indented on the hardening cement on that memorable night when this landmark was built by the warriors of 1910 under extreme class fight pressure—well, that is one event in alumni work in this Association that I shall never forget! Thirty years after, to watch them as they search for this earmark or that identifying scratch on the old Spoonholder—well, that's when tradition becomes lore!

And in this assembly of 1910 cronies stacked around the old Spoonholder, exchanging views on how the feat was accomplished, are such outstanding graduates as R. W. HUTTO, '10, Norman; MRS. PEARL GOODRICH PORTER, '09, '10, Tulsa; GUY Y. WILLIAMS, '10ma, Norman; A. C. REEDS, '10, Oklahoma City; P. W. SWARTZ, '10, Oklahoma City; FRANK A. ROBERSON, '10, Grand Rapids, Michigan; MRS. J. L. RADER (MARY FRANCES SIMPSON), '10, Norman; A. K. DAWSON, '10, Tulsa; FRANK A. HERALD, '10, Austin, Texas; MRS. CHARLES T. HOCKER—along with "Charlie," the husband, both of '10, Norman; MRS. A. C. SHEAD (Blanche Belt), '10, Norman; MRS. JAMES W. KLINGLESMTIH (JEANNETTE REED), '10, Tulsa; DR. JESSIE L. HUGHES (RUTH THOMPSON), '10, Oklahoma City; and CHARLES W. WANTLAND, '10, Edmond.

Twenty-five years after—well, that's a few

years to say the least, but the class of 1915, headed by PAUL DARROUGH, '13, '15law, Oklahoma City, as chairman of his reunion committee, really enjoyed an afternoon and later their evening dinner together! Among those we "spotted" around the festive board were ELMER "TRIM" CAPSHAW, '15, '33ed.m, Norman; JOHN P. TOBERMAN, '15law, Norman; JAMES J. HILL, '15, '15ma, Norman; Dr. W. K. WEST, '15med, Oklahoma City; LEWIS R. MORRIS, '15, '15ma, '17law, Oklahoma City; HARRY L. S. HALLEY, '15, '17law, Tulsa; CHARLES B. STEELE, '15, Oklahoma City; HIRAM IMPSON, '15, McAlester; NEIL R. JOHNSON, '15, '17law, Norman; WILLIAM J. CROWE, '15law, Oklahoma City; CLIFFORD R. LOUCKS, '15, and MRS. LOUCKS (JENNIE ERICKSON), '15, Oklahoma City; NELLIE JANE McFERRON LITTICK, '15, Hoopston, Illinois; BLANCHE HAYES DAVIS, '15, Oklahoma City; E. L. HOWELL, '15, Edmond; JOHN BLAKE MITCHELL, '15, Oklahoma City; MRS. JERRY B. NEWBY (EDNA CASH NEWBY), '15, Oklahoma City; CLYDE M. HOWELL, '15, Edmond; DR. I. PERRINE, '15, Oklahoma City; MARY LOIS PHILLIPS BOOROM, '15, Oklahoma City; and FLORENCE McCLURE, '15, Oklahoma City.

The class of 1920—well, they had a hilarious event by visiting among former friends and associates of their class, and exchanging greetings with the other reunion-ites in the assembly. Later in the evening in a special dinner for the class of 1920 in the Woodruff Room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union, they continued "far into the night"—long after others had decided it was past bedtime—o swap experiences and enjoy a well-rounded evening. Some of the class of 1920 who passed in review and were checked on the way out are: DR. ELGIN GROSECLOSE, '20, Washington, D. C.; ELMER L. FRAKER, '20, '38ma, Mangum; MRS. LEWIS S. SALTER (REAVES ALFORD), '20, Norman; JOSEPH H. BENTON, '20, '21, New York City and Norman; (in passing, what a "swow" of a program this Metropolitan Opera singer of the class of 1920 gave to the general reunion dinner and to the commencement audience on the morning to follow); WALLACE C. THOMPSON, '20, Houston, Texas; EARL A. BROWN, '20law, Ardmore; RUTHERFORD H. BRETT, '20, 22law, Ardmore; OMAR R. LYON, '20eng, Wood River, Illinois; CARL H. KUNSE-MULLER, '20, Oklahoma City; and W. A. KITCHEN, '20eng, Oklahoma City.

This boy, LEE K. ANDERSON, '25, Oklahoma City, did a swell job as chairman of his committee during the reunion of his class of 1925. This class was much in evidence for the big "shindig." Among those present were JIMMIE PRATER, '25, Oklahoma City; BERNICE PATON, '25, Norman; J. BART ALDRIDGE, '25, '25law, Wewoka; SAM A. McREYNOLDS, '25fa, Oklahoma City; CHARLES PRICE GREEN, '25, of the O. U. faculty; JUDGE RICHARD T. PENDLETON, '25, of Norman; the "25 class fire-cracker," HAL WHITTEN, '25law, of Oklahoma City, along with the gracious MRS. WHITTEN, our good M.U. friend whom we are all trying to make a staunch Sooner, was much in evidence; DR. LAILE G. NEAL, '23, '25med, Ponca City—(well, Laile could have gotten together with Joe Benton and Elmer Fraker and staged a comeback for the Redpath Horner Chautauqua circuit in the same manner as they sang together some years ago); MRS. RUTH MOORE

MEMMINGER, '20, '26, Atoka (and Ruth would have made a swell Sooner accompanist for the "male song birds" listed above); J. H. ROBINSON, '25med, Oklahoma City; and DR. CHARLES R. RAYBURN, '25, Norman.

And just what could any assembly (class reunion or otherwise) of the graduating class of O. U. for the year 1930 be without two very charming ladies, namely, LUCY TANDY, '30, '32ma, Norman, who for years has been a very efficient employee in the Correspondence Study Department of the University of Oklahoma, and—the lady we remember who spent that very interesting year in Spain! I still appreciate the chip off the Rock of Gibraltar she brought back for the hired hand's *rock collection*. Lady Number Two, the '30 class co-worker and associate, another friend of long standing at the University of Oklahoma, BRUNETTE SHANKLIN, '30, who has for years been the very efficient secretary of the dean of men, has been one of the leading exponents of the staid ole class of '30. Other '30-ites attending class reunions? Yes—plenty of them, and some that we were privileged to see were: HELEN ARMSTRONG, '30, Kansas City, Mo, who for several years has been a medical social worker in this mid-western city and is now on special leave of absence to do graduate work at O. U.; EDITOR MARY E. STITH, '30, Norman; and one of the Savage boys—LEONARD H., '30, '30law, prosperous Oklahoma City attorney; the Grandfield music teacher, MRS. VERA McNEESE PARSON, '30fa; MR. and MRS. ALBERT G. KULP—AL, '30, '34law, and the MRS. (VIRGINIA KRAMER, '31) who is doing a swell job as housewife plus private teacher of expression and dancing in her home village of Oklahoma City; MARY EVELYN POTTS, '30, Norman; and—the "fiddlin' Bob, our good crony ROBERT DUNCAN, '30fa, Oklahoma City, accompanied by the charming MRS. BOB (RUTH STARKEY, '31) representing '30 in no uncertain terms! And as Bob says, "All those years I studied fiddling in O. U. and Chicago have equipped me admirably for the insurance business I have been pursuing since Ruth and I decided on business."

And that "Baby Class" of '35. Yes, it was a sparse crew—"little but loud"—in the '35 corner at the annual reunion dinner! Thanks to the efficient work of BRUCE WILEY, '35eng, Norman; JACK KINNEBREW, '35, Oklahoma City; JOE STOCKER, '35, the Oklahoma government official with headquarters at the State Capitol, Oklahoma City, the charming MRS. GAYLE McCORKLE SANGER, '35fa, Ponca City, and the hard working 1935 class representative "When News is News" IDA SLOAN, '35, Norman, the class was well represented. Forty years from today this class of 1935 will possibly be back fifty per cent in attendance—we hope—we hope!

So-o-o—there goes the run and the cross section of the reunion classes in 1940, beginning in the year (not one, but 1900). Next year (providing Commencement is more calm and reunion classes can assemble, not in Gay Paree or Berlin, but on the O. U. campus) there will be another group of eight classes that will assemble from the four corners of the world for 5-year reunions, to rehab and live again in the O. U. environment and atmosphere! And may we hope—in passing—that these eight classes, including your hired hand, will not be required to Ride the Sooner Range in foreign territory and to meet around the festive board in foggy London!