

# Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

A mere twelve months make many, many changes! It was twelve months ago tonight in the Edgewater Beach Hotel (on the outskirts of Chicago and on the shores of Lake Michigan) that your hired hand "developed" a series of paragraphs for the Range article, October, 1940. In that feature one year ago tonight, we expounded quite at length on the last Sooner luncheon or banquet for the fiscal year 1940, which was held as of noon that day in the Atlantic Hotel (in the Loop), Chicago.

Among those we recall in that Sooner conclave were MRS. STELLA GAREE DEAN, '22ba; WILLIAM HADDAD, '23ba; LESLIE SALTER, '21ba; FRED WARD, '21ba; ADELBERT BROWN, '17law; DURWARD ROSEBERY, '38eng; ESTHER McRUER, '22ba; and JOE HICKS, '23ba. The chief—in fact the one and only topic of conversation at that last alumni luncheon at the close of the fiscal year 1940 was: "Who will the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma select for the next president? Will he be an alumnus of O. U.? Indeed, we're telling you, big boy, take this 'message from Garcia' and let the medicine makers of O. U. know that the alumni, world-wide, will be satisfied *only* with the selection of an alumnus as the next president of the University of Oklahoma."

That, of course, was a year ago and is now *history!* The Board of Regents, composed principally of alumni of the University of Oklahoma, has, in the meantime, made its selection! The edict of the "message from Garcia" came not only from Chicago, but the same admonition was given the hired hand by the alumni groups throughout America—and too, from foreign soils, as far as that is concerned. Yes, that was one year ago and it is now history. Tonight, an alumnus of the institution, President JOSEPH A. BRANDT, '21ba, is closing his fifth week as head of the institution and launching on his career as the new president of the University, introducing to the public at large the policies of his new administration.

The significant part is that the last alumni "luncheon" or "banquet" for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1941, was held, not in Chicago or some other "foreign ports," but was staged in the humble cabin abode, McClain County, Oklahoma, fifteen miles from the seat of the University proper. With this new alumnus president, "Prexy" Joe, and twelve of his administrative officials, twelve executive board members and officers of the Alumni Association participated in an eight-hour conference to develop a co-operative program between the University proper and the organized alumni of O. U., and to formulate new policies to be pursued in the development of a greater University of Oklahoma. And was there a lot of Riding of the Sooner Range in this parley closing the fiscal year of 1941 in the Alumni circles! Some of the "bronc riders" on the Range that night were HICKS EPTON, '32law, Wewoka; FISH MULDROW, '22, Ardmore; NORMAN BRILLHART, '17ba, Madill; CY ELLINGER, '26ba, Purcell; JOE LEE, '31ba, Shawnee; DICK PENDLETON, '26law, Norman; HERBERT H. SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma, Norman; ROSCOE CATE, '26ba, Norman; LOWELL C. BROWN, '37m.ed, Norman; GEORGE D. HANN, '36 m.ed, Ardmore; H. H. LEAKE, '37fa, Norman; FAYETTE COPELAND, '19ba, Norman; JAP HASKELL, '22geol, Norman; and "printer," general manager and director of the University Press, SAVOIE LOTTINVILLE, '29ba, Norman. Yes, those were the cowhands Riding the Sooner Range on a very, very important occasion!

And, who plus what are some of the other people whom we have been seeing in the series of the last thirty days, or with whom we have been in intimate touch through business and professional contacts? Indeed, hundreds upon hundreds and far too many to mention. But in passing, we list here a limited number of the crew: W. B. RAGAN, '22ba, '28ma, the O. U. professor, whose hobby plus vocation and avocation—and why shouldn't it be—is the 18-month-old son we saw playing on his front lawn in Norman village a few evenings ago; REV. VIRGIL ALEXANDER, '24ba, Muskogee, "the sometime ago Phi Gam" of Brillhart days on the O. U. campus. Even as late as yesterday some fine young chap of Muskogee used him as his reference in applying for a job! Indeed, in our catalog that was reference *enough!* GEORGE M. ROBERTS, '27ba, '28ma, the guiding headlight of the Norman public schools—yes, in the past thirty days we have been across conference tables with George where O. U. teacher grads were selected as members of his staff—where policies of Rotary International were discussed and set up—across other conference tables where building programs for the city schools of Norman were being weighed in the balance!

Indeed, it's the "flashbacks" on memory's trail that bring up pleasant recollections! A polished and refined professional man with his three fine young daughters and son steps into the office for a brief visit—CARL REISTLE, '22eng, Houston. We recall when the mother of his four fine children, MATTIE MULDROW REISTLE, '22, in the pre-World War days played the leading role on the O. U. campus as Joan of Arc. And you think time is not rolling by? Indeed, it's a realization when her husband and children, especially the young daughter who is in architectural engineering at Rice Institute, come back to visit their daddy's and mother's Alma Mater.

FANNIE GLENN, '20ba, '29ma, Hugo, renews her contact with the alumni world-wide by reaffiliating with the Alumni Association. FRED E. BROWN, Jr., '34bus, from up New York City way, flashes in a greeting, while WILLIAM M. CHRISTIE, Jr., '39pharm, spreads some sunshine up Oklahoma way from his Miami, Florida, headquarters. NANCY M. ANDERSON, '38journ, takes time off to drop us a note from her adopted city of Frederick, Oklahoma. BILL SOCKLER, '24pharm (WILLIAM F., if you want to be stiff collared), rushes in a five-spot on his life membership. The old research specialist, LIONEL V. MURPHY, '26ba, '29ma, now in New Deal territory (Washington, D. C.), comes forth with his annual how-do-you-do.

LAURENCE E. BEATTIE, '17ba, '20law, Ardmore—well, he must have hit an oil well, for he rushes us a \$15 check on his life membership! And we will be seeing this Ardmore plutocrat in Milwaukee one week from tonight where we are scheduled to have dinner, together with other Sooners. CLIFTON L. BELL, '37ba, '37geol, Evansville, Indiana, just fails to get away from Sooner influences and keeps his Sooner contacts by reestablishing himself in our Association. Indeed, the same can be said, "It must be Sooner campus influences," about HARRY WOFFORD, '20, Wheeler, Texas; FLETCHER PICKENS, '34eng, Houma, Louisiana; LT. EDWIN R. PAGE, '38eng, '40m.eng, Washington, D. C.; H. T. COLLINS, '16ba, San Diego, California; LESLIE POTTER, '39m.ed, St. Louis, Missouri; RAYMOND F. STEVENSON, '39eng, Dayton, Ohio, the long time Sooner enthusiast; and Ambassador-at-

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Large FRANK M. LONG, '08ba, '09ma, Roanoke, Virginia; EDWIN P. HORNER, '37bus, the big butter and egg man for Dun & Bradstreet, with headquarters in Shreveport, Louisiana; JEROME M. WOLF, '39eng, East Alton, Illinois; NICHOLAS FOX, '07pharm, Spalding, Nebraska; and the Grand Old Man of the Red Red Rose (now dean of students at the University of Tennessee), JOHN O. MOSELEY, '16ma, Knoxville, Tennessee, sends us his quarterly greetings!

ELZA T. GRAY, '30eng, rushes us a note from "down-near-south-of-the-Border" San Antonio, Texas, while LT. SID COCKRELL, Jr., '38bus, takes time off from his 70th F. A. Battalion duties at Fort Sill to muse again on O. U. escapades. JOHN R. BUNN, '23geol, Tyler, Texas, is sharpening his fork for the annual chicken barbeque to be staged by the Tyler O. U.ites early in October. (Yes, we will be there!) Others who have "flashed through" with news, checks and advice in the past 72 hours are T. R. CASH, '24bus, Ann Arbor, Michigan; Ensign PAUL HARKEY, '39, U. S. S. New Mexico; G. R. LaMASTER, '35bus, Dallas, Texas; and the Honorable A. P. "FISH" MURRAH, '28law, Oklahoma City, his honor the Federal Judge of Judges!

Yes, a man's work (and deeds) follows him to the bitter end! It's exemplified in Brillhart's many orations to his good friend and crony in army circles of World War days, R. J. CLEMENTS, '22ba, Oklahoma City, wherein he (Brill) *preached* on the full value of a life membership in full. Today's mail brought a \$60 check marked "Payment in full, life membership, R. J. Clements, Oklahoma City."

Rarely, if ever, a day passes without a California contact (or many, so far as that goes) being established with some Sooner in the state of the Golden West. Today's Californian was EDWARD M. PURSLEY, '40eng, Alhambra, California, and I venture the guess that he often slips down to the southern part and visits the village of Los Angeles where, of course, O. U. is represented by 204 graduates, plus dozens and dozens of former O. U. students.

It's the young bloods that encourage the hired hands of the organized Alumni when they grow enthusiastic and "plow in" in the development program we are sponsoring! Today's "golden harp" goes to ROLLAND NASH, '41bus, Bridgeport, Connecticut, who just this June received his degree and left for the East on a fine assignment for a young chap his age. Yes, his degree came in June, '41, not the easy way, for he worked like a Trojan, earning three meals a day and a place to sleep in while struggling toward graduation. Young Nash gets what he goes after—that's the spirit of a real Sooner. He not only gained a degree, a nice assignment in his profession following his degree, but he gained the O. U. girl of girls while galloping through those O. U. years, and at this time (with the initial check of five dollars being paid today on his life membership), they jointly plan a two-for-one life membership. That was all worked out in my office two weeks before graduation. How's that for Sooner Spirit?

The month of September, 1941, is, tonight, far advanced. Another year of Riding the Sooner Range is in the making. The reins must be drawn up, and in a few hours begin meeting the gang as we traverse the path! With a swing to the O. U.ites in Ardmore, back to a special session in Oklahoma City, only to leave in the wee hours of the night from this capital village conference for other Sooner sessions in Kansas City, Indianapolis and Milwaukee!

Then a dash back out of the old Wisconsin burg to get ready for the trek to Houston, Tyler and Dallas, Texas, assemblies! On all of these trails it will be our privilege to see hundreds and hundreds of your friends and associates, visit with their families, and observe them in their business and professional work. Indeed, we will endeavor to give you a word picture of these O. U. cronies of yours as we double time on the trail and continue Riding the Sooner Range.