

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD



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IN the closing hours of August '41 with temperatures on a slight decline—thanks to an April shower in late summer—a little predictin' about range riding in the coming weeks should be in vogue!

The "Brandt slant"—that's the question of the hour in administrative circles of the University among thousands of alumni as well as the citizenship of Oklahoma at large! And that '21er out of the O.U. ranks—JOSEPH A. BRANDT, '21ba, (today the active president of the University of Oklahoma) has been at it night and day for nearly one month now. The Brandt slant has been stimu-

Council. Same thing true with the GEORGE HANN, '36m.ed, family of Ardmore riding up swinging back from Minnesota and a few days of relaxation. "FISH" MULDRON, '22, and family stirring about and coming back for a brief pause at least in Ardmore, carrying out community projects for his home city of Ardmore. HICKS, '32law, and THELMA EPTON, '32bs, breezing over from We-woka for an evening's conference on O.U. problems. CY ELLINGER, '26ba, of Purcell jumping in the conference at the sacred hour of dinner time but staying on till near midnight to finish up the business in store for him. ELMER FRAKER, '20ba,



Athletic Director Jap Haskell makes a speech at Houston

lating and pleasing in 99% of the cases up to date and the machinery is really moving. This long, tall, '21er really moves and "action" is the word of the hour. During the course of the next few months to follow, President Joe, too, will be riding the Sooner Range in many directions and may his gallopin' be pleasant as he lopes along the way.

It took the big D.A. (District Attorney to those inclined legally) but to those at large—the Director of Athletics, "JAP" HASKELL, '22bs, to do a lot of swift range riding late in July. In fact, he jumped all the way down to Houston and there with WALTER C. THOMPSON, '20bs, C. R. STEINBERGER, '26ba, JESS NEELY, GORDON RICHMOND, and dozens of other O.U.ites he became the boy orator of the hour. In the range columns this month we are giving you an "action shot" when Jap goes into high and sings the praises of "prima donna backs" and "salty tackles" being defended in every respect by "hard tack guards"—how that boy can sling the lingo of football slang when in his enthusiastic manner he described the play in vogue of making boys not only well-rounded athletes but well-rounded citizens!

And here are just a few of the predictions on range riding in the closing hours in this August, 1941. Predictions as to *how* and *why* the range must and will be written in the following months to come. PAUL REED, '16, and family back to their Sulphur home after doing a lot of fancy riding to Mexico City and return and then Paul, of course, has to settle down for hours and hours of conferences as alumni representative on the O.U. Athletic

'38ma, plus family, riding away from his Mangu residence and educational system to head toward Minnesota and return by way of Muskogee for the annual oration before the state meeting of the American Legion. These and many many others have been riding the range and your hired hand, to keep up with them, must re-settle and hit the trail.

As the hired hand, it has been my privilege to sit in on many conferences where the dark clouds hovered over the golden hope! But not until August, 1941, did your hired hand have the opportunity of seeing black clouds hover over the conferences. With months upon months of work and thousands upon thousands of dollars placed into a proposed memorial air field (Max Westheimer Flying Field of the University of Oklahoma), and then like a bolt out of the sky by one mere gesture in national circles of Washington, to see \$104,000 swept away—that makes for dark clouds! With WALLY KRAFT (indeed not an O.U. alum, but a fine Northwestern grad and the best superintendent of utilities of any man's university) plus M. L. WARDELL, '19ba, plus EG CLEMENT, '31, plus HAROLD COOKSEY, '24ba, plus T. JACK FOSTER, '29, (and we could go on with pluses for many, many hours) the conferences got under way. All hope was abandoned.

But at the 8 o'clock hour of one of the last mornings in August, '41, the junior U.S. Senator of Oklahoma (we like to think of him as an O.U. grad and an Alumni life member), JOSH LEE, '17ba, came to our rescue. The medium of long distance

exchange is a wonderful invention for mankind, and in the five-minute long distance flash from the home of SENATOR JOSH here in Norman to the White House yonder on Capitol Hill in the District, the miracle of miracles happened for the University! And here is what ALUMNUS JOSH said by long distance:

"This is my home town. This is my University. You have promised the administrative officials of this University \$104,000 to complete this memorial airport. Now you say the funds are not available. I petition you to reconsider and grant the \$104,000, if possible." To make a long story short and cut across a path on this range riding, the funds were granted in less than an hour, and that, in our estimation, is the contribution of the year of an alumnus of the University in the development of the University for the years to come.

So these rambling range ridings draw to a close. In this August '41 rambling we have predicted paths to be covered in future months and covered trails that already have been thoroughly traversed by your hired hand. Now we must get out the pack saddle and trot up Muskogee way to join the O.U. gang in further University participation. And that, of course, will be a pleasant assignment in riding the Sooner Range.

▲ ▲ ▲ Army Life Has Variety

There have been no dull moments in the life of Lt. Bressemer C. Holtzschue, '34ba, Sooner army officer, since he was called to active duty at Camp Roberts, California, last February.

In the first place, Lieutenant Holtzschue, salesman for an oil company in Wichita, Kansas, fully expected to have something to do with shooting guns because he was in the Field Artillery at the University.

But he had nothing to do with guns, he soon found. Instead he was appointed recreation officer and helped produce an army educational film at Camp Roberts to show what life really is like for a soldier in the artillery. The film project was described in an item in *Collier's*.

The second surprise in store for Lieutenant Holtzschue was his selection as aide de camp to Brig. Gen. T. J. J. Christian, Replacement Center commander at Camp Roberts. The promotion as personal aid to the general elevates the Sooner alumnus to a much coveted position.

Artist Joins Frankoma Staff

John M. Strange, '31fa, authority on pottery and ceramics, has been secured by Frankoma Potteries at Sapulpa to do research which will advance the development of ceramics in Oklahoma.

For the last five years, Mr. Strange has been professor of arts and crafts at Fort Hays State College at Hays, Kansas. Formerly he was art teacher at Capitol Hill Junior High School in Oklahoma City.

While a student at the University in the late '20's, Mr. Strange worked as an assistant with John N. Frank, then head of the department of ceramic art and now president of Frankoma Potteries, Inc.

Working as plant superintendent, he will supervise the manufacturing details of the pottery and will continue research work in the development of new colors, productions, designs and clays for ceramics.

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