

# Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

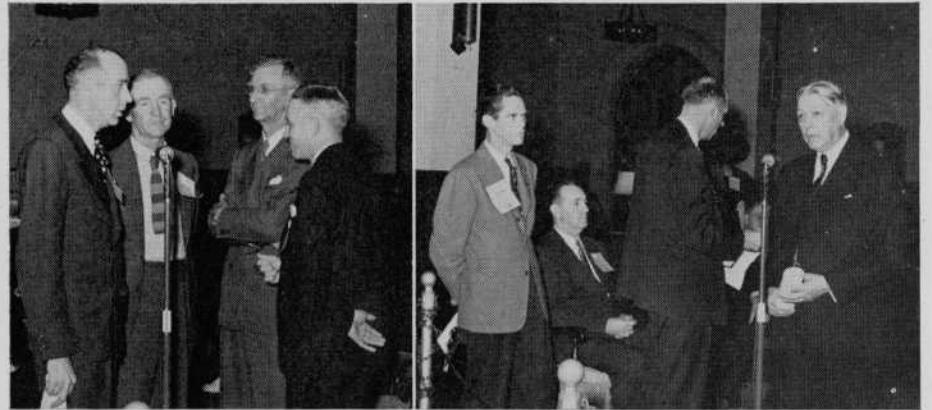
It may be a plug—it's not intended that way—but we will admit off hand and in a hurry that Princeton Graduate, HARVEY SMITH, rightly had something there when he wrote the book THE GANG'S ALL HERE! How timely this alumni dissertation fell from the Princeton press via the personal touch of JOE BRANDT, '21ba, & Company—just prior to the big reunion of five-year interval classes at O. U. on Sunday, June 8, 1941. Yes, this boy, HARVEY SMITH (he should have been a Sooner by heritage and birthright)—Well, HARVEY knows the answer to all the questions about these reunion classes—I know! After years of work with the fine old, young, and medium sized graduates of any institution, no alumni hired hand dares to go on record in recording real personalities 100%—unless he "chooses" (as did TUBBY RANKIN) to say, "No, I'm not running away from criticism. I'm running away from convention!"

On this Sunday, June 8, 1941 (the reunion classes at O. U. from the '40 year gang—1901—up to and including, in five-year intervals, the baby crew of 1936), represented the O. U. home-comers. The same old things were in vogue as HARVEY outlines in THE GANG'S ALL HERE! Yes, as the O. U. alumni hired hand by vocation and avocation, Riding the Sooner Range, I am privileged to see the crew here and there and everywhere at the crossroads of America! Need one wonder why I can really appreciate chapter after chapter of the "true pictures" of the graduates in the reunion parade down through the years?

Possibly the most interesting group on that Sunday afternoon, June 8, 1941, was the "young crew" of 1901. They assembled and displayed possibly more enthusiasm than all of the other reunion classes combined. And why not, it was their 40th year reunion! JOHN T. HEFLEY, '01ba, '35ed.d, Norman, along with MRS. FANTINE PAXTON, '01ba, Norman and many, many others made their contribution to a fine afternoon and a lovely evening. MRS. FANTINE PAXTON? Yes—you are right, wife of the late PROFESSOR PAXTON of O. U. and the first lady graduate of the University of Oklahoma! Indeed, MRS. PAXTON was not alone in the first category as at her side was the first man graduate—the chap who knows more of the historical background, the tradition and lore of O. U. than any ten thousand graduates in the world—the special guest at the '01 table, C. ROSS HUME, '98ba, '00ma, Anadarko.

Due to a special assignment on the part of Regent "Prexy" JOE LOONEY, '20ba, '22law, Wewoka, and President-Elect JOE BRANDT—this week of Princeton University and in exactly five weeks to take over the O. U. President's chair—the genial GUY Y. WILLIAMS, '06ba, '10ma, could not be present as '06 chairman and to lead his old cronies over familiar paths, as he was in the East inspecting industrial laboratories and perfecting plans for O. U.'s new plant. But, indeed, GUY Y., on this special assignment, did not dampen the spirit of the reunionites of '06 because under the very able management of A. MARTIN KINGKADE, acting chairman, '06ba, Oklahoma City, JOHN A. MERKLE, '06ba, Norman, TOM B. MATHEWS, '06ba, Tulsa and many more '06ites, the show went on.

FRANK A. BALYEAT, '11ba, '18ma, as chairman of the '11 crew really "strutted" his stuff and spent a very pleasant day visiting with other '11 graduates at this reunion hoge-poge. FRANK,



Two scenes of the class reunion broadcast from the Union Lounge. In the picture on the left those grouped around the microphone are, left to right, Alumni Secretary Ted Beaird, and three members of the Class of '06, John A. Merkle, Tom B. Matthews, and A. Martin Kingkade. In the picture on the right are shown, left to right, Joe W. Lee, '21, general director of the broadcast, Secretary Beaird, and President W. B. Bizzell. Seated is Max Chambers, who took part in the broadcast as representative of the Class of '21.

being flanked on all sides by eleveners, we were privileged to meet and greet DOROTHY VAUGHN BELL, '11ba, Norman, DR. EDWARD EVERETT DALE, '11ba, the O. U. faculty cowboy—and in passing what a *wow* of a talk ED gave to the General Reunion Banquet! Indeed, even though ED DALE was speaking on "The Language of the Frontier" he was certainly not "a flash in the pan" and at the conclusion all agreed that "he had shot his wad," but in "shooting" had delivered a masterpiece! Even CLARENCE W. McFERRON, '11bs, '18eng, Oklahoma City, held the very unique distinction of representing the entire O. U. School of Engineering in the Class of '11 and was back swapping yarns along with BOB WOOD, '11ba, Tulsa and DARELL JENKS, '11ba, Purcell.

This Silver Jubilee idea—(with apologies again to HARVEY SMITH, "... It takes all kinds to make a class") well, it works at O. U.! The O. U. Class of 1916 had their Silver Jubilee (twenty-fifth year reunion) on this particular June afternoon and evening—the Silver Jubilee idea is a good one especially when twenty-five years after KEN KAUFMAN, '16ba, '19ma philosopher poet short-grass-cowboy, representative of art and literature as well as teacher deluxe on the campus in Cleveland County, Oklahoma, assembled his crew of eighty-one returning '16ers for their reunion activities. Of course, the '16ites were in the spot light at the head table with silver lapel cards that seemed a mile wide and a yard long with the figure 16 prominently displayed! What an array of bulging waistlines—receding hair lines—but truly successful business and professional men and women in this '16 gang! And why shouldn't they have been the "it" gang this reunion session with an influx of dignitaries from all over the country? KATHERINE BARR HILL, '16ba, Norman—as co-chairman to KEN KAUFMAN for the class of '16 filled the bill! That gal never stopped working night or day and she made the whole reunion go over with a bang. Around the festive board where the '16ers were under the spot light we were privileged to chat with WILLIAM J. ARMSTRONG, '14ba, '16

law, Oklahoma City, the big commissioner that deals with corporations, the one and only A. N. "JACK" BOATMAN, '14ba, '16law, Okmulgee, DR. FELIX GASTINEAU, '16bs, '18 med, who administers to the aches and pains of the O. U. student body (term and word used literally) in the University Infirmary. LOWREY H. HARRELL, '16law, Ada, was in there pitch-in'. And *how* time moved back and *how* pleasant memories flashed in review in chatting again with LOWREY HARRELL! How often in "hours of crisis" when vital matters pertaining to the alumni association of O. U. and the Institution itself, we were closeted together trying to "pit our wits" during his tenure of office as an outstanding president of the "world's best alumni system!" DAVE LOGAN, '16ba, Okmulgee, along with MRS. LOGAN appeared early for the '16 rally. DAVE rounded up a number of his old chronies of twenty-five years before in Oklahoma City the night preceding the reunion activities on the O. U. campus and all "made hay" far into the night. And, of course, the inseparable and outstanding twins, DR. TOM, '14bs, '16med, and DR. DICK LOWRY, '14bs, '16med, of Oklahoma City were back to enjoy old friendships and stimulate old memories. T. HOWARD McCASLAND, '16ba, Duncan, the genial manager who supervised and managed (and has for a long time) the alumni association president of last season (NORMAN "BRILL" BRILLHART, '17ba, Madill), was up to check his business associate and partner out or office, and was chuckling over the fact, "Well, fellows, 'BRILL' will be just another 'X' tomorrow." From the deep Southwest FINLEY McLAURY, '16law, the very efficient board member of the Alumni Association was at the '16 table in all his glory. Yes, he must have made an impression and made 'er stick—the next day, upon the expiration of his term of office on the executive board, his associates elected him vice president for the organized alumni. MRS. McLAURY quickly flashed the idea, "FINLEY, this must mean that you are President of all Vice." Well, it was a swell crew, those '16ites and, of course, our hired hand is looking forward to many, many more

reunions with this outstanding group. As "CAP" KITE, '16ba, Oklahoma City, puts it, "When I come back for my fiftieth year reunion I will bring along BILL (his son) for his twenty-fifth." BILL, of course, was a graduate of the class of '41.

Three times seven (3 times 7)—well, that equals twenty-one (21) in any institution's arithmetic department! So, indeed, it was the 20th year after for the representatives of the class of 1921 to howl, and did they do their howling! For weeks prior to the reunion assembly, under the able leadership of Chairman FUNSTON F. GAITHER, '21ba, '26m.ed, Norman, the special committee preparing for the class of '21 had been digging in. On last minute notice the venerable and man of long alumni service, FRANK S. CLECKLER, '21ba, the administrator of the United States Veteran Affairs at Muskogee, had to throw in the sponge and take up special colors for Uncle Sam in army training, so naturally he could not be there. Not so, however, with Captain WILLIAM V. COX, '21ba, '24ma, the headmaster-president and general high mogul of his Ponca City Military Academy in the thriving city of Kay County. Bill was there in person and rehashing memories of basketball days of twenty years ago. Even President-Elect JOE A. BRANDT, '21ba, who, of course, just ten days before had scooted down from Princeton to deliver the commencement address to the graduates of the Oklahoma A. and M. College—but had to scoot back to his Princeton duties just as fast—sent down his wire and greetings for his 20th year class reunion. JAMES S. DOWNING, '21pharm, the owner-manager and pill dispenser of his own drug company in Norman was on the spot meeting and greeting, as was Professor JAMES C. POWELL, '21ba, '24law, and MRS. POWELL, who, along with DR. DIXIE YOUNG, '21ba, '22ma, took their time away from cares and duties as O. U. faculty members to see that the lucky '21ites were taken care of in due form. Yes, it was a great day, followed by a great night for the class of '21.

The spirit of '26—the venerable and vulnerable and dignified director of the University Extension Division, Uncle HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma, was performing well as chairman for his reunion class of 1926, but as the directing spirit of this class he naturally could not have functioned effectively without the assistance of many around his registration headquarters, including DOLLIE SMITH CONALLY, '26fa, Norman; N. L. GEORGE, '26ed, '31m.ed, the newly elected efficiency expert and business manager of the Oklahoma City public school system; MRS. FLORENCE GRUMICH LUSTER, '26ba, Norman—yes, and she had "SNORTER" '22ba, '22law, right along with her; MRS. EMMA GENE PROVOST McDERMOTT, '26fa, '29ba, '40ed, Norman—yes, and she, too, had Uncle HUGH, '20ba, right along with her. Well, they were all in there just plowing. Yes, there were others helping the venerable and vulnerable spirit of '26—FRANK C. MORRIS, '26eng, '30eng, the present navy hotshot stationed in New Orleans, along with MRS. CLEMNON-TYNE MORRIS, '29h.ec, were contributing their bit to the occasion. Many others passed in review, and the special table for the class of '26 was full to overflowing long before the reunion dinner was under way.

This genial chairman of the Class of '31—well, he could make any man's or women's reunion activities outstanding with snap and punch—GLENN C. COUCH, '31bs, '37ms, a good chairman of any delegation, but for the chairman of his 10th year reunion he made an outstanding contribution. Of course, CECIL H. BRITE, '29bus, '31law, the efficiency expert and business manager of student publications of the University was one of his right hand bowers and the contribution and hard work on the part of ELIZABETH HALBERT, '23fa, '27ba, '31 lib.sci, who breezed over from the University library long enough to do her bit can't be overlooked. And, too, MAURINE STARNES, '21ba, '37ed, took time off from her many, many

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duties in the Registry Office of the University, and especially dropped her work of supplying Alumni addresses to your hired hand and came over long enough for a get-together with the '31 birds; FLORENCE G. MILLER, '31ma, of the Eastern Oklahoma College, Wilburton. Yes, FLORENCE was back meeting and greeting dozens and dozens of her friends made over a number of years in the State of Oklahoma. Well, last but not least to be mentioned among the reunion class personalities of the Class of '31 is JOE W. LEE, '31ba, general manager of KGGF, Shawnee. Not only did JOE on this occasion contribute to his reunion class of 1931 by active participation, but for weeks in advance helped your hired hand and other staff officials in setting up the radio network for the special reunion broadcast for the Sunday afternoon emanating out of the general lounge room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union. That boy JOE LEE always contributes to the University of Oklahoma whatever the occasion may be.

MARGARET REDDING, '36ba, knows all the answers to all the questions about many angles of the University of Oklahoma. As the chairman of the baby reunion class of the University of Oklahoma (class of 1936), she did not spare of time or energy in pulling away from her duties with the Noble Drilling Company in Ardmore to make her class reunion outstanding. MARGARET was ably assisted by MARY MARGARET BEHRINGER, '36ba, of Okemah; ANN MCCOOL, '36ba, of the O. U. Extension Division staff; JAMES F. HANING, '36ba, '39law, Ada; VIRGINIA KATHERINE RADER, '36 lib.sci, '40ma, Alva; and JOHN M. WHEELER, JR., '36law, '38law, of Tulsa. Yes, they were the baby reunionites—just five years out—but we venture the assertion when their silver reunion jubilee comes about they will return five hundred strong.

So that's the run of the five-year interval—eight groups of graduates who were back and staged their big rallies and enjoyed their reunion activities. Each five years, of course, they will return again and, may we hope, a little gayer—and that peace and prosperity will follow in their tracks and meet 'em in the path on the way out.

And who were some of the dignitaries visiting at the general reunion dinner and paying their respects to this stalwart throng of O. U. graduates? The Regents, of course, were ably represented by MR. and MRS. JOE McBRIDE, '28bus, Anadarko; LLOYD NOBLE, '21 Ardmore; as well as Regent Prexy JOE and MRS. LOONEY, '20ba, '22law, Wewoka; and, of course, the "fashioned Father Time" Secretary of the Board of Regents, namely, EMIL R. KRAETTLI, '18, along with MRS. KRAETTLI, was very much in evidence. Along with the Regents, the retiring President, W. B. BIZZELL, and MRS. BIZZELL as well as former President STRATTON D. BROOKS, Kansas City, enjoyed the occasion thoroughly.

Past presidents of the Alumni Association, executive board members, and other alumni officials were in evidence throughout the banquet hall. Some of those we were privileged to "record" as the evening drew to a close were past President DEAN E. D. MEACHAM, '14ba, O. U.; retiring president of the Alumni Corporation, NORMAN W. BRILLHART, '17ba, and wife MILDRED, '22fa, of Madill; incoming Alumni Prexy O. F. "FISH" MULDROW, '22, and wife, MARGARET, '30ba, of Ardmore, and many, many others too numerous to mention.

The musical highlight at this reunion was Princess LUSHANYA who was known as TESSIE MOBLEY upon leaving the University in 1924. She is now the famed operatic singer and returned to us on this particular evening to give her contribution to her Alma Mater and its honor graduates.

What a day of activity—what a night of pleasure without all the frills! The afternoon's activity was climaxed by the "march of time" giving a parade via the Oklahoma Network and its organized stations throughout the state of a cross section of the years from forty years ago

down to the last five. And that gave a grand climax to any group of reunion classes in staging their five year rallies.

So, hundreds of Sooners flocked in from all sections. On this occasion your hired hand stood on his own home ground, stood in the alumni's magnificent building—the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building on the campus of the University of Oklahoma—watched his flock do a lot of fancy Riding of the Sooner Range.

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## Sooner Officers at Fort Sill

Fifty University of Oklahoma graduates and former students who are reserve officers are now on active duty in the Field Artillery Replacement Training Center at Fort Sill, according to a survey made by Lt. Col. Leal W. Reese, public relations officer.

They are:

Lt. Benjamin E. Allen, '38bus.  
 Capt. Oliver C. Appleton, '33bus.  
 Lt. Edgar Baxter, '33eng.  
 Lt. Ray W. Broadfoot, '39bus.  
 Lt. Donald Brown, '25law.  
 Lt. Lynn James Bullis, Jr., '33law.  
 Lt. Alex Cheek, 40ba, '40law.  
 Capt. Carrol J. Close, '32eng.  
 Lt. Harry R. Cook, '40bus.  
 Capt. Robert R. Crowder, '26eng.  
 Capt. Henry M. Doughty, '27.  
 Lt. Joseph L. Driskell, '28.  
 Capt. Orin W. Duncan, '27.  
 Capt. Homer E. Fanning, '30eng.  
 Capt. John J. Fleet, '24ph.g.  
 Capt. Henry L. Gifford, '32bus.  
 Lt. Murray Gordon, '33ba, '33law.  
 Lt. LeRoy C. Henderson, '36geol.  
 Capt. Earnest A. Jones, '32ed.  
 Capt. Joseph Kennedy, '29law.  
 Lt. Walter Lampton, '32bus.  
 Lt. Norval M. Locke, '40ed.  
 Lt. John A. Marshall, '40eng.  
 Cap. Eugene J. McCormick, '33.  
 Lt. James Logan McDonald, Jr., '37bus.  
 Lt. James D. McLean, '40.  
 Lt. James C. McWilliams, '37ba, '37law.  
 Lt. Emil F. Meis, '37bus.  
 Lt. Francis B. Mills, '37.  
 Lt. Arch M. Parmenter, Jr., '40law.  
 Capt. Claude J. Perry, '37law.  
 Capt. Robert J. Price, '25ba, '27law.  
 Lt. Millard S. Purdy, '38journ.  
 Lt. John F. Shirk, '40.  
 Lt. Edward Smith, '40law.  
 Lt. Weldon Smith, '41.  
 Lt. John B. Spence, Jr., '39journ.  
 Lt. Avin John Spencer, '34pharm.  
 Lt. Willis R. Stark, '34law.  
 Lt. Clifford A. Stein, '34ba, '36law.  
 Lt. Harry F. Suffield, '37geol.  
 Capt. Varley Taylor, '31ba, '32law.  
 Lt. J. T. Timmons, '41.  
 Capt. Voyle V. Tipton, '25.  
 Lt. Charles Julian Vahlberg, '41.  
 Lt. John E. Walker, '36ba, '37law.  
 Lt. James V. Whitley, '31ba, '33law.  
 Lt. Byron E. Williams, '34ba.  
 Capt. Robert J. Woolsey, '29ba, '31law.  
 Lt. Dewey Beeson, '31.

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► Dr. Maurice H. Merrill, '19ba, '22law, professor of law, was a speaker at the Lawyers' Institute conducted at the University of Texas, last month under sponsorship of the State Bar of Texas and the University of Texas Law School. Dr. Merrill's topic was "The Rights and Duties of an Oil and Gas Operator under an Assignment Covering a Portion Only of the Leased Premises."

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