

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

IT'S all in the run of the spring and this spring of '41—well, it's proven to be a marathon! Tonight (May 1) on the beautiful campus of the University of Kentucky (Lexington) with 37 other Sooners in this word slinging session of 900 delegates from 41 states readily convinces one *why* and *how* the colonels of the blue grass region get that way!

Today for a two-hour period as an interested "visiting spectator" at the two Kentucky districts' Rotary assembly being staged here by more than 1000 Kentucky Rotarians and wives convinces me that the true tradition of the old South still lives. Today in conferences with alumni officials of Kentucky University likewise convinces me that the same perplexing problems, the same work shifts, and the same answers to the *questions* must be made in all alumni set-ups, just the same as it is in the Sooner alumni organization down (or is it over?) in Cleveland County, Oklahoma.

This afternoon in an informal "chat session" with numerous young men—students at the University of Kentucky—counter hops, soda squirts, dish washers and what have you—in the magnificent Student Union Building at the University of Kentucky—made me realize all the more America's future (and the thing we call democracy) depends on these just-out-of-the-teen age men! Indeed, were it not for the soft drawl and the slow conversation typical of the section, I would have been convinced while chatting with these chaps that I was having a session with the alumni-in-the-making of O.U.! Keen, alert, quick on the trigger, this group of young Americans! Yes, here at the University of Kentucky they are in the process of being made future alumni and the makin' of alums—whether it be O.U. Sooner alums or others—well, that's a major "industry" and it has never been known to have a series of sit-down or stand-up strikes.

Seventy-two hours ago in Fort Worth and Dallas, Texas (that's a long ways from this blue grass region of Kentucky), O.U. alumni who had already been made—far past the stage of in-the-making—were commenting in this informal session we were having in those two Texas cities on the same problem that those Kentucky boys brought forth this afternoon. Higher education must be performing its service and making its imprint nation-wide—these alumni think, live, and act DEMOCRACY!

Fifty hours ago at Little Rock, Arkansas, and two hours later in Memphis, Tennessee, the hotel lobbies, the administration building of the air fields, were filled with alumni *who had been made*—now out moving; making AMERICA! The same topic of conversation was prevalent, namely, the future of the U.S.A. in an hour of crisis. Thirty-six hours ago in Nashville, and some three hours later in Louisville, yes, the same topic was still in vogue. So with that cross section of alumni, representing the various institutions, representing American life as it is, why shouldn't the seasoning in this process of developing American citizens be of direct interest to one interested in alumni association work. The better half of Oklahoma is pouring into Louisville this afternoon because it is a few hours until Derby time. But even though I have been accorded the courtesy of a box seat via DR. TOM LOWRY, '14bs, '16med, of Oklahoma City, who on last minute notice found he could not come for the big race and authorized his "proxy" in my direction, it is quite necessary that I return via Indianapolis, St. Louis, Tulsa, and may we hope land in Oklahoma City at 11:40 tonight.

So this note from the airport at Louisville to say that Sooners are passing in review. Among those to attend the race and represent the Sooner state, MRS. W. J. HOLLOWAY and son BILL, of Oklahoma City; GENE EDWARDS, the fine outstanding sen-

ior high kid of Classen High School, Oklahoma City; daughter JEAN LOWRY, Dr. Tom's pride and joy; COLONEL C. E. GRADY, '30, the original Kentuckian back down on home lands, and will soon be beating the path back toward Oklahoma City via the highways of the South; BETTY COE ARMSTRONG, '39fa, the school-marm of Sulphur, Oklahoma, and her proteges—all these and many more—are swinging in and wondering if in the mob of tomorrow, 100,000 strong, they can get even a glimpse of the winning horse.

A 15-minute pause at the airport in Indianapolis—but a Sooner always appears—the Lockheed zooming over the field to pick a landing spot comes to a stop on the runway immediately in front of the administration building, and a lone Sooner steps out, the official pilot of Phillips 66, Bartlesville, Oklahoma. A brief time before, he left the Washington, D.C., airport after delivering his cargo of Oklahoma oil executives and is now making his way back to Sooner soil as a lone eagle. Yes, just dropped in at the Indianapolis airport to re-fuel, and by sundown he will be at his home station, Bartlesville, Oklahoma. That's the modern trend of American civilization—speed and action!

The administration building of the air terminal at St. Louis is a beehive on this particular afternoon, and of course we will have time for dinner before the Tulsa-Oklahoma City American Airliner makes its appearance. And here comes a plane from New Orleans and out steps a big big Sooner, IRL "BIG BOY" RHYNES, stopping over in St. Louis for a few hours on official business after a continuous series of days' and nights' work in the Louisiana fields. Sure we settled the football problems—in fact we won most of the games for JAP HASKELL, '22 geol, SNORTER LUSTER, '22ba, '22law, DALE ARBUCKLE, '27law, '36ed, and the rest of the gang who will be in the saddle next fall. And sure, he is coming down to Norman five days later, and sure we will arrange to have lunch together and to meet a gang of the Sooner alums with whom he is associated.

And just what do all those southern and eastern states in the early spring days of an uncertain year have on the young commonwealth of Oklahoma? Easily answered—no odds—we Sooners are of even break. And at this minute, some days after the notes were written in Kentucky, Indiana, and other "seaports," the enthusiasm garnered at a special luncheon in the Oklahoma Memorial Union today is enough to carry one through several work hours. Twenty-three young senior lawyers of the University of Oklahoma, assembled as special guests of their Alumni Association, and twenty-one of them signing up to become life members at that special luncheon to go out into the business and professional life as new disciples of a greater University of Oklahoma by participating in a constructive alumni organization. Elsewhere in the *Sooner Magazine* announcements giving the names and addresses of these young gentlemen are made.

The melting pot of America—that's often the slogan applied to the institutions of higher learning of the various states—but we say to you that in the radio tower housing WNAD in the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building, well—it's the O.U. alumni melting pot of the world! That broadcast spot coming daily, except Sunday, from 12 noon to 12:15 p.m. really affords your hired hands the opportunity of having distinguished alumni pass in review.

And on a recent Monday and Tuesday we indeed became the melting pot of the world so far as alumni interests and contacts are concerned. ARNOLD COURT, '34ba, O.U.'s contribution to the Byrd expedition to the South Pole, breezed in by plane via Panama en route to his Washington head-

Above are shown participants in three consecutive programs of the daily radio broadcast sponsored by the Alumni Association over WNAD. Top picture, Arnold Court, '24ba (left) just back from the Byrd Expedition to the Antarctic, is interviewed by Alumni Secretary Ted Beaird. Second picture, Betty Kirk, '29ba, foreign correspondent in Mexico City, discusses her work with the editor of Sooner Magazine. Below, Ed Edmondson, '40ba, former Sooner debater and orator now taking graduate work in Washington, D.C., in preparation for work with the F.B.I., is interviewed by Secretary Beaird. The radio program, consisting of interviews with visiting alumni and varied announcements about alumni activities goes on at 12 noon every day except Sunday on WNAD (now 640 kilocycles)

quarters after months and months at the South Pole in time to give us a very interesting series of radio comments in his interview on this occasion. Yes, the headquarters for the advisory council alumni gang at the South Pole has been closed. Arnold, as you know, was the chairman and the council, but at that, O.U. alumni have the distinction of the first alumni headquarters established at the South Pole region, and we will be riding the range down that way someday—maybe!

The next day noon, the charming and distinguished chairman of the O.U. Advisory Council at Mexico City, BETTY KIRK, '29ba, appeared on the alumni 12 noon radio spot and we learned of many activities of our graduates breezing in and breezing out of her home city of Mexico City to the south. Indeed, it seemed like old times to have Betty, the foreman—hired hand—manager—in former days of the University Press back with us to comment on Sooner Joe's elevation to the presidency of the University of Oklahoma and reminisce over events of great importance to us down through the years.

A total of 2573 Oklahoma citizens packed into one municipal auditorium in the county seat city, Shawnee, of Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma, vitally interested in one subject, "The War of Today," but more vitally interested in the speaker of the occasion, H. V. Kaltenborn, well that's a novel sight to behold. But those 2500-plus interested citizens of Oklahoma were of more interest to your hired hand because more than 1000 of those men and women were either alumni of the University of Oklahoma or associated closely with, by relationship, other alumni of the University of Oklahoma.

The occasion was the Sunday evening program of the annual 124th District Rotary Convention for the Rotarians and their wives of this state. Yes, it was really a Sooner homecoming in Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma. Chapters could be devoted to the many men, to the many women, to the many husbands and wives and friends, all alumni of the University of Oklahoma whom we were privileged to meet and greet. Among those we "viewed" from the speaker's rostrum on Sunday evening, May 11, were: EARL FOSTER, '12ba, '13law, and MRS. ALTA SAWYER FOSTER, '30ma, Oklahoma City; JOE McBRIDE, '28bus, and MRS. CLELLA LEMARR McBRIDE, '27ba, Anadarko; JOHN R. PEARSON, '29ba, '29law, Pawhuska; GEORGE D. HANN, '36m.ed, and MRS. IRENE ARGABRIGHT HANN, '26, Ardmore; HICKS EPTON, '32law, and MRS. THELMA PATE EPTON, '32 ed, Wewoka; DENNIS PETTY, '32law, and MRS. PETTY, Wewoka; HARRY SIMMONS, '24ba, Wewoka; JIMMY FRAZIER, '24ba, '32m.ed, Wewoka; CALVIN SMITH, '40m.ed, and MRS. SMITH, Wewoka; OTIS BOURNS, '38law, and MRS. BOURNS, Seminole; HORTON GRISSO, '30geol, and MRS. EVELYN FLEEGER GRISSO, '30, Seminole; KENNETH ABERNATHY, '31 law, and MRS. ABERNATHY, Shawnee; JOE CHATMAN, '27bus, and MRS. FAY NAYLOR CHATMAN, '28ed, Norman; FRED THOMPSON, '22ba, and MRS. THOMPSON, Norman; LOWELL BROWN, '37m.ed, and MRS. BROWN, Norman; JIM DOWNING, '21pharm, and MRS. DOWNING, Norman; TOM BENEDUM, '28law, and MRS. LUCILLE WILLIAMS BENEDUM, '28 ba, Norman; DAVE PHILLIPS, '25ba, '35m.ed, superintendent of Waurika schools, soon to move to the superintendency at Pauls Valley; DR. CLAUDE CHAMBERS, and friends, of Seminole; MRS. IDA SALIN WILLIAMS WHEELER, '20ba, Clinton; ELMER FRAKER, '20ba, '38ma, and MRS. EDNA STUERKE FRAKER, '22, Mangum. Oh, well, we could go on far into the night naming hundreds of others, but these we especially recall due to their participation in the activities of the day.

So—there's the run of a month, or merely a few (very very few) of the highlights in the run of a month, and just now we must shuffle off the pending items of business on the desk and prepare to cover Sooner territory for the next 15 days and nights, heading first toward Madill for a meeting with NORMAN BRILLHART, '17ba, and MILDRED COLBY BRILLHART, '22fa, and many other Sooners tomorrow night, with a shift on through Wewoka the next morning for a gossip session with alumni leaders of that fair city, then to

The University of Oklahoma Association

Independent Organization of Alumni and Former Students
Offices in the Memorial Union Building, Norman

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THE SOONERS' *Stop-Off* in OKLAHOMA CITY

MEMO TO SOONERS:

Many alumni will want to enjoy some of the short courses and conferences scheduled at the University of Oklahoma this summer. The way to enjoy them the most is to make your living headquarters the cool, comfortable BILTMORE HOTEL -- at the center of things in Oklahoma City, and an easy drive to Norman.



HOTEL OKLAHOMA BILTMORE OKLAHOMA CITY

Wetumka as a special guest of L. F. BATTLES, and his Sooner staff, with the next "one night stand" with RED McLEAN, '38m.ed, superintendent city schools, and the other Sooner comrades of Anadarko. Back to Chickasha for GARNER COLLUMS, '19ba; BRUCE MYERS, '22ba, '34 m.ed; CLYDE POWELL, '36; JESSIE LONE CLARKSON GILKEY, '27fa; and many many other O.U. alumni of the Grady County village, with a jump next morning to Altus for a session with HARRINGTON WIMBERLY, '24ba; EMILY SMITH, '31ma; CLIFF PETERSON, '36ed; and MRS. EULA BOULWARE PETERSON, '35, and the Jackson County alumni group, with a swing in the evening to HORACE L. HENSLEY, '37 m.ed, and his stalwart O.U. cronies in the Jackson County city of Gould.

Then, of course, with a circle back through the capitol of Kiowa County, Hobart, to be with BEN-NIE McELYEA, '27ba, '36m.ed, and his many "Kiowa Sooners." The next morning a swing across the state to Sulphur where PAUL REED, '16; HAROLD SPRINGER, '37ba, '39law; D. C. MATTHEWS, '38ba, and many many other Sooner alumni will have the barbecued chicken ready for O.U.-ites' digestion!

And then a swing back into Norman, we hope, for the activities of Sunday, June 8, wherein we are special hosts to the eight reunion classes to be followed by the annual board meetings the next day, with baccalaureate Sunday, leading up to the commencement address by the Honorable JOSH LEE, '17ba, United States senator (and I'll bet my right arm it is a good Sooner message) being sandwiched in!

Then to release the graduates (yes, I expect it will be near 1200 strong)—graduates who on Monday, June 9, will become the newly born alumni of the University of Oklahoma—graduates who will scatter to the four corners and alumni who will fit into all walks and avenues of life. So—here we go on this Riding of the Sooner Ranges.



New Rush Plan

A new "invitation rush plan" is being tried by University fraternities as a supplement to the regular pledging system.

Tom Smith, executive of the Interfraternity Council, explained the new plan is designed to reach men students who wish to join fraternities but who do not have contact with fraternal groups.

Students interested in joining a fraternity will be asked to fill out general information blanks and will be interviewed by the council secretary. Information obtained will be reported to fraternity chapters but the students' names will be withheld until a fraternity interested in one of the applicants asks for the name in order to contact him for the regular rush procedure. Fraternity leaders believe the new plan will result in closer contacts between fraternities and independent students.

State Budget System Favored

Dr. Findley Weaver, professor of marketing and director of the University bureau of business research, attacked the program for higher taxes in the state in an address before the Association of Oklahoma College and University Business Officers. The group was meeting in Durant.

Effective budgeting is a greater need in Oklahoma than more revenue, Dr. Weaver asserted. "A program of increasing taxes without budgeting expenditures perpetuates the lack of economy in state government by passing its cost on to taxpayers," he declared.