

# Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

WITH hundreds upon hundreds of alumni sessions (dinners, luncheons, informal conferences—and what have you) down through the years it is still *my* point of contention that the most enjoyable alumni meetings staged in America are often in small villages with from fifty to one hundred alumni and their families stacked around a dinner table where we can really talk “turkey.” The meeting in Cordell, Oklahoma, on the afternoon and evening of December 6, 1940, was indeed no exception to this rule. Fact of the matter, it was near a southwestern Oklahoma homecoming and due to the particular season of the year, alumni were stacked in the small city of Cordell from all over.

UNITED STATES SENATOR JOSH LEE, Norman, '17ba, was there as a special guest visiting with his dozens of friends in Cordell and from the near-by Rocky territory. It was a swell informal dinner and it was indeed nice to visit again with our official representatives of Washita County, headed by MRS. ALTA LOOMIS CARDER, '16ba, along with her Advisory Council members—LOCKWOOD JONES, '30law, ALVIN McCURLEY, '21ba, MRS. LEO OZBIRN, '19ba, and MRS. RAYMOND WESNER, '29ba. At the speakers table *my driver* to my left, J. F. “Major” MALONE, '37ba, not only proved himself as a good driver on the highway but as a good counselor on the speech making after a marvelous dinner. To my right at this alum-feast our one-time co-worker steno MARGUERITE BELLAH STEWART, '33ba, now the gracious housewife-hostess in Washington and to her right our long time friend, husband of Marguerite, A. MANSUR STEWART, '34.

Others with whom we were privileged to visit on this particular evening were: WALTER H. FOTH, '31law, CLEDDIE VANDERVEER, '40m.ed, STANIFIER KEAS, '38, JOE MAPIER, '40, GEORGE A. O'NEAL, '17ba, '40m.ed, ALVIN D. McCURLEY, '21ba, MRS. RUBY LEE DODSON, '40m.ed, WALLACE A. TAYLOR, '40bs, FRED L. FRENCH, '39m.ed, LONNIE T. VANDIVER, '39m.ed, (indeed the O. U. ambassador of the southwest, the ole maestro—the chap with that certain something—yeah, the boy that has *it* when it comes to performing services for O. U.), J. GLENN TOWNSEND, '37 m.ed, CHARLES EDWARDS, '34ba, '36law—others, yes, many others but we must get on with this riding of the Sooner Range as we have covered ground and plenty of it and have seen alumni and plenty of ‘em in the past thirty days and nights.

Yes, indeed there is one spot in this universe where an alumni meeting may be called on two minutes' notice on any street corner in the city. I refer to the western Oklahoma city, Clinton (maybe it's Meachamville, or should have been). That spot where according to the natives, the Kappa Sig whistle can be sounded and they flock out all windows and doors down main street coming to the aid of their party.

On the swing out to Cordell at 10 a. m. in the morning Maj. Malone and myself dropped by the business firm of BUFF BURTIS, '27ba, and MRS. BURTIS, '26ba. After a pleasant visit with them, Buff, Maj. and your hired hand started down that busy street for a little coffee and in one block (near the town's principal filling station) we met enough Sooner graduates to hold an alumni parley on the street corner.

Among these busy men who breezed by but

stopped to exchange thoughts and yarns about O. U. were FRED LaRUE, '21law, the prosecuting prosecutor, DENVER MEACHAM, '33bs, '35law, County Alumni Advisory Council Chairman, DOYLE WATSON, '37bus, '40law (the G. M. A. C. hot-shot whose territory is in the western part of the state and *how* he would like to be back at Alma, Oklahoma, to again breeze out to California as the ambassador in the Coconut Grove), IRA “Eph” MONROE, '40law—the baseball playing—poolball rakin'—attorney and counselor at law, cutting his eye teeth in the western territory. GEORGE MEACHAM, '21law, the big shot State Highway Commissioner, dropping over from the capitol to check-up on per-



*The Range Rider is principal speaker at an alumni dinner in Cordell. Left to right at the speakers' table: Mansur Stewart, Mrs. Stewart, Senator Josh Lee, Mrs. Alta Loomis Carder (O.U. council chairman at Cordell), J. F. Malone, and Ertis Sasseeen*

sonal business and to say hello to his many friends and associates—and others. But this is enough to show you that in a five-minute “bird call” in Clinton-town you can really get something started in the interests of O. U. and its alumni!

It's a long *drag* on any line, Pennsylvania or otherwise, from St. Louis to Washington and “the District” to indulge in the furious activities of the administration but that long run was lightened *considerably* by Sooners on that train December 29, as we headed toward the national capitol and should we say the end of the rainbow (?).

With CHARLES PRICE GREEN, '25ba, head of the O. U. Speech Department, JIM ROBINSON, '32ba, '32law, staff member of the North-eastern State College, Tahlequah, E. E. BRADLEY, '39m.ed, staff member of the A. and M. College, Goodwell, HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26 ma, director of O. U. Extension Division and many other Sooners at the end of the line including DR. WALTER B. EMERY, '34law, of Ohio State University—well, it was a pleasant trip and well worth while even though the cry of WAR and National Defense over the “District” prevents one just now from considering any other factors in American life and makes it a wee bit difficult to complete pending business items in the national capitol!

More especially was it worthwhile when upon arrival late Monday evening, December 30, in the national capitol we were greeted by the alumni Advisory Council chairman, PAUL WALKER, '12law, of the Communications Commission, and gracious hostess MRS. WALKER (Myra Evelyn Williams, '12), invited us into their home for a special tea and the announcing of the coming marriage of their daughter.

We were privileged to meet stacks upon stacks of Sooners in the beautiful Walker home including *our pick boy*, ED EDMONDSON, '40ba, the Muskogee chap who has already made a big contribution in his young life. Others—yes, scores of them. But frankly it's a little hard to get over the “District” to meet and greet the hundreds of Sooners in the National Capitol so we just couldn't see them all in the brief period we were there. We did *see enough* and *hear enough* to realize that the Sooner function of functions is to come off in the “District” February 15, when chairman Paul Walker and his assisting alumni council members of the nation's capitol, namely LYNDEN MANNEN, '27ba, '38ma, and PAT MANNEN, '34ed, ROY ST. LEWIS, '15law, JACK FISCHER, '32ba, and TED EVANS, '12, will stage a big O. U. alumni dinner in honor of Retiring President W. B. BIZZELL, and President-Elect JOSEPH A. BRANDT, '21ba, who will breeze over from Princeton to meet a group of livewire enthusiasts who next to home and country, put O. U. alumni activities in the forefront.

So here we are back on Sooner soil (indeed have been for several days) and in that span of several days a *few hundred* out-of-state and out-

of-nation visitors—O. U. alumni have breezed by to give us a ring; a hello; or a how do you do; and even our own HELEN HAMIL, '24bs, '24ms, of the O. U. Home Ec Staff swings back in to declare that she must become a life member of the association because she has just today returned from the west coast—and the Rose Bowl—where Sooners—stacks of ‘em—made her west coast vacation trip “Marvelous.”

And did we enjoy the greetings brought back by Helen from that Los Angeles gang! It just makes that old tickle dirt come-near-start-moving under the secretary's feet because they are about to drop a gavel out on the west coast and call another alumni meeting into session. And KING PRICE, '25, the big insurance doctor—athletic ambassador of O. U. watched the Rose Bowl game with interest. Yes, he too breezed out to California for the Rose Bowl. To hear his long tales about the Sooner gang in California—well, watch our feet, be still!

And too, after some five weeks of it, alumni athletic councilman PAUL REED, '16, plus MRS. REED, (our good Oklahoma Aggie friend) and Paul, Jr., swing back to their stomping ground and feed mill at Sulphur, Oklahoma, with interesting stories to relate of the success of the Sooners on the west coast. The Reed trio not only took advantage of the Rose Bowl but got out in time to have that eight minute thrill when little ORVIE MATHEWS went wild in San Francisco and made Santa Clara take two extra hitches in their belt to tighten up the Santa Clara-O. U. game some few weeks ago.

It's interesting—and did you ever note (or muse over same)—it always takes an Oklahoma Sooner to add the finishing touches to *any situation* in America. We are thinking particularly of the Cherokee Indian chap from Okmulgee,

Oklahoma, who directed the destiny of nations on a recent trip and had complete control as the Master of Ceremonies—and was, indeed, the idol of the hour (references and confidential files in the vault!).

Oh well, here comes a break in thought and continuity (if there is ever any continuity in this Range Riding) as the siren of the red flivver is sounding outside the office window and my driver, the genial "extending" chap BOYD GUNNING, '37ba, '37law, of the O. U. Extension Division, on this the 13th of January, is grabbing my bag, and we are off to Sulphur, Ardmore, Durant, and Hugo for a series of meetings and of course the Riding of the Range must be finished upon my return some fifty hours from now....

Yes, here it is some 50 hours later and we are back from that trek to the deep, deep southeast and what a pleasant day yesterday was in the Choctaw County capitol, Hugo. That pleasant 30-minute visit in the home of "our boy" and "our girl," JACK MARKS, '40, and MRS. ELNORE REINHARDT MARKS, '39h.ec. But we were not half as interested in seeing the big chief and charming wife as "wee chief" the eight-months-old boy already doing his daily dozen in getting set for a big O. U. football career as tackle just a few years in the future.

The noon hour with the Hugo Rotary Club composed of a lot of Sooners along with a lot of business and professional men of this southeastern Oklahoma city was interesting. For the first time in twenty years a good long visit with E. M. DEWEESE, '21ba, and we really let our hair down (all that's left for either of us) and talked about the problems confronting the University and how we two 2lites felt that they could be solved.

The dean of deans of O. U.ites—here he is in this Hugo assembly, namely, John A. Bryan, '11ba, in addition to "dean," a U. S. government official, merchant, farmer, REA director, Rotary official and a good egg!

The charming manager of the "Dutch" BREWER, '17ba, '20law, household, MRS. BREWER, '17, was of course there in person urging that we stay over in the Choctaw capitol and await Dutch's return some few hours later from Federal Court in Muskogee. But a business conference at the University at 8 p. m. prevented our staying and awaiting the prodigal son's return.

At the Hugo High School—and what a fine school system we were privileged to visit under the direction of Superintendent HARVEY BLACK, '16, with the high school under the immediate supervision of I. R. ARMSTRONG—we thoroughly enjoyed our two hours work with the 450 odd bright-eyed, ambitious young ladies and young gentlemen of the Senior High School. Fact of the matter is, we would like to have at least 450 of the 450 odd as future students of the University of Oklahoma as they are the type of young citizens that put on a swell chapel program and are alert and on their toes every minute. But why shouldn't they be when the guiding hand of some excellent O. U. teachers touches into their lives daily in their routine of work. Among those we were privileged to say hello to in passing were BLANCHE PORTWOOD, '34h.ec, and FANNIE GLENN, '29ma.

Well, all in all, it was a nice day in Hugo—a pleasant day—so pleasant in fact that we are going back down there in the spring and go out to some of the original communities of the Indians whose lands, as yet, the white man has not invaded and on that trek we expect to take color motion picture films of the fast slipping old Indian life in the old Indian territory.

Here they are at it again. Those public spirited men, the sons of O. U.—fifty-two strong in the House and Senate of the eighteenth session of the Oklahoma Legislature. Those boys got at it the day we arrived home from the "Dis-

(PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 30)

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Independent Organization of Alumni and Former Students

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## Riding the Sooner Range

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

trict" and some two dozen of them have already been by the office speaking with enthusiasm of their hopes and ambitions to help make the commonwealth of Oklahoma a little more attractive, a little more safe, and a little more sane, by the legislation to be sponsored not only by their own O. U. group but by the recommendation of the "alumnus Governor" (the first in the history of the state and the University) GOVERNOR LEON C. "Red" PHILLIPS, '16 law.

This morning in looking over committee assignments in both the House and Senate it is interesting to note that more than forty per cent have gone to O. U. alumni! What will they do with those assignments? How will they accomplish their day-dreams? How will they make Oklahoma a better state in which to live? Well, brother (and sister) watch their smoke for the next ninety days. The O. U.ites in this session *will accomplish results!*

Fifty-two O. U. men, well that's some accomplishment and recognition on the part of the people of this state in sending their representatives to the House and Senate of the Legislature. Who are they? Where are they from, and what about 'em? Well, let's look at the record. JOE B. THOMPSON, '27ba, '27law, Ardmore, PAUL V. CARLILE, '39law, Vian, and if that chap Paul can shoot bills through the upper house of the Legislature in the same manner as he can shoot squirrel and quail in the northeast "game country"—well, he'll get along. H. M. CURNUTT, '16, Barnsdall, ROBERT B. HARBISON, '30law, Altus, old debatin' Bob they called him at the University and he's never lost any licks in that public speaking work and platform performances since graduation. BILL GINDER, '31law, Cherokee, a chap who has performed a lot of good services for his University since graduation and a particularly good friend of our former board member, CHARLES B. DUFFY, '22law, Ponca City, another leading Senator in the upper house. BOYD COWDEN, '28, Chandler, JIM A. RINEHART, '23law, El Reno, the hard hittin' double fisted boy that "calls 'em as he sees 'em—and he's usually right." JOHN B. McKEEL, '27, Ada, JOHN C. MONK, '23, McAlester, JESSE TAYLOR, '30ba, Woodward, MURRELL H. THORNTON, '10, Muskogee, and we never see him or read his name unless we think of his fine work in connection with the Soldiers Relief Commission and the many pleasant hours of association we enjoyed together in child welfare work in placing children of World War Veterans in schools and colleges years ago. R. H. SIBLEY, '23, Pryor, "Bob" to the boys and truly always just "Bob." So now let's swing away from the Senate Chamber and across the corridor to the House of Representatives.

Indeed many, many O. U. classes are represented by the boys in the lower house. W. H. LANGLEY, '21, Sulwell, MERLE LANSDEN, '39law, Beaver, CLAUDE W. CHERRY, '17, El Reno, RICHARD T. PENDLETON, '26law, Norman, yeah, Dick and Frances (that's his wife you know) well, they've been near-by neighbors in the village of Norman down through the years. We've watched him in "action" on many occasions but never have we seen him in action on legislative matters, but on the basketball courts and football grids and he calls 'em like he sees 'em so watch his smoke. J. T. DANIEL, '25bs, Ryan, ROBERT BARR, '31, Dover, JACK BRADLEY, '25law, Wilburton, JOHN STEELE BATSON, '21, Marietta, PURMAN WILSON, '20, Purcell, I would that I could recount the number of ambitious boys' cases we have discussed together. I personally know that he has helped a lot of teen age lands over rough humps in the road.

KIRKSEY M. NIX, university student, Eufaula, D. C. MATTHEWS, '38ba, now a student in the University, Sulphur, a polished, refined young gentleman whom I have grown to know intimately as I have been privileged to have him work in my organization at the University and have been associated with some of his fine friends in the southern part of the state from whom he has received not only inspiration, but some excellent background training. MERLE D. ALLEN, '22, Perry, GLEN D. JOHNSON, '39, Okemah, DENNIS BUSHYHEAD, '29law, Claremore, a "good chief"—an understanding gentleman. A chap who has been most kind to me personally on more than one occasion when the life of a child was involved.

WILLIAM PARRISH, '40m.ed, Durant, AMOS STOVALL, '29law, Anadarko, BILL SELVIDGE, '38ba, Ardmore, another former employee in my University work, a square, fair and *unexcitable* young chap of Carter County. HAROLD FREEMAN, '25, Pauls Valley, HERBERT HOPE, '38bus, University student, Maysville, FRANK GRAYSON, University Student, Atwood, PAUL BALLINGER, '34law, Holdenville, LEONARD G. GEB, '40, Ponca City, WILLIAM H. CLINE, '21ba, '21law, Newkirk, J. ROBIN FIELD, '34law, Hobart, W. B. McDONALD, '27, Hobart, F. C. HELM, '19, Henryetta, ROBERT L. HERT, '34ba, '34law, Stillwater, MOSS WIMBISH, University student, Ada, one of Oklahoma's outstanding young men. A chap whom I have been associated with directly and indirectly for the past seventeen years. A scholar and above all else, a fair, square shooter (on many occasions I have seen him under the acid test and I know whereof I speak).

STREETER SPEAKMAN, '12law, Sapulpa, yes, Fred's dad, the young chap I had lunch with even today and who is making a marvelous record at the University of Oklahoma. I never see the name of Streeter Speakman but I think of that dark Sunday afternoon of the Walton-ousting-of-Brooks when Streeter Speakman was the spokesman for the several hundred alumni assembled in a church in Oklahoma City resenting political interference in the affairs of the University of Oklahoma. LAWRENCE JONES, '22law, Bristow, DUTCH HILL, now a student in the University, Chickasha, CHESTER NORMAN, '38ba, '40law, Muskogee, BILL HIGH, '31ba, Shawnee, GEORGE MISKOVSKY, '36law, Oklahoma City, and indeed is it possible that George has two fine young sons? Why it seems only a breathing spell since he was a very active student on this campus. Yeah, the thing that attracted my attention to the picture appearing in the Oklahoman this morning, January 15, was not his Oklahoma license plate 1-1 but the two fine boys of his who were holding up the plate that their daddy had selected. J. D. McCARTY, '40, Oklahoma City, B. B. KERR, '31law, Oklahoma City, A. E. MONTGOMERY, '15law, Tulsa, GLADE R. KIRKPATRICK, '27, Tulsa, and HOLLY L. ANDERSON, '24law, Tulsa. So there is your run of the fifty-two prominent gentlemen, the O. U.ites in the House and the Senate of the Eighteenth Oklahoma Legislature. And again our prediction, *watch their smoke.*

We have galloped over all too many pages but it has been an interesting month. Thousands of interesting alumni have flickered or flicked by and here is Tulsa calling and CLEO C. INGLE, '24ba, the County Advisory Council chairman is giving me his song and dance about all available halls being contracted for Friday, February 7, as he puts it, "there is just no place to put a big crowd of alumni" so we must dash to Oklahoma City and make a streamlined dart up Tulsa way because hundreds of alumni will be flocking in there for the O. E. A. Meetings on February 7, and we have never seen a bunch of Sooners fail to *want to eat!* So we are off to the northeast and again do just a little fancy Riding of the Sooner Range.