

Riding the Sooner Range

EDITOR'S NOTE: Ted Beard in his capacity as executive secretary of the Alumni Association has covered a lot of trails up and down the United States in recent years. In his Riding the Sooner Range feature in the *Sooner Magazine* (a feature which won first place in a national magazine competition), he has recorded the activities of thousands of alumni. In August, the "alumni hired hand," as Ted Beard called himself, went on leave of absence for the duration to become a captain in Uncle Sam's Air Corps. In the following brief article airtailed from his temporary station, the Army Air Corps Officer Training School at Miami Beach, he tells of the activities on the new trail and the different range that he is now riding.



TAKING THE OATH
Alumni Secretary Ted Beard, '21, being sworn in as a captain in the Army Air Corps by Mrs. Mary Turnbull, notary public and secretary in the Alumni Office for many years.

of old machinery and one of these days from all branches of the Armed Services they will be making a dog trot home, but not until they helped to pave the path and make it a little smoother when again, *and together* we will continue Riding the Sooner Range.

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Summer Convocation

In the University's first summer school commencement program of the present war, 251 students received degrees July 28 at graduation exercises held in the Class of '21 outdoor auditorium.

Although smaller than summer classes of recent years, the group included graduates from 104 Oklahoma communities, 13 states and two foreign countries. Degrees were conferred by President Brandt and the deans of the various colleges.

The fiftieth summer commencement program opened July 26 when Most Rev. Francis C. Kelley, bishop of Oklahoma City and Tulsa, delivered the baccalaureate.

Principal speaker at graduation exercises was Thomas L. Stokes, national political correspondent in Washington for the Scripps-Howard Alliance. Speaking of times after the war, Mr Stokes asserted that the major problem of the future is the extent of government control.

"We must be constantly careful to see that those controls are exercised always for the best interests of the people; not to tyrannize the people," Mr. Stokes told the graduating class.

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By TED BEARD

UNDER many conditions (both favorable and unfavorable) have these monthly feature articles been jotted down while riding the Sooner range! Often in the "bumper seat" of an American airliner, often as the dilapidated flivver bumped across America, often as the Santa Fe, the B. & O., the Frisco or the Pennsylvania, streamliner pulled north, south east, or west, have notes been recorded in the Range articles acquainting you with the present day activities of your former side-kicks, buddies or friends as we gave them the Sooner greetings in the cross roads of America.

All these weeks and months (multiplying into years now) have proved the most enjoyable and profitable period in the span of time. So this is a new range—but indeed not a range that is unfamiliar to thousands of sons of O. U. In the major theatres of war today the gang will be found. Thousands of homes disrupted, thousands of professions being sacrificed all because of a new activity not recorded in the curriculum when we were exposed to four, six, or eight years in professional study at America's leading state university.

Would that regulations might be waived on this Sunday late in August, 1942, I could give you the lowdown on many Sooner grads within the area where these notes are being jotted down today. Orders are orders—and that's that. But I can state that dozens of 'em familiar in the business and professional walks of life in the state of Oklahoma could be assembled on ten minutes' notice and a Sooner Alumni Rally held—but again, that is something else, more especially since orders are orders!

Yes, by the dozens here (and by the thousands scattered to the four corners of the globe), they too are galloping on a new range—one of those 5 a. m.-until-when ranges!

Sure, *new equipment* is being made out-

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