

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

NOTES ON special observations (who seen, why and doin' what)—that's a part of the Range assignment! The notes here listed have been recorded as we covered the path in an intensive series of travels working with various groups over a period of days and nights.

This particular Riding of the Sooner Range began at 8:10 p.m. on Wednesday night, May 13. The roamin' began with a late evening meal with the household partner as companion in the Monterrey at Norman, Oklahoma. To our left was a special dinner table of the Willard family. The Willard family in a final bread-breaking tribute to Lt. Commander Mike! Indeed it was the going-away party, if you please of DR. D. G. WILLARD, '27med, '29md, who was soon to report to the West Coast and his Naval assignment in the field of medicine. To our right was TOM BENEDUM, '28law, Norman, DICK GRISSO, '26ba, '28law, Oklahoma City, JAMES HARVEY VAN ZANT, '23ba, '26ms, Enid, and other Sooners who had breezed into the O. U. center checking on war moves, Army regulations, and Naval commands.

The evening meal is over and we are off on the Riding of the Sooner Range. The dilapidated flivver (with its fast wearing tires—yes, they are no longer casings as they are down to that "fabricated point") soon brings us into the village of Tecumseh as we are headed East. Tecumseh—the home town of FARRIS WILLINGHAM, '37m.ed, the KLAPP tribe (EMMETT '07pharm, and others) who established themselves at O. U. in years past. On to Earlsboro—a brief stop and a rehash of the days "way back when"—when Uncle Abie (A. B. CARPENTER, '27law, now of Roswell, New Mexico) and the then youthful attorney, TOM BENEDUM, '28law, literally ran the place in the boom hours in a "booming fashion"! On to Seminole and the home of the GRISSO tribe—HORTON, '30bs, BILL, '37, DICK, '26ba, '28law, "BABY SISTER"—not, of course, overlooking the head of the tribe, DOC GRISSO, who has down through the years made his contribution as a Dad's Association official at the University of Oklahoma.

Yes, here in Seminole, DR. JOHN G. MITCHELL, '19ma, the school prexy of many years standing, O. D. JOHNS, '33m.ed, the senior high school principal, OTIS BOURNS, '38law, who has claimed Seminole as his residence for these many years and JIM PIPKIN, '27—all ably represent O. U.'s interest. Here in Seminole DR. CLAUDE CHAMBERS, "the Regents' director"—the man with whom we have been privileged to work quite closely over a series of years in the development of the University of Oklahoma, claims his residence.

Soon we are on our way to Wewoka and here have a very pleasant hour in the late evening of May 13 in the home of HICKS EPTON, '32law, wife THELMA, '32bs, the two charming young daughters and son Bill—what an interesting home—what an inspiring family group in the scheme of American life! On to Holdenville, the hour is growing late now but we take time out for "cokes" and to learn that Sooner DOC SANDERS, '24, was earlier in the day privileged to be on his way to his duties as the new prexy of the Southwestern College, Weatherford, Oklahoma.

Past the midnight hour we arrive in McAlester, the O. U. center of Eastern Oklahoma. We are privileged, after sleep, to call at the offices, next morning, of HI IMPSON, '15ba, BOB BELL, '23ba, '23law, and many many other Sooners of this Eastern Oklahoma city. On to Hartshorne and a call at the office of JOE A. BROWN, '20law, who is away on official duties, caused us to beat down

the trail to Wilburton which of course brought back "refreshed" memories of the days years ago spent in working with Dad C. E. FAIR, (now of Sulphur), LES M. DOUGHTY, '24ba, now of Talihina, and of course the many many years' work with CLAUDE DUNLAP, '28m.ed, '29ma, the Eastern Oklahoma College prexy, and FLORENCE MILLER, '31ma, who has "mothered" one thousand and one kids through to their educational ambitions.

This wide spot in the road? No other than Red Oak, Oklahoma! Famous? By all means, yes! It is the original home town of the famous walking grounds of our long time associate, Lt. Col. FRANK CLECKLER, '21ba, formerly executive secretary of the Alumni Association, but now of Uncle Sam's Army.

Out of Red Oak and on down the pike and the trail led us at 6:30 o'clock to the Lowry Hotel, Poteau. Here under the very able management of Superintendent ELBERT COSTNER, '29ba, '34ma, and HOLLAND MEACHAM, '37ba, '40m.ed, the high school big shot Sooner principal, was a special dinner in honor of our passing down the trail to the East.

Among those with whom we were privileged to visit during the course of the evening were MRS. E. L. COSTNER (Jewel, to us), ALPHEUS VARNER, '30law, MR. ('18) and MRS. ('29bs) GUY FINCHER, MR. ('23bs) and MRS. HAROLD YERBY, MRS. IONE GREEN, '40bm, Miss MABEL PRICE, '30m.ed, Mrs. EDITH HARRISON, '30bs, '38ma, MR and MRS. HOLLAND MEACHAM, and DR. NEESON ROLLE, '28bs, '39md.

► Yes, the evening in Poteau is over and the trail is open before us—we are away! Indeed, as in early 1919 when your Range Rider was privileged to work at the Kansas City Southern division point, Heavener, for a few months, so it is in 1942 in the month of May—rains still come by quick spasms in Eastern Oklahoma.

A drive till one o'clock in the morning out of Poteau (in a typical quick spasm of rain) to the city of Stigler leads us to Bill's home town. Here sleep is sought and gained! Bill? No other than Senator WILLIAM STIGLER, '16, who rates 99.99 in alumni catalogues at O. U. Yes, only last week VIVIEN McCONNELL, '41law, the outstanding law graduate of the University of Oklahoma left her home town of Stigler and is now in an important assignment with one of the federal judges in Oklahoma City. Even CLAUDE FRICK, '18, (now the plutocratic merchant of Stigler—in 1918 the mere buck private in the rear rank with us) is still expanding his business in this progressive Eastern Oklahoma town.

So we must be away from Stigler and on our trek to Muskogee, Bixby, Tulsa, Sapulpa, Beggs, and Okmulgee. Yes, all of that ground is to be covered by midnight tonight at which time we hope there is a spot on the Frisco for your Range Rider where rest may be sought prior to arrival in Kansas City at 7:40 Saturday, May 16, for a brief stopover and then on East to Chicago, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington.

Hasty telephone calls in Muskogee receive response from Board member JEWEL RICE, '19ba. We ventured the assertion that she was out on the run helping husband "Dit" with his many problems incident to the construction of the Army camp nearby. Even U. S. Marshall GRANVILLE NORRIS, '29ba, is out of town on official duty so we breeze on for a brief pause at Bixby.

Here, A. M. WHORTAN, '22ba, '24ma, O. U. graduate and the dad of two fine sons holding degrees from the University LES, '24ba, and RAY-

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MOND, '21ba, is still following the bent of his profession and looking in retrospect at the fine contributions he has made to his University and at the successes his sons have enjoyed since their graduation. In Tulsa, MAJOR THOMAS LLOYD BROWN, '26bus, drives in from Camp Walters just as we arrive in the city—his mission being to "collect" his wife and two young daughters and early the next morning to be away for an overland drive to his new Army assignment, San Francisco, California. ELTON B. HUNT, '13law, followed his alumni assignment in his home city of Tulsa a few days previous to our arrival and arranged a speaker's schedule of O. U. undergraduates for the Tulsa city school system. Today Elton B. is following the bent of his profession in the field of law. The evening paper of the city of Tulsa gives the terse announcement that a fine son of O. U. has passed on. It announces the death of ROY BRADSHAW, '23ba, '36m.ed, prominent educator and who for some twenty-five years had been connected with the public system of Tulsa. And so with this brief pause we must be off for Sapulpa.

In the Creek County capitol, Sapulpa—Executive Board member DR. BILLY LONGMIRE, '34ba, is at the hospital on an emergency call. We were not privileged to visit with him. And so down the highway to Beggs. Here in school commencement we were privileged to see old friends among whom were Superintendent J. ARTHUR HERRON, '32bs, '36m.ed, and MRS. HERRON, '34, and the mother of RAY G. ATHERTON, '23ba. Ray is now on special duty during the war emergency in Washington. Other Beggs-ites were the many many old time friends of HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma, (the O. U. extension director) who began his educational attainments as a worker in the Beggs village bank years and years ago.

So the evening is over at Beggs and we dash into the flivver to motor to the Frisco in Tulsa. Yes, we made it! Seven minutes to spare. How comfortable this *upper berth* (of course the Army and Navy have taken over all facilities until you are lucky to have even an upper in which one can relax). Now to sleep. Tomorrow morning it is Kansas City and more Sooners—we hope!

It has been an interesting seven hours here in Kansas City. The Santa Fe is rushin' in! We are now on our way to Chicago for more Sooner participation. At the Union Station, Sooner LEONARD LOGAN, '14ba, wife and children, arrive for an introduction to their new home. Leonard, of course, is still following his professional work with the Federal Government. As we step into the streamlined Santa Fe the first two Sooners to be spotted are HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma, and HOMER HECK, '35, of the O. U. staff. These two educators are on their way for a parley with other national leaders at Pennsylvania State College beginning on the Monday to follow.

This Dearborn Station in Chicago—could it be a center of a national recruiting station? Sailors, marines, officers of the Coast Guard—in fact Uncle Sam's Army seems to all be stacked in the narrow aisles as we proceed to the station proper and taxi stands.

In this jam of humanity, a Sooner appears! IRENE SHAUL HENRY, '33bfa, '36bs, Evanston, Illinois, former staff worker and our close associate at the University along with husband (now the distinguished DR. HENRY and professor at Northwestern University) give the Sooner high-sign as we bump and stumble through this crowded station. Eleven hours in Chicago with most of the time spent with the Dean of O. U. Alumni Publications, ROSCOE CATE, '26ba, prove profitable hours. For four days now Roscoe has been in the Chicago "school of instruction" for magazine editors.

Chicago and other "lake ports" are now far far to the West. For three fine days (and nights) work has been under way and completed in the nation's capitol. Yes, Sooners by the hundreds are in this rushing section of Washington, D. C. and surrounding territory. Hasty conference with HELEN HADLEY, '38ba—who a brief number of months ago left her Oklahoma City assignment to become the private secretary of Federal Com-

munications Commissioner PAUL A. WALKER, '12law—was most stimulating and it seemed like "back home in the office," as Helen worked with us in the alumni organization so long.

A hurry up trip to the Senate Office Building and interviews with outstanding alumni was pre-aced only by our nice visit in the home of MAJOR C. GUY BROWN, '23ba, and FRANCES, '34, and to see again the charming young daughter, LINDA. A noon luncheon with First Lieutenant C. O. HUNT, '34ba, '40law, just a few hours ago the baby regent on the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma, was most interesting. Now he's Lieutenant Hunt of the United States Army Air Force, who was to report the next morning at Mitchell Field, New York. And the "hello-goodbye" 15-minute visit with niece IOLA HAXEL, '42, who in reality was anxious to see Oklahoma soil again, broke the run of the day. A dash to the Pennsylvania train to head back to Oklahoma was the final 5:45 afternoon assignment.

So here we are back in the office. It is the run of a series of hours. It is the contacting, visiting, and working with a crew of Sooners that has been interesting for the past eight days and nights. The question uppermost in all minds—when will we be privileged to come back in peace and calm to visit on the campus of the University of Oklahoma—fall back in lines of our chosen life professions and too, where will this Riding of the Sooner Range lead us in the immediate future months to come?

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Political Neutrality

President Joseph A. Brandt, taking issue with a newspaper story which stated that University people favored a certain candidate for governor and "wouldn't want" one of the other candidates, made a public statement last month declaring the University's neutrality in the political campaigns.

"We, of the University of Oklahoma, regret that such an abstract statement should be given any credence," he said. "It is the business of the people of Oklahoma to elect the governor they want.

"The University of Oklahoma has no candidate, could have none either under statute or under the law of common decency. Three of the candidates in both parties for governor, for instance, are alumni of the University and two have sent all their children to this University.

"If the University of Oklahoma is brought into politics in this election, it will not be the fault of the University. Faculty and administration have, at they should, an attitude of absolute neutrality among the candidates.

"Faculty members, as responsible citizens are entitled, of course, to vote their own convictions in elections."

Brewer Collection

The Brewer Collection of books, numbering approximately 750 volumes, has been catalogued by the University Library staff and is now ready for use. The books were given to the library in memory of the late Theodore H. Brewer, long-time head of the English department of the University who served on the faculty from 1908 to 1940. A special book-plate for the collection was designed by L. N. Morgan, of the English department, and Mrs. Ruth B. Stith, sister of Mr. Brewer.

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