

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

IN Oklahoma it's a typical spring day—April 10, 1942, but with the typical spring weather the campus is slowed down this morning due to the report of those forty or more stalwart men of O. U. in the Philippines. Today, of course, is the zero hour and with the last terse announcement, "The American flag still flies," we are all aware that these thirty odd thousand American citizens are paying the toll.

Yes, over Oklahoma today the spring atmosphere is in vogue and as springs come and go (this one so unusual in comparison to those of recent years) the machinery behind the works of not only this large university but of business in general must be kept in motion as best we can under these trying World War hours. Soon the alumni will be voting on new board members—executive board members to assume their positions as of June, 1942 for three-year terms (providing of course, many of them are not called into active service with the armed forces). That's the trend just now. American families seem to be living 24 hours in the cycle—the American public is wondering night and day what tomorrow's sun will bring.

But first let us make a survey of those who leave the executive board of the Association after three years of fine service and then we will look to those who are proposed as nominees to be voted upon by the membership world-wide to assume their offices of trust. In the deep southwest, ELMER L. FRAKER, '28ba, '38ma, whose term expires this June is now, as he has been for several years, head of the city school system of Mangum, Oklahoma. Or is he still heading the system this morning? Not for the past 72 hours has a report come through from Frake. In this day of '42 as in 1917, providing all things work out, he is soon to head for the armed forces. CY ELLINGER, '26ba, the Purcell banker, goes off the board as of this June after three years of faithful service. But again, is Cy a Purcell banker this morning? Providing all things break even Cy Ellinger will soon be in uniform of the United States Air Force. To the deep south this year's prexy of the corporation, O. F. "Fish" MULDRON, '22, has a term expiring as executive board member come June. Of course, under the laws of the corporation he will serve for twelve months as ex-officio officer of the board but *where* and on what board will he serve? Yes, as with others, so with FISH. It is merely a question of days until he too is likely to report to the armed forces of the United States.

MAJOR JOHN B. MILES, '27med, —well, he is the Anadarko physician in civilian life and the chap who has served faithfully as an executive board member until the call to the armed forces several months ago—his official term expires June, '42. A few hours ago he was at Camp Berkeley. But who knows where men will be in the next 36, 48, or 72 hours in the course of the rapid calls that are coming through? He will make a good soldier in any man's army!

CARL S. FORD, '19ba, the Enid geologist, retires from the board this June after three years of faithful service. Indeed it seems to be a habit in the Ford family for both husband and wife to hold positions on alumni boards. Many of us remember that Mrs. Carl Ford (RUBY INGRAM FORD, '22) served with distinction some years back for the Association.

Yes, those five retire after three years of service and to replace these six faithful alumni, a total of 15 nominees have been submitted to the membership world-wide from which five will be designated the official bosses until (we hope) 1945.

From the State Advisory Council to the executive board (that organization set up by the alumni composed of one representative from each of the ten preceding graduating classes) HERBERT L. BRANAN, '32ba, '38law, of the class of '32, now of Ardmore, retires from the council. He too has served long and faithfully and has been of untold help to the Association, the University, and his state. Just last week it was a pleasure for your alumni offices to receive the announcement of his honorary election to Phi Beta Kappa from his own institution, the University of Oklahoma.

Now let us turn to the list of nominees and find those that are to be submitted for vote in the course of the next few hours when the ballot is distributed world-wide. The nominating committee, composed of "Prexy" FISH MULDRON, '22, of Ardmore, PAUL W. REED, '16, of Sulphur, NORMAN W. BRILLHART, '17ba, of Madill, GEORGE D. HANN, '36m.ed, of Ardmore, and MRS. CAROL DAUBE SUTTON, '22ba, of Ardmore, met on Thursday, April 2, in the city of Ardmore and from their deliberations submit to the alumni membership 15 outstanding alumni for the ballot.

IN the "at large" list of nominees we find THOMAS RICHARD BENEDUM, '28law, the Norman attorney who down through the course of years has made his contribution in civilian and professional life. Many fine jobs this chap has accomplished and with telling results! GRADY HARRIS, '18, the Alex banker, a "short grass boy" from the deep southwest who moved to south central Oklahoma years ago, has been an outstanding success in his chosen field of business. RALPH KENYON, '37ba, '38law, who lists his home as Lawton, but whose business carries him to all sections of the state and northern Texas in his position as personnel manager of a large business firm which he has established in his brief years out of the University. Not only "out of school" but indeed, "in school" was this boy Ralph an outstanding leader.

In the deep southwest, in the Kiowa County capital city of Hobart lives the next nominee, namely Superintendent BENNIE McELYEA, '27ba, '36m.ed, of the city school system, a leader in his educational profession who has proved his worth and one of the highly respected superintendents of the entire state. While again, to the extreme east another outstanding city school superintendent, namely, HARRY SIMMONS, '24ba, of Wewoka is presented by the nominating committee. Indeed this outstanding educator does not need an introduction—he merely needs to be presented on the basis of the fine accomplishments in his profession over a series of years.

While again to the southwest another educator is presented as an "at large" nominee. She too is a proven administrator and, as dean of the Altus Junior College, EMILY B. SMITH, '31ma, is known and appreciated throughout the circles of the state. So there they are, these "at large" nominees, two of whom will be selected by the mail ballot of the alumni from "all over" to act as a part of the "guiding hands" in the months to come.

In District Three, the nominating committee has submitted three names from which one will be chosen to represent that district for the years to come. From the city of Hartshorne, JOE A. BROWN, '20law, who at present is in his chosen profession of law following a series of years of public service with the federal government. Yes, this is the Joe Brown of the football days *back when!* His old cronies will read his name on the

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ballot and compare the football tactics of the late teens with the present day streamlined outfits. To the extreme eastern section of the state, the name of ELBERT COSTNER, '29ba, '34ma, superintendent of schools at Poteau, appears on the ballot for District Three. His years of service in public school administration following his return to civilian life from the first World War, have established him as an outstanding educator. Yes, he and his fine family are all O. U.-ites and he knows the plant from the ground floor up—fact of the matter, he learned about the plant (and so did his wife) the hard way—they both worked their way through the University!

From the city of McAlester comes the name of DR. CLAUDE LIVELY, '34med, an outstanding physician. He too knows the answers to a lot of questions about the University of Oklahoma and the assertion is ventured that he still recalls where nine-tenths of the "wares to be sold" are on the counters and in the show cases in the drug store of Norman where he worked his way through school.

In District Six, "the rancher" comes to town! The nominating committee saw fit to place the name of GEORGE ARMOR, '25bus, rancher and stockman of Canton, Oklahoma, on the ballot for inspection. Yes, this George is at home on the range! From the city of Chickasha the nominating committee selected educator CLYDE POWELL, '36, who like other educators on the ballot has made his direct contribution in educational circles since his return from the World War. In fact he has a son who will soon be ready for the University and that boy knows of no other institution than O. U.! From the medical ranks, DR. ROY C. WARREN, '28med, of Yukon, Oklahoma, appears on the ballot and will be remembered as an outstanding medical student in the early twenties. Being born and reared in Cotton County he is an individual Sooner and enjoys the friendships of Sooner sons and daughters scattered throughout the country.

GEORGE ABBOTT, '22, superintendent of the American Legion Home School, Ponca City, Oklahoma appears on the ballot in alphabetical order as number one in District Eight. Modest and unassuming is this George! But our years of association with him and our knowledge of his very fine and outstanding contribution as a World War I soldier in France lead us to state he is still a good soldier in civilian life. MAJOR BILL COX, '21ba, '24ma, the head officer of the Ponca City Military Academy, is another nominee. Yes, this is the same Bill of basketball fame back *quite some years ago*. But he still has the same enthusiasm for his institution as when he was an outstanding man on the maplewood floor when *in* this institution! From the city of Enid, J. H. VAN ZANT, '23ba, '26ms, outstanding geologist, was selected by the nominating committee subject to the approval of world-wide vote. An outstanding student in the early twenties, in fact so outstanding that he received the first Wrightsman scholarship for graduate study in the field of geology at the University of Oklahoma. He is an outstanding army man and indeed an outstanding husband to "wife Ruth" (RUTH CHAMPLIN VAN ZANT, '27ba) and rates tops as "Dad" to the young son and daughter in the Van Zant home.

Well, there is the run of the has beens—did rans—and those who are to be! When the final postmark is stamped on the final ballot coming in from some foreign country on the night of May 15, 1942, the tabulating committee will a few days after be able to announce the five selected from this list of 15 to guide your business interests in this corporation for the next three years.

Yes, April 10, 1942 is a typical spring day on the campus of the University of Oklahoma! Yes, on this April 10, 1942 we are trying to keep the machinery running behind this organization! The trails are rougher—the path winding on in this ever changing picture is steeper—but maybe this war trend will change some of these bright mornings and we will be back on an even keel when the *souls of men will not be tried*—but on this April 10—well, it's not all pleasure in Riding the Sooner Rangel!

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