

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

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ONE month ago this evening (that too, was a Friday the thirteenth) the "Range" was being written. In case you check the materials appearing in the March issue of *Sooner Magazine*, you recall comments on that Friday the thirteenth (which of course fell in February, 1942) were being made in the Biltmore Hotel Sooner convention of that date. Tonight, another Friday the thirteenth! Tonight waiting patiently to listen to a master-of-words description of war as England is now experiencing it—the notes for the Range article for April are being jotted down. Yes, soon, the master of word pictures, TOM DAVIS, president of Rotary International who claims as home, Butte, Montana, and was singled out as an outstanding law graduate from the University of Michigan, will present his impressions of his recent clipper flight to England and over its war-torn territories.

It is an experience—these Friday the thirteenths! Fine Sooner Alumni contacts have been established on the two more recent ones! From the secluded spot in this Chickasha banquet hall where your Range Rider is privileged to watch "humanity in the passing"—where more than six hundred men and women of western Oklahoma are assembled, it is proving the meeting ground of Sooners. Yes, this is a nice spot to observe and check Sooners in the civilian front line of today who are vitally concerned over the trends and turns of the past thirty days and nights in World War II.

EXACTLY one hour and five minutes ago, the faculty assembly on the campus of the University of Oklahoma was in session. Yes, exactly one hour and five minutes ago PREXY JOE, '21ba, stood before the hundreds of faculty men and women and deliberately and painstakingly explained step by step the first eight months of his University administration as the guide of the Corporation. Yes, even in Joe's discussion the trends of the past few weeks in World War II were discussed. The War's effect on the all-out development program of the University of Oklahoma was much in evidence. But—back to the banquet spot here in Chickasha! To my immediate right, an Altus, Oklahoma delegation is quite in evidence. HARRY WIMBERLY, '24ba, is the "chairman" of this delegation. Just yesterday, he spent hours and hours with other regents in their official board meeting at the University where he was elected president of the board for the ensuing year. Along with Harry is our long-time chairman of the county advisory council for Jackson County, PAUL PEARSON, '23, Altus, whom we have not been privileged to see for the past eight or ten months. To my left is another distinguished delegation from Anadarko, Oklahoma. JOE McBRIDE, '28bus, who along with Harry was another hard working Sooner at the University of Oklahoma and who yesterday was re-elected vice president of the Board of Regents. We are predicting that he will become the new regents' president in March '43! My dinner partner? No other than the very fine West Pointer, Lt. BOB TWYMAN, who some three days ago

was assigned as head of the flying school for the United States Army in Chickasha. And too, a very pleasant visit is in vogue with MRS. TWYMAN (the former MARGARET ANN GESSNER) who for three years was director of student activities in the Oklahoma Memorial Union on the campus in Norman. Young Bob? Yes, he's doing fine, thank you, and now at his ripe age of 15 months plus, is looking forward toward his first plane trip with his own hands at the control.

Chickasha has always been quite an outstanding O. U. city. Tonight it is represented by dozens of O. U. alumni. Immediately across the banquet hall—back beyond some four or five hundred in between—there is a delegation of Chickashaites, including JOHN WORLEY, '29law, the young, aggressive mayor of this progressive city. Rev. DON SCHOOLER, '24ba, who is still the distinguished silver-tongued orator that he was of University years in the early twenties is among O. U. friends. MRS. JESSIE LONE CLARKSON GILKEY, '27fa, now the very dignified housewife and lady about town, but formerly director of the Women's Choral Club in the College of Fine Arts in the University of Oklahoma, comes by to make herself known and heard to a number of her former associates on the campus. President M. A. NASH, '19ba, '27ma, is a guest of honor at the affair of the evening. Still the same pleasant and efficient Mel as we have all known him down through the years. Yes, some Norman friends are across the banquet room. Those that I have been able to "pick" from the sea of faces are JOE CHATMAN, '27bus, THOMAS RICHARD BENEDEUM, '28law, NEIL R. JOHNSON, '15ba, '17law, and Judge NEIL KELLER, '33law. Yes, Judge Keller is explaining to Mrs. Twyman that in the course of the next few days he is to report for service in the United States armed forces. The Purcell delegation—well, I have just heard the master of ceremonies of the evening announce the fact that there were 32 husbands and wives from our fair McClain County capital south of Norman in attendance. Evidently SMITH HESTER, '33law, the very efficient county attorney of McClain County, is the director of their crew.

SO now Tom Davis is receiving the plaudits of an Oklahoma citizenship. The introduction is over. Soon he will be at his best. These notes are to be stored in pocket and at the break of dawn, from and on the campus at Norman more Range trails will be discussed.

The office this morning (Saturday, March 14) has been contacted and recontacted by a very outstanding group of graduates of the University of Oklahoma, namely, "school teachers." A call to the Eastern city Wewoka has just been made and business transacted with Superintendent HARRY SIMMONS, '24ba. Across the desk comes a rush letter from Superintendent C. DAN PROCTER, '36m.ed, who as the "guiding highlight" of the Ada city school system is writing me a series of notes and extending greetings from mutual friends on the west coast

where he went for his professional convention just a few days back. From Ponca City way, CHARLES HOWELL, '20ba, '29m.ed, has just handed me the "order of orders." One of his very efficient Sooner "school marms" has chosen the "way out" (married recently) and now the order is to send him another to fill her position—one who is just as efficient, just as well trained, and just as outstanding as a teacher! Yes, here come two requests from a couple of the hardest working alumni in the state. Request number one comes from G. S. "Doc" SANDERS, '24, of the Holdenville City Schools, for recommendation on an O. U. grad. Request number two comes from Superintendent B. C. SWINNEY, '41, of the City Schools, Lawton, who in reality is the dean of an O. U. Colony. It appears that 99 per cent of the Lawton teachers are O. U.-ites. B. C. is fixed up in short order and the defense matter that was bothering has also been perfected by the efficiency of Swinney and Company. Yes, up in Pawhuska, another of our "masters," namely P. KAY SCRUGGS, '39m.ed, is now after several years as a business man, back in his former profession as the newly elected high school principal of Pawhuska.

THE "short grass boy," Superintendent ELMER FRAKER, '20ba, '38ma, Mangum—well he had about a dozen requests for services on his lists and they were met pronto and gladly. On three occasions in the past two weeks, it has been our privilege to be associated with and work for another outstanding O. U. school superintendent, Superintendent R. S. "Red" McLEAN, '38m.ed, of the Anadarko city school system. Just now he has explained with a great deal of pride that his daughter has recently been appointed to another key position with the F. B. I. in Washington and of course, that's enough to make any Dad glad!

Who are some of the other hard working O. U.-ers among the teaching profession? Where have they chosen to follow their line of work? Well, here are a few who represent the teaching staff (not the administrators) with whom we have been in touch in recent days. In Vinita we found KATHLEEN DIEHL, '40, and still farther in the deep southeast at Broken Bow we found DOROTHY ANN FLETCHER, '38. Down in the southern section, EVELYN COUCH, '29ba, '38m.ed, is doing outstanding work at Pauls Valley. In the Norman city schools CORENE WILKERSON, '32ba, is an outstanding teacher. To the extreme north, RUBY GRANT, '29ba, '41m.ed, is well known for her contributions at Tonkawa. In recent weeks it was our privilege to place another fine graduate and today, this graduate as well as the school system involved at Prague, Oklahoma are both receiving mutual benefits. We refer to EULA ROBERTS, '22ba, '29ma. Down in the "broom corn country" and in the city school system of Lindsay, O'PAL HAVELY, '41, is following her profession as a staff member. At the outstanding Foster High School in Oklahoma City, JANICE HOWELL, '40, is making her contribution while again in the Norman city school system ODEAL LOCKE, '24ba, '40ma, and FLORENCE GANSTINE, '34ba, are both pursuing their professional careers. Yes, there are hundreds of "school marms"—sons and daughters of O. U.—who fit into the community life in every section of Oklahoma.

The distinguished militarily attired gentleman who just stepped from this office and headed toward the Administration Building on further business was none other than CLARENCE R. ROBERTS, '20ba, a staff member of the Oklahoma Military Academy, Claremore. Down through the years, he has made his contribution for O. U. and today in his very effective position as alumni advisory council chairman for Rogers County, he is continuing his work for the University.

The calls *still* come in! That official slip of paper from the War or Navy Department still breaks into the ranks and calls to the colors distinguished young reserve officers from the O. U. alumni. Three weeks ago today, Lt. R. BOYD GUNNING, '37ba, '37law, and Lt. HAROLD REEDY, '42 (both of the O. U. staff), were busying themselves about their offices, checking up last minute details for their families, prior to their leaving the next morning for Camp Roberts, California. Today, they are making their contribution and their families, still in Norman, have had glowing reports as to the progress of these outstanding graduates. This flash that just came across the desk was from the public relations officer of Camp Roberts and announced that Sooner LELAND GOURLEY, '42, who incidentally is an AP staff man in civilian life—in the four weeks that he has been in camp has made rapid progress. This flash announces to the world that effective yesterday, Leland was made principal writer for the Camp Roberts daily newspaper. Yes, just another example of a journalist fitting into the field of journalism. The flashes that came through last night gave reports of two other outstanding alumni in the service of their country. Lt. FRANK C. MORRIS, an O. U. engineering staff member, '26eng, '30eng, is making rapid progress in the headquarters of the Eighth Naval District in New Orleans while Lt. Col. HAL MULDRON, '28bus, has possibly received the most rapid army advancement of any of the younger alumni in the past 20 months. Hal serves at Camp Barkeley, Texas. A bulletin from Leavenworth announces to us that Major LEE B. THOMPSON, '25ba, '27law, is enjoying the special officers' school assignment at Leavenworth and will possibly soon be returned by the Army to his command at Camp Barkeley. Major BEN COOLEY, '21med, who is now stationed at El Paso, is receiving signal recognition.

The calls—yes, the calls still come! That fine delegation of young gentlemen who just walked out of the office—all seniors in their professional schools here on the campus at the present time—their call is here as of March 24. This group must report to Camp Roberts, California, as young reserve officers! Another list of outstanding Sooner alumni who are doing their part and are giving their all in the call of their country will soon be in uniform. Who are they? The finest crop! Young men who will be missed on the campus—namely, JOHN DOOLIN of the Law School, home Alva; DAVID COOK, Law, Oklahoma City; EDWIN S. HURST, Senior Law, Oklahoma City; ROBERT ECTON, Law, Oklahoma City; JOHN R. RICHARDS, Law, Tulsa; JOE HULL, Law, Tulsa; ROY FRYE, Senior Law, Sallisaw. Four others are possibly listed in this call but they have already departed for their homes to make last minute plans in preparation for the 24th departure for the West coast. These men will be missed! They will serve with distinction!

YES, there is *another call!* The telephone call! The Western Union Call! PAUL A. WALKER, '12law, and his alumni council members of Washington, D. C. have sent out the call for Saturday evening, March 21 for the annual dinner in the nation's capital. That call must be observed! When Paul Walker and his able co-workers, namely ROY ST. LEWIS, '13, TED EVANS, '12, LYNDEN MANNEN, '27ba, '38ma, Lt. BRYCE HARLOW, '36ba, and PATRICIA LYON MANNEN, '34ed, give the go-sign for the Sooner get-together—well, they just go and get together. That Washington call—the Army call—the Navy call—all lead us to the conclusion that the Range Rider is to cover territory—and now! Yes—there must be some galloping done to keep in pace with this fast moving O. U. tribe as together we continue Riding the Sooner Range!

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