

# Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

WAR AND DEFENSE—Defense for War—that has been the trend of the Range for the past thirty-two days and nights. Thirty-two days and nights, every minute filled with anxious moments, decisions to be made, actions to be taken. Exactly thirty-two days and nights since the last dictation of this Riding the Sooner Range.

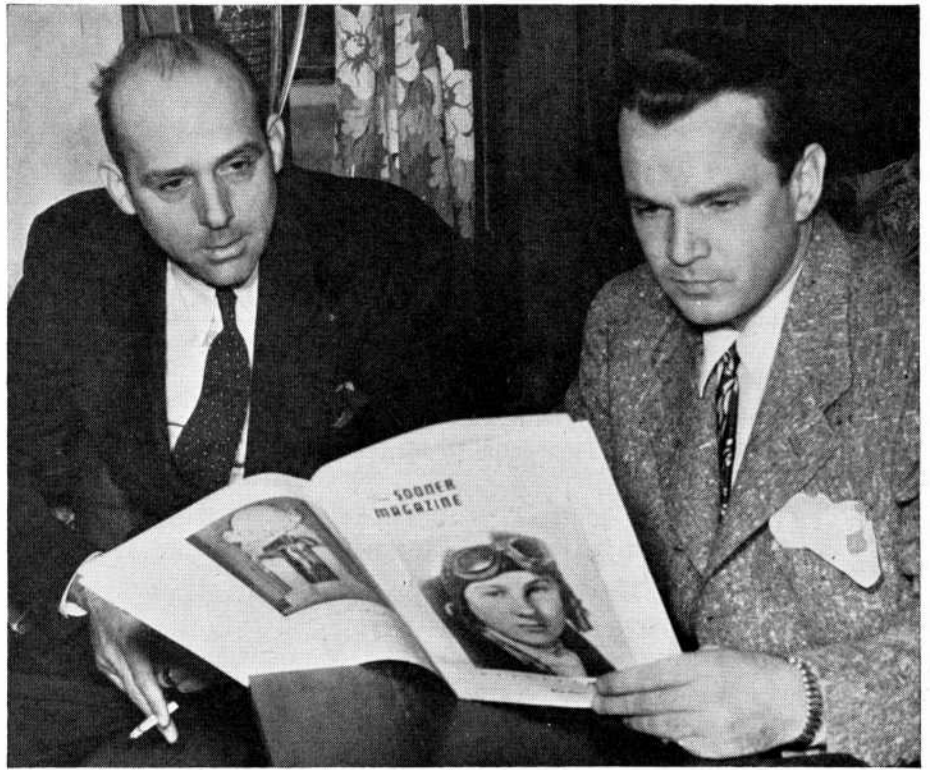
Yes, all Sooners—sons and daughters of O. U., be they recent or ancient, well, they're in this all-out program.

It is high noon, December 15, 1941, Huck-ins Hotel, Oklahoma City, Sooners scrambling here and there with a group of us off to the Semicentennial celebration of the Oklahoma A. and M. College, BUT NOT until we shall have attended to our duties dealing with defense activities incident to World War II. Present and scampering around, HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma, University of Oklahoma War Council Co-ordinator; SNORTER LUSTER, '22ba, '22law, recently returned from football wars of his own, now devoting his energies in an all-out defense effort and trying to salvage the future for his football gridiron heroes; RALPH HAMILTON, '32ba, along with HAROLD HENDERSON LEAKE, '37fa, both of Cleveland County, present for the State Defense Committee meeting. All this scene taking place in the shift of fifteen minutes with Sooners scattering to the four winds to attend hundreds of defense conferences, to make decisions, to answer questions, to outline programs, to get the real job done.

Two p. m., the State School Land Department, Oklahoma State Capitol, the office of CHARLES STEELE, '15ba, State Secretary to the Commission, formerly of Okmulgee; Sooner PAUL CARLISLE, '39law, Sallisaw, with last minute comments about his possibly affiliating with an important Federal Bureau in a defense effort. OTIS SULLIVANT, '24, prominent journalist with headquarters in Oklahoma City, adding his comments about the reports coming over the AP wires as released by AP representative LELAND GOURLEY, '40, of the Oklahoma City AP Office who has just given us the flash that came over five minutes before—the official report of Secretary Knox in his release to the world on the Pearl Harbor slaughter. Yes, these Sooners flashing here and there, everywhere, answering questions, rolling up their sleeves and wading in to an all-out defense program.

The office of DICK MILLER, downtown in the Oklahoma Publishing Company, Oklahoma City, and in the building to meet and greet other Sooners, C. O. HUNT, '38ed, '40law, Purcell; ED WALTON, '39law, and THURMAN WHITE, '41ms, of the O. U. Staff, Norman. A brisk walk down the street on this crisp December afternoon, we greet FRANK HESS, '25ed, Superintendent of Schools, Drumright; Dr. WENDELL LONG, '22ba, Oklahoma City; Dr. MARION FLESHER, '35, Oklahoma City, all have the same comments, all are mulling in the same trend of thought—defense—an all-out effort—get a job done.

Thus, hour after hour, day after day, from that December 16, 1941 afternoon on down to



SINGER VISITS ALUMNI OFFICE  
*Larry Cotton, '33 (right), calls on Alumni Secretary Ted Beaird while in Norman to sing for defense fund entertainment*

the afternoon of January 15, 1942, we see scads of Sooners, scores of Sooners—a multitude of Sooners, all plunging in defense activities—the contribution of their part—that's their theme song. The American Airliner whizzes in from Washington, another Sooner, "The Treasury Department Minuteman for Defense," LARRY COTTON, '33, breezes in with the American airliner and heads for the Alumni Office of the University. Here quite a sprinkling (in calm times it might even be called a multitude) of his former associates and friends greet him, check up on last minutes details and then he is off to make his contribution before a specially arranged student dansant, designed specifically for sale of defense stamps. Whatta killing he made! The kids liked it and bought two-bit defense stamps to the tune of some \$200. Then "Pot of Gold" LARRY, after granting interviews to the Press, being shot and reshot, (pictured) grabbed the next plane northeast to, a few minutes later, land at Tulsa on his same defense entertainment campaign, to hastily breeze back to Oklahoma City for his appearance with the all-stars there, doing his bit, fitting in, shaping up to meet the efforts of the time, his contribution to his country in an hour of need, that's the spirit of a Sooner.

The door swings open and inside the door swings JOE LOONEY, '20ba, '21law, of We-woka, prexy of the Oklahoma University Board of Regents. Comments? Yes, plenty, some of them running as follows: "Fine work—the Sooner Magazine featuring LT. KENNETH TAYLOR, '40, on the cover page for January. Most appropriate. This suggests an idea to me. It occurs to me that it would be a splendid thing as a token of sincere appreciation of the extraordinary courage and great heroism exhibited by LT. KENNETH TAYLOR at Pearl Harbor on December 7, if the members of the University of Oklahoma Association would buy and present to LT. TAYLOR a Life Membership in the Association—60 Sooners—\$60, and the job would be done. To start the fund here's my dollar." And what did JOE start? Within ten minutes every member of the Board of Regents, plus

Prexy JOE BRANDT, '21ba, Board of Regents Secretary KRAETTLI, '18, got their individual dollars in the pot and rushed it over to the Alumni Office to start the ball rolling—the ball is still rolling and will soon hit its mark, \$60 strong!

The University of Oklahoma, under the leadership of JOE BRANDT, '21ba, at the instructions of the Board of Regents and of the Organized Alumni, launched its program on the morning of January 15 with HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma, Co-ordinator of the University of Oklahoma War Council, and with elected officers of the Executive Board of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association, working into the wee, small hours, the 77 County Representatives for the University War Council were selected, instructed and set in motion! You'll hear a lot of 'em—these 77 defense-minded, hard-working County Representatives of Oklahoma in the course of the next few months. They'll be literally knocking at the doors of all business and industry, and fitting into the homes of their various groups in this contribution on the part of a loyal citizenship in fitting its program to an all-out defense effort IN WAR. Later, on the pages of the Sooner Magazine these 77 individuals will be introduced and reintroduced as the program develops and as results balance the scales on the profit side—men and women, University of Oklahoma products, devoting their talents, sacrificing their time and lending their energies—that's the Sooner spirit.

Yes, if space would permit, I would that we could but comment on the many outstanding characteristics of each of these 77 individuals, but they, along with the University War Council active on the campus of the University of Oklahoma, as well as the officers of your Alumni Association, have a job to do—a task assigned, an all-out in this hour of need. That, of course, is to be a new experience, something that we have not encountered "during our day" but I predict now that these 77 "horsemen" will do a swell job in this all-out Riding of the Sooner Range.