

# Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

HE WAS over in the Beta "Barn," this JACK WILSON, '39bs, Norman, senior Lawyer of the University of Oklahoma—when the flash came through via NBC Network with FRED ALLEN in Radio City on the sending end, that JACK would represent O. U. Yes, he was over in the Beta Barn teaching the brethren how to sing the Beta lullabys (and other tuneful frat hymns) and he took it in stride—calm, nonchalant! To be voted the outstanding representative of the undergraduates of the University of Oklahoma—the most talented studyin' Sooner to appear on the FRED ALLEN Network program—well, that was the accomplishment of JACK WILSON and what an accomplishment!

The contest-tryout, the balloting on the part of the student body, the selection of JACK WILSON as the most representative undergraduate on the part of his fellow students—all that, of course, took place just a few hours prior to the historic declaration of war, first with Japan and some seventy hours later, with Germany and Italy.

And what a Range this boy JACK WILSON covered in that span of hours, from the moment of the New York announcement up to and including his appearance with FRED ALLEN on Wednesday, December 10. Did he handle himself in fine shape? Yes, and how! But why not, with a background of training and accomplishments experienced by this young lad, beginning back in his freshman year in Enid High School down through his four Senior High School years with one year at Phillips University thrown in, plus the nearly five that he has been with us at the University of Oklahoma.

He has always been an accomplished, outstanding young man. In the face of his many successes, on the basis of his many accomplishments, he has always rated as A-1! The stimulating part is that he is still a fine young American *with his feet on the ground*. That, of course, measures the standards of a man and we predict that the Range Riding this chap will do as a man out in adult life and as a leader in his profession will be pointed to with pride by his associates in the years to come. Indeed, just another one of the more than 75,000 Sooners who has taken advantage of the training afforded by the University in filling his niche in life.

► For months on months now—running into years—your hired hand has covered the Range and made a feeble effort to record on the written page word pictures of your old cronies, friends and associates throughout the world. But today (December 12, 1941) the *writing* of the Sooner Range—well, that's a problem in itself. From our office windows in the Oklahoma Memorial Union on the campus of the University, we observe the clusters of uneasy groups of students here and there throughout the confines of the campus! In renewed and revised "bull sessions" around fraternity firesides, we pass in review and observe the re-enactment of a series of dark hours back in 1917 when young men of American heritage stood at the cross-roads of indecision, awaiting the turn of the card spelled "destiny."

And—to see these youthful AMERICAN groups and to hear their expressions causes one who experienced uneasy hours on this same campus, as an undergraduate student in 1917, to look back in retrospect, not on the hysteria, the indecisions, or the feelings of groping-in-the-



JACK WILSON

... winner of Fred Allen talent contest

dark *but* the "chin-up attitude and the determination to see it through!"

But let's switch away from our local environment momentarily and before we swing to our Sooners in Hawaii and the Philippines—those on the front ranks of defense this morning—let's visit with some of your friends whom we have contacted during the month prior to the declaration of war!

The place is the Silver Glade Room of the Skirvin Tower Hotel, Oklahoma City, the time 12 noon until 2 P. M. on November 21, 1941, the speaker of the occasion and the honored guest in Oklahoma for the day, is national commander of the American Legion. Among those present on this vast reception committee—the Sooners we were privileged to visit with—were ERTIS SASSEEN, '22, Oklahoma City; the Junior United States Senator of Oklahoma, JOSH LEE, '17ba, Washington, D. C.; our friend of long standing and associate in University, American Legion and other circles, BILL STIGLER, '16, Stigler; our "Lifer" who is doing the honors of the hour by introduction, J. B. KOCH, '26eng, Norman; the immediate past department commander of Oklahoma—the long standing assistant attorney general of *legal recognition*, RANDELL COBB, '19law, Oklahoma City, a former president of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association, DAVE MCKOWN, '21geol, Oklahoma City; the executive secretary (or hired hand) CLYDE HOWELL, '15ba, '36m.ed, Oklahoma City, of the Oklahoma Education Association and of course busying himself about a thousand and one duties as always. Sooner MILT PHILLIPS, '22, Oklahoma City, plus wife RUBY and little daughter JO ANN. MILT, in his capacity of department adjutant of the American Legion in the State of Oklahoma, is always in there working!

The place is the Rotary Banquet Room, Chickasha, the time—Inter-Cities Rotary dinner dance, 7 P. M., November 18—until, when? What an enjoyable and inspiring evening! The speaker of the occasion: a college dean of our sister state Kansas; the topic of the speaker "My American Heritage" and what an inspiring address, coming from a naturalized Scotchman.

Yes, we saw Sooners from all over. The Mountain View, Oklahoma druggist and wife, both Sooner Grads, namely, A. J. CRABTREE, '26ph.g, and MRS. DORRIT TURNER CRABTREE, '28h.ec; and then our old friend of long standing whom we had not seen in years and who broke the ice and made himself known to KATHERYN and yours truly, DR. CLARENCE B. SULLIVAN, '22med, now located at Carnegie; O. C. W. Prexie MELL NASH, '27ma, Chickasha and MRS. NASH were our dinner companions for the evening and our other nearby visitors, Dean HOWARD TAYLOR, Chickasha and MRS. TAYLOR of Oklahoma College for Women (of course Howard is not an official graduate of the University of Oklahoma but having served on the teaching staff of the University of Oklahoma for the past 18 summers makes him almost 100 per cent Sooner); CHARLES BOWLBY, JR., '29ba, and wife—KENNETH ABERNATHY, '31law, and wife—the quartet from the Pottawatomie County capital, Shawnee, were much in evidence and visiting here and yon.

The Norman delegation breezed in, including Mr. and Mrs. HARTWELL HILL, Norman Rotary President JOE CHATMAN, '27, and wife FAYE; HAROLD BELKNAP, '25ba; HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma; TOM BENEDUM, '28law, and the "ole man of the sage," NEIL JOHNSON, '17law.

► Yes, it looked something like a Sooner rally and it seemed as though the O. U. Campus was well represented at the Chickasha conclave. More specifically, it did seem more homelike due to the presence of a long standing (and outstanding) young Sooner, Alumna JESSIE LONE CLARKSON GILKEY, '27fa, now the very charming housewife of Chickasha but former director of the Ladies Quartet and the Women's Choral Group on the campus of the University of Oklahoma.

The place, again in Chickasha, Oklahoma, the time, high noon, December 5. Assembled again with a group of Sooners for an address before the American Legion Post committees and officers of this nearby county capital—and incidentally, it was the high noon when the President of our country (today the commander in chief of our armed forces) was in his final conference with governmental envoys and agents of Japan, having lunch in the executive offices, Washington, trying to save the fate of civilization!

Sooners present? Yes, plenty of them, including GRADY HARRIS, '18, Alex; REV. DON SCHOOLER, Chickasha; Superintendent of Schools BRUCE MYERS, '34m.ed, Chickasha; Attorney JIM HATCHER, '13ba, Chickasha; School Principal CLYDE POWELL, '36, Chickasha; College Prof. JOHN EISCHEID, '14ba, Chickasha, and Chickasha City Mayor JOHN WORLEY, '29 law. So the meeting was over and after a lengthy conference with the good Sooner advocate JIM HATCHER, at which time we outlined the plans

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for the future for stabilizing and more effectively organizing the 266 graduates residing in Grady County, plus the hundreds of ex-students of Grady County we called it "a 2-hours" then we were off for our drive to the capital of McClain County—Purcell.

More Sooners there? Yes, plenty, but the limited number we contacted in the interest of business problems incident to Alumni Association work on that afternoon were banker (and executive board member) CY ELLINGER, '26ba; druggist JOHN KENNEDY, '30ph.c; attorney (and come March, 1942, O. U. Regent) C. O. HUNT, '40 law; along with one of the Godfathers of O. U., namely, Senator JIM NANCE.

The time, December 8, the place, home of President FISH MULDRON, '22, in Ardmore. The occasion? A special committee meeting of the alumni organization working on its many, many problems. Sooners present? Yes—Sooners all! PAUL REED, '16, Sulphur, as chairman of the special committee, batting 1000 per cent; Superintendent GEORGE HANN, '36m.ed, Ardmore, adding his counsel and advice; Past President NORMAN BRILLHART, '17ba, Madill, drawing his own conclusions and presenting them for the study; HERB SCOTT, Norman; ROSCOE CATE, '26ba, Norman; C. O. HUNT, Purcell; HARRY REVELLE, '24ba, Ardmore, all helping us with counsel and advice.

The telephone rings, a distinguished visitor is in town and desires to come by and pay his respects to the MULDRON family. Major GEORGE STROUD, '28, Oklahoma City, chief aide of another Godfather of O. U., Gen. BILL KEY, Oklahoma City, commanding officer of the 45th Division, soon appears. GEORGE, of course, was on his way back from special training at Fort Leavenworth, to report to his commanding officer. So that represents and therein is pictured for you another one of the many, many interesting meetings where Sooners 100 per cent strong and active are involved.

For five and three-fourths days now the world—and America in particular—has hovered over radios night and day. The spotlight has been turned (since the invasion by the Japs last Sunday afternoon) to the remote outposts of America—the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands.

In a war crisis, censorship must be in vogue. In a war crisis we must await developments. But the anxieties of thousands and thousands of American homes cannot be placed in word form on a written page. So in closing the Riding of the Sooner Range for the January issue of the *Sooner Magazine*, 1942, let us gallop to the principal outposts of America and make a survey of at least the graduates of the University (unfortunately we do not have the addresses of the ex-students involved) who are pitting their ALL in this battle for humanity.

In Hawaii we find as of this hour the following graduates on the Islands: ALBERT E. JENKINS, '12law, Wailuku, Maui, T. H.; Mrs. HELEN WATSON BRUNOZZI, '26ba, Wailuku, Maui, T. H.; Major PRICE M. WALKER, '22med, Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hiwaii, P. I. Yes—PRICE WALKER, the '22 medical graduate who for years has been located in Dallas, Texas. Why, it seems only yesterday (although it has been three years come March 1) since he was the toastmaster at a Dallas banquet at which your Range Rider participated as the speaker.

Capt. PHILIP J. SMITH, '37med, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Lt. ROBERT B. PROCK, '40 bus, Q. M. C., Schofield Barracks, T. H.; Mrs. ANSLEY SPALDING HILL, '37lib.sci, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Dr. GEORGE E. MEADOR, '40med, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Mrs. HELEN BURHANS GATES, '20, Makaweli, Hawaii; Mrs. VIRGINIA HACKETT RICE,

'30fa, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mrs. LUCILE HUNTINGTON WILKINSON, '35lib.sci, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mrs. VIVIAN BETHLEH WHEAT, '21ba, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; JOHN L. VAIL, '32eng, Honolulu, T. H.; JAMES H. TABOR, '39law, Honolulu, Oahu, T. H. Yes, that's Jimmie Tabor from over around Checotah and Eufaula. A fine, outstanding young student just a few years back at the University of Oklahoma, a chap who was an assistant to your hired hand in work on the campus of the University of Oklahoma, and a boy who has been in constant touch with us since his arrival in Honolulu many, many months ago.

JAMES W. STACY, '35ed, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mrs. RUTH GIBBINS SMITH, '36bus, Honolulu, T. H. Sure, to you of the early '30s this is the Nena Ruth who, during those years at the University, worked in our offices and some ten months ago sailed as a companion to a naval officer's wife and since that time has been located in Honolulu. Just a few weeks back she wrote your Alumni Office "It's great to be the companion of a naval officer's wife—to see the world—but I don't think I could see anything more marvelous than these Islands." Mrs. MARY SPICKARD RATLIFF, '37ba, Honolulu, Hawaii; TAFT NICHOLSON, '39eng, Honolulu, T. H., Major W. R. MORGAN, '27ba, Hickam Field, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mrs. MARRIAN HARDIE KERR, '39ba, Honolulu, Hawaii; BENJAMIN J. KERR, JR., '40bus, Honolulu, Hawaii; JOHN F. HARRIS, '11ba, Honolulu, Hawaii; HAROLD I. GIST, '39bus, Schofield Barracks, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mrs. MILDRED BIGHAM ANDREWS, '26fa, Honolulu, T. H.; ULYSSES S. O'HERN, '41ba, Wheeler Field, Territory of Hawaii; J. S. BROWN, '25law, Wailuku Maui, T. H.; WILLIAM S. TENHAGEN, '41eng, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Mrs. MARGARET WADDELL LAMB, '29nurse, Honolulu, Hawaii; DENZEL R. CARR, '22, and the Mrs.—ELIZABETH BALL CARR, '24ba, '40ma, Honolulu, Hawaii—How often DENZEL has written us in the course of the past five years about his interesting experiences and about his work in Honolulu. We wonder today as we dictate this feature what the hour has brought forth and what the hours of the future may bring forth for him.

Dr. HERMAN P. McCRIMMON, '25med, and Mrs. McCRIMMON, ADELAIDE PAXTON McCRIMMON, '24ba,—Why, really, it hasn't been but a fortnight since they left Minnesota soil, breezed by their native Oklahoma soil and then were on their way, landing safely in Hawaii for the future events to develop. (Special Note—or is it a Special Flash: TOM YARBROUGH, '32, according to the metropolitan press of this morning (December 13, 1941) was on the outskirts of Honolulu on the ship bound for the port last Sunday when the Jap attack took place—what a swell A. P. story he released to the world this morning from Honolulu! Tom, of course, is the boy who has been in London since the declaration of war upon England—returned just a few days ago, married the American girl of his choice—was reported by A. P. to be assigned immediately to Cairo, Egypt headquarters, BUT, for some reason not yet disclosed, was shifted in plans overnight, Honolulu bound. He saw the beginning of the war first-hand with bombs scattered all around him.

Now let's jump across to the most remote outpost of America. Swing with us across some six or seven thousand miles from Honolulu to Manila and the Philippines. At this hour many, many Sooners are doing their bit—yes, ten times their bit, in stopping the onslaught of enemy planes, battleships and destroyers. This list includes: Lt. STEVE MASOERO, '39eng, Fort William McKinley, Rizal; Mrs. MARGARETE BOSTIC HARRIS, '32fa, Nichols Field, Rizal; Miss

HELEN JEAN MATHEWS, '39ba, Pettit Barracks, Zamboanga, Miud; SERGIO ESMILLA, '18law, Pagsanjan, Laguna; Dr. Paul M. HOOT, '31med, U. S. Naval Hospital, Olongapo, Zanibales. Sure, that's the long, lanky boy who in the late '20s and early '30s labored in the University Book Exchange as a student employee and often dropped up here to the office for an informal gas-session. Mrs. JESSIE MOOTER HOOT, '29 ba., U. S. Naval Hospital, Olongapo, Zanibales; Capt. D. M. YOUNG, '23med, U. S. Army, Manila; Dr. PASTOR R. SAPINOSO, '22med, University of the Philippines, Manila; Dr. WELDON K. RUTH, '33med, U. S. Army, Manila; Dr. JOSE V. PUNSALANG, '23med, Manila; FRED J. PASSMORE, '26ba, Manila; JACK L. MANNING, '30ba, Manila; Lt. FRED P. LABOON, '39eng—Yes, that's the chip off the old block, our World War buddy, WADE LABOON, Postmaster of Chickasha. It seems only a few weeks ago that FRED "hung around these offices" and indeed, it wasn't many weeks ago that his Daddy was my "bunk companion" on a special train trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at which time we discussed educational problems, not only of their son, FRED, but of his other fine sons who are now students of the University of Oklahoma.

Lt. J. EDWIN (BUCK) GARRETT, '33, U. S. Air Corps, Manila; Yes, that's "Buck" (the ole Doctor Duncan in person) who breezed over to the University of Oklahoma in the middle '20s from the back East City of Heavener, Le-flore County—that's the Buck that worked as one of the laborers for yours truly—that's the Buck that was the High Mokus of the Ruf Neks of the University of Oklahoma, back in the days when the Ruf Neks were *rough necks*. We'll make the assertion that no Jap nor any other enemy gets around the turn of the corner with this outstanding Sooner on the alert. Major JAMES V. COLLIER, '34ba, No. 1 Calle Victoria, Manila—Yes, that's Vic, one of the boys in my graduating class of O. U. He and TRUDY (his wife) plus their three very fine sons, visited my office some months ago just a few hours prior to his departure from San Francisco for the outpost.

Mrs. ALICE NEILL CASTRO, '32bs, Int. No. 2, Manila; Dr. JOSE F. ABELARDE, '30med, Iloilo; Lt. ALEX B. WELCHER, '40bs, Ft. Stotsenburg, Pampanga; Lt. CLYDE V. KERN, '38med, Ft. Stotsenburg; Corp. JAMES J. JONES, '39ba, Ft. Stotsenburg; Lt. CLYDE E. FLEMING, '26bs, Ft. Stotsenburg; Dr. ALEJANDRO C. BALTAZAR, '27med, Cebu City, Cebu; ANGEL S. ARABIAN, '21law, Bulcan; Dr. GODOFREDO D. ROSALES, '26med, Batangas; Dr. SILVINO WOODSON, '41eng, U. S. Army, Manila.

Then there is Cliff at the world featured outpost! Captain CLIFFORD HINES, '34, Fort Stotsenburg, P. I. Sure, that is the same Cap'n that was the *lettering artist*—shipping clerk—general utility and all-around-fixer (while still a youngster at O. U.) in the same organization where your Range Rider worked. It is the same Cliff who spent his time in United States service for many months directing the activities of CCC Organizations, only to breeze away to Fort Bliss on his first assignment for some eight weeks—to marry the girl of the hour June 7, 1941, and to receive the call to the Philippines only 31 days later. He too, is out in the outpost this morning! Is there a significance in the Riding of the Sooner Range—when musing over Cliff of former days? Well, I should say so, because that girl of the hour—Mrs. Cliff Hines (formerly Alyne Powell), well, she is the secretary that is doing the shorthand notes on this column. That—like some of the peculiar quirks of war—is a new wrinkle in the Riding of the Sooner Range.