

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

THANKS to dozens of fine co-workers on and away from the O. U. campus, Homecoming on Saturday (Armistice Day) November 11, 1944, was most successful. And here, several hours after, in fact, Thursday, November 16, five days and nights after the last old grad bade a "so long" and off for home, we look back on this Homecoming as the most outstanding in recent years. Indeed, it would be impossible to give you a list of all those working on a night and day shift in preparation for this traditional event, but a salute is rendered to ROSALIE GILKEY DALE, '17ba, FUNSTON F. GAITHER, '21ba, '26m.ed, DOLLY SMITH CONNALLY, '26fa, plus dozens of other Sooner-ites and Sooner-ettes that formed a working detail in putting over what even Alumnus—Life Member Governor BOB KERR, '16, said "was a good deal." Even with all if its wartime success, Homecoming for the O. U. crew cannot and will not be complete until the thousands of "on active tour of duty" men and women are privileged to be back home and assemble with us. And may that date come about by Homecoming, 1945!

Let's glance back over over some of the Sooner assemblies in the past 30 days and nights. A hurry-up call for participation at the Oklahoma A. and M. College statewide, two-day-and-night Institute dealing with problems of rehabilitation and education of returning veterans on the part of institutions of higher learning is acknowledged. At 0800 on 19 October, along with the Counselor of Men of this institution, who indeed is carrying the load of one-half dozen men in his work, namely, FAYETTE COPELAND, '19ba, plus DR. M. O. WILSON and SUE STARR, '43ba, we headed for the special school of instruction up Aggie way and was it two of the most profitable days that the Range Rider has spent in many, many moons! Delegates and representatives from each of the institutions of higher learning in the state were present. A serious-minded assembly of thinking men and women groping for the most meager suggestion as to how the Oklahoma institutions may meet the challenge of the returning veterans of World War II—that was the assembly. Listening in, one could readily realize that the "home front" is now, and has been for months, making seriously considered programs for a well-rounded pattern to be followed in taking care of the challenges that are arising today, will increase tomorrow and will grow four-fold in the weeks and months to come as our Sooners reach home from active duty. Some of the Sooners in this audience and participating in these discussions were: DR. MELL NASH, '19ba, '27ma, Chancellor, State Board of Regents; State Superintendent A. L. CRABLE, '27ma; Department Commander, the American Legion, J. B. KOCH, '26eng; CLAUD DEAN, '29ba, '36m.ed, of the Veterans Administration out of the Muskogee office; ROY TOMPKINS, '28, Oklahoma A. and M. College; HARRY SIMMONS, '24ba, Superintendent of Schools, Stillwater; DR. DAN PROCTER, '36m.ed, '43d.ed, President, Oklahoma College for Women; MARVIN ORR, '39ma, and A. FRANK MARTIN, of Oklahoma A. and M. College; EARL E. BRADLEY, '39m.ed, Panhandle A. and M. College, Goodwell; JIM ROBINSON, '32law, Northeastern State College, Tahlequah; "PREXY" C. C. DUN-

LAP, '28m.ed, '29ma, Eastern Oklahoma College, Wilburton—all these and many, many more that paper shortage will not permit mentioning, were making their contributions and establishing procedures to be used in this important, fast developing program. With the interest shown on the home front, the answers



to hundreds of V-mail letters and notes that flow in daily from Sooners overseas, asking such questions as: "How may I complete my educational program upon return to the States after the close of the war under Public Law 16 or Public Law 346 (the G. I. Bill of Rights)?"—are available. By participation in institutes such as sponsored by A. and M., their questions can be completely supplied from this desk.

And then an evening with the Sooners in Stillwater during the above-mentioned institute that was indeed a most pleasant occasion. Among those present under the "toastmastership" of Executive Board Member HARRY SIMMONS were PAUL, '23, and MRS. PEARSON, who for the past months have lived in Stillwater after leaving their old stomping ground in Jackson County, the capitol city Altus, to be more specific; DR. LOUIS, '34med, and wife EULA THOMASON SILVERTHORN, '30ed, were there to "swap" yarns of yester-year while MARSDEN, '33ba, plus DAD BELLATTI, '12 law, were there as "newsmen and publishers" should be! KERMIT INGHAM, '25, and dozens of other Sooner residents of Stillwater were in evidence. Our good friend "the Aggie" ARCH MARTIN, Executive Secretary of A. and M. Association breaking bread in Sooner fashion with the boys from down south of Aggie town made the occasion complete.

The wires buzz—the telephone jingles—the air mail notes are, as of this hour, rolling in. A new trail is opening as of next Wednesday night (November 22) and the Rider of the Sooner Range will head out for Sooner assemblies in Kansas City, St. Louis, Indianapolis, Columbus, Washington, D. C., and New York City. The Sooner message from each of those centers is, "The coffee is brewing, the toast is scorching, gallop up for the festivities." So it's off for the East to meet the gang! It is anticipated this trek along the trail will be interesting and profitable, but the trail will not be clear, the path will not be smooth until thousands of Sooner men and women in the armed forces shall have completed a little piece of unfinished business in many theaters of operations. Yes, finished business and will be privileged to return to their homes, their occupations and their Sooner activities. Then indeed, will the Riding of the Sooner Range become a much more pleasant reality.

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