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Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

WELL, that's that! Another trek over the trail has been finished! Beginning November 22 and ending December 7, 1944, the Sooners along the way were in assemblies. Sooner Alum clubs in Kansas City, St. Louis, Chicago, Indianapolis, Washington, D. C., and New York City were out in mass to ask questions, relate tales, and rehash events. The work involved in the wake of these "mass movements" is always stifling—but slowly AND/BUT surely with an 80 percent depleted staff, the work is being accomplished. New mailing lists are being pushed through the addressograph room, charters of new clubs being drawn and executed, mailing lists being changed from all corners, tracers being run on incorrect addresses and moving O. U. alums, materials being sent out as requested, dozens upon dozens of business letters, involving the completion of items uncovered in the swing East, going out and coming in. That's always the run of events following an intensive Riding of the Sooner Range.

In Kansas City, Pipeliner E. H. SKINNER, '23ba, is now and has been for weeks planning the Sooner-all-out for the new prexy, GEORGE CROSS, who will, in the course of the immediate weeks to come, breeze up Kansas City way to chat with the O. U. alum gang.

In St. Louis dozens of old and not-so-old timers were out stirring medicine, mixing sentiments, and in general a-flutter, as was Billy Shakespeare in *Much Ado About Somethin'*! CHIEF JOHNNY WILKINSON, '23ba, had us down to his club, four or five of us, to feed on steaks, just like they have them in old Mizzou, and to make a 25-year check-up on the old hometown of Nowata with its former and present inhabitants. Alum club prexy, FRED S. MILAM, '22ed, the vice president, MRS. E. J. MERRITT, JR. (Rosa, '33), along with the secretary of the outfit and "the chequer-of-the-exchequer," holding all the cash, MRS. WILBUR MORSE (Edna, '29ba) really did themselves proud by assembling that Sooner gang in the Enright home for the general festivities and pow-wow. Yes, dozens of others were there with them in St. Louis, giving your Range Rider the latest and planning some three other outstanding events for Sooner-ites in the months to come, including a Sooner "seat block" for OKLAHOMA! opening in St. Louis in the very near future.

At windy Chicago (and a Chi on that particular night with its torrents of rain), former prexy JOE, '21ba, and SALLYE BRANDT; WES, '17, and MRS. NUNN; Chi alumni club prexy JOE, '23ba, and MRS. HICKS (Lois, '22); LES, '21ba, '22law, and MRS. SALTER; VERN, '11bs, and MRS. ALDEN; N.B.C. HOMER, '35, and MILDRED HECK (Gosh! It was fine to see old Homer, former Dean-of-the-Housemothers of the Oklahoma Memorial Union, now spreading his talents into fame with N.B.C.); former alumni headquarters secretary, BETTY RAE BROWN, '44bus; LEE STIGLER, '17, of Hines General Hospital staff; Engineer CECIL, '32eng, '37, and MRS. ARMSTRONG (Marie, '32ba), along with dozens of others of that Chi and surrounding territory gang out and at 'em. Yes, out on that windy, rainy, cold, Chi night—exchanging greetings, asking questions, paying life membership fees in full, completing business organization details, and in general talking a "blue-streak"—and how!

Upon arrival in Indianapolis, a cold, rainy, bleak Sunday morning in this East swing was

experienced. The assembly, in behalf of former Sooners as well as Sooners in the making (World War II veterans now returned and returning to the campus of the University of Oklahoma), was soon under way. There in the National Monument, built to the memories and in the interest of those who fought *then* and to the millions who are fighting *now*—the National Headquarters of the American Legion—a series of conferences was soon established with national officers, liaison officers, and committees for the interpretation of educational benefits under "the G.I. Bill of Rights" for the thousands of young men who will come back into the fold. And, too, a rapid survey was made in the interests of the future work of "The Sarge" MILT PHILLIPS, '22, who, at that time, had been back for some 39 hours from his "retread" activities in World War II, down Italy and Sicily way. Yes, the same "Old Salt" Milt, en route to the home state to become co-ordinator of activities, in behalf of veterans in World War II, on the staff of Sooner-Alumnus-Governor BOB KERR. How the years make reflections—how in some instances, time will repeat itself!

And—this is the nation's capital, indeed, the "District!" The "District" known down through the civilian years following the close of World War I as the "hot bed" for Sooner alumni activity. The "District" that I have known for the last three years in military circles as the war capital of the world, where momentous decisions have been made, where world strategy was perfected, and where the destinies of nations were shaped! Yes, I saw the "District" while on active duty tour of World War II but I am looking at it as a recently discharged citizen, back to the status of civilian life, and the Sooners flock in by the hundreds! Under the able leadership of Commissioner PAUL WALKER, '12law, and Administrative Assistant to the Commissioner, WALTER B. EMERY, '34law, into the local banquet room flock Sooner JOSH, '17ba, and LOUISE LEE, '23, Congressman MIKE MONRONEY, '24ba, LT. COL. C. GUY, '23ba, and FRANCES BROWN, '34, LT. LYNDEN MANNEN, '27ba, '38ma, MRS. ALYNE HINES, the wife of my old liaison boy back in good civilian days prior to his unhappy experience of being caught on Bataan at its fall, and who still remains a prisoner of the Japs—CAPT. CLIFF HINES, '34. Young WACS, young Lieutenants, staid old Majors, rough and tough old (and younger) Colonels, and enough "specialists" now working in governmental agencies in Washington, on leave of absence from the O. U. faculty, were in the Sooner audience to establish a double quota. Enough, indeed, to call a meeting of an O. U. Senate!

So this is good old New York City! Sorry, they cannot be given plenty of "house," but I am nearing that 0 plus 30 deadline, and we must go to press. But (in passing) a big, fine session was there in the making! Those "NU YURK" Sooners now function under University of Oklahoma Alumni Club No. 13. It was organized the night we got together and with ROBERT CALVERT, '09ba, '10ma, as Prexy, LLOYD MAXWELL, '12ba, as Vice Prexy, MARIAN MORRIS, '44fa (Harry's little daughter from Ada, Oklahoma), as Secretary-Treasurer, plus MRS. LILLIAN DOOLEY REED, '25ba, as Recorder, and "Steered" by the three directors, BOB PARKER, '34ba, MRS. ALEC D. BAYNES, '24 ba, and DR. HARRY E. SLATKIN, '13ba—well, you're going to hear more out of Charter Club 13 of New York City as we gallop along together Riding the Sooner Range.