

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

High noon and high activity! Yes, high noon, Monday, July 9, 1945—high temperature, high steam, high pressure! It's been high (and never low) since seven bells this morning when Madame Editor of *Sooner Magazine* (ELAINE LARECY, '42journ), dashed into the office as only editors can dash, in a "dither," stating, "We've gotta get going and get goin' in a hurry. All the linotype operators, press men and others—well, they're going to take a breathing spell for 15 days and nights. All this copy's gotta be over to the Press . . . so scurry yourself around and . . . get in copy on Riding the Sooner Range!!!"

Well, of course, that was six hours ago and we've been in that "high" ever since! So—at "half-ease," around the rear table, with a bunch of hot shots at the Norman Rotary Club weekly luncheon, why not observe and comment on some of these cow-hands? Yes, dozens of alumni from all over the state and nation are guests of the Rotary Club today, listening to the chatter and to yarns swapped about "Pre-War, the War, Post-War—and What's Cookin'." Oh, yes—as a side observation—it's the first meeting with the O.U. School of Business's BILL BUTTERFIELD, '35ma, as the new prexie of the Norman Club and what a swell job he is doing!

The "gist" of the guest college president's talk to these Rotarians and guests has been recorded and noted. So, let's observe from this "rear view" some of the bald spots and the graying temples scattered throughout this assembly of 100 men—the bald spots plus the graying temples of O.U. Sooners who are here for the Progress Work Shop being attended by Oklahoma school administrators.

The old "dean of the publications" is a special guest from over across the street (O.U. Press Building) today, namely CECIL BRITE, '29bus, '31law. And—down the room is the prexie from over Tonkawa way, LOREN N. BROWN, '28ma, '37ph.d. Two more prexies are over there munching their apple sauce and smacking their lips over Norman's crystal water, namely, BRUCE G. CARTER, '32ma, of Northeastern State Junior College, Miami, and CLAUD C. DUNLAP, '28ms, '29ma, of Eastern Oklahoma College, Wilburton. Yes, these college prexies, deans and what-have-you are worth two cents a dozen today because they're really stacked in here! Others who may be observed in the Oklahoma Memorial Union Woodruff Room assembly are: EARL CLEVENGER, college prof up Edmond

way—graduate student for this particular summer of 1945 on the O.U. campus; MERLE GLASGOW, '32ms, '37d.ed, the Bartlesville Junior College prexy; I. C. GUNNING, '35ms, who is now dean of men with CLAUD DUNLAP at Wilburton.

Great Scott! How the years roll by! This particular gentleman (GUNNING) just called to my attention the fact that we first met as "competitors and competers" in an oratorical contest down at Southwestern State College at Weatherford, Oklahoma, exactly 30 years ago last week! No wonder that some domes are going *slightly* bald!

Others around the assembly? HARVEY C. HANSEN, '28ms, '35d.ed, Norman; O. D. JOHNS, '33ms, Seminole; GEORGE M. ROBERT, '27ba, '28ma, Bartlesville; A. G. STEELE, '33ms, Altus; H. E. WRINKLE, '22ba, '31ms; M. L. WARD-DELL, '19ba, O.U. staff member, and the World War II Vet, commanding officer of the student American Legion post on the O.U. campus, JIMMY WALKER, in person.

My guests? Sure, they are guests. They dropped in five minutes before the dinner bell sounded. The "Chief," DAVE PHILLIPS, '25ba, '35ms, of the Pauls Valley school system (in former years) and until yesterday high noon old "Supply Chief Dave" of the U.S. Navy down in the South South Pacific. But today he's back home, back to shed the chief's stripes, back to peel into civvies again and join in the parade of headaches along with the rest of the civilians. LT. COMDR. EG CLEMENT, '24-'31—yep, that's the old EG in person, after two years plus in the Aleutians! The only cross-section or "cross-profile" we see is a *reduced* waist line! It may have been the fog, it may have been the particular moss, it may have been the Aleutians themselves, but COMMANDER EG was happy to get his heels back on Norman soil again today.

And the Dean of the Cement Trust is my guest over to the immediate left. Who? No other than the former Alumni Association prexie, FISH MULDROW, '22, of Ardmore.

And that fine broad-shouldered, bronze-tanned soldier up the way chatting with the boys at table number two? That is the returned veteran as of noon yesterday, back from the deep interior of Germany to his old stomping-ground in Cleveland County, LT. BOB HOLLAND, '32-'35. Bob's message from Germany? Well, he's been a

side-kick and a foxhole inhabitant along with Separate-Corporation-Lieutenant BOB BILLINGSLEY, '40, Lexington, and the message is that since LT. BILLINGSLEY of the U. S. Army couldn't get home he requested that all activities be held up until he returns—and that no dividends be declared until the quorum finishes the job!

So it's down the corridor, winding through stacked halls to the Alumni Headquarters, following that Rotary luncheon that came near turning into a Sooner alumni assembly. Back to the headquarters as the messenger dashes in with a dispatch from two of our outstanding journalists, namely, JOY TURNER STILLEY, '42journ, and husband, FRANCIS STILLEY, '42journ. The message? Well, it's a regular hot A.P. dispatch. Here 'tuz:

"OKLAHOMA CITY, JULY 5—(AP) BRENN TURNER STILLEY, LANKY, BLACK-THATCHED HEIR TO THE STILLEY NEWSPAPER FORTUNES, ARRIVED HERE UNEXPECTEDLY EARLY TODAY, A FEW DAYS AHEAD OF HIS ANNOUNCED SCHEDULE. HE APPEARED A BIT TRAVEL-WORN, BUT WAS IN EXCELLENT HEALTH AND SPIRITS.

THE VISITOR, WHO HAD NOT BEEN DUE UNTIL AROUND JULY 12, DID NOT IMMEDIATELY DISCLOSE HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE BUT IT WAS EXPECTED HE WOULD REMAIN HERE INDEFINITELY. ASIDE FROM A FEW CLOSE MEDICAL FRIENDS, WHO HELD A RECEPTION FOR HIM AT ST. ANTHONY'S HOSPITAL, THE ONLY PERSONS ON HAND TO GREET THE YOUNGSTER WERE ONE ASSOCIATED PRESS NEWSMAN AND A FORMER NEWSPAPER WOMAN WHO HAD KNOWN HIM FOR SOME TIME.

AAR5ACW."

L. D. Operator 85 of Oklahoma City, on the line raisin' cain that behind-the-desk activity ceased long enough for food to be consumed! "This Ted Beaird of the O.U. Alumni Office? Hold the line one minute, MRS. J. F. "MAJ" (LOUISE) MALONE and 14-month-old daughter PEGGY of Atlanta, Georgia, calling." Yes, they will be in soon for a visit—to while away a few more long, long days until "Daddy," CAPT. J. F. MALONE, '37ba, finishes a hard and tedious task with General-Five-Star Mac over Philippine way!

Ho hum! Here are recorded a mere few of the activities that take place hourly around your Alumni Headquarters back on the campus of O.U.