

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

ON THE SOONER RANGE in October, 1945! What a different, more pleasant, more appreciated Range, than ever before! World peace, the privilege of being an American, the satisfaction of feeling the protective influence of these United States, the joy of seeing, visiting with and helping multiplied hundreds of returning World War II Sooner Vets—all adds up to the dividends and returns of American citizenship.

The summer of '45? What happened on the Range? A few brief high-lights? Well—here are some:

Pleasant June day and night (sunburn-blister-and-all) Sallye and I spent with NORMAN BRILLHART ('17ba) Madill, and his fine family—in his home, and in his boat on the "high seas" of Lake Texhoma, offering many inducements to the "finney tribe." Pleasant three days Katheryn and I spent in the home village (midnight to dawn only) of STANLEY CUNNINGHAM ('30law), COLONEL CLIVE MURRAY, MANAGER DICK McCOOL, "FISH," COLONEL AL, and COLONEL HAL MULDROW'S birthplace, ole Tish, (TISHOMINGO, MURRAY COUNTY) for three successive days—to explore again Pennington, Sandy and other creeks as they swirled on into Lake Texhoma. . . . Pleasant evening in Sulphur, back there some weeks ago at the Artesian Hotel with HICKS ('32law) and THELMA ('32ed) EPTON, Wewoka, "CHEEBIE" ('24) and MRS. GRAHAM, Bonham, Texas, and Lazy-S-Ranch, Oklahoma Aggie L. B. and MRS. PEAK of the Murray County capitol, as our dinner guests. OU was made and remade—"CHEEBIE'S" and HICKS' ranchin' was hashed and rehashed—special legislation was re-introduced and passed on certain public buildings (and *was not* ruled out by our re-organized Supreme Court.) All these plus dozens of other items were settled in this meeting on the mineral dome of Platt National Park! Pleasant evening when again assembled in the Woodruff Room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union at one of the evening dinner sessions of the Oklahoma State School Administrators Association meeting. "PREXIE" GEORGE (of O.U.), "PREXIE" GEORGE ('36med) (of Alumni outfit), Board Member JIMMIE FRAZIER ('32med), Altus, HERB WRINKLE ('31ms), on O.U. staff, BILL RAGAN ('38ma), O.U. staff, DOC M. GLASGOW ('37d.ed), Bartlesville, GUY Y. WILLIAMS ('10ma), vets liaison hot-shot of O.U., JIM HODGES ('31ph.d), Tulsa, BILL JONES ('39ma), Tahlequah, the lecturin' M. L. WARDELL ('19ba) O.U., the new grief-catcher of O.E.A. JOE HURT, Edmond, "PREXIE" CLAUD DUNLAP ('29ma), Wilburton—all these and many more were the "contributors" on that evening's program. How different (and how much more pleasant) to sit there on this June evening, *again* to relax and enjoy an association so unlike the previous three *Junes* when it was the Army of Uncle Sam pounding and re-pounding! Pounding in training, processing and shipping fine American boys by the thousands out of the Ports of Embarkation to the many war theatres of the world was the orders of the day then!

Pleasant day and evening in Shawnee where JIMMY WALKER, War Vet-Student Assistant and your Range Rider worked with those O.U. (and *friends* of O.U.) Alums! The now civilian attorney-at-law (only a few weeks ago the Major of the U.S. Army) KEN ABERNATHY ('31law) Shawnee, was the general-fixer-upper and Master-of-Ceremonies. KEN was ably assisted by the HON. DIAL CURRAN, the able and efficient secretary of the State Board of Regents for Higher Education. And, DIAL CURRAN *holds* an O.U. Alumni Membership by *QUOTE*, "Being a grad of the

University of Oklahoma School of Agriculture" (He then hastily explains) "And, of course, you know and I know *there is no* School of Agriculture there! But, that Alumni outfit over in Norman, receives (and deposits) my three bucks annuals, so *I must* be an alumnus!"

That was a fine dinner with that Maud gang. None other than JIM MAGUIRE ('25ba) the public utility (electrical) magnate could have made it possible. We will be back on *that* Range both summer and winter!

It was an interesting one hour and twenty minutes in the Silver Glade Room of the Skirvin Tower. That summer day was worth while. CLINT ANDERSON, Secretary of Agriculture, U.S.A., was the feature. O.U. chaps were *much* in evidence at that luncheon assembly. From a point of vantage, some who were "noticed" were: GOVERNOR BOB KERR ('16), TOM BENEDUM ('28law), Norman, H. K. McDOWELL ('24ba) and JOHN CANTRELL ('24law), Oklahoma City. May there be more days when we learn from CLINT, "Why the sugar shortage," "What about wheat?" and "There is going to be an over-flow SOON on bull-beef and cabbage."

It was more than a pleasure to have on that late August afternoon, that fine up-right "soldier" (in Navy uniform) LT. DICK McCOOL ('41ba), Norman, step into the office. Yes, he could (and did) *walk* in only a brief few weeks after being at his command post on his boat just off Okinawa. *It must have* been more than he expected in the tactical problems presented prior to his graduation from Annapolis only a year ago to see that Jap suicide plane headed for the death blow. The Jap plane? Well, it not only struck, but its bomb went completely through a section of the U.S. "Water-Wagon." Results? Eleven fine American boys in his command killed. The Lieutenant in command? Well, DICK "came to" in a hospital ship with four wounds. Spent three weeks in California hospitals after being flown to the States—and on this particular afternoon, was reporting to the Norman Naval Hospital for further out-patient treatment. Yes—he also reported in at the Alumni Headquarters to complete another mission, namely, to take the Madame Ed of SOONER MAGAZINE, ELAINE LARECY ('42ba), Norman, out of editorial policy making to the higher command in-charge of the DICK McCOOL, JR. household! And now (as all *romance* stories go) they are married and the suicide planes of the little yellow devils of the Pacific have been silenced!

2309 on the eventful late evening (or it is now night) of Sunday, 12 August, 1945 (11:09 PM in the non-military-measurement-of-time of the standard of Armed Forces lingo) the radio bulletins and flashes are coming in all over the dial, detailing what—why—when a world suddenly went wild with the FALSE flash, "Japan accepts the Allied Nations terms of Peace for an unconditional surrender!"

Three hours ago the trail of the Range had led Katheryn ('24) of this household and your Rider to a small, quite informal, ole-time dinner party at the home of ROSCOE ('26ba) and FRANCES ('30) CATE here in Norman. During the course of the dinner, the flash came through, only to be corrected a few minutes later. Just a little assembly to "Welcome home, you two—after all these years—welcome back to the remaining handful of the Pre-War dinner party gang that years, stacked on years, we enjoyed before we ever gave a passing thought to such spots (now world renowned) and in most instances bought with American blood, as Iwo Jima, Saipan, the Aleutians, and kindred world out posts." The two honored warriors—CAPTAIN BOYD GUNNING ('37law) and wife ELEANOR ('38bfa) along with LT. (NAVY)

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HERBERT HICKS SCOTT ('26ma) and wife BETTY ('29). The Army captain back after three years plus spent in, around and all over the Pacific with the last six months (since S-Day) in the Philippines. Back, as only a captain thrown in a similar situation could, to enjoy his thirty days rest and recuperation period, re-meeting his family and to grow acquainted with his younger son who, indeed grew to be quite a man from his wee three weeks of age when Dad went Jap hunting, to his present three years plus, when Dad appeared in person. The Navy Lt. "jumping up" from the operational Naval Station in the Canal Zone via Army Transport bomber, is also growing in his 30 days leave, reacquainted with the children, ANN, O.U. Sophomore, SUE, University High School Senior, ADDIE LOU, O.U. Training School "grader" plus the Man-about-the-house, HERBERT STANLEY, University High Freshman. MRS. "MAJ." MALONE, up from Atlanta, Georgia, wife of CAPTAIN J. F. "MAJ" MALONE, yes was there in person, to represent this absent male member of the ole dinner party gang. The CAPTAIN is at present in the Philippines after a series of months in New Guinea and other spots south of the line!

In that four hour period, where did the discussion lead? Well, first, of course, there were observations in re: absent members of the crew. LT. COLONEL C. GUY ('31ba) and wife FRANCES ('34) BROWN came in for a recheck as to present whereabouts. The Colonel is still in command of a Headquarters Squadron in one of the large Army installations at a field near Washington, D.C. It was found that only yesterday the War Department had announced the younger brother of the Colonel, LT. WALTER BROWN ('39) had been officially declared "Killed in Action in the European Theatre" after being "Missing in Action" since March 17, 1944. HOMER ('35) and MILDRED HECK, the before Pearl Harbor high score bridge couple of the crew were "discussed"—reminiscing even turned to HOMER'S duties as "Dean of House Mothers" in those many years he was Assistant Manager of the Oklahoma Memorial Union—long before he started to sky rocket in his N.B.C. career which has placed him in the high radio pedestal he enjoys today in and out of his Chicago headquarters.

Other Sooners—other items discussed and S.O.P. (Standard Operational Procedure) established! Yes, plenty! CAPTAIN LELAND GORLEY ('40) who served with distinction in the E.T.O. CAPTAIN HAROLD REEDY ('42) former steno-auditor-and-general-hand-y-man when a kid mastering his Engineering course at O.U., for your Range Rider. CAPTAIN VERNON "RED" BONE ('40) who still sends us his G.I. messages from the deep South Pacific. LT. KEN FARRIS ('43bs) of the U.S. Marines. LT. (jg) BILL SHEERER now of Panama Canal Zone, former O.U. strong man in Athletics, LT. COMMANDER "JAP" HASKELL ('22bs) recently transferred to 13th Naval District, Seattle, Washington—ALL were "observed"! Thus the old crew assembled, checked and rechecked on absentees on that summer '45 evening!

It was a renewed pleasure on that Labor Day of '45 to high-away via the gallopin' interurban to Oklahoma City, and the streamlined American Legion Convention. A pleasure because it afforded opportunity to visit again with COLONEL FRANK CLECKLER ('21ba) on special leave from his post of duty down Camp Hood way; the former O.U. Alum, "PREXIE" (now the Department Adjutant, Department of Oklahoma, American Legion), ELMER FRAKER "resolutin'" as Chairman at the Convention Resolutions Committee; J. B. KOCH ('26bs), Norman, singing his "swan song" and becoming an "X" after a most successful and outstanding year as the big C.O. of the 39,000 legionnaires of the state—these, plus dozens of other O.U.ites, made it a "Labor Day" to be remembered.

Faculty

The Regents announced the appointment of Dr. John Y. Battenfield, '37med, soon to be released from the Army Medical Corps, as head of the student health service. Dr. Battenfield, holding the rank of captain, took part in the invasion of Europe and was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. Before entering the Army, he was associated with the State Health Department.

Other appointments announced by the Board were as follows:

Clifford M. Baumbach, assistant professor of business management.

Alexander N. Saunders, assistant professor of English.

Noel E. Vaughan, assistant director of family life education.

O. W. Rush, assistant to the counselor of men.

Mrs. Thelma Margaret Dyke, clerical stenographer in the office of the counselor of women.

Phyllis Atzenhoffer, assistant to the counselor of women.

Margaret Fisher, assistant to the counselor of women.

Virginia Acher, residence counselor in the residential halls for women.

William R. Eldridge, studio engineer at radio station WNAD.

Jack A. Carver, announcer and editor at WNAD.

Bruen C. Robbins, production manager at WNAD.

Mrs. Elveta V. Hughes, clerical secretary in the Placement Office.

William T. Lester, floor man in the University Press.

Mrs. Marjory G. Bradley, roll clerk in the Registry Office.

Mrs. Linda Mae Walden, secretary in the Guidance Center.

A. W. Hanson, caretaker of R.O.T.C. property. The following resignations were accepted:

Paul Eldridge, '19ba, associate professor of English, who has accepted a position at the University of Nevada in Reno.

Kenneth Benson, floorman in the University Press.

Mrs. Rebecca Miller, assistant in the counselor of women's office.

Dixie Potter Chenault, traffic manager of WNAD.

Helen Kemp, clerical secretary in the office of admission.

Mrs. Mabel M. Lord, clerical stenographer in the department of animal biology.

Mrs. Marjorie Bauman, secretary with the Placement Service.

Mrs. Ray E. Goedecken, stenographer in the School of Home Economics.

Marvin Killman, linotype operator in the University Press.

Leaves of absence were granted to Dr. Stuart R. Tompkins, associate professor of history who is now teaching in the University of California in Los Angeles, and Vera Dixon, assistant professor of library science. An extension of leave was granted to Dr. Howard O. Eaton, professor of philosophy.

Three faculty members have returned to the University from leaves. They are Arthur T. Meyer, assistant professor of music; Wilfred J. Dixon, assistant professor of mathematics, and Balfour Whitney, assistant professor of mathematics.

Educational Problems—

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in are most likely to be the classes they would have enrolled in had they not been involved in the war.

One of the chief problems of education of veterans is for university officials and instructors to remember that the experiences of the veterans have given them a maturity that the average student of similar age does not have. Veterans must not be treated as children.

New O.U. Law Head

President George L. Cross and the Board of Regents announced on September 20 the resignation of Dr. John Hervey, '23ba, '25llb, as Dean of the University Law School and at the same time announced the appointment of Dr. Maurice H. Merrill, '19ba, '22llb, as acting Dean.

Dale Plans to Finish Books Within Year

Finishing his second summer's work in the Henry Huntington library and art gallery in San Marino, Cal., Dr. E. E. Dale, '11ba, Norman, University research professor of history, plans to complete two books he is writing within a year.

His study in the Huntington library concerns federal relations with the Indians of the Southwest since 1848, when California and the extreme southwestern states were secured by the United States following the Mexican war.

The second book concerns the cultural contributions of the Indians of Oklahoma to the state and nation. Dr. Dale did extensive research on the subject during the spring semester while on leave of absence to study under a Rockefeller grant.

Dr. Dale also spent a few days doing research in the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles, and he will probably spend another summer in the Huntington library and plans to have the two books completed by this time next year.

Blickensderfer Writes on G.I. Bill

Dr. Joseph P. Blickensderfer, professor of English on leave of absence, has written an article for the current issue of the *Saturday Review of Literature*. The article is on general and liberal education and the G.I. Bill.

Dr. Blickensderfer is at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., as Director of Books for the Adult Blind and edition of the U. S. Quarterly Book list.

Ask About "Pop" Owen

The G.I.'s and Gobs as well as the Leathernecks from every theater of operation in the world send in one universal question, namely, How is "Uncle Bill" or "Pop" Owen?

Not too many people know that the friendly individual known as "Pop" in the Union game room is William Owen, former baseball coach for the University from 1922 to 1927.

In 1922, his first year as coach, the Sooner baseball team won five games and lost ten. They ranked sixth in the Missouri Valley League that year. It was Owen's only bad year, however, because in the next four years O.U. never ranked below second place, taking the Missouri Valley Conference pennant for three consecutive years.

When "Jap" Haskell came to replace Owen in 1927, he moved into the Union building, then still in construction.

"I helped move into the Union in the fall of 1928, and I've been in charge of the gameroom ever since."

Bill Owen has seen a lot of people come and go in the time he has been in the Union and plans to be here for many more years.

Balyeat Gets O.E.A. Post

Dr. Frank A. Balyeat, '11ba, '18ma, chairman of the department of adult education in the Extension Division, has been appointed to serve on the "in-service" education committee of the school administrators department of the Oklahoma Education Association.

George D. Hann, superintendent of schools at Ardmore and president of the Alumni Association, who is president of the department of school administrators of the O.E.A., asked Dr. Balyeat to serve on the committee in connection with a special project.