

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

BEGINNING A NEW ERA, this November of '45. Indeed, signs and ear-marks of a pre-war November! Whatta long seige it has been in swinging back on this cycle!

Rough spots? Yes, but many, many pleasant hours on the Sooner Range in the immediate past few days and nights. A rough (and sad) 2:00 PM that recent day in Enid, at the funeral service of one of O. U.'s finest Dads—LOUIE MCKNIGHT. The soldier son, LLOYD ('31law)—on emergency leave from his FT. SILL Army Station, there with dozens of relatives and friends—all under the strain due to LOUIE'S sudden passing. Thus time (and life) moves on.

A business session—conference room, Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City. The door swings open and there "framed" appears the Navy-Army representative of "other years" from Sooner ranks—MAJOR PAUL REED ('18) SULPHUR, on 30 days leave (may it be terminal leave) from his post of duty, Port of Embarkation, SAN FRANCISCO. Years rollin' by! Most assuredly! As of this fall semester, PAUL WARREN (Chip-off-the-REED-block) is a freshman Engineering student, O. U. And, who are some of the state citizens who pushed chairs back from the deliberations of this business conference to greet the Major? Several! Among those who gave the "Sooner Hello!" to PAUL were: JUDGE EARL FOSTER ('13law)—O. U. grad + O.U. Dad + X-O.U. Alumni Association "Prexie" + general-all-around-O.U.-fixer-upper. CAPTAIN EARL FOSTER ('40ba), the Judges's son? Yes, novel experience. On V-E and V-J Days the Captain was in the final hours of his West Coast training on the B-17's great grandmother, plus the B-29's grandmother, namely, the late to enter combat missions in the closing hours of hostilities with the Japs, the world renowned B-32. Then suddenly—the World at peace. With painstaking care and secrecy, however, on perhaps V-J + X day, CAPTAIN EARL FOSTER received order to B-32 it in the flight direction of Tokyo. Pleasant and uneventful journey for the young Captain and his crew and the final landing was made at GUAM. There for 72 hours the orders came through "W/P via Hawaii, in return flight to the United States." He did, they did! And, on this particular day of conference under discussion, CAPTAIN EARL was on Army mission in TOPEKA, KANSAS, looking forward to enough hours leave to drop down Norman way to see SNORTER'S ('22law) boys take on a real football delegation—some 2 days in the future. So it goes in the Army! Others to shuffle around from that Biltmore conference table and extend a "Hi there, MAJOR" to PAUL were: O.U. Dad-Aviation enthusiast MOSS PATTERSON, OKLAHOMA CITY, whose 2 daughters (by blood) MARY NELL WILSON ('35-'36) and VERA MARIE MAYHALL ('40-'41); two son-in-laws (by inheritance) MAJ. KENNETH T. WILSON ('33-'36) and CAPT. CARL L. MAYHALL JR. ('36bs) were doctinated with the Sooner Shots prior to and immediately after Pearl Harbor. Dad FRANK MCCOY, PAWHUSKA—whose O.U. son LT. COL. FRANK ('35ba) had been discharged the night before this assembly and was headed back at that hour to civilian haunts and professional work in NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. Dad DOANE FARR, CLINTON,—UNCLE BOB'S ('16) (that's the "Gov," you know) Text Book "Coordinator" (along with O.U. "Prexie" GEORGE CROSS)—and dad of MARY KATHERINE FARR ('44ba)

and freshman son JACK—now at O.U. TOM HORSLEY, WEWOKA ATTORNEY and the real business dad of HICKS EPTON ('32law) who, as TOM says, "Fine boy BUT works entirely too hard on any assignment he undertakes." Dad ALLEN STREET, OKLAHOMA CITY, who as usual contributed greatly to the perinate points of the hour. Dad TED WEIDMAN, O. G. & E.-pusher of NORMAN, who for years has watched over his O.U. "flock." Dad DR. H. K. SPEED, SAYRE, whose son, DR. H. K. SPEED, JR. ('33md) has made an outstanding contribution. Dad, A. & M. President HENRY G. BENNETT ('24ma) STILLWATER, who points with pride to O.U. son, MAJOR PHIL C. ('37law) and who, at this conference was adding his philosophy to "Education in the U. S. and England" along with "Prexie" GEORGE CROSS, "Prexie" DAN PROCTOR ('43ed) O.C.W., CHICKASHA, headman DOC BRUNER, OKLAHOMA CITY, School Chief and the Good-will Ambassador Educator TOM WARREN of the British Empire. So it goes, Never an idle—indeed, never a dull moment in watching the parade pass by in Riding the Sooner Range!

This noon - luncheon - plus - afternoon - business-conference, over in the Conference room of the Biltmore, the "Dads" discussed above duly adjourn to a state-wide assembly of 505 citizens, from 31 communities of the state in the Silver Glade Room, Skirvin Tower. O.U. Sooners in evidence? Plenty! Among those "observed" were Dad JOE HAMILTON, the outstanding Director of the Oklahoma Crippled Children Society. DICK MEEK, OKLAHOMA CITY-NORMAN, journalist-reporter-picture-snapping specialist. H. K. McDOWELL ('24ba) OKLAHOMA CITY, cap-and-gown, medal-trophy, engraved-printers work and side-line magnate. [MRS. MAC ('34) there also.] FINIS EWING, PURCELL-NORMAN, the electrical-supply-O.P.A.-stove merchant. BILL ('35ma) and MRS. BUTTERFIELD, on staff. HERB WRINKLE ('31ms), NORMAN, ham and eggs (plus T-Bone steaks NOW) distributor. ELMER L. ('38ma) and MRS. FRAKER ('22), OKLAHOMA CITY-MANGUM. "FRAKE" the state Legion Adj. plus Ed + 'Fesser. Leader DR. LELAND LAMB ('28md), OKLAHOMA CITY, X-ray-piano pounder. These plus dozens of others there Ridin' the Range! Thus draws to a close another day, another night on the trail.

At dawn, back home and in the Alum Headquarters, the old machine begins to grind. CAPTAIN MAX COOK ('41law) from over Germany way with side-kick CAPTAIN "BILL" THOMAS ('41ba) (same A.P.O. last three years) swing in (Silver Stars, Purple Heart and all) to how a brief few years ago they juggled dishes, served half-brewed coffee and pushed the brooms! Two young proven Captains. The cross-section representatives of some 12,000 plus O.U. sons and daughters—who made and recorded history in World War II. LT. COL. HAL MULDRON ('28bus) back with his 45th Division after writing several chapters of that history by personal contribution in the "inside" war combat. A hurry up noon meeting of the Union Board of Managers; R. W. "BEP" HUTTO ('10ba), DR. ED MEACHAM ('14ba) and DR. GUY Y. "CHEM-ROPER" WILLIAMS ('10ma) to establish "policy" and offer guidance to "Yours Truly", Social-Educational Union Activities Director "STUBBY"—MARY LOU STUBBEMAN ('45bs). A hurry up series of letters requiring immediate action from LOWREY HARRELL ('16law) on O.U. Alumni organization meeting, Ada. Same from JOHN PEARSON ('29law) PAWHUSKA. Same from JUDGE HARRY L. S. HALLEY ('17law) TULSA. Same from LT. RALPH BRAND ('38ma) CHICKASHA. Same from D. D. KIRK-

LAND ('33ms) McALESTER. Immediate action notes from Regent JOE McBRIDE ('28bs) ANA-DARKO in re: Alumni Recognition Awards "similar to K. W.'s." "Prexie" GEORGE HANN ('36ms) ARDMORE, rushes a "series" in on such items as, School Administrators Conference plus assemblies plus MRS. C's coffee; business items for annual Homecoming Meeting of the Executive Board; State school testing project; special committee meeting on re-drafting Constitution and By-Laws of the "Separate Corporations;" report of Special Committee on SOONER MAGAZINE advertising contracts; "Newspaper" statements; either good (bad) or indifferent football prospects (but concludes must be GOOD); deer hunting advice; what Sooners to "put to work" in ADA and surrounding territory; that, "we are in complete accord, all of us, on O.U.'s Building Program"; who are "good boys" to do certain work projects over the state; that, "I, too, am completely swamped" but concludes with "It's about time we take a little time out to visit and relax, away from details and the push." Yeah! That GEORGE D. covers territory and in triple style gets the job done!

The noon hours rolls around. It's off to the Woodruff Room of the Oklahoma Memorial Union to eat—and listen. SMOKING ROOM DICK MILLER is guest speaker this noon to the civic outfit assembled. BRILLHART ('17ba) "the sage of Catfish Creek on Texhoma" is my guest. We listen to SMOKIN' ROOM DICK. I find myself feeling like a cad! DICK (in part in essence) said, "Why not advertise Oklahoma in its true light? Why is it that men in public life entertain National Conventions and Assemblies in this state by adding 'the Western-cowboy-Indian-complex' to their programs? Can we not acquaint these visiting delegates of the East, while in our midst, that Oklahoma has the world outclassed in many, many fields? Why leave the impression that we are still of the wild and woolly west? Shades of the dark night!! How many times have I been "a party to" doin' my bit with educational and civic conclaves on the O.U. Campus and in the state with the Indian kids from Riverside and other state schools doing "the slow and fast Indian War Dances"—how many distinguished citizens of these United States; yes, even TOM WARREN OF ENGLAND, have I "helped" to make a "Chief" (name, feathers, bonnet and all) of the Kiowas, or Seminoles or Osage or other state Indian citizen tribes!! Yes, even recall ten years ago with 750 delegates from the Junior College of 46 of the 48 states, when we were "parties to" purchasing a wild buffalo (money paid to a youngster for his pet-in-backyard near Lawton) and served these delegates a "Buffalo Banquet"—fresh from the "Plains of Oklahoma" in (of all places) the Ballroom of the Oklahoma Memorial Union on O.U.'s campus! Move over, "Steinie" the "Wrath" of my fine Sooner Associates makes one "pale" in comparison to the *Noted* work of your pen, "The Grapes of Wrath." So that's the way it goes in Riding the Sooner Range!

Time Out From Study to Down Jap Airplanes

There's no excuse for slacking up on one's education even if Jap planes and bombs do try to interfere, believes Fred Barbee of Miami, Okla., who completed the lesson papers for a psychology correspondence course from the University of Oklahoma while he was in service and on duty in the South Pacific.

On one occasion Barbee was below deck on board the U.S.S. Bagley typing a lesson when an alarm sounded and he left his desk to take care of some Jap planes overhead. At his gun in "nothing short," Barbee "finished off" two Jap planes, "brushed the dust" from his hands and returned to his typewriter to prepare the lesson in "Mental Hygiene!"

Barbee is now enrolled in the University of Oklahoma having recently returned from naval service.