

Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

DECEMBER—with early winter winds; a cool climax to an-early-after-close-of-war football season tucked in; with more and more "point men and women" plus dozens recently liberated from POW dumps and slaughter pens arriving hourly—the setting on the O. U. campus slowly swings back to a semi-pre-war status!

Indeed, the trail opens again. Slowly but surely many of the former Riders—who for these many, many months have ridden a series of "HUMPS" in the Army, in the Navy, in the Marines, in essential war work—are TODAY re-adjusting to civilian calls in the field of educational endeavor. So the call to the open; the appreciation of once again being accorded the privilege of individual initiative makes for more pleasure in Riding the Sooner Range!

The family doctor plus personal friend and understanding associate of twenty-five years' "duration" (until the call to duty of World War II placed him back in uniform) LT. COL. BEN COOLEY ('21 MD), FT. BLISS, strolls in for a long delayed chat and re-hash. The doctor, soon to be discharged from his Army duties, explains he plans to re-open medical practice in San Angelo, Texas. What a fine record his young daughters KAY and CAROLYN have set up in O. U. during "Dad's" tour of duty the past four years!

At PURCELL, with thirty-one business and professional men assembled in the conference during that noon-day assembly, another Sooner-Session was under way! JOHN KENNEDY ('30 PhC) was a principal "spokesman." Joining John in the exchange of A-3 civilian planning was DAD GUY NORTHCUTT and other in-law DADS who publicly were singing the praises of the recently Army discharged O. U. Counselor of Men BILL MELLOR ('42) for his handling, "with efficiency and dispatch the problems of paper-and-red-tape of our returning sons and sons-in-law in securing educational benefits at O. U. under the G. I. Bill of Rights."

Down the main drag of PURCELL, to complete other business items of University interest (following that noon-day session) it was a pleasure to once more get decisions from ART HERRON ('32ed, '36m.ed), the Purcell Public School Commanding Officer; JOE McBRIDE ('28bus) REGENT-EDITOR-PUBLISHER and O. U. Dad—SENATOR JIM NANCE. Banker-Oil Man-Royalty Lease Dealer—recently discharged Army Intelligence hot-shot CY ELLINGER ('26ba) along with the O. U. McCURDY family added their bit as we discussed policy and planning with D. C. JENKS ('11ba) and ROY ANGEL ('41). That McClain County capital-PURCELL-is always good for three hours of constructive work—even to solving O. U. Athletic problems and kindred items!

A three hour's wait in OKLAHOMA CITY, en route via Frisco to TULSA for equipment purchasing grants time (away from telephones and pounding) to "public steno" a series of unfinished items. A speedily dispatched note to the ole professor—"PHOG" ALLEN of K. U.—urging the stormy Basketball mentor to "get out of uniform" once and join us next April on a special 'mission' is addressed, stamped, "licked and sealed" and on its way KU-ward. ED MEACHAM ('14ba), "BEP" HUTTO ('10ba) and GUY Y. WILLIAMS ('06ba, '10ma) get the dissertation in re:matters of policy for the three, as Board of Managers, Oklahoma Memorial Union, to decide. "Prexie" GEORGE D. HANN ('36m.ed), ARDMORE, is mailed the long one on items to be considered in the annual Alumni Executive Board meeting. Thus,

it goes in waiting for transportation.

In TULSA it was found that many Sooners enjoyed (and appreciated) the recent visit of PRESIDENT GEORGE L. CROSS. Long-range plans were underway by several Sooner leaders. JUDGE HARRY L. S. HALLEY ('15ba, '17law), ATTORNEYS BRAD RISINGER ('23ba), JACK CAMPBELL ('36ba, '38law) and BILL EAGLETON ('14ba, '19law) were in on the executin', plannin', and even cashing checks for the Range Rider to purchase a return ticket.

JOHN (and wife PANTHEA MAE EVANS '39ed) FREEMAN ('42bus) gave versions—news versions—of the recent all-out O. U. session sponsored by the O. U. Alumni Club of TULSA County and, too, mused over prospects of an early "moving."

At the annual Homecoming session of the Alumni Executive Board—not only "recent timers" but, indeed, many "old timers" were present to add to the deliberations of the hour. Among those assembled in the Oklahoma Memorial Union were Past Presidents RAY TOLBERT ('12ba, '13llb), OKLAHOMA CITY; JUDGE EARL FOSTER ('12ba, '13law), OKLAHOMA CITY; TOM CAREY ('08ba) OKLAHOMA CITY; A. N. "JACK" BOATMAN ('14ba, '16law), OKMULGEE; FRED TARMAN ('10ba), NORMAN; and JUDGE ROSS HUME ('98ba, 1900ma) ANADARKO. All these, plus many, many more were there at that 10 a. m. annual session, assisting, counseling and guiding "we of the younger generation."

That double-decker assembly over in the Capitol of Grady County—CHICKASHA—was an interesting and constructive day and night's work. ROSCOE CATE ('26ba) Assistant-to-the-OU "Prexie," contributed in his discussion and analysis of "The Financial Program of the University." From the rooin' section DR. DAN PROCTOR ('36ed.m., '43ed.d.) OCW-C. O. along with Banker GRADY HARRIS ('18), ALEX, and LT. RALPH BRAND ('33ba, '38ma) showered the Assistant Prexie with thought-provoking and constructive questions. In DEAN GLENN COUCH's ('31bs, '37ms), appearance on the same program (following Roscoe Cate)—the Sooners of GRADY County received an excellent explanation of O. U.'s long-range Planning Program on "What Happens to Your Freshman Son or Daughter When They Enter O. U. NOW." Even "The O. U. Chant" composer, JESSIE LONE CLARKSON GILKEY ('27fa)—after long years of absence and silence expressed a cross-section sentiment when she said, "Well, Dean Couch, your description of recent developments on plans and training of O. U. students, based on the newly developed testing programs and personnel guidance, is a revelation to one who spent years as a student and Fine Arts staff member at O. U. Why not take that 'development-technique-method talk' to all state citizens." Yes, those CHICKASHA and Grady County Alums always have interest in the University development program. Who are others that have, in recent months, participated in Alumni projects in that sector? Many! Among whom we have "found" CHAS. M. BABB ('43bus); MABLE E. BOGGESS, ('38m.ed., '40m.soc.wk.); E. C. CHASTAIN ('24law); GRACE CLARK, ('19ba, '33ma); the now civilian Doctor and until recently the Medical Corps Captain of the U. S. Army, DR. C. L. COATES ('40bs); JOHN T. EISCHEID, ('14ba); the one-and-only plus original JIM F. HATCHER, ('13ba); LT. WM. J. "BUS" MONROE ('35llb), who until the "army call" was County Attorney of Love County, MARETTA, and who since that dark night at St. Loe, in the ETO has been back at Borden General Hospital "tryin' to save what is left of the leg!" WM. FLETCHER WARD ('27bfa); FANNIE BELLE CASTLE NUNNERY,

('44m.ed); and ROY U. WOODS ('11ba) of VERDEN. Space permitting, that Grady County list would continue far into the column!

In ALVA, for the O. U. Planning Commission meeting, it was a distinct pleasure to again visit with MOTHER HOLLAND and O. U. daughter JEAN ('27ba, '29ma). For a "number of years" Jean has been a staff member of the Northwestern State College. Yes, during the course of the wee morning hours it was most pleasant with Mother Holland to check up on recent activities of those other O. U. HOLLANDS; namely, loyal "JACK" ('18eng), CHICAGO and NORMAN; RANSOM ('29eng), OKLAHOMA CITY; WEAVER ('13eng), DALLAS, and others in the family "who know no other way to think in terms of education than to revert back to those pleasant and profitable years they spent at O. U."

To sit around the conference table in "the Municipal Center of Major County"—FAIRVIEW, was a long-delayed O. U. pleasure. To again be associated with J. PHIL BURNS ('27ba); WAYMAN CORNELSEN ('27-'33); CECIL WARD ('36ba); A. O. MANNING ('09-'13); AUSTIN FIREBAUGH ('24); LYLE SMITH ('42bus); and other O. U. citizens of Major County made this stop on the trail a complete November, '45 climax. And—are those Major County Sooners planning for the future!

That "flivverin' shuffle" (Oh! WHEN will new cars be released?) out of FAIRVIEW via ENID, KINGFISHER and EL RENO—leads us in due course of time back to the Alum Headquarters in the Oklahoma Memorial Union. Here the "scenes" are being re-enacted and missions completed. J. C. MAYFIELD ('28ba) the ole master of Books from his "corner" in the Book Exchange hurries about on "G. I. Book Business." VIC MONNETT ('12ba), E. R. KRAETILI ('18), "JUDGE" LINDSAY, GEORGE WADSACK, JOHN "WNAD" DUNN and BILL "POP" OWEN, of the Union "Game Room" are observed in a coffee-lobby-session. In the office more and more discharged service-men dash in. What a relief—what a pleasure to have them sit down at the War Records Desk and write "finis" on none-too-pleasant Army and Navy careers in World War II.

So—in the early hour of this, an early December morn, other "duty assignments" on the Alumni Roster demand attention. It's to "get at" executing final plans for the session to be staged in a few hours in PAWHUSKA where, under the guidance of JOHN PEARSON ('29ba, '29law), those Osage County O. U. "fans" assemble. En route to PAWHUSKA brief calls are listed on the trestle board at GUTHRIE, PERRY, PONCA CITY and CLEVELAND! Thus it goes—something new, ever changing—in Riding the Sooner Range.

Wrinkle Gives Placement Tests

Placement tests were given by Herbert E. Wrinkle, director of highschool relations, to an estimated 5,000 highschool seniors the latter part of November.

Wrinkle visited 57 highschools, which served as test centers. Neighboring schools were invited to send students interested in attending college to these centers to take the tests. Under this system, highschool seniors from approximately 150 schools were tested.

The new practice of giving placement tests to highschool seniors was carried out on an experimental basis for the first time last year. The tests were administered to 2,337 seniors from 40 highschools at 15 test centers.

Advantages of this system to the seniors include experience in taking standardized tests. Their weaknesses are pointed out in advance of their college work, and they are emotionally better prepared to take tests in home environment than in the first few days' residence at the University.

The program also uncovers the possibilities and problems involved in the establishment of a state-wide testing program which is now being considered by public school administrators and the colleges of Oklahoma.