

# Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

Well, this event is pre-Pearl Harbour! This event rolls back the curtain on a pre-war basis! This Thursday noon, February 14, 1946—well, this is a new—old deal!

Seated here in the banquet rooms of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce in this February of 1946—one can readily forget the struggles of a World War II but can soon visualize things to be as things are as of this hour—more or less back to normal!

Yes, this is the old assembly. How many years now has it been happening? Oh, well, why guess? At any rate I can personally think of some 25 years when the school superintendents of the public school systems in the 77 counties of Oklahoma have flocked in for this special event—the noon Oklahoma School Administrators luncheon wherein they are guests of the Educational Committee of the OKLAHOMA CITY Chamber of Commerce on the Thursday noon of their annual Oklahoma Educational Association state meeting. Things are back to normal in more than one way!

That general engineer announcing, wisecracking, and handling the show is none other than this year's big prexy of the State School Administrators' Association of the State of Oklahoma, the past prexy of the Oklahoma Educational Association and the present-hour prexy of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association. Yes, it is GEORGE HANN, '36m.ed., Superintendent of City Schools, ARDMORE. Now he has given the gong and sound for the meeting to be off.

The congenial gentleman to my left is sipping his coffee awaiting the "go" sign from GEORGE to make his big speech of the hour. The gentleman—the University of Oklahoma and state co-worker, MORRIS L. WARDELL, '19ba. From Prexy GEORGE the go sign is given and he gives M. L. one of those "introductions" and the historian is off to the races! In 42 minutes—a job marvelously done with good common sense and good "Wardellism."

The gentleman puffing, in a nonchalant manner, on the 26c stogie (or is it one of those 7c'ers) to my immediate left is another one of those "prexies", namely DR. GEORGE L. CROSS, president of the University of Oklahoma. The experience of this gathering is not new to GEORGE CROSS either, because he has been a Sooner "by choice" for these 13 years now.

Now that things have calmed down and everything is quiet and M. L. (through the channels of oratory) has the attention of this audience—let's take a hasty glance around the room and check some familiar faces in the assembly. Not all of them! No one could in a glance make a recording of all this gathering! But let's check a few that catch the fancy as we glance over the crew.

Oh, yes, I should say that there are a scattered few school board members present. Over there is PAUL REED, '16; the big car magnate of SULPHUR. How many years now that PAUL REED has ridden along the Range with me in business, professional, and educational work. Yes, he has been over the Range with me recently in another classification, namely the U. S. Army. Some weeks ago PAUL was discharged as a major from the port of embarkation, SAN FRANCISCO. Yes, his cronies are with him, JOHN GOUGH, Superintendent of State School for Deaf, SULPHUR, and to JOHN'S immediate left is the Aggie-Sooner Get-Up-And-Go'er—L. B. PEAK.

CLYDE POWELL, '36, the retreat recently back from his second fling in the Army in so many World Wars, now my assistant manager of the University of Oklahoma Memorial Union, is drinking in the words of wisdom. Near me is the distinguished JAMES R. FRAZIER, '24ba,

'32m.ed., superintendent of schools, WEWOKA, better known in the circles of World War I as Jimmy, but known to his associates of today as the executive-secretary of the School Administrators' shindig we are now attending.

Other faces down the line! There's REX MORRISON, '39m.ed., superintendent of schools, ADA. The state superintendent of public schools, A. L. CRABLE, '27ma, and then there's the old faithful, T. T. MONTGOMERY, '26m.ed., president, Southeastern State College, DURANT. DR. JOHN HEFLEY, '01ba, '35d.ed., is much in evidence. DR. HOWARD TAYLOR along with his president, DR. DAN PROCTOR, '36m.ed., '43d.ed., of the Oklahoma College for Women, CHICKASHA, are stirrin' about.

The distinguished new doctor recently back from eastern study, N. L. GEORGE, '26ed, '31m.ed., business manager of the OKLAHOMA CITY public school system is munching a last crumb of cake as he listens to words of wisdom. G. S. "DOC" SANDERS, '24, the new superintendent of schools at Idabel, is making his annual bow.

The U. S. Army Colonel J. DON GARRISON, '29bs, '36m.ed., a distinguished officer of the Army for the past 5 years on this tour of duty, but a very interested educator from the city schools of NORMAN is right there selling the enlistment program in the Army for the 18 year olds along with the trimmings of the GI Bill of Rights.

DR. LOREN BOWN, '28ma, '37ph.d., president of State Junior College, TONKAWA, and Superintendent ELBERT COSTNER, '29ba, '34ma, POTEAU, are busily engaged and intensely interested as are ROY TOMPKINS, '28ma, and ARCHIE MARTIN of the Oklahoma A. & M. staff from STILLWATER, joined by three Oklahoma University staff members BILL RAGAN, DR. J. R. CHANDLER, '40ph.d., and HERB WRINKLE, '22ba, '31m.ed.

The immediate past president of the O.E.A., JERRY STUBBS, '39-'40, now on the Oklahoma A. & M. staff, is seated with Superintendent PAUL TAYLOR, EL RENO city schools and the present prexy of the O.E.A., Superintendent O. W. DAVISON, '45, of DURANT.

E. E. BATTLES, '26ba, '39m.ed., of HENRY-ETTA (and the boys told me confidentially a minute ago, "come tomorrow he will be the new O.E.A. president") is exchanging greetings with such distinguished personalities as ROY SPEARS, '14ba, McALESTER, the president of the State School Board Members Association, Superintendent A. G. STEELE, '33m.ed., from the deep southwest, ALTUS—and scads of others.

A redhead—Superintendent R. L. McLEAN, '38m.ed., ANADARKO, checking up on small items, medium items and big items—probably making a little preliminary survey for the State Board of Education Meeting which he will undoubtedly attend before this meeting is over. Along with "Red" is NOEL VAUGHAN, '40m.ed., of the University of Oklahoma staff; Superintendent FRANK HESS, '25ba, DRUMRIGHT; Superintendent JIM RAGLAND, of MAUD, and Superintendent O. D. JOHNS, '33m.ed., of SEMINOLE.

DR. JOHN T. MITCHELL of the State Board of Education (and the multiplied years "keeper-of-the-cash" of the O.E.A.) is greeting DR. HERB BRUNER, superintendent of schools, OKLAHOMA CITY; Superintendent CHARLES HOWELL, '20ba, '29m.ed., PONCA CITY; DR. M. O. WILSON, '24, of the Oklahoma University staff; and the prexy of School Principals Association, J. GORDON STEVENS, principal of Duncan Junior High School.

President HAROLD BURTON, of Southwestern Institute of Technology, Weatherford, with Superintendent HARRY HOUSTON of BLACKWELL;

and Superintendent MILO BERNARD, '35m.ed., of COMMANCHE, are up for the winter activities, and doin' a lot of fancy visitin! JOE HURT, the school board official from EDMOND way is greeting Superintendent HARRY SIMMONS, '24ba, STILLWATER; Principal of High School GEORGE ROBERTS, '27ba, '28ma, of BARTLESVILLE; Superintendent J. R. BELL, of HOLDENVILLE; Superintendent CECIL CROOKS, of GUTHRIE; and waving his friendly greeting to Superintendent J. M. MADDOX, '41m.ed., MOUNTAIN VIEW; GUY CROSS, of WEWOKA, and Superintendent L. J. ANDERSON, of the GARBET city schools.

Then, of course, from down PURCELL way is Superintendent ART HERRON, '36m.ed., along with the official representative from the McClain County capitol, EDDIE HIGGINS.

So it goes on and on and on! Goes on into the 42 minute period of M. L.'s speech. And now the speech is over and adjournment has been called. So these "professors" will scatter to their thousand and one meetings, conferences, and assembly rooms to carry forth their business. Yes, they will meet, confer, and resolute—meet, confer, and resolute for "we, the people." They will carry the load on the basis of plans perfected as they in their important field of professional work continue, with the rest of us in our various fields of endeavor—Riding the Sooner Range.

## District Speech Tourneys Being Held

Patrick Henry won't participate in person, but hundreds of would-be orators have and will enter district tournaments now being sponsored by the Oklahoma high school public speaking league.

Jack Douglas, secretary, who is assistant professor of speech at the University of Oklahoma, has announced the following schedule for qualifying tournaments to be held in late February and March:

East Central State College, Ada, February 22 and 23; Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, March 8 and 9; Northwestern State College, Alva, March 15 and 16; Southeastern State College, Durant, March 14, 15 and 16; Panhandle A. and M. College, Goodwell, March 22 and 23, and Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, March 28, 29 and 30.

## School of Pharmacy Popular

Having doubled in the fall over what it was in the spring of 1945, the enrollment in the School of Pharmacy at O. U. this semester has doubled itself again.

## University Pharmacy Association Elects

The January 18 meeting of the Pharmacy Association was addressed by Val Adams and J. Pat Henry, both of Fox-Vliet Drug Company, Oklahoma City. On January 25, Drug Store Cowboy "buckaroo" certificates were distributed, and the following interim officers elected: treasurer, Thomas Lout, Louann, Arkansas; chairman of the public relations committee, J. B. Black, Oklahoma City; chairman of the sports committee, Billy Estep, Norman; chairman of the alumni relations committee, Edgar Nicholson, Wirt; and chairman of the membership committee, Lynn Baggett, Purcell. On February 1, Clyde Shannon, Clinton, was elected secretary of the society of retail pharmacists, and copies of the O.U.Ph.A. constitution were distributed. At the February 8 meeting John Burchette, Albany, Kentucky, was elected president of the Society of Retail Pharmacists. The date for the 12th Annual Convention of the O.U.Ph.A. was set for Friday, March 1, and Don Balden, Enid, was elected toastmaster for the convention banquet.

## Vets Are Singers

All branches of the armed forces are represented in the University of Oklahoma men's glee club. Of the 26 men in the group, 21 are former service men. Eugene Green, president of the group, was a sergeant in the Air Corps with service in New Guinea, the Philippines and Okinawa.