

# SOONER MAGAZINE

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## Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

It must be post-war fever! At any rate, this fall season of 1946 is proving that a lot of pre-Pearl Harbor variety of galloping is being done along the Range by thousands of Sooners. O.U.ites are on the move! The stimulating part is that these Alumni are enjoying peace-time movements, unmarred by a war!



Charles B. Duffy, '22law, PONCA CITY, recently began his pace on the SOONER trails—"commanding" more than 75,000 members of the Oklahoma Department of the American Legion.

Well, maybe not the elimination of all war in PEACE TIME for at least it was a friendly WAR in that opening game of Army vs. O.U. Sooners at WEST POINT, NEW YORK.

AND - - did Sooners go East, Young Man GO EAST? Sure, they made the trek to West Point and many other spots on the Eastern soil. High-lights along the range on that Sooner tour? Plenty—High and Low lights! With more than 700 on special trains, chartered planes and other mode of travel, they centered there in NEW YORK at Hotel New Yorker on the pre-game evening—Friday, September 27, for the all-time rally of all RALLIES. Assembled with enthusiastic former state citizens to break bread at this seaport of the East,

they proved to be EVERYWHERE! Hundreds of them milled in, observed, liked IT and stayed until the final whistle—so space would eliminate and time would not allow to comment on those many hundreds. It was a good Sooner party! BOB PARKER, '34ba; FRANK STEWART, '28bs; RUSSELL BLACK, '42ba; "LARRY" COTTON, '33, KENNY ROBINSON, '38ba, '38law (and that very active little human dynamo wife of his); BOB CALVERT, '09ba, '10ma, and numerous other "officials, committeemen and chairmen" of the now NEW YORK SOONERS, were there with bells on—tinkling around to welcome visitors from the old home state. Who were those visitors? Too numerous to mention. But, DR. AND MRS. WARREN MAYFIELD, '18bs, '20md, NORMAN; NEIL JOHNSON, '15ba, '17law, and FLORENCE JOHNSON, '16ba plus 15-year-old twin daughters, NORMAN; along with MARY LOU STUBBEMAN, '45bs, NORMAN; RUELE LITTLE, '27law, and MRS. LITTLE, MADILL; HOWARD McCASLAND, '16ba, and MRS. McCASLAND, DUNCAN, represented a cross-section of the hundreds of visitors on the special tour who enjoyed the hospitality of the NEW YORK SOONERS on that alumni night. Those SOONERS NUYORKIN that night were not all from home SOONER soil. JOE HICKS, '23ba, MRS. JOE HICKS, '22, and two daughters of CHICAGO; JOE BIRD, '27ma, MRS. JOE BIRD of PHILADELPHIA; JOSH LEE, '17ba, and LOUISE LEE, '23, of WASHINGTON, D.C.; LYNDEN MANNEN '27ba, '38ma; S/SGT. HOWELL ZINN, '44-'45, of FT. DIDX, NEW JERSEY; are just a cross-section of the other "native Okies" who buzzed right over to that party to swap yarns with SOONER acquaintances.

Then, the next day, it was Riding the Range by floating up the HUDSON RIVER by boat 3,700 strong (yes, a percent were natives of the east star-board, they were not all SOONERS)—then to the "mountain top," that football "bowl" at WEST POINT. At 2 p.m. the big struggle was on! That, now, of course, is history, but brother, how history was recorded—O.U. "handling" mighty Army in the football classic of the year!

The ARMY-SOONER game over, it was a special train back to NEW YORK for three full days and nights of organized SOONER activity. Activities of taking over the little town in the name of "Spirit of the South-West." The musical "OKLAHOMA," then Ole Billy Rose's Horseshoe, plus Radio City, plus Ice Follies, plus this, plus that, and they knew that OU Alumni gang was in town!

Then a return, or at least a start on return to home soil, with a stop in WASHINGTON where the hundreds of SOONERS in the "Busy, Busy District" are always an interesting lot when they get underway. In the middle of their busy business day, the O.U. ALUMNI LUNCHEON in the BURLINGTON HOTEL, noon, October 2, brought out more than 250 OKLAHOMA SOON-

ERS, now serving in various governmental capacities; in the UNITED STATES ARMY; the NAVY; together for a "welcome luncheon" for the visiting "brethren and sisthren" who still reside in SOONER STATE, and paused in the Nation's Capitol to inspect. DR. ELGIN GROSECLOSE, '20ba, president of the OU Alumni Club

### The Cover

Ernest R. Christopher, '20ph.g, Bartlesville postmaster was named "man of the year" at the National American Legion Convention held recently at San Francisco, California. The award was for his distinguished work during 1946 in advancing the principles of Americanism advocated by the American Legion.

Mr. Christopher was particularly cited for his activities in organizing, integrating and extending the work of the American Commission, Department of Oklahoma which under his chairmanship was considered to have established one of the finest state records in the nation. (See story or page 7.)

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Capt. Fred LaBoon, '39bs, CHICKASHA, is completing a very outstanding year of service as a representative to U.N.

in WASHINGTON, presiding, did a bang-up job of presenting the principal speaker of the hour, Prexy GEORGE CROSS. Among others presented and participating in the program were: HARRINGTON WIMBERLY, '24ba, the now big Federal Power magnate, who in his calmer hours resides down in ALTUS and runs a mighty fine daily newspaper. JOSH LEE, '17ba, the Civil Aeronautics Board commissioner, and others pluggin' along the way. A most enjoyable evening with WALTER B. EMERY, '34law, and OLIVE EMERY in their new home in MARYLAND. An enjoyable breakfast the next day with COMMISSIONER PAUL WALKER, '12law, of the Federal Communication Commission and MRS. WALKER, '12. A pleasant luncheon, *with meat*, in the offices of Commissioner JOSH LEE and associates. A most interesting evening (and dinner at some *western food shop* hanging over the banks of the POTO-MAC) as a guest of LYNDEN AND PAT MANNEN with CAPTAIN NEIL KELLER, '33law, now returned from World War II duty in the ETO and following through on his new Army assignment at his Washington station. Then the "testing out" of CAPTAIN KELLER'S *brand new* car in a night of sight-seeing tour covering historical ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, Embassy Row and other spots in this most interesting national shrine.

It's the Air-Ways then for a stop in CHICAGO. There as the guests of the O.U. ALUMNI, a most pleasant Sunday-evening-backyard-assembly with true western broiled steaks over the charcoal, at the home of LESLIE SALTER, '21ba, '22law, and MAUD SALTER, '22bm, FLOSSMOOR. Dozens in attendance, all interested SOONERS, and we would that space and time would permit comments on each and every individual. WESLEY NUNN, '17, and MRS. NUNN, acting as our hosts and driving us from our hotel in NORTH CHICAGO some forty miles out to FLOSSMOOR and this SOONER assembly, gave an opportunity to check up on mutual Sooner friends—nationwide. Then a pleasant evening of visitation as the dinner-play guests of HOMER HECK, '35, and MILDRED HECK, '30, a visitation devoted to checking SOONERS everywhere. More especially were checks made on the thousands who had passed through the portals of the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building when HOMER worked with us in the Alumni organization. All these Alumni came in for their round of discussion.

Then it was away to ST. LOUIS. There for pleasant SOONER sessions with HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma, and MRS. BETTY PICKARD SCOTT, '29, and to meet a "raft" of O.U. SOONERS now claiming as residence the "Empire of ST. LOUIS." A pleasant chat with EDGAR L.

MILLS, '31ba, revealed the fact that he had been there only a brief few days as one of the chiefs in the Public Relations section of the greatly expanded Veteran's Administration. A little chatter exchanged with DR. R. J. BRIGHTWELL, '40bs, '41med, in his special medical service. Doc was quite interested in knowing about DR. JOHN LAMB, '28ba, '32bs, '32med, OKLAHOMA CITY; DR. FLOYD KELLER, '28ba, '29bs, '31med, OKLAHOMA CITY; DR. LEE EMENHISER, '28bs, '31med, OKLAHOMA CITY, and of the progress they were making in the Medical Foundation Fund drive, and too, DR. R. J. was interested to know "all about the O.U. Medical School." A pleasant chat with CHARLES EVANS, JR., '23ba, '35ed, (who in a few hours was to leave for his new post of duty in SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA) was enjoyed. Then to listen to the OKLAHOMA AGGIES (now of St. Louis) encountered along the way, explain why the ST. LOUIS CARDINALS were, that day in the good old city of BOSTON. "Gonna win that game." AGGIES that reside in ST. LOUIS, whom we were privileged to visit, were JOHN ROGERS, formerly of HUGO, ORVILLE HOOD, formerly of ADA, G. B. WILLETT, formerly of MUSKOGEE. In passing these AGGIES, not unlike all other AGGIES, met along the trail, were most enthusiastic about the showing of the SOONER football team and naturally were greatly disappointed that their own A. & M. team in STILL-WATER, had suffered so many reverses this early in the season.

Out of ST. LOUIS back home. Back home to a business office desk bulging with SOONER requests, teeming with SOONER suggestions, stacked with SOONER mail—on excellent outlines on *how* to have a bigger and better HOMECOMING on November 16 on the O.U. campus. Back to a desk with auditors reports, dietitians analyses and business manager figures, showing that we must hit "some happy medium in the rising food cost

curve" in trying to serve some 3,000 meals a day in the Alumni headquarters—the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building, and—thus accommodate this overflow student body of 10,000 plus. Back to a workaday desk with detailed announcements about the success of the O.U. graduates and long-time personal friend, CHARLES B. DUFFY, '22law, PONCA CITY, who had recently been elected Department Commander of the American Legion to represent the multiplied thousands of servicemen in World Wars I and II in his and our own SOONER state. Back to a workaday desk to have A.P. and U.P. press releases on another fine SOONER son, a victim of the BATAAN death march—now back in safe and sane America—holding the distinction of being the first World War II man to be elected to a national office (as national vice-commander) of the American Legion, namely CAPT. FRED LABOON, '39bs, CHICKASHA. To realize that Fred is now participating, after those series of months of horror in Jap prison camps and making his contribution as the veteran representative to the UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION in an endeavor to write a sound world peace, adds a spark in appreciation of the American way of Life!

Yes, back to a spot on the University Campus—your O.U. Campus—that has, overnight, expanded to the North and South. Back to the spot where thousands of you, now following the various professions and trades in all parts of the world, graduated in the immediate past or years and years ago. Back to a different University of Oklahoma. Back to a campus where there are today 6,000 servicemen of World War II applying themselves to meet their businesses or professions as they too, go out from the institution. Back to the teeming mass of humanity—marching forward with a common goal in view, namely, preparing for life's work ahead. Those are the highlights of the trail one finds in this early fall of 1946 as we continue Riding the Sooner Range.



A female dares to tread on the ARMY SOIL! One of the Riders of the SOONER RANGE at the Sooner-Army game at West Point was PAULINE COOK, O.U. pre-med student. "Cookie," who was the official O. U. cheer leader at the game, even conquered the "Army Mule."