

SOONER MAGAZINE

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Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEARD

It's the hour before the New Year to be. Here at WINNEMUCCA—15 miles out from the O.U. campus, in the wilds of McClain County—where RANGE RIDING was closed seven days ago for the first stop since the fortnight prior to Pearl Harbor—another year goes out; youngster '47 will come in!

Outside, the six-inch covering of snow makes for more silence. Here inside that same silence is broken only by the crackle of the logs giving off their heat from the fireplace and the tones being released by the radio in Columbia Broadcasting System's International Program on, "What I Remember in 1946."

A news flash, via the ether, from over the way (1500 miles over the way)—JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, states that SOONER Coach JIM TATUM, some five hours ago (E.S.T.) tucked the O. U. gridsters into their trundle-beds out at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station—at the now peace-time Naval installation, out of the cities roar and den of noises incident to the birth of a New Year. May they snooze soundly! May those SOONER SONS be in top form and shape for the Gator Bowl when the 12:45 p.m. hour (C.S.T.) ticks off NEXT YEAR (tomorrow)—some 12¾ hours after the birth of the year 1947! (Later—They were, and how—the score, O. U. SOONERS—34, NORTH CAROLINA STATE—13).

So—in another few minutes 1946 will be history. In the brief span of another quarter-hour another year will be before us. Another year when SOONER Alums *everywhere* will begin the trek along the Range. True to SOONER tradition, those O. U. Sons and Daughters, will, early in the year to come, figure prominently in all avenues of endeavor—ever carrying forward "the American way of life!"

A group (and whatta group) of O. U. Alums, who will be among the first (if not *the first*), to catch the fancy of "all men alike," will be "the public servants"—those many, many elected and appointed members of the SOONER clan serving in various offices of trust in both Federal and State Governmental Agencies. Yes, ANY Sooner Alum with troubles or peevish involving governmental matters should have little difficulty finding a sympathetic officeholder to share his woes, either in the Oklahoma State or the Federal Capitol. Indeed, *all* he will have to do is ramble around until he finds a Past or Present student of O. U.—then "Presto," a rapid change in the "color" of the problem at hand will be in the making!

A check of Alumni records, some ten days ago, reveals that no fewer than 77 Sooners will hold state or national elective offices with the beginning of the oncoming new terms a few days hence. Seventy-seven elective offices in the higher state and federal brackets. Dozens of other O. U. Alums, of course, hold lesser elective and appointive positions of trust in governmental agencies.

Destined to profit most by the influx of O. U. talent is the Oklahoma Legislature. Thirty-four members of the House of Representatives and ten Senators will boast University training.

And that's not all, for 16 district judges, the secretary of state, attorney general, state superintendent of schools, the President of the State Board of Agriculture, judge of the state Criminal Court of Appeals, justices of the Supreme Court, and five U. S. Congressmen are O. U. Sooners!

The 33 O. U. sons (and a daughter) who have earned a seat in the House of Representatives of the Oklahoma State Legislature, soon to convene, are an interesting, talented and "well travelled" lot! Lets take a check on 'em. In the assembly when the curtain goes up will be: The "Mister Speaker," RAYMOND BOARD, '20, '21, resident of the panhandle of Oklahoma in prosperous BOISE CITY. Popular alike among his colleagues of the House of Representatives of the Oklahoma State Legislature, the Senate and his "panhandle territory," this young Oklahoma Legislator has already won his spurs among his fellow associates and has the reputation of an outstanding leader; LAVERNE SUMNER, '31pharm, RUSH SPRINGS, a "first term," this young Captain recently returned from the European Theater of Operations will prove to be an early interested student of government. Recently in his own home community, working with him in veterans' circles, becoming acquainted with his fine wife and young daughter, soon to be headed O. U. way, we learned of his intense interest in making his contribution to his state by serving his constituents. LLOYD H. MCGUIRE, '25law, GUTHRIE; JACK COLEMAN, '34, '38, WAURIKA; WADE H. SHUMATE, '14ba, MANGUM—the Wade with whom we have ridden the range over the period *past* a quarter of a century. On the Range with him in public life of Oklahoma, more especially in educational circles while he was Superintendent of Schools at Mangum and President of Southeastern State College, Durant; A. R. LARASON, '30ba, FARGO; W. H. LANGLEY, '20, '21, STILWELL; JOE A. SMALLEY, '34ba, '37law, NORMAN—the Colonel Joe who just a brief few months ago was distinguishing himself in an unequalled Military Career in the European Theater of Operations of World War II. JEAN L. PAZOURECK, '41law, EL RENO; RALPH FARRAR, '29, ROOSEVELT; PURMAN WILSON, '20, PURCELL—the Judge-horseman-barrister Purman who resides some 7.7 miles over (Purcell) from this cabin door and a McClain County citizen with whom I have been closely associated "on and off the Range" these past 27 years. JAKE BARRON, '39ma, DAVIS; BEN B. EASTERLY, '41, ALVA; CLARK E. WHITE, '41law, DURANT—who but a brief few years ago (prior to World War II) came up O. U. way as the college debator from Southeastern College, Durant, with the declara-

The Cover

Five University of Oklahoma alumni, pictured on this month's cover, are among the congressmen representing Oklahoma in the U. S. House of Representatives. They are (seated, left to right) Presten Peden, '36ba, '39law, 7th district, Altus; Mike Monroney, '24ba, 5th district, Oklahoma City, and Glen Johnson, '31, '39, 4th district, Okemah. Standing, are W. G. "Bill" Stigler (left), '16, 2nd district, Stigler, and Carl Albert (right), '31ba, 3rd district, McAlester. Congressmen Peden, Johnson and Albert were elected in the fall, 1946 election.

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Brushing up on their legislative procedures are these six University students who serve as state legislators "on the side." Left to right are D. Jo Ferguson, arts and sciences junior from Pawnee; David Wood, arts and sciences junior from Muskogee; Paul Harkey, '39, freshman lawyer from Idabel;

John W. Russell, Jr., freshman lawyer from Okmulgee; Lonnie Brown, freshman in the University College from McAlester, and Tom Jelks, freshman lawyer from Chickasha, who is the only senator in the group.

tion, "Impossible to make it through Law School unless you give me a job—ANYTHING to make school needs possible—wanta labor here in the Oklahoma Memorial Union!" We did. He did. And—what a fine sincere service that WHITE boy rendered in polishing the pots and pans in the kitchen to earn those extra dollars to gain his goal! And, too, what a record in the service of his country in World War II. That chap Clark White will *open* his own trails on the Range of the Oklahoma State Legislature! DON BALDWIN, '31, ANADARKO; R. RHYS EVANS, '36ba, '39 law, ARDMORE—who, because of his sincerity, has now in legislative circles, as while a student of the University, a following unequalled both among his colleagues and those of the "would be" opposition. JAMES A. McNEESE, '40ba, PONCA CITY; GUY K. HORTON, '34, ALTUS; WILSON WALLACE, '37ba, '39law, ARDMORE—a veteran legislative leader, out-spoken, determined and ready at all hours to meet the challenge (yes, even sponsor the challenge) in "causes." Possibly a holdover determination from those hours, years ago, when as an O. U. student he was chief dispenser of hastily brewed coffee in the Union Cafeteria. DICK RIGGS, '41, LAWTON; DWIGHT TOLLE, '39law, OKEMAH; PAUL BALLINGER, '34law, HOLDENVILLE; EDD C. HAWTHORNE '29, '30, POTEAU; STREETER SPEAKMAN, '12law, SAPULPA—a triple veteran legislator of "the old guard." An original "first night" of O. U.'s training field in law; dad of a fine son FRED, '40ba, '41ma, SAPULPA, and a University leader in all fields down through 38 years. C. C. CHASTAIN, '21ba, '24law, CHICKASHA; J. D. McCARTY, '36, '39, OKLAHOMA CITY—the "Chief" of recent Navy tour of duty (and that name "Mc" is *not* English) is one of the most popular Sooner legislators in the Capitol halls. B. B. KERR, '31law, and PAUL WASHINGTON, '25, '28, of OKLAHOMA CITY; MONA JEAN RUSSELL, '39ba, '41law, PICHER, the-Madame-barrister is no new comer to Oklahoma's legislative calls. She has served and served well. The watchful eye of her friend, fellow barrister and Sooner crony of campus (and after) days will be centered upon her from far away GUAM. There another Sooner-Portia VIVIAN McCONNELL, '41law, former secretary of O. U. Congressman BILL STIGLER and former law clerk for one of Oklahoma's Federal District Judges, is serving her "hitch" in the Navy and "translating" the law in the interest of Uncle Sam.

In the staid ole halls of larnin' on O. U.'s central

campus five members of the House of Representatives and one Senator, learn about law makin' from 'em! Early in January, at the opening of the 21st Oklahoma Legislative session, this half-dozen law-makers will shift from O. U.'s laboratories to the technician's auditoriums, Capitol Building, Oklahoma City. They are: PAUL HARKEY, '39, '46, freshman lawyer ('47) IDABEL. Commander Paul, who recently returned to his family after 5½ years on the high seas, making all world ports in Uncle Sam's Navy, will have a triple plus series of interests, his fine young family (the baby son is four weeks old at this writing); his legislative duties; his law course on O. U. campus and his many duties as Commanding Officer of the recently activated Naval Reserve (Norman Headquarters) for Oklahoma. DAVID WOOD, Arts and Science junior from MUSKOGEE; LONNIE BROWN, University College freshman from McALESTER; JOHN W. RUSSELL, Jr., OKMULGEE, freshman lawyer; D. JO FERGUSON, Arts and Science junior, PAWNEE; and Senator TOM JELKS, law freshman at O. U. from CHICKASHA.

The Oklahoma State Senate will be the scene of the "swearing in" of ten Sooner Alums "when the gavel falls" in calling to order this distinguished body. In addition to O. U. law student Senator TOM JELKS (listed above) the following old (in point of Senatorial service) and some not so old O. U. law-makers will be present to be seated: JIM A. RINEHART, '39law, EL RENO; ORVAL GRIM, '25, '28, CHEYENNE; BILL GINDER, '31law, CHEROKEE; BOYD COWDEN, '27, '28, CHANDLER; M. O. COUNTS, '15, HARTSHORNE; BAYLESS IRBY, '19, BOSWELL; JAMES A. NEVINS, '39, OKMULGEE; LOUIS H. RITZHAUPT, '21, GUTHRIE, and BILL LOGAN, '41, '42, LAWTON.

Yes, those 43 Sooners plus the one Soonerette will be heard from, of and about to "bring in" 1947 and start rollin' out news copy, radio-grams, and other public flashes when the 21st session of the Oklahoma State Legislature gets under way in the immediate future days in the Capitol City of Sooner Land!

Other O. U. Alum law-makers? Yes, MORE than ever in the 57-year history of the University of Oklahoma. The National Assembly (House of Representatives) will, before the break of day (in Oklahoma) 122 hours from this writing, seat five distinguished Sooner sons as Congressmen. (See cover page for picture.) Five eminent gentlemen who have in the immediate past years made out-

standing records in various pursuits of life BUT *a five* who will, as the immediate future years roll around, go to even fuller heights as they blaze the trails in Riding the Sooner Range! MIKE MONRONEY, '24ba, OKLAHOMA CITY—fifth district representative, goes back to "the District" after a hectic but successful autumn campaign for reelection. That chap Mike—whatta triple multiplied life's accomplishments he has completed in these last 25 years!! Crowned by his selection in 1946 by being awarded the distinction of "America's outstanding Congressman" for his efforts in bringing into 'law of the land' the complete overhauling and re-organization of out-moded national law making machinery—we visualize even greater accomplishments in the years to come as a result of this young statesman's endeavors.

Serving again (and it will be with distinction) will be Congressman W. G. "BILL" STIGLER, '16, of STIGLER, representing Oklahoma's second district. A "hashback", turning in retrospect and musing over associations with "Chief" Bill since 1916 causes many pleasant events to be chalked on the trestle-board in those 30 years of American life! His sincere and vital interest in the affairs of veterans of World War I, their wives, widows and orphans culminated in his being selected by his comrades as Department Commander, (Department of Oklahoma) The American Legion, years ago—and we worked together. His belief and faith in another Sooner son—JOSH LEE, '17ba, NORMAN—WASHINGTON, D. C., caused Bill to become Josh's campaign manager and elect him to the United States Senate—and we worked together. His vision of its future, his efforts in its behalf, his never tiring promotion of OKLAHOMA *causes* us to continue to work together, AND *will* as the years roll by!

Three newcomers to Congress—all O. U. sons, elected in the general election, fall of '46 are, as of this late hour, HOUSE (not "of Representatives") hunting in the Nation's Capitol. House hunting, perfecting last minute details, rehearsing,—getting all set to enter the portals as freshmen national legislators from Sooner soil! This "trio"—CARL ALBERT, '31ba, (of McALESTER—Oklahoma's third district); GLEN JOHNSON, '31, '39, (of OKEMAH,—"RED" PHILLIPS, '16 law, *stompin'* grounds, remember??—Oklahoma's fourth district); and PRESTON PEDEN, '36ba, '39law, (of ALTUS—the seventh Congressional district)—are all of more recent O. U. vintage than STIGLER of '16 or MONRONEY of '24, nevertheless each of these congressional freshmen of

Oklahoma have made distinct and individual contributions both in, and since out of the University.

Yes, for example, who among us (members of the O. U. staff who have been "hired hands" for twenty or more years on these few acres) cannot visualize THAT Albert boy's first O. U. freshman hours? In that "yearlin'" year the coal miner youngster from the northern boundary line of Oklahoma "Little Dixie" strolled in! He strolled in, he saw, he conquered! (And—he has been "conquering ever since"). To have watched him as the struggling University kid trying to make his last few dimes do the work of dollars (pre-World War II variety) and accomplishing the trick; to have watched and be associated with him as the boy orator of O. U.; then the state; then the nation, was convincing in those early years he had "it!" To have observed his mastering the near impossible and to be sent to Oxford for advanced graduate study, pointed to his early success! To have associated with and listened to his "philosophy of life" years before they said "It's a War!"—there in "the CLUB" in Chicago, the night of celebration following O. U.'s football defeat of the powerful Northwestern University on the "grid" of Evanston a few hours before, was reassuring that all's-well in these United States!

To have observed, via V-mail, cables, radiograms, teletype and other "inside channels" Army communiques of World War II, this American lad advancing, step by step, from buck private to the rank of lieutenant colonel at the zero hour when the "cease fire" command was given in the now stilled theaters of operation there deep in the South Pacific—means he had the goods and delivered! To again exchange greetings with him (and there to meet for the first time his charming wife-of-the-South) in the reception halls of the Oklahoma Memorial Union on O. U.'s campus, homecoming evening of 1946—was reassuring he is still on his way up! Yes, now UP to Congress and the "kid miner" from near KREBS will be heard from and of in the years to come!

Back in the confines of the 77 counties of the state a study of the Judicial Districts of Oklahoma readily reveals that a gathering of District Court

Judges (whether it be for administering the law or a rally) could easily be classed an O. U. Law School Alumni Pow-Wow. Those newly elected (and re-elected) District Judges to begin terms of office January, 1947, are as follows: WELDON FERRIS, '29ba, '31law, ALTUS, district 31; L. A. WOOD, '28law, and FLOYD L. JACKSON, '27law, WALTERS, both district 5; A. P. VAN METER, '27law, OKLAHOMA CITY; CLARENCE M. MILLS, '23law, OKLAHOMA CITY, and LEWIS R. MORRIS, '15ma, '17law, OKLAHOMA CITY, all of district 7; ROY R. CARVER, '23law, PONCA CITY, district 8; HORACE D. BALLAINE, '31law, OKLAHOMA CITY, district 14; SAM SULLIVAN, '38law, DURANT, district 19; JOHN C. CALDWELL, '37ba, '37law, ARDMORE, and WILLIAM J. MONROE, '35law, MARIETTA, both of district 20; BEN T. WILLIAMS, '31ba, '33law PAULS VALLEY, district 21; BOB HOWELL, '26ba, '28law, HOLDENVILLE, district 22; J. KNOX BYRUM, '27law, SHAWNEE, district 23; JESS I. MIRACLE, '24, OKEMA, district 24; TOM R. BLAINE, '17, ENID, district 4.

Other state officers having received O. U. training include: Justices of the Supreme Court, WAYNE W. BAYLESS, '20law, CLAREMORE, district 1; BEN ARNOLD, '20ba, '25law, OKLAHOMA CITY, district 3; MONROE OSBORN, '04, PAULS VALLEY, district 5; THURMAN S. HURST, '41, '43, PAWNEE, district 6; DENVER DAVISON, '15law, ADA, district 8, and FLETCHER S. RILEY, '17ba, LAWTON, district 9. Judge of Criminal Court of Appeals, JOHN A. BRETT, '28law, OKLAHOMA CITY; Secretary of State, WILBURN CARTWRIGHT, '20law, McALESTER; Attorney General, MAC Q. WILLIAMSON, '10, PAULS VALLEY; state superintendent of public instruction, DR. OLIVER HODGE, '33m.ed, '37d.ed, TULSA; and JOE C. SCOTT, '28, President of the State Board of Agriculture.

And, too, an ever busy official from the class of '17 is JOHN W. "BILL" CORDELL, OKLAHOMA CITY, who has been at home in the Oklahoma State Capitol since January 29, 1931, when he took over as secretary of the Senate and State Election Board. Today he still functions most effectively in these important posts.

Thus another year begins. A post-war year. The year of 1947. Nineteen Forty-seven, when men are privileged to return to normal, peaceful pursuits of American life. 1947—a year, not unlike so many that have gone before, when as representatives of THEIR University and with the applause of approval of their fellow citizens ever urging them forward in special endeavors of service they will continue Riding the Sooner Range!

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