

On the Sooner Scene

By Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law

The common meeting place of Sooner Alumni in the fall is the gridiron, regardless of what profession or special interest may claim the primary interest of each.

This was certainly the case when 30,000 Sooners journeyed to Dallas last month to see the 45th football duel between the "Big Red" of Oklahoma and the "Longhorns" of Texas. Bud Wilkinson again proved himself to be the master strategist of the game and producer of well-drilled, aggressive teams when his 1950 dreadnaught crossed the big "T" of Texas for the third consecutive year.

The turnstiles of the Texas State Fair counted a record breaking 289,307 people on this hectic day. Some 76,000 of these saw the big game and a crowd of nearly equal size saw the SMU and Oklahoma A.&M. game following. For most Oklahomans, it was just too much football for one day.

O.U. Alumni headquarters was established at the Baker Hotel on Thursday. Friday night a dinner-dance was held, sponsored by the Dallas Alumni Club. President Jack Steele, '43ed, former O.U. full-back, now living in Dallas, organized the party and was assisted by Dallas Sooners Jack Rush, '40, Abbott Sparks, '41mus, '43ba, and J. S. "Cotton" Mendenhall, '35bus. The largest group of tickets were taken by J. W. Burkhart, '30-'31, and his Houston allies. A breakfast was held Saturday morning for 600 Oklahoma fans jointly sponsored by the O.U. and A.&M. Alumni Associations and greatly assisted by Harry Kornbaum, '33, Oklahoma City, and Jimmy Johnson, '36ba, Tulsa.

The University was well-represented in Dallas over the weekend. Chief among those present were able President George L. Cross and Mrs. Cross. The President of the Alumni Association, D. H. Grisso, '30geol, Norman, and Mrs. Grisso (Evelyn Fleeger, '30) and the financial wizard of O.U., Vice President Roscoe Cate, '26ba, and Mrs. Cate (Frances Mitchell, '30ba) were there, along with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kraft, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Taylor, J. Bruce Wiley, '35eng, '41m.eng, and Mrs. Wiley (Nona Boyett, '37), Mr. and Mrs. Chester Francis, O. W. Davison, '49d.ed, Mrs. Dav-

ison and their son, Jack, '50ba, '50m.ed. And from the alumni office came George Cummings, '49bus, Mrs. Cummings (Katherine Wilson, '49), Guy H. Brown, '42ba, '48ma, and Mrs. Brown.

The Henryetta delegation was headed by M. S. Douglass, '38ba, '38Law, Mrs. Douglass, J. Leland Gourley, '40, and Mrs. Gourley, leaders in the Henryetta Alumni Club.

The spokesman for a large group from McAlester was towering Roy Spears, '14ba, and Mrs. Spears was also present meeting a number of old-time friends. John R. Wallace, '34ba, represented the Miami Alumni Club and the representative for Jap Has-

kell's big Tulsa group was Ronald Cullen, '24ba. Bartlesville was represented by D. E. "Bill" Hodges, '25ba, '27Law, and Mrs. Hodges (Puilla Hill, '25ba). Although the Hodges arrived too late for the alumni parties, they were in time to do some pre-game visiting at the Baker Saturday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Neustadt of Ardmore enjoyed their Dallas weekend with their sons Allan, Walter, Jr., '41ms, and Jean. The Neustadts solved the hour wait for reservations by taking turns at standing in line.

R. L. "Dick" Virtue, '44ba, president of the Oklahoma County Club was chaper-



Howard Bradley, '26, Mrs. Eleanor Jordan Bradley, '26ba, Oklahoma City, Mrs. William Black and Bill Black, '42-'48, Harlingen, Texas, are greeted in the Baker Hotel prior to the Dallas Alumni Club's dinner-dance by club prexy Jack Steele, '43ed.



John E. Painter, '41-'43, Dallas, Lorraine Doty, Dallas, and Owen Harrison, '28, Afton, Oklahoma, take a quick look at Bud Wilkinson's pre-game opinion of Texas U. in his Football Newsletter. The trio were early comers to the Dallas Club dinner-dance.

oned by his wife, Sue Starr Virtue, '43ba. The Virtues enjoyed themselves in spite of their frustrating experience of losing their tickets to the game. At the last minute on Saturday, the tickets were returned by an honest Dallas resident who found them in front of the Adolphus Hotel.

A large group of Enidites filled a big table at the breakfast including such well-known Sooners as Ed Fleming, '14, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Champlain, C. E. Loomis, Jr., '40-'42, and Mrs. Loomis (Madge Crow, '42bs), Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Wilmoth and Mike and Mrs. Lorine Loomis Webber, '35ba.

Jack Scott, '36Law, chief of the Seminole Alumni Club, reported a number of Sooners from Seminole County and among those who checked in at alumni headquarters were Fisher Muldrow, '22, and Mrs. Muldrow (Margaret Dannenberg, '30ba), and new life member of the Association, Raymond Harber, '27bus.

Tickets to the Saturday morning breakfast were almost as scarce as game tickets and the 600 Oklahomans present enjoyed the short snappy program. The Oklahoma Aggies were represented by Vice President

Phil S. Donnell, Alumni Secretary Arch Martin, and Thurman "Dutch" Gay. Lt. Gov. and Mrs. James Berry attended the breakfast. Joe W. McBride, '28bus, and Mrs. McBride (Clella LeMarr, '27ba), Anadarko, represented the Board of Regents. The Regents for Higher Education were represented by Mr. and Mrs. Guy James, Oklahoma City. With the final three minutes of the Texas Aggie game fresh in everyone's mind, they appreciated Dr. Cross' story about assistant coach Gomer Jones paging himself over the sideline telephone during those exciting moments.

M. H. Champion, Oklahoma City, offered another entertaining diversion when he furnished a "crying towel" for any supporters of Texas U. or S.M.U. who might be present.

The parties served as a reunion for the Paul Reeds of Sulphur. Paul, Sr., '21, is on active duty as a lieutenant colonel in the army, stationed at Camp Holabird, Maryland. Son Paul, Jr., '50geol, came up from Camp Polk, Louisiana, where he is a lieutenant in the 45th Division. A number of other Oklahoma soldiers now with the 45th Division were able to make the game

including Lt. Col. Roy Stewart, '31ba, who furnished some colorful copy for the *Daily Oklahoman*. It was the first football game in many years for Robert Neptune, '37Law, and Mrs. Neptune, Bartlesville. The Neptunes returned recently from Tokyo where Bob served on the legal staff at General MacArthur's headquarters.

The Alumni gatherings at the big game away from home are always centers of good fellowship. An enthusiastic New Mexico Sooner, having the same difficulties as many others with his hotel reservations, was A. B. Carpenter, '27Law, Roswell.

From scattered points we met R. C. Shimeall, '23, Goodland, Kansas; a helpful young alum—Jack T. Roark, '49eng, Dallas; Dr. C. E. Lively, '30ph.c, '30pharm, '34bs, '34med, McAlester; Errett Newby, '07mus, '08ba, Oklahoma City, and Mrs. Newby; B. David Meltzer, '49eng, '50ms, Golden Meadow, Louisiana; Jack Brown, '41ba, '46Law, Miami, and Mrs. Brown, (Wanda Jo Bryan, '45phys.ed); head of the Alumni Development Fund Board Harry H. Diamond, '12Law, and Mrs. Diamond, Holdenville; T. Ray Phillips, '35ba, and Mrs. Phillips, Oklahoma City; Dr. John C. Perry, '21bs, '23med, Tulsa; B. Lee Aldridge, '49eng, Freeport, Texas; A. H. Head, '37eng, and S. C. Naifeh, '39eng, '49m.eng, Borger, Texas.

Keeping pace with the University itself, the O.U. alumni have been doing things in a big way in recent years. The next big gathering of the clan will be at the Biltmore Hotel, Oklahoma City, November 17. Herbert Branan, '32ba, '38Law, and Dick Virtue report that it will be another capacity sell-out. See you there.



Mrs. Eula Cole Nolan, '35ba, and Earl C. Nolan, '40bus, Biloxi, Mississippi, look over Bud's Newsletter at Dallas.