

Much To Be Remembered

A well-known alumna toured New Orleans during the Sugar Bowl weekend. She not only records many of her alumni visits but catches the mood of the festivities.

By Ida Sloan, '35ba

It was Oklahoma's third visit to that fabulous, historic city of New Orleans, the city that twice before was pure sugar for the football fans from the Land of the Redman. Sooners from every nook and corner of the state poured into the city this time. They had come to see their team in another Sugar Bowl classic, hopeful that the Big Red on January 1, 1951 would make it No. 32 in the victory string.

But it wasn't to be that way this year, though on New Year's eve you would never have known it could possibly be otherwise.

Clark Hetherington, '42bus, who with his wife, the former Marion Unger, '43h.ec, Norman, had just come over from Biloxi, Mississippi, the Sooner camp for the previous week, said, "The boys are ready to go. You never saw the team with so much enthusiasm." Clark had the word that sophomore Billy Vessels would have to go all the way due to Buddy Jones' injury. "If anyone can play the whole game, it's Billy,"

Clark quoted members of the team as saying. Billy went 58 minutes of the 60, and hard, too.

That was the spirit in the Roosevelt Hotel, O.U.'s headquarters, on New Year's eve, and it was the spirit that prevailed from the moment the first Sooners began dropping in there earlier in the week until the final second of the eventful ball game. There wasn't a Sooner among the 82,000 persons in the Sugar Bowl at Tulane University willing to give in to defeat. They had seen the Big Red come through some rugged moments before, Texas A.&M. and Texas for example, and they felt sure that in a final exciting play the scoreboard would read in the Sooner's favor. Not until the ominous siren that sounds the end of the period in the Sugar Bowl blared forth for the last time that day did they admit that O.U. had lost 13 to 7 to the fired-up Wildcats from Kentucky.

The Sooners had lost a ball game but they

weren't defeated. The fans were behind them and still are.

After the game, Oklahoma heads were bowed. Sooners were utterly stunned. They had been used to victory and for a while it was impossible to believe that a loss had been recorded.

At the dressing room, you saw a scene of almost pin-dropping silence. But, as if she were officially assigned for the role, Mrs. Walter Kraft, wife of O.U.'s physical plant director and one of the many ardent followers of the team, was outside giving an encouraging smile and an occasional pat-on-the-back to the players as they left to join their wives and friends.

Assistant Coach Bill Jennings, '46ed, '49 m.ed, and his pretty wife, former Sooner band queen Mary Yetman, '41, were trying to explain the something for which at the moment there was no explanation.

Then, the man himself, Coach Charles

The Sooner cameraman snapped (left to right) Calvin Smith, '40m.ed, Dave Graening, '50, and George W. Schwab, '48-'50, in the Roosevelt Hotel lobby just after they had been pinned with alumni buttons. 3,000 of the buttons were passed out before the game.





Occupying the speakers' table at the pre-game Oklahoma Breakfast in New Orleans were (left to right) Mrs. and Governor Johnston Murray, R. Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, master of ceremonies, Joe McBride, '28bus, regents' president, and Roscoe Cate, '26ba. Governor Murray, Gunning and the others addressed the Sooner gathering.

'Bud' Wilkinson came forth, a smile on his lips but his eyes still glistening.

Said Mrs. Kraft, "You can get a new tie now, Bud."

But not Bud Wilkinson. "I think I'll keep this one a while," he said.

That was just what the standbys needed to realize that this was just another football game, that the day had to come when the Sooners would bow in defeat. And it was time to remember that New Orleans, almost second home to Oklahomans, had plenty yet to offer and much to be remembered.

At least 750 Oklahomans, just a segment of the thousands who were in the Crescent City for the Sugar Bowl weekend, won't forget the pre-game breakfast in the grand ballroom of the Roosevelt on Monday morning.

O.U.'s band, the Pride of Oklahoma, played "Boomer Sooner," just what the fans wanted to hear—the music of Soonerland. The music makers had just come over from the Jung Hotel where they had been breakfast guests of the Noble Drilling Co. C. C. Forbes, '26-'29, company president, and Don Walker, '15ba, both of Tulsa, were hosts at the breakfast given in memory of the late Lloyd Noble, '23, of Ardmore who had been personal host just a year ago.

Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37Law, alumni secretary, was at the helm to carry the All-Oklahoma breakfast happenings through to a successful conclusion.

Boyd couldn't introduce all of the prominent guests. There were just too many. But he did present Oklahoma's new governor, Johnston Murray, and his charming wife. Like many others of Oklahoma's officialdom, Murray couldn't miss seeing the

nation's No. 1 football team playing in the Sugar Bowl.

Murray made a short talk, sparked with good humor. He was most enthusiastic in his praise of the team.

Roscoe Cate, '26ba, University vice president, substituted for President George L. Cross who came down by plane just before gametime Monday, offered greetings from the administration. But it was Joe McBride, '28bus, Anadarko, regent's president, who made the shortest speech of all. Said McBride, "Happy New Year. Good luck, Sooners."

Incidentally, Cate demonstrated his usual efficiency between halves of the game. The day before the game he borrowed a typewriter from Kenneth Farris, '43bus, athletic business manager, and readied a

speech he could give in the event the Sooners either were behind or ahead. When he finished his half-time stint, using the behind speech, Charles C. Zatarin, president of the New Orleans Mid-Winter Sports Association, exclaimed, "When did you have time to type that speech?"

Zatarin was among breakfast guests Monday morning. He gave the Sooners a hearty welcome to the Sugar city.

Also at the head table were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Doenges, Tulsa, Regent president Joe McBride and Mrs. McBride (Clella Lammarr, '27ba); Mrs. Frances Mitchell Cate, '30ba; Mrs. Eleanore Aderhold Gunning, '38fa; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kraft; L. E. 'Jap' Haskell, '22geol, and Mrs. Haskell (Thyra Main, '23), Tulsa; Brig. Gen. Hal Muldrow, '28bus, who came in for the festivities with Mrs. Muldrow (Clara Mae Bell, '26) from 45th Division headquarters at Camp Polk, Louisiana; Col. Paul Reed, '16, Oklahoma Highway Safety Director on leave from duty at Camp Holbird, Maryland, and Harold Keith, '29ba, '39ma, and Mrs. Keith.

Gunning also introduced O.U.'s relay team, the champions in the feature Sugar Bowl race, and the coach, John Jacobs, '16ba, and his son Bill, '50, who had just returned from a track tour of South Africa. The team includes Dick Jones, Lakewood, as, Charles Coleman, Norman, and Jerry Meaders, Syracuse, New York. Meaders ran his quarter of the mile relay in 47.7 seconds to bring new racing honors to Oklahoma.

Fourteen football player wives were presented as a group. Former football greats were on hand, too. They included Wade



Among former All-Americans present at the New Orleans breakfast were George Thomas, Jr., '50, (left) and Jimmy Owens, '50ba. Seated next to them are Mrs. Thomas (left) and Mrs. Martha Owens. Many other former Big Red players attended.



Looking on while Pat Gentry signs the register at O. U. Alumni headquarters in New Orleans are Paul X. Johnson, '21ba, and mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Gentry. Like other Sooners, they came by the Roosevelt to greet old friends.

Walker, '50, George Thomas, '50, and Jimmy Owens, '50ba, who were accompanied by their wives.

Josh Lee, '17ba, now with the Civil Aeronautics Board in Washington, D. C., came down from a holiday visit in Norman for the Sugar events and was to move out on Tuesday to speak at a nearby Baptist rally.

"I really was tickled," Lee said, "To have a speech scheduled in this part of the country at this time."

Joe Curtis, '20ba, '22Law, Pauls Valley, past president of the Alumni Association, didn't get to breakfast although he had made specific plans to participate. He was staying in Gulfport, Mississippi, and his alarm didn't go off in time for him to get to New Orleans for breakfast. He saw the game, however.

For the outlook for the afternoon's game, the 750 at breakfast heard from Keith, sports publicity director. Keith had been with the team through the Biloxi clouds and the moment of sunshine just before the squad left for New Orleans. He predicted the sun would shine on the Sooners that afternoon, but reminded the breakfasting Sooners that Kentucky was raring to go, too.

To climax the breakfast, Gunning brought out the famous "crying towel," presented to him at the alumni breakfast in Dallas prior to the 1950 O.U.-Texas tilt.

Gunning surprised everyone by giving the towel to "the highest-scoring football player in his family." That player was none other than Donnie Vessels, brother of sophomore sensation Billy who had said when he was a freshman at O.U., "I hope when I'm a senior I'll be able to play on that team."

Donnie was truly surprised. His mother, Mrs. Deo Vessels, said afterwards that she too knew nothing of what was to take place. She had tried all through breakfast to get Donnie to remove his overcoat. He wouldn't, however, and said Mrs. Vessels, "He had to go up front with his topcoat on."

Breakfast was over in time for the Sooner fans to begin moving to the stadium either by bus, in their own cars or by trolley. And long before noon the roads leading to the Sugar Bowl were packed.

Harry Kornbaum's ('33) plane and train passengers jammed the corner down the street from the Roosevelt for the chartered motor coaches that were expected just at noon for "the quick ride to the stadium."

Boarding the first bus were Dr. Charles Rountree and Mrs. Rountree (Kitty Shanklin, '23ba), Oklahoma City, who were among the 235 passengers on the "Alumni" which rolled into New Orleans about 5 p.m. Sunday. The Rountrees, like hundreds of others, weren't going to miss the pre-game ceremonies that are a colorful part of each Sugar Bowl game.

On the second bus was Arno C. "Dick" Adams, '33-'37, now of Dallas where he directs Associated Press radio news for Texas and New Mexico. Adams led the Sooners in yells and songs almost all the way to the stadium. He was still singing Oklahoma's praise at midnight Monday. "We're not going to let our team down, are we?" he asked those lingering on in the club car of the "Alumni." "Not us," chorused the Sooner supporters as they joined in the popular "Oklahoma Echo," and once again sang "Boomer Sooner." But not the funeral dirge version the Kentuckians played after the game!

At the Sugar Bowl, both the Sooners and the Wildcats were just finishing their warm-up sessions when the first of the bus passengers arrived. Earlier arrivals had seen the parade of flags and the entry of the American Legion band and had heard college glee club songs.

Then it was time for the Pride of Oklahoma to join Kentucky's "Marching 100," and the pretty Apache Belles from Tyler, Texas, for the formation of the American flag. The Sooner band made the red stripes, the Belles the white, and the Kentucky Blues formed the blue field. Then a New Orleans minister led the 82,000 strong in a prayer for peace and the combined bands played the national anthem. Those were thrilling moments and just part of the never-to-be-forgotten phases of the Sugar Bowl weekend that marked the end of 1950 and the start of 1951.

More than 3,000 Sooners registered at O.U. headquarters in the Roosevelt lobby. The red and white colors were in evidence everywhere and an O.U. banner ordered especially for the occasion, occupied a place of honor. At the peak of the registration load, Mrs. J. Phil Burns, Oklahoma City, came to the rescue of Guy Brown, '42ba, '48ma, George Cummings, '49bus, and Gunning in signing up the visitors and passing out O.U. buttons.

By early Sunday, the last of 3,000 emblems had been distributed and latecomers had to be satisfied with a cheerful "Howdy!"

The Sugar Bowl weekend draws Sooners from all over the country—not just Oklahoma. J. D. Thornton, in the states from Mexico City, was among the train passengers aboard the "Alumni." W. Lyle Hammond, '38ba, came from Nashville, Tennessee; Homa Wood, '15ma, '15Law, from Colorado Springs; Walter Berry, '18, Mrs. Berry (Clover Gorton, '18), and family from Memphis, Tennessee; Dr. Paul Kouri, '45med, South Gate, California; his brother, Dr. Phillip Kouri, '47med, Ryan, and the Tomas (Dr. Paul, '36-'37, Okla-

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Sports . . .

(who defeated the Sooners in the Big Seven Invitational tourney at Kansas City), the local cagers played like champs. But against lesser teams the opposite was true.

Probably one of the reasons for the turn-about playing is Marcus Frierberger. The 6-foot 11-inch center can be great as he was against A.&M. or he can be miserable. True he can not be personally blamed for the losses. He is only one member of a team and he is not the only one who makes mistakes. Yet it is the belief of this reporter that if Frierberger could consistently maintain his A.&M. play the Sooners would be hard to handle down the stretch. Teddy Owens, the slender sharp-shooting guard who is presently pacing the team in scoring, Stanley Grossman, guard and excellent floorman, Sherman Norton, forward, Charles Pugsley, captain and forward, and Doug Lynn, reserve center or forward, make up Drake's first line of offense.

On the same weekend the Sooners trimmed the Aggies in basketball, another O.U. team—wrestling—ender another Aggie streak. Going back to 1937, the Aggies had never been defeated in dual meets. This time Port Robertson's boys completed the weekend sports rout by winning with a sizeable point margin.

At the Sugar Bowl festivities, the University's mile relay team, which had been invited as an added starter in the Sugar Bowl track and field meet, ran away from the field for an important victory.

The victory represented an unusual coaching job by John Jacobs, '16ba, Sooner track coach. Lacking quarter-milers, Jacobs took a high-jumper, a half-miler and two powerful 440-yard runners and cast them into a relay combination that won the event in 3:17.3 in cold weather, defeating Texas A.&M. of the Southwest Conference, Oklahoma A.&M.'s champions of the Missouri Valley, and Louisiana State's defending Southeastern Conference kings.

The so-called minor sports and basketball were proving themselves competent representatives of a University that had already produced a championship football team.

Sugar Roundup . . .

homa City, Dr. T. J. '39bs, and Bob, '15ba, of Sapulpa) made sure they were known as Oklahomans. They sported big hats and kept the red and white flying all weekend.

Enjoying the festive occasion before getting down to affairs of the state were legislators Boyd Cowden, '27-'28, Chandler;

Bill Logan, '41-'42, Lawton; Jim Bullard, Duncan, Bert Larason, '30ba, Fargo; J. D. McCarty, '36-'39, Oklahoma City; William L. Jones, '49Law, Okemah, and Paul Harkney, '39, Idabel. Jones, incidentally, was in the company of an Okemah delegation, each of whom was wearing a specially designed Oklahoma button. Base of the emblem was a pecan made into a football, serving also to advertise the pecan industry of the group's hometown.

Regents and former regents of the University were spotted in the crowd. Dr. Oscar White, '21med, and Mrs. White, were down from Oklahoma City, and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Morgan from Blackwell. Malcom E. Rosser, Jr., '21, regent in the early '30's and Joe Looney, '20ba, '22Law, Wewoka, regent from 1927 to the early '40's, also were among those registering at Alumni headquarters.

Duncan was represented by Dick March, '14, and Mrs. March and T. Howard McCasland, '16ba. Claude Reeds, '14ba, the football great of a day gone by, and Mrs. Reeds (Luella Bretch, '14ba) came in from Newcastle; Harry Revelle, '24ba, from Ardmore, and Dolph Montgomery from Lawton.

Atoka's delegation included Joe Ralls, '20, and Charles Memminger, '14ba, '33 Law, and Mrs. Memminger (Ruth Moore, '20fa, '26ba).

Three who didn't have to travel far for the festivities were Bill Richards, '41bus,

and Richard O'Shields, '49eng, and Mrs. O'Shields from Baton Rouge. Braydon Sheen, '50bus, who used to play baseball for O.U., also was close enough to make it a short trip. His present business calls for travel through Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico.

Fred E. Tarman, '10ba, and Mrs. Tarman, Norman, and their party including son Roger, '50fa, now studying journalism at O.U. after completing work last spring for a BFA degree; daughter, Harriet, and her husband, Richard Remmers, '44eng, who is back in school, and Remmer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred E. Remmers, Oklahoma City, had been in the city almost a week when Sooner headquarters were established at the Roosevelt. Tarman put in a good word for the University Ruf Neks when he was interviewed by the New Orleans press, reminding folks to watch for their activities. The Ruf Neks didn't disappoint anyone, nor did the Sooner cheerleaders.

Others registering at the Sooner booth included Dr. C. E. Lively, '30ph.c, '30bs, '34bs in med, '34med, McAlester; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wells, Henryetta; Bruce Carter, '32ma, '50d.ed, Miami; Tom Finney, Jr., '45ba, '48Law, and Mrs. Finney, Idabel; Judge Bob Howell, '26ba, '28Law, and Mrs. Howell, Holdenville, and the following all from Enid: Milton Garber, '33, George Beggs, '35-'27, Phil Edwards, Bruce Selby,

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Ed Fleming, '14, and Mrs. Fleming (Gertrude Buxton, '12ba).

Calvin Smith, '40m.ed, Wewoka school superintendent, also signed up as did Justice Wayne Bayless, '20Law, and Mrs. Bayless, Oklahoma City; L. A. Cowling, '40-'42, Eufaula; Louis 'Tree Top' Sharpe, '42bus, and Mrs. Sharpe (Ruth Garnett, '41bs), and his parents, all of Checotah; Dr. Floyd Simon, '43med, Clinton; Norman F. Kroutil, '33ba, Yukon; Sam Goldberg, '21, Wilburton; O. A. 'Dutch' Brewer, '17ba, '20Law, and Mrs. Brewer (Gladys Mabry, '20), Hugo; Norman Brillhart, '17ba, and Mrs. Brillhart (Mildred Colby, '22fa), Madill; Charles F. Foster, '22, and Mrs. Foster (Margaret McKinley, '22-'23), Van Endicott of the University Press, and Lloyd Lockett, '41ba, and Mrs. Lockett, Norman.

Col. Jerome J. Waters, Jr., came by wearing his lucky Texas hat, and Boyd 'Bronco' McGugan, '50geol, the Sooners' All-American sub, got a big welcome and congratulations for a victorious year at Hennessey where he is football coach. Several other all-time Sooner greats on hand to see the modern version of football were C. V. 'Brick' Lisman, '05-'07, Midland, Texas, Roy Spears, '14ba, McAlester, and Ray Courtwright, '14ba, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Max Fischer, '49bus, Norman, representing a recent era of the gridiron and his pretty wife also were counted among those present.

Best estimates were that there were 15,000 Oklahomans—and probably there were many more—in New Orleans the weekend that saw O.U. end its victory march at 31. You don't see them all on a trip like this, but on the other hand you don't go more than a few steps before you run on to a Sooner emblem. And you're happy you are a Sooner, too.

University Needs . . .

maintenance budgets to at least the 1949-50 level, and provide additional amounts to meet price increases. The University's Purchasing Office estimates that most items of laboratory supplies and other teaching supplies have increased 20 per cent in the last six months.

(4) Bring the faculty salary average up to at least \$4,500 to preserve the faculty standard of living which has been hard hit by rising costs, and in order to keep key staff members who are being attracted by higher salary scales paid by other institutions.

(5) Increase the salary scale of nonacademic staff members in order to prevent losing a high proportion of the available

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