



Capacity crowd of alumni from Los Angeles area attended Los Angeles Alumni club's pre-California game party Sept. 15. Portion of crowd is pictured.

## Alumni Cheer Leaders

*Before three of the Sooners' biggest grid games, alumni gathered to visit with friends, hold pre-game pep rallies.*

By BOYD GUNNING, '37ba, '37Law

SEVERAL THOUSAND Oklahomans took late vacations this year to be in San Francisco on September 18th to watch the top ranked Sooners meet California, a team the crystal ball experts were pinning the roses on.

The San Franciscans read about this Oklahoma team early in the week and about them playing a formation called the split-T that had been so successfully defended that it was already considered obsolete by the "big" teams of the west. Clarifying diagrams of the basic split-T plays, usually good for from 2 to 4 yards, were included in the articles.

On Thursday, an ancient Chevy pulled up behind a chauffeured limousine at the front door of the St. Francis, a mattress and an old chair tied to the top. The doorman, regal in his royal blue greatcoat, formally opened the door. Bill Van Dyke of the *Daily Oklahoman* described what happened as follows:

"Out hopped two characters in overalls, straw hats, red bandannas, carrying a par-

tially filled jug of corn whiskey and a bottle of Pepto Bismol.

"What shall I do with the mattress?" asked the doorman, struggling hard to keep his icy calm.

"Just toss 'er in the lobby," spoke one of the new arrivals, 'I might not like your beds.'

"With that, the Big Red influx began. Heads swiveled in the lobby. The string ensemble faltered, the cello player completely running off his instrument with an errant thrust of the bow.

"The 'farmers' turned out to be Dick Favor, Tulsa, rugged blocking back of the Sooner football teams of 1937-38-39, and Sam Noble, '47ba, Ardmore. They were accompanied by another Oklahoma fan, John Domercq of Houston . . ."

By night-fall even cosmopolitan San Francisco was convinced that a new breed of "Okies" had come to town and that they took their state and their football seriously.

A warm reception had been planned for the visiting Sooners by the Bay Area Alum-

ni of O.U. Headquarters were established at the St. Francis and the big alumni event of the weekend was a kickoff breakfast Saturday morning. A capacity crowd of more than 700 was on hand bright and early for the big pre-game celebration.

The busiest man in San Francisco was Clarence A. Cooley, president of the Bay Area club, who was coordinator for alumni activities. A few of the many California Sooners who worked hard to provide the hospitality included George Penney, '28-'30, and Mrs. Penney; Mrs. Pearl Paxton Morgenstern, '32ba, '34ms; Mrs. Ken Robinson; Mrs. Billie Joseph Reische, '37ed, '40m.ed, and Dan Garrett, Jr., '39-'40.

This committee worked day and night to provide information about San Francisco, the special activities planned for Berkeley, bus tickets, arrangements and decorations for the breakfast and countless other important details.

A bowl game atmosphere prevailed as the Sooner fans were determined to back the Big Red in getting off to another good sea-

son in 1954. A few of the first alumni to register at Alumni headquarters were Robert R. Lockwood, '35bus, and Mrs. Lockwood, Tulsa; James B. Miller, '34ba, '34Law, and Mrs. Miller, Shawnee; Rhys Evans, '36ba, '39Law, and Mrs. Elizabeth Coe Evans, '40ba, Ardmore; W. D. Grisso, '26ba, '28Law, and Mrs. Mary E. Davies Grisso, '26ba, Oklahoma City; Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Timberlake, Tulsa, and Robert Emery, '44ba, '49Law, and Mrs. Mary Humphreys Emery, '45soc.wk, Oklahoma City.

The largest single out-of-town group present from the West Coast came up from the Los Angeles area where an excellent meeting had been held on Wednesday of the game week. This meeting was also attended by a capacity crowd and was put together by such Sooner stalwarts as Dr. Cliff Cole, '33-'36, of Long Beach; Dewey Rowland, '22ba, Glendale, president of the Los Angeles Alumni club; Lonnie Vanderveer, '39m.ed, who is with George Pepperdine College; Mrs. Pearl Fisch Henry, '22, long

complete requirements for a Ph.D. at U.S.C.); Dale Vliet, '38Law, and Mrs. Genevieve Kern Vliet, '37fa, '42m.mus (Vliet is on leave from the O.U. College of Law and is teaching at U.S.C.); Floyd Norris, '35Law, and Mrs. Martha Buntin Norris, '31ma; Glenn Watson, '39Law, and Mrs. Watson; Ralph Brand, '33ba, '38ma, and Mrs. Brand; H. E. Allen, '48ba, '54m.ed, and Mrs. Allen; C. B. Campbell, '39bus, and Mrs. Campbell, and Herman Ziemer, '35fa, '40m.ed. Most of this group were also available for the kickoff breakfast in San Francisco.

The breakfast was held in the largest room available at the St. Francis Hotel, which had been beautifully decorated in red and white banners and was an appropriate setting for the festive occasion.

Highlighted on the program at the breakfast were T. H. McCasland, '16ba, president of the O.U. Alumni Association, who had arrived early from Duncan with Mrs. McCasland, to meet their many Sooner friends now living on the West Coast; Pres-

the leadership of their president, Earl Holden, '39bus. Nearly every member of the Dallas Club served on some committee.

Arno C. Dick Adams, '33-37, who is with the Associated Press in Dallas, had started his work several weeks earlier, writing news stories and providing publicity ideas of various kinds which made this the most publicized alumni party ever held in Dallas. Irving Higbee, '42bus, was ticket chairman and some of the others who were on the job included Leo Baker, '39eng; Isham "Push" Nelson, '42bus; Nick Tinker, '40eng; Bill Scott, '42bs; Jim Langham, '35eng; and Wayne Bumpas, '28-'29.

The Crystal Ballroom of the Baker Hotel was filled to capacity Friday night for the big dinner-dance, with the music being provided by Hal McIntyre and his orchestra.

One of the highlights of the evening was provided by the O.U. cheer leaders with Tom Denner of Alva taking charge and creating considerable excitement in the big ballroom. The Sooner mascot, Indian Mike Dymond, entertained with a few well chosen war whoops and some original Oklahoma dancing.

The Texas game is always a big event of the football season; however, this year the crowd was more impressive than usual. There were absolutely no tickets to be found in Dallas and even at game time many hopeful fans were to be seen outside the gates at the Cotton Bowl bearing signs which read "I need two tickets" or "only one will get me in."

Late in October the Sooner football followers headed for the Rocky Mountains where the once beaten Colorado Buffaloes were waiting with the best team they had ever had, loaded for bear. Under the leadership of President Robert McCurdy, '44bs, '46med, former O.U. basketball player who is now making a name for himself as a physician and surgeon in the mile high city, the Denver Alumni Club organized a big pre-game party. Dr. Bob was ably assisted by his charming wife, Mrs. Carolyn Faught McCurdy, '46fa; Earl Stone, '49ba, and Mrs. Ramona Yergler Stone, '46mus; Bob Seymour, '36-'41, and Mrs. Seymour; Don Congdon and Mrs. Wilburta Garlinghouse Congdon, '44h.ec, and a number of other Denver leaders.

This meeting was held at the Cosmopolitan Hotel on Friday night with a big Sooner turnout. The number of Sooner supporters on hand was limited only by the meager supply of tickets available for the game. A big delegation came down from Casper, Wyoming, where a new alumni club is being organized. Among the Casper group were Clancy Pitts, '49eng, and Mrs. Pitts;



Pep of the Southern California variety was displayed when Los Angeles Club met September 15. Attending the meeting were Mrs. Clifford Cole, Mrs. Pearl Fisch Henry, '22, Mrs. Jo Ella Mitchell Wright, '41mus, Mrs. Bill Smith, and (standing) Charles Forbes, '22ba, '25ma, Dewey Rowland, '22ba, Dr. Clifford Cole, '33-'36, Billy Wright, '38fa, '40m.mus, and Bill Smith, '44eng.

time secretary and treasurer of the group; Charles Forbes, '22ba, '25ma; Bill Smith, '44eng, and Mrs. Smith, and Hiawatha Estes, '40eng.

Entertainment was provided by two of O.U.'s outstanding Music School graduates, Billy Wright, '38fa, '40m.mus, and Mrs. Jo Ella Mitchell Wright, '41mus.

Among the early arrivals on Wednesday evening were Professor Lloyd Morrissett, leading teacher of School Administration at U.S.C.; William J. Mellor, '42, former dean of men at O.U. and now in public health work in Los Angeles County; Fred Tibbitts, '16ba, '19ma, and Mrs. Lucille Bull Tibbitts, '24ba; Professor and Mrs. Walter Haderer (Haderer is on leave from the O.U. College of Fine Arts so he may

ident and Mrs. George L. Cross, and Bill Jennings, '46ed, '49m.ed, Fort Worth, former O.U. coach who resigned this year to begin a career with the Noble Drilling Company. Tom Churchill, '31ba, outstanding Sooner athlete in the late twenties, was a favorite with the crowd.

The story of what happened on that beautiful California afternoon is now a part of the 1954 football season history and is well-known to all followers of the great Sooner team.

The next big Sooner party was held in Dallas on Friday night, October 8th, prior to the Texas game in the Cotton Bowl the next day. The hospitality for this annual party was provided by the enthusiastic hard-driving O.U. Club of Dallas under

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CRITES-CLINCH: Miss Mary Crites, '54h.ec, and Lt. Walter D. Clinch, '52eng, Joplin, Missouri, were married June 9 in Dachau, Germany, where Lieutenant Clinch has been serving with the army. The couple returned to the United States in September.

STEWART-GALLAS: Miss Betty Jo Stewart, '54, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Otis D. Gallas, '54eng, Kermit, Texas, were married June 5 in McFarlin Memorial Methodist Church, Norman. Mr. and Mrs. Gallas are residing in Odessa, Texas, where he is engaged in engineer training.

DEUPREE-BARTELL: Miss Dixie Deupree, '54, Oklahoma City, and Denny Bartell, '54eng, Magnolia, Arkansas, were married September 11 in Westminster Presbyterian Church, Oklahoma City.

ALTHOUSE-BURKE: Miss Carolyn Ruth Althouse, '54 Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and Ens. J. Lee Burke III, '54bs, Jal, New Mexico, were married April 17. Ensing Burke is presently on active duty with the navy.

Fred T. Eslick, '54eng, recently received a gold medal from the American Society of Military Engineers as one of the 10 outstanding military engineers in the nation. Eslick has also been named outstanding civil engineering student at O.U. by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Lt. Charles M. Fullerton, '54bus, Oklahoma City, has been attending the Ordnance Guided Missile School at Redstone Arsenal near Huntsville, Alabama. Lieutenant Fullerton had previously been stationed at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland.

Lee Roy Bondurant, '54bus, formerly of Edmond, has completed a six-week training period for Colgate-Palmolive Co., in Kansas City, Missouri.

KONIG-McKENZIE: Miss Ruth Konig, Braunschweig, Germany, and Coy Harland McKenzie,

'54ed, were married recently in the Central Church of Christ, Norman. The couple has established a home in Norman, where McKenzie is recreational director at Central State Hospital.

Robert S. Patterson, '54eng, Wewoka, has accepted a position with Cities Service Oil Company. His initial assignment is with the oil production division, Great Bend, Kansas.

O. Ray Buckley, '54journal, and Mrs. Buckley have chosen the name Bruce for their son born July 11. Buckley is employed by the *Purcell Register* as advertising salesman and shop employe. The Buckleys live in Norman.

Robert D. Lomax, '54journal, has been employed in the advertising department, division of business administration of the Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention, Nashville, Tennessee.

Lee R. Gallagher, '54bs, Ponca City, has received the W. Alton Jones graduate fellowship for the 1954-55 academic year at O.U. The fellowship is awarded annually by the Henry L. Doherty education foundation and is given to the outstanding technical student who has attended college under a scholarship of that foundation.

Lt. Ronald Edward Phillips, '54bs, was killed July 22 in an automobile accident in Jackson, Tennessee, while en route to Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Commissioned in the ROTC program at O.U., he had been on active duty at Fort Hood, Texas, since June 15 and was en route to Fort Belvoir for special officers' training. Surviving, besides the parents, are a brother, Ross, and a sister, Patricia, all of Oklahoma City.

Weldon W. Saylor, '54eng, Norman, has been designated the outstanding Air Force ROTC graduate of the nation by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The award, established in honor of General Douglas MacArthur, was presented at the VFW national encampment in Philadelphia August 5. Saylor won

the honor in competition with Air Force cadets from 188 colleges and universities throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and Hawaii. His selection was based on scholarship, leadership, academic honors and participation in extra-curricular activities.

SIMPSON-GALLASPY: Miss Mary Jane Simpson, Wichita, Kansas, and Lt. Irvin L. Gallaspy, '54bs, Oklahoma City, were married recently in the University Friends Church, Wichita. The couple has established a home in Oklahoma City.

HUFFMAN-KOBS: Miss Elizabeth Jayne Huffman, Elk City, and Tracy L. Kobs, '54bs, Oklahoma City, were married recently in the First Methodist Church, Elk City. Mr. and Mrs. Kobs have established a home at 1312 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, where he will continue his studies in the Medical School.

David E. Honnold, '54eng, Columbus, North Dakota, has been awarded the \$2,500 Sinclair Refining Company scholarship in petroleum engineering.

REIM-GUNN: Miss Theola Jane Reim, Sulphur, and Dr. Marvin R. Gunn, '54med, Tulsa, were married June 12 in Trinity Lutheran church, Ardmore. Following a wedding trip to Lake of the Ozarks the couple established a home in Kansas City.

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W. B. Hickman, Jr., '41, and Mrs. Hickman; Murray Wells, '30geol, and Mrs. Ruth Henry Wells, '32; D. B. Winfrey, '30geol, and Mrs. Helen Jefferson Winfrey, '33ba, and Doug Bell, '50geol, and Mrs. Bell.

Frederick was represented by Howard McBee, '40ba, '41Law, and Mrs. McBee, and Mr. and Mrs. M. G. Tomlinson. It was old home week for the alumni from Purcell who gathered around to visit with James Kennedy, '39bs, '41med, and Louis Kennedy, '34bs, '36med, and their wives. The two Kennedy boys are now leading doctors in Colorado Springs.

Typical of the fans from the mountain states were Thelton "Sonny" Wright, '48pharm, former O.U. footballer, and his wife, who now live at Albuquerque and were in Boulder to see the Sooners play for the first time in two years. Sonny has developed in the few years that he has been out of school from a fine football player to an outstanding Oklahoma supporter. He arrived about one hour early at the stadium and by the time the teams had completed their warming up exercises he was so restless and excited that it looked for a while as though someone would have to administer a sedative to keep him from suiting up.

The game was soon underway and everyone settled down to concentrate on beating another well-coached, fired-up opponent. The Sooner partisans, wherever you find them, are as fiercely loyal and confident of victory as the players on the Big Red squad themselves.

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