

Sooner Scene

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Executive Secretary

THIS is the time of year that America is on the move. The flowing arteries of traffic which crisscross the nation are carrying a never-ending stream of restless people.

I have just returned from a trip in a small airplane across half the country on a route along Highway 66. At 10,000 feet altitude you have a 50-yard-line seat to enjoy the great natural wonders of the West. Day-to-day problems fade into the background when you contemplate the expansive reaches of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, the rich green spring pastures of Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle, the striking contrast and beauty of the great deserts of Arizona and California, the high impregnable peaks of the Sierras and finally the orderly lands of the citrus groves and truck gardens. Then you come down through a curtain of smog to find millions of people from all over the country living together in a most complex society usually referred to, as a matter of convenience, as Los Angeles. I never quite remember what it is like from one visit to the next because I am always impressed with the bigness, the infinite variety, the beauty, and the unique problems that confront the population of this sprawling metropolis.

Here are some of the O.U. alumni who turned out for meetings in Albuquerque and Los Angeles:

The president of the Albuquerque group is Sonny Wright, one of the most interesting, likeable and contagious personalities to be found anywhere. Sonny is an ex-footballer and is well known as the "leader of the Big Red" to fans of 1941-42. Sonny is a drug salesman for Squibb Pharmaceutical Company. He travels over a wide area of New Mexico and Colorado and called on Bill and Sudie Sholer who took the lead in organizing a steak dinner at the Kirtland Air Force Base Officers Club for Sooners of that area. This was a delightful evening which President G. L. Cross, Jack Lauderdale and I thoroughly enjoyed. It was the first time I had ever seen so many steaks cooked at one time over a big charcoal fire. Some of the old timers who were there were Dr. Guy H. and Mrs. Williams. Dr. and Mrs. Chet Bynum with Mr. and Mrs. Willard Durkee came all the way from Farmington for the meeting. The youngest graduates were Joe Garrett and Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Alvis.

The officers for the coming year at Albuquerque are Bill Sholer, president; Dr.

Johnnie R. Betson, vice president, and Emma W. Hollingsworth, secretary-treasurer. Some of the others who were there included Mr. and Mrs. Rodney DeVilliers, Mr. and Mrs. Burns H. Errebo, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Herndon, Col. and Mrs. Orin Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tom Devanney, Mr. and Mrs. Allen M. Tonkin, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Artman, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Fullerton, Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Norris, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Robert Klebanoff, Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Glass, Mr. and Mrs. Webster L. Benham, Jr., Capt. and Mrs. Jack Merritt, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse D. Burton, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Denton, Mr. and Mrs. Rollin Kaiser, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brown, Allen D. Dayton, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Koop, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Warner, Mr. and Mrs. Don Dickason, Minnie Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Seller, Mr. and Mrs. Loren R. Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Starkey.

Floyd and Martha Norris organized a party at the Mona Lisa Cafe in Los Angeles for more than 130 Sooners. Although several of our loyal supporters were out of town (visiting in Oklahoma no doubt), a surprising number of people came. Joe and Sally Brandt were there. In 1928 Joe founded the University of Oklahoma Press. Prior to that he was the first editor of the *Sooner Magazine*. Then as President of the University he contributed many ideas to the development of this institution that are represented by programs still in existence and which characterize points of excellence.

Van Heflin returned from Europe just in time to attend the Sooner meeting. It was just a year ago that he received the Distinguished Service Citation from his alma mater in recognition of his outstanding career in the dramatic arts and the artistic contributions which he has made to his field.

It was a special treat to visit with Carl and Caroline Franklin. He is now vice president of U.S.C. and is faced with the dilemma of sitting on both sides of the fence when O.U. and U.S.C. begin their football series in Los Angeles on September 28, 1963.

Some of the other alumni attending who make this such an interesting group were Roy and Pearl Henry, Glenn and Dorothy Watson, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. "Bill" Smith, Olive Leeper, Rev. Robert Lynn Cashman, Bob Loshbaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Rowland, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Kouri, Dr. R. J.

Toma, Dr. Bert H. Cotton, Dorsie and Betty Black, Emily Smith and Judge and Mrs. Weldon Ferris, who happened to be visiting from Altus, Oklahoma.

Of course there were many others who should be mentioned and some came from quite a distance. For example, Ralph Brand was there from Riverside, George and Shari Bloch and Jackson and Agnes Hill from Burbank.

Charley Forbes, a former president of the club, was at home recuperating from a recent heart attack and unable to attend the meeting. Charley is well on the road to recovery, and since he now has time to read three Oklahoma newspapers and carry on an extensive correspondence with his friends here, I found him to be the best informed Oklahoman I have talked with in a long time. Hiawatha Estes came in too late for the meeting, but still in time to bring us up to date on his active and interesting syndicated house plan business.

The University of Oklahoma stands high in the minds of people who are acquainted with the O.U. graduates living on the West Coast.

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