He was over in the Beta “Barn,” this JACK WILSON, ’39ba, Norman, senior Lawyer of the University of Oklahoma—when the flash came through via NBC Network with FRED ALLEN on Radio City on the sending end, that JACK would represent O. U. Yes, he was over in the Beta Barn teaching the brethren how to sing Beta lullabys (and other tuneful frathymns) and he took it in stride—calm, nonchalant! To be voted the outstanding representative of the undergraduates of the University of Oklahoma—the most talented student! Sooner to appear on the FRED ALLEN Network program—well, that was the accomplishment of JACK WILSON and what an accomplishment!

The contest-tryout, the balloting on the part of the student body, the selection of JACK WILSON as the most representative undergraduate on the part of his fellow students—all that, of course, took place just a few hours prior to the historic declaration of war, first with Japan and some seventy hours later, with Germany and Italy.

And what a Range this boy JACK WILSON covered in that span of hours, from the moment of the New York announcement up to and including his appearance with FRED ALLEN on Wednesday, December 10. Did he handle himself in fine shape? Yes, and how! But why not, with a background of training and accomplishments experienced by this young lad, beginning back in his freshman year in Enid High School down through four Senior High School years with one year at Phillips University thrown in, plus the nearly five that he has been with us at the University of Oklahoma.

He has always been an accomplished, outstanding young man. In the face of his many successes, on the basis of his many accomplishments, he has always rated as A-11. The stimulating part is that he is still a fine young American with his feet on the ground. That, of course, measures the standards of a man and we predict that the Range Riding this champ will do as a man out in adult life and as a leader in his profession will be pointed to with pride by his associates in the years to come. Indeed, just another one of the more than 75,000 Sooners who has taken advantage of the training afforded by the University in filling his niche in life.

For months on months now running into years—your hired hand has covered the Range and made a feeble effort to record on the written page word pictures of your old cronies, friends and associates throughout the world; today (December 12, 1941) the writing of the Sooner Range—well, that’s a problem in itself. From our office windows in the Oklahoma Memorial Union on the campus of the University, we observe the clusters of uneasy groups of students here and there throughout the confines of the campus! In renewed and revised “bull sessions” around fraternity fireplaces, we pass our views and observe the re-enactment of a series of dark hours back in 1917 when young men of American heritage stood at the cross-roads of indecision, awaiting the turn of the card spelled “destiny.”

And—to see these youthful American groups and to hear their expressions cause one to feel the many hours on the campus, as an undergraduate student in 1917, to look back in retrospect, not on the hysteria, the indecisions, or the feelings of groping-in-the-dark but the “chin-up attitude and the determination to see it through!”

But let’s switch away from our local environment momentarily and before we swing to our Sooers in Hawaii and the Philippines—those on the front ranks of defense this morning—let’s visit with some of your friends whom we have contacted during the month prior to the declaration of war.

The place is the Silver Glade Room of the Skirvin Tower Hotel, Oklahoma City, the time 12 noon until 2 P. M. on November 21, 1941, the speaker of the occasion and the honored guest in Oklahoma for the day, is national commander of the American Legion. Among those present on this vest reception committee—the Sooners we were privileged to visit with—were ERTIS SASEEN, ’22, Oklahoma City; the Junior United States Senator of Oklahoma, JOSH LEE, ’17ba, Washington, D.C.; our friend of long standing and associate in University, American Legion and other circles, BILL STIGLER, ’16, Stigler; our “Lifer” who is doing the honors of the hour by introduction, J. J. KOCHE, 26eng, Norman; the immediate past department commander of Oklahoma—the long standing assistant attorney general of legal recognition, RANDELL COBB, ’19awl, Oklahoma City, a former president of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association, DAVE McKOWN, ’21gol, Oklahoma City; the executive secretary (or hired hand) CLYDE HOWELL, ’15ba, 36em ed, Oklahoma City, of the Oklahoma Education Association and of course busying himself about a thousand and one duties as always. Sooner MILT PHILLIPS, ’22, Oklahoma City, plus wife RUBY and little daughter JO ANN. MILT, in his capacity of department adjutant of the American Legion in the State of Oklahoma, is always in there working!

The place is the Rotary Banquet Room, Chickasha, the time—Inter-Cities Rotary dinner dance, 7 P. M., November 18—until, when? What an enjoyable and inspiring evening! The door of the program opened: Sh мара;E. he was the State Convention and Sister State; Kansas; the topic of the speaker “My American Heritage” and what an inspiring address, coming from a naturalized Scotchman.

Yes, it looked something like a Sooner rally and it seemed as though the O. U. Campus was well represented at the Chickasha conclave. More specifically, it did seem more homelike due to the presence of a long standing (and outstanding) young Sooner, Alma JESSEE LONE CLARKSON GILKEY, ’27ba, now the very charming housewife of Chickasha but former director of the Ladies Quartet and the Women’s Choral Group on the campus of the University of Oklahoma.

The place, again in Chickasha, Oklahoma, the time, high noon, December 5. Assembled again with a group of Sooers for an address before the American Legion Post committees and officers of this notable county capital—and incidentally, it was the high noon when the President of our country (today the commander in chief of our armed forces) was in his final conference with governmental envoys and agents of Japan, having lunch in the executive offices, Washington, trying to save the fate of civilization! Sooers present? Yes, plenty of them, including GRADY HARRIS, ’18, Alex; REV. DON SCHOULDER, Chickasha; Superintendent of Schools BRUCE MYERS, ’39ed, Chickasha; At- torney for Chickasha, ’13ba, Chickasha; School Principal CLYDE POWELL, ’36, Chickasha; College Prof. JOHN EISCHEID, ’18ba, Chickasha, and Chickasha City Mayor JOHN WORLEY, ’29law. So much for a long day. And a long evening conference with the good Sooner advocate JIM HATCHER, at which time we outlined the plans (PLEASE TURN TO PAGE 28)
Riding the Sooner Range

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

for the future for stabilizing and more effectively organizing the 266 graduates residing in Grady County, plus the hundreds of ex-students of Grady County we called it "a 2-hours" then we were off for our drive to the capital of McClain County—Purcell.

More Sooner present? Yes, plenty, but the limited number we contacted in the interest of business incidents to Alumni Association work on that afternoon were (and executive body) Capt. PHILIP J. SMITH, '37med, Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii; Mrs. MARGARET WADDELL IAMB, '29nurse, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mrs. MARRIAN HARDIE HARDIE, '32ba, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mrs. LUCILE HUNTING WILKINSON, '38ba, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mrs. VIVIAN BETHELL WHEAT, '21ba, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Lt. ROBERT B. PROCK, '32eng, Honolulu, T. H.; JAMES H. TABOR, '39law, Honolulu, Oahu, T. H. Yes, that's Jimmie Tabor from over around Checotah and Elufa. It was so fine, outstanding young student just a few years back at the University of Oklahoma, a chap who was an assistant to your hired hand in work on the campus of the University. This Sooner is in constant touch with us since his arrival in Honolulu many months ago.

JAMES W. STACY, '36ed, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mrs. RUTH GIBBINS SMITH, '36bus, Honolulu, T. H. Sure, to you of the early '30's this is the Nena Ruth who, during those years at the University, worked in our offices and some ten months ago sailed as a companion to a naval officer's wife and since that time has been located in Honolulu. Just a few weeks back she wrote your Alumni Office: "It's great to be the companion of a naval officer's wife—to see the world—but I don't think I could see anything more marvelous than these Islands." Mrs. MARY SPICKARD RATLIFF, '37ba, Honolulu, Hawaii; TAFT NICHOLSON, '39eng, Honolulu, T. H.; Major W. F. HARRIS, '11ba, Honolulu, Hawaii; Mrs. MARRIAN HARDIE KERR, '39ba, Honolulu, Hawaii; BENJAMIN J. KERR, Jr., '40bus, Honolulu, Hawaii; JOHN F. HARRIS, '11ba, Honolulu, Hawaii; HAROLD I. McCRIMMON, '29med, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Mrs. MILDRED BIGHAM ANDREWS, '26fa, Honolulu, T. H.; ULYSSES S. O'HERN, '16ba, Wheeler Field, Territory of Hawaii; H. R. McCRIMMON, '23ba, Honolulu, T. H.; WILLIAM S. TENHAGEN, '47, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii; Mrs. MARGARET WADDELL LAMB, '29nurse, Honolulu, Hawaii; DENZEL R. CARR, '22, and the Miss—ELIZABETH BALL CARR, '24fa, Honolulu, Hawaii—How often DENZEL has written us in the course of the past five years about his interesting experiences and his wife, Honolulu. We wonder today as we dictate the shorthand notes on this column—what the hour has brought forth and what the hours of the future may bring forth for him.

Dr. GEORGE STROUD, '28, Oklahoma City, chief aide of another Godfather of O. U., Gen. BILL HUNTINGWORTH WILKINSON, '351ib.sci, Honolulu, Hawaii; ERIE V. SIMMS, '37, Ft. Stotsenburg, Pampanga; Lt. CLYDE V. KERN, '38mc, Ft. Stotsenburg; Corp. JAMES J. JONES, '39S, Ft. Stotsenburg; Lt. CLYDE E. FLEMING, '28fa, Ft. Stotenbury; Lt. ROBERT W. ALLEN, '27ba, Ft. Stotsenburg; Lt. WILLIAM BALTAZAR, '27md, Cebu City, Cebu; Pt. HELEN I. BAKMAN, '37, U. S. Army, Manila; Capt. D. M. YOUNG, '23med, U. S. Army, Manila; Lt. FRED P. LA BOON, '39eng—Yes, that's the chip off the old block, our World War buddy, WADE LaBOON, Postmaster of Chickasha. It seems only a few weeks ago that Fred "living around these offices" and indeed, it wasn't many weeks ago that his Daddy was my "bunk companion" on a special train trip to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, at which time we made educational problems, not only of their son, FRED, but also of some fine students who are now students of the University of Oklahoma.

Lt. J. EDWIN (Buck) GARRETT, '33, U. S. Corps of Engineers, Manila; Yes, that's "Buck" (the ole Doctor Duncan in person) who breezed over to the University in the middle 20's from the back East City of Heaven, Le- bonne, Okla. That's the Buck that worked as one of the laborers for yours truly—that's the Buck that was the High Mokus of the Ruft Neks of the University of Oklahoma, back in the days when the Ruft Neks were rumors. We'll make the assertion that no Jap nor any other enemy gets around the turn of the corner with any federacy or major fighting!—with us since his arrival in Honolulu many, many months ago.

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