Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEARD

A mere twelve months make many, many changes! It was twelve months ago to-night in the Edgewater Beach Hotel (on the outskirts of Chicago and on the shores of Lake Michigan) that your hired hand "developed" a series of paragraphs for the Range article, October 1940. In that feature one year ago to-night, we expanded quite at length on the last Sooner luncheon or banquet for the fiscal year 1940, which was held as of noon that day in the Atlantic Hotel (in the Loop), Chicago.

Among those wool to roll in that Sooner conclave were MRS. STELLA GAREE DEAN, 22ba; WILLIAM HADDAD, 23ba; LESLIE SALTER, 27ba; FRED WARD, 21ba; ADELBERT BROWN, 17ba; DURWARD ROSEBERY, 38eng; ESTHER MCRUER, 22ba; and JOE HICKS, 23ba. The chief—in fact the one and only topic of conversation at that last alumni luncheon at the close of the fiscal year 1940 was: "Who will the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma select for the next president? Will he be an alumnus of O. U.? Indeed, we are telling you, big boy, take this 'message from Garcia' and let the medicine makers of O. U. know that the alumni, world-wide, will be satisfied only with the selection of an alumnus as the next president of the University of Oklahoma."

That, of course, was a year ago and is now history! The Board of Regents, composed principally of alumni of the University of Oklahoma, has, in the meantime, made its selection! The edict of the "message from Garcia" came not only from Chicago, but the same admonition was given the hired hand by the alumni groups throughout America—and too, from foreign soils, as far as that is concerned. Yes, that was one year ago and it is now history.

Tonight, an alumnus of the institution, President JOSEPH A. BRANDT, 27ba, is closing his fifth week as head of the institution and his administration. The significant part is that the last alumni "luncheon" or "banquet" for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1941, was held, not in Chicago or some other "foreign ports," but was staged in the humble cabin abode, McClain County, Oklahoma, fifteen miles from the seat of the University proper. With this new alumnus president, "Prexy" Joe, and twelve of his administrative officials, twelve executive board members and officers of the Alumni Association participated in an eight-hour conference to develop a co-operative program between the University proper and the organized alumni of O. U., and to formulate new policies to be pursued in the development of a greater University of Oklahoma. And there was a lot of Riding of the Sooner Range in this parley closing the fiscal year of 1941 in the Alumni circles! Some of the "bronc riders" on the Range that night were HICKS EPTON, 24law, Wewoka; FISH MULDROW, 22, Ardmore; NORMAN BRILL, 22, Norman; BRADFORD HOFFMAN, 23ed, Norman; GEORGE D. HANN, 27ba, 28ma, Ardmore; H. H. LEAKE, 37ba, Norman; FAYETTE COPELAND, 19ba, Norman; JAP HASKELL, 22geol, Norman; and "printer," general manager and C. E. of the University Press, SAVOIE LOTTINVILLE, 27ba, Norman. Yes, these were the cowhands Riding the Sooner Range on a very, very important occasion!

And, who plus what are some of the other people whom we have been seeing in the series of the last thirty days, or with whom we have been in intimate touch through business and professional contacts? Indeed, hundreds upon hundreds and far too many to mention. But in passing, we list here a limited number of the crew: W. B. RAGAN, 22ba, 25ma, the O. U. professor whose hobby plus vocation is avocation—and why shouldn't it be—is the 18-month-old son we saw playing on his front lawn in Stillwater a few evenings ago; REV. VIRGIL ALEXANDER, 24ba, Muskogee, "the sometime ago Phi Gamma" of Brillhart days on the O. U. campus. Even as late as yesterday some fine young chap of Muskogee used him as his reference in applying for a job! Indeed, in our catalog that was reference enough! GEORGE M. ROBERTS, 27ba, 28ma, the guiding headlight of the Norman public schools—yes, in the past thirty days we have been across conference tables with George where O. U. teacher graduates were selected as members of his staff—where policies of Rotary International were discussed and set up—across other conference tables where building programs for the city schools of Norman were being weighed in the balance!

Indeed, it's the "flashbacks" on memory's trail that bring up pleasant recollections! A polished and refined professional man with his three fine young daughters and son steps into the office for a brief visit—CARL REISTLE, 22eng, Houston. We recall when the mother of his four children, MULDROW REISTLE, 22, in the pre-World War days played the leading role on the O. U. campus as Joan of Arc. And you think time is not rolling by? Indeed, it's a realization when her husband and children, especially the young daughter who is in architectural engineering at Rice Institute, come back to visit their daddy's and mother's Alma Mater.

FANNIE GLENN, 20ba, 29ma, Hugo, reminds her contact with the alumni world-wide by telephoning with the Alumni Association. FRED E. BROWN, Jr., 34ba, from up New York City way, flashes in a greeting, while WILLIAM M. CHRISTIE, Jr., 39ba, spreads some sunshine tiltOklahoma way from his Miami, Florida, headquarters. NANCY M. ANDERSON, 38journ, takes time off to drop us a note from her adopted city of Frederick, Oklaho-ma. BILL SOLLER (WILLIAM F.) takes time off to drop us a note from his adopted city of Frederick, Oklahoma. BILL SOLLER (WILLIAM F.), if you want to be stiff collared), rushes in a free-sport on his life membership. The old research specialist, LIONEL MURPHY, 26ba, 29ma, now in New Deal territory (Washington, D. C.), comes forth with his annual how-do-you-do.

LAURENCE E. BEATTIE, 17ba, 20law, Ardmore—well, he must have hit an oil well, for he rushes us a $15 check on his life membership! And we will be seeing this Ardmore photographer in Milwaukee one week from tonight where we are scheduled to have dinner, together with other Sooners. CLIFTON L. BELL, 37ma, 37geol, Evansville, Indiana, just calls 71law, Norman: "self in our Association. Indeed, the same can be said for conference influences," about HARRY WOFORD, 20, Wheeler, Texas; FLETCHER PICKENS, 34eng, Houma, Louisiana; UT. EDWIN R. PAGE, 38eng, 40ana, Norman; E. F. COLLINS, 16ba, San Diego, California; LESLIE POTTER, 39ed, St. Louis, Missouri; RAYMOND F. STEVENSON, 39eng, Dayton, Ohio, the long-time Sooner enthusiast; and Ambassador-