Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEARD

With hundreds upon hundreds of alumni sessions (dinners, luncheons, informal conferences and what have you) down through the years it is still my point of contention that the most enjoyable alumni meetings staged in America are often in small villages with from fifty to one hundred alumni and their families. December 6, 1940, was indeed no exception to this rule. Fact of the matter, it was near a southwestern Oklahoma homecoming and due to the particular season of the year, alumni were stacked around a dinner table where we can really talk "turkey." The meeting in Cordell, Oklahoma, on the afternoon and evening of December 6, 1940, was indeed no exception to this rule. Fact of the matter, it was near a southwestern Oklahoma homecoming and due to the particular season of the year, alumni were stacked around a dinner table where we can really talk "turkey." The meeting in Cordell, Oklahoma, on the afternoon and evening of December 6, 1940, was indeed no exception to this rule.

UNITED STATES SENATOR JOSH LEE, Norman, '17ba, was there as a special guest visiting with his dozens of friends in Cordell and from the near-by Rocky territory. It was a swell informal dinner and it was indeed nice to visit again with our official representatives of Washita County, headed by MRS. ALTA LOOMIS WALKER, +60a, along with her Advisory Council members—LOCKWOOD JONES, '30law, ALVIN McCURLEY, '21ba, MRS. LEO OZBORN, Washita County, headed by MRS. ALTA LOOMIS WALKER, 46a, and MRS. RAYMOND WALKER, 29ba. At the speakers table my driver to my left, J. F. "Major" MALONE, 37ba, not only proved himself as a good driver on the highway but as a good counselor on the speech making after a marvelous dinner. To my right at this alumni-feast our one-time co-worker steno MAGGERTIE BELLAH STEWART, '336a, now the gracious housewife-hostess in Washington and to her right our long time friend, husband of Magguerite, A. MANSUR STEWART, 14. Others with whom we were privileged to visit on this particular evening were: WALTER H. FOTH, '11, CLEDDIE VANDERVEER, '3Om.ed, STANIFIER KEAS, '38, JOE MAPIER, '30, GEORGE A. O'NEAL, '3a, ALVIN D. McCURLEY, '21ba, AMOS MANSUR STEWART, '34, and to her right, our long time friend, husband of Magguerite, A. MANSUR STEWART, 34.

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The Range Rider is principal speaker at an alumni dinner in Cordell. Left to right at the speakers' table: Mensur Stewart, MRS. Stewart, Senator Josh Lee, MRS. Alta Loomis Carder (O.U. council chairman at Cordell), J. F. Malone, and Erits Sasseen

We were privileged to meet stacks upon stacks of Sooners in the beautiful Walker home including our pick boy, ED EDMONDSON, '40ba, the Muskokee chap who has already made a big contribution in his young life. Others—yes, scores of them. But frankly it's a little hard to get over the "District" to meet and greet the hundreds of Sooners in the National Capitol so we just couldn't see them all in the brief period we were there. We did see enough and hear enough to realize that the Sooner function of functions is to come off in the "District" February 15, when chairman Paul Walker and his associating alumni council members of the nation's capitol, namely LYNDEN MANNEN, 27ba, 38ma, and PAT MANNEN, 34td, ROY ST. LEWIS, '15, JACk FISCHER, '32ba, and TED EVANS, '12, will stage a big O. U. alumni function of honor of Retiring President W. B. RIZEZELL, and Presdent-E lect JOSEPH A. BRANDIT, 21ba, who will breeze over from Princeton to meet a group of inveteate enthusiasts who next to home and country, put O. U. alumni activities in the forefront.

So here we are back on Sooner soil (indeed have been for several days) and in that span of several days a few hundred out-of-state and out-of-town visitors—O. U. alumni have breezed by to give us a ring: a hello; or a how do you do, and even our own HELEN HAMILLY, 24th, 24ins, of the O. U. Home Ec Staff swings back in to declare that she must become a life member of the association because she has just today returned from the west coast—and the Rose Bowl—where Sooners—stacks of 'em—made her west coast vacation trip "Marvelous!" And did we enjoy the greetings brought back by Helen from that Los Angeles gang! It just makes that ole tickle dirt come near-start-moving under the secretary's feet because they are about to drop a gavel out on the west coast and call another alumni meeting into session.

And KING PRICE, '25, the big insurance doctor—athletic ambassador of O. U. watched the Rose Bowl game with interest. Yes, he too breezed out to California for the Rose Bowl. To hear his long tales about the Sooner gang in California—well, watch our feet, be still!

And two some other five weeks of it, alumni athletic councilman PAUL REED, '16, plus MRS. REED, (our good Oklahoma Aggie friend) and Paul, Jr., swing back to their stamping ground and feel right at home in Oklahoma, with interesting stories to relate of the success of the Sooners on the west coast. The Reed trio not only took advantage of the Rose Bowl but got out in time to have that eight minute thrill when little ORVIE MATHEWS's west wild in San Francisco and made Santa Clara take two extra hits in their belt to tighten up the Santa Clara-O. U. game some three days ago.

It's a thrilling story we did you ever note (or muse over same)—it always takes an Oklahoma Sooner to add the finishing touches to any situation in America. We are thinking particularly of the Cherokee Indian chap from Oklahoma.
Oklahoma, who directed the destiny of nations on a grand scale and had complete control as the Master of Ceremonies—and was, indeed, the idol of the hour (references and confidential files in the vault).

Oh, well here comes a break in thought and continuity (if there is ever any continuity in this Range Riding as the siren of the red fireflower is sounding outside the office window and my toes every minute...But why shouldn't they be swell chapel program and are alert and on their toes every minute in the future. See the University of Oklahoma as they have at least 4511 of the 450 odd as future students. The immediate supervision of I. R. ARMSTRONG of the hour (references and confidential files in the vault).

continuity (if there is ever any continuity in this Fault!)...

A good president, the sons of O. U.-fifty-two strong represented men, the sons of O. U.—fifty-two strong in the House and Senate of the eighteenth session of the Oklahoma Legislature. Those boys got at it the day we arrived home from the '35 Oklahoma. ""
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trick!" and some two dozen of them have already been by the office speaking with enthusiasm of their hopes and ambitions to help make the commercial wealth of Oklahoma a little more attractive, a little more safe, and a little more sane, by the legislation to be sponsored not only by their own O. U. group but by the recommendation of the "alumni Governor" (the first in the history of the University) — an understanding representative, GOVERNOR LEON C. "Red" PHILLIPS, '16 law.

This morning in looking over committee assignments in both the House and Senate it is interesting to note that forty per cent have gone to O. U. alumni! What will they do with those assignments? How will they accomplish their day-dreams? How will they make the Oklahoma boys get to the capital and across the corridor to the House of the Legislature in the same manner as he can shoot squirrel and quail in the northeast "garnie country"-well, he'll get along. H. M. CURNUTT, '16, Barnsdall, ROBERT B. HARRISON, '30aw, Altus, old debater Bob they called him at the University and he's never lost any ticks in that public speaking work and platform performances since graduation. BILL GINDER, '28law, a chap who has performed a lot of good services for his University since graduation and a particularly good friend of our former board member, CHARLES B. DUFFY, '20law, Ponca City, another leading Senator in the upper house. BOYD COWDEN, '28, Chandler, JIM A. RINEHART, '23law, El Reno, the "hard" draftee double bated boy that "calls'em as he sees'em—and he's usually right." JOHN B. MCKEEL, '27, Ada, JOHN C. MONK, '23, McAlester, JESSE TAYLOR, '30ba, Woodward, MURRELL H. THORNTON, '10, Muskogee, and a few others who have read his name unless we think of his fine work in connection with the Soldiers Relief Commission and the many pleasant hours of association we enjoyed together in child welfare work in placing children of World War Veterans in schools and colleges years ago. R. H. SIBLEY, '23, Pryor, "Bob" to the boys and truly always just "Bob". So now it is swing away from the Senate Chamber and across the corridor to the House of Representatives.

Indeed many, many O. U. classes are represented by the boys in the lower house. W. H. LANGLEY, '21, Stillwell, MERLE LANDSEN, '39law, Beaver, CLAULE W. CHERRY, '17, El Reno, RICHARD T. PENDLETON, '26law, Norman, yeah, Dick and Frances (that's his wife you know) well, they've been near and most neighbors in the village of Norman down through the years. We've watched him in "action" on many occasions but never have we seen him in action on legislative matters, but on the basketball courts and football grids and he calls 'em like he sees 'em so watch his smoke. J. T. DANIEL, '29ba, Ryan, ROBERT BARR, '31, Dover, JACK BRADLEY, '25law, Wilburton, JOHN STEELE BATSON, '21, Marietta, PURMAN WILSON, '29, Purcell, I would that I could recount the number of ambitious boys' cases we have discussed together, fail to want to eat! I personally know that he has helped a lot of teen age lands over rough humps in the road.


KIRKSEA M. NIX, university student, Enufala, D. C. MATTHEWS, '38ba, now a student in the University, Sulphur, a polished, refined young gentleman whom I have known intimately as I have been privileged to work in my organization at the University and have been associated with some of his fine friends in the southern part of the state from whom he has received not only instruction but also excellent background training. MERLE D. ALLEN, '22, Perry, GLEN D. JOHNSON, '39, Okemah, DENNIS BUSHYHEAD, '29aw, Claremore, a chap who can do anything and a fine young gentleman. A chap who has been most kind to me personally on more than one occasion when the life of a child was involved.

WILLIAM PARRISH, '40med, Durant, AMOS STONE, '24aw, ELROY VELDGE, '38ba, Ardmore, another former employee in my University work, a square, fair and unexcitable young chap of Carter County. In Oklahoma City representing a fine group of students.

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