Riding the Sooner Range

BY TED BEAIRD

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"Dear Ted:

I am enclosing some of the clippings which appeared in the Amarillo newspapers. As you can see we did pretty well, from the publicity viewpoint, thanks chiefly to the 'inside track' that Bill Clarke has with the papers here.

As you probably are well aware, the pictures and meeting were thoroughly enjoyed by all present, many of whom expressed the wonderment that organizational steps had not long ago been taken. In A. O. Johnson we have, I believe, a president who will keep the ball rolling. He has many ideas and plans. We are all grateful to you for making the event possible and I believe we will have a live-wire group from now on.

We are starting a scrapbook which will be a record of all of our activities from the first meeting on. This, I believe to be a very good thing and I will try to keep it up to date.

We are looking forward to any future visits that you can pay us and hope that the next time Bud Wilkinson and some of the coaches will be able to make it also. Please convey our best wishes to everyone. Very truly yours, Gene Edwards.

The clippings read as follows: "A. O. Johnson, attorney with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation here, was elected president of the reorganized Oklahoma University Alumni Association at noon yesterday.

"More than 85 persons attended the association organizational meeting at the Amarillo Hotel.

"Other officers elected were Eddie Johnson, vice-president, and Gene Edwards, secretary-treasurer.

"Principal speaker was Ted Beaird, executive secretary of the Oklahoma University Alumni Association.

"Mr. Beaird urged his listeners to form an active alumni chapter here. The chapter was active in Amarillo before the war.

"Speaking of Oklahoma University, Mr. Beaird said the school is growing and pointed out that some nine million dollars worth of construction is now under way. He said the new million dollar stadium there will be completed by October 1. It will seat 35,110 fans."
Following the talk by Mr. Beaird, the ex-Sooners saw a film of the Sugar Bowl New Year grid classic in which Oklahoma was pitted against the Tarheels of North Carolina.

Judge E. O. Northcutt, organizational chairman, presided over the meeting until officers were elected. Mr. Johnson took charge after he was named president.

"Amarillo's Myrle Greathouse still is knocking down those North Carolina Tarheel footballers."

"He did it again yesterday, in a splendid color film of the 1949 Sugar Bowl game, shown for University of Oklahoma exes at a luncheon and meeting here.

"And again Greathouse intercepted a Tarheel pass and ran it back to setup the Sooners' first touchdown."

"Judge Ernest O. Northcutt told the Sooner alumni and alumnae that the Needs-Globe sports editor had been invited to the party 'so we could convince him we had a good football team.' Hardly believable though it may seem, he must have confused me with Mr. Tack, who's the one who predicted North Carolina would whip the Sooners."

Ted Beaird, University of Oklahoma alumni secretary, informed the gathering, though pointing out that he spoke unofficially, that the Sooners will have as good a football team next season as they had last. And that, mark you, will be without Greathouse, Jack Mitchell and Buddy Burris."

NOTE TWO—This has been a most interesting evening here in ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, with this overflow crowd of Sooners in the general lounge of the Student Union on New Mexico's University campus. Far into the evening, the session lingered on! Among the many "reporting for Sooner duty" in this, the first O.U. alum rally in ALBUQUERQUE since the beginning of World War II, were: ROBERT M. Saylor, '29med, BETTY JOHNSON LASISTER, '49soc.wk, LOIS L. PARISH, '48bus, U. N. BENGE, '25gcol, THOMAS F. RYAN, '42eng, T. JACK FOSTER, '29, and DON DICKASON, '29law.

NOTE THREE—Enroute ALBUQUERQUE to OKLAHOMA CITY a hurry-up stop became necessary in WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS, as emergency business had arisen in DALLAS. And this is where (until his untimely, sudden passing a brief few weeks ago) my close associate on O.U.'s campus (in 1920-21) lived and successfully developed his oil interests, namely, the late KARL STILLEY, '22gcol. It is the home city of many, many O.U. grads, including CECH, "PREXIE" PRICE, '22ba; C. S. STIKES, '40geol, and dozens of others. This late Saturday evening arrival (with early Sunday morning departure for DALLAS) will prevent my calling this gang this trip.

NOTE FOUR—This DALLAS is always an interesting city. And these "Sooner Bankers" of DALLAS are no different than "the Bankers" of my home town! Having been on an extended business trip, it was found upon landing in Dallas that additional "greenbacks" were needed from LAT BAKER, '20-'23 and JERRY NOLAN'S, '39bus, MERCANTILE BANK! Realizing that bankers do not begin "counting their change" before 10 a.m. no hurry was experienced up to that hour—then to read the notice "Legal holiday (Decoration Day) no business transacted today." A rapid retreat to the old Sooner hangout, ELIZABETTI ANN (M'MURRAY, '35ba) and BUCK (36Law) ELLEGODD'S Book Shop solved the cashing of check item in a hurry.

Interesting news notes here in the Dallas Press today among several items dealing with O.U. alumni is the announcement of M. L. WARDELL, '19ba, presenting the Commencement address (at 9:30 a.m.) to the HOCKIDAY JUNIOR COLLEGE for girls.

NOTE FIVE—The activities are over for these Reunionsites of O.U. this season and as we look back on the past 24 hours (this near midnight Sunday, June 5)—we realize what makes for tradition of a great institution. The 50th anniversary of the University of Oklahoma (Alumni) Association, as of one hour ago, now history, was highlighted by many interesting features. The five year interval classes staging their reunions (beginning with the Class of '99) were an interesting lot indeed. The old maestro, JOHN DUNN, Director-General of WNAD, did himself proud with "MILESTONES" a one hour radio show dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the Association and featuring the reunion classes assembled at their "climax" function—the reunion class dinner. Would that we could individually name all reunionsites who returned BUT space will not permit. Among the hundreds attending were: MINNIE WOOD ROSE, '99pharm, WATONGA; MERTY CULLOM WADLEY, '99ba, NORMAN; C. ROSS HUME, '88ba, 90ma, ANADARKO;
DETOUR—New Officers Named

The Detroit, Michigan, alumni chapter held a meeting on May 10 in the lecture rooms at Wayne University. At the meeting they elected their new officers.

The new officers are Dr. E. Bert McCollum, president; Louis C. Bailey, vice president; and Dick Boyd, secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Leonard Logan, professor of sociology at the University, was present at the meeting. He reports that he spent about thirty or forty minutes giving those present a general idea about the campus and the people who inhabit it.


Houston—Films and BufF

The Houston, Texas, Alumni Club and Sooner Club turned out June 6 to welcome visiting Sooner Coach Bud Wilkinson and to view the movies of the 1948 Sugar Bowl game and the Oklahoma-Texas game.

The meeting, held at the Houston Club, was attended by approximately 150 persons. Coach Wilkinson showed the color film of the Sugar Bowl which had a sound commentary by Harry Womser, noted sportscaster, and a film of the Texas game. He discussed these games and the team in general and the prospects for the coming year.

On June 7, W. J. Goldston, '29, was host at a luncheon for the Oklahoma party and several local alumni. Wilkinson was accompanied by Harriett Smith, Roy "Gravy" Jones, Eugene Jordan and Leo Cade, '22ba, Oklahoma City.

The Sooner Club of Houston is a social club organized by a group of Oklahoma alumni living in that city.

— W. H. Carson, dean of the college of engineering, attended and participated in the program of the Southwestern Council on Education for Business Responsibility, Houston, Texas, May 5. He also attended the Interstate Oil Compact Commission meeting, Jacksonville, Florida, May 9-11. He is director of S.C.E.R.B. and chairman of the engineering committee of I.O.C.C.

— Stewart Harral, '36ma, director of public relations, represented the University at the American College Public Relations Association's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., April 23-May 2.