Biff Jones Tours Oklahoma

Biff Jones' first month on the University of Oklahoma campus was nothing short of hectic. There were press conferences, pictures, two and one-half weeks of spring practice, more pictures, football schedule making at the Big Six meeting in Kansas City, and then the state tour. Ten Oklahoma cities and towns in four days. Other luncheons and dinners. And then off to R.O.T.C. camp at Fort Sill with more banquets during June scheduled in the vicinity of the army post.

His election as athletic director came after he had gone to camp. The state tour, sponsored by the alumni association, proved to be a knock-out. Almost one thousand persons wrung the hand of the colorful new football coach in four days and more than half that number attended luncheons and dinners and heard him speak.

Accompanied by Frank S. Cleckler,'21bs, alumni secretary, and Bill Cross,'09as, business manager of the athletic association, Captain Jones hit the Oklahoma highways May 27.

In the line of his personal appearances were Muskogee, Okmulgee, Weleetka, Wetumka, Wewoka, El Reno, Clinton, Guthrie, Perry and Enid. Already, he had appeared at meetings in Shawnee, Ponca City, Chickasha, Oklahoma City and Norman.

There were curb-stone meetings, hotel lobby gab fests, cafe ball-sessions over midnight coffees, receptions in private homes, bands playing Boomer Sooner and all of the football conscious of the state were out to meet the great "Biffter" whose Army and Louisiana State football teams have been nationally prominent.

Starting May 27, Biff had Muskogee as a first stop. Getting in around 4:30 P.M., Captain Jones, Cleckler and Cross put up at the Severs hotel. By 5 o'clock, Muskogee's alumni were conscious that Biff had come to town.

There were pictures taken out in front of the hotel. Newspaper reporters interviewed Biff concerning what he thought about everything from football to caviar. Those most interested in the University and its football team stayed around for informal chats until Malcolm Rosser,'21ex, regent-alumnus, announced that the dinner of greeting was awaiting Captain Jones. Seventy-five alumni and friends of the University attended the meeting. The dinner lasted until 9 o'clock.

Biff and his Sooner escorts were then taken to the home of S. F.,'17ex, and Jewell Risinger Ditmar,'19as, for an informal reception. More football talk was in order. After an hour or so, the group was steered down to the office of the Muskogee Phoenix where Biff met the editors and talked more football.

About 1 A.M., those still with the party adjourned to a Chinese restaurant across the street for hot coffee. More alumni and football fans joined the group on every move. At 2 A.M., the rapidly tiring trio sought the rest and relaxation of hotel chairs out in front of the Severs. At 3 o'clock in the morning, the residents of Muskogee and the touring trio decided to call it a day.

Six hours later, those who had retired early were at the hotel to start the day. A number of persons who had missed the evening session were on hand. Football was talked over breakfast coffee. At 11 A.M., the party left with Okmulgee as the next destination.

Max Chambers,'21as,'29M.S., superintendent of schools at Okmulgee, had a noon luncheon crowd awaiting the arrival of Biff. Sixty attended the meeting at which more questions were asked about Sooner football hopes and about the University in general.

The party was off at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Jack "Tex" Durkee,'22ex, a star baseball pitcher not so many years ago, and Jim Fleming,'22ex, auto dealer, were on hand to greet the group in Weleetka. A dozen or so gathered together to talk over the situation, before the group was off for Wetumka where they were met by Mutt Fleming, aviator and former Sooner student. Another twenty or more were on hand to meet Biff and ask about Oklahoma's chances.

Regent J. C. Looney,'20as,'221aw, and Hicks Epton,'321aw, met the party at Wewoka and had a reception and smoker planned for the evening. The turn-out at Wewoka was in the neighborhood of 175 and the meeting was held at the Aldridge hotel.

A banquet of the past commanders club of the American Legion was sandwiched in between dinner and the alumni smoker. After the smoke had cleared away, the trio of weary travelers decided to call it a day and left for Norman at 11 P.M.

Up early Wednesday morning, Biff and
The Sooner Magazine

June

The Board Elects

Earl Foster,'12as,'13law, Oklahoma City attorney, was elected president of the Alumni association executive board at its commencement-homecoming meeting on the campus.

He succeeds Lewis Morris,'15as,'17law, Oklahoma county attorney, as president. Other officers elected were Lowry H. Harrell,'16law, Ada attorney, first vice-president; Mrs. Fluy Elliott Cobb,'17as, Tulsa homemaker, second vice-president; George D. Morgan,'17as, San Angelo geologist, vice-president for Texas; and Frank S. Cleckler,'21as, secretary-treasurer.

Results of the annual executive mail ballot were announced and the five new members were seated. They were: R. W. Hutto,'09as, Norman banker, and J. Malcolm "Bud" Gentry,'15as, state highway commissioner, Enid, members at large; Dave Logan,'16as, state senator and geologist, Okmulgee, district two; and J. Charlie H. Harrell, Ada, district four; and Buffington "Buff" Burris,'21as, Clinton editor and publisher, district seven.

The meeting was held in the Oklahoma Union following the commencement luncheon. Plans were made for activities for the coming year and routine business was handled.

Members of the Alumni association executive board attending the meeting at commencement time were: Franklin S. Cleckler, secretary-treasurer, Norman; Earl Foster, Oklahoma City; Lewis R. Morris, Oklahoma City; Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, Oklahoma City; Buffington "Buff" Burris, Clinton; Lowry H. Harrell, Ada; T. Jack Foster, Norman; A. G. C. "Gordon" Bierer, Guthrie; Dave Logan, Okmulgee; R. W. Hutto, Norman; and Ernie Hill, editor of the "Sooner Magazine," Norman.