Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beaird

It must be post-war fever! At any rate, this fall season of 1946 is proving that a lot of pee-Pearl Harbor variety of galloping is being done along the Range by thousands of Sooners. Outies are on the move! The stimulating part is that these Alumni are enjoying peace-time movements, unmarrered by a war.

Charles B. Duff, '22law, PONCA CITY, recently began his pace on the SOONER trails — "commanding" more than 75,000 members of the Oklahoma Department of the American Legion.

Well, maybe not the elimination of all war in PEACE TIME for at least it was a friendly WAR in that opening game of Army vs. O.U. Sooners at WEST POINT, NEW YORK.

And - did Sooners go East, Young Man GO East? Sure, they made the trek to West Point and many other spots on the Eastern soil. Highlights along the range on that Sooners tour? Plenty — High and Low lights! With more than 700 on special trains, chartered planes and other modes of travel, they centered there in NEW YORK at Hotel New Yorker on the pre-game evening—Friday, September 27, for the all-time rally of all RALLIES. Assembled with enthusiastic former state citizens to break bread at this seaport of the East, they proved to be EVERYWHERE! Hundreds of them milled in, observed, liked it and stayed until the final whistle — so space would eliminate and times were down a lot as on those many hundreds. It was a good Sooners party! BOB PARKER, '34ba; FRANK STEWART, '28ba; RUSSELL BLACK, '42ba; "LARRY" COTTON, '33; KENNETH ROBINSON, '38ba, '38law (and that very active little human dynamo wife of his); BOB CALVERT, '69ba, '10ma, and numerous other "officiates, committed and chairmen" of the now NEW YORK-SOONERS, were there with bells on — talking round to welcome visitors from the old home state. Who were those visitors? Too numerous to mention. But, DR. AND MRS. WARREN MAYFIELD, '18ba, '20md; NORMAN; NEIL JOHNSON, '15ba, '17law, and FLORENCE JOHNSON, '16ba plus 15-year-old twin daughters, NORMAN; along with MARY LOU STUBBEMAN, '45ba, NORMAN; JUDE LITTLE, '27law, and MRS. LITTLE, MADILL; HOWARD McCASLAND, '60ba, and MRS. McCASLAND, DUNCAN, represented a cross-section of the hundreds of visitors on the special tour who enjoyed the hospitality of the NEW YORK SOONERS on that alumni night. Those SOONERS NUYORKIN' that night were not all from home Sooners soil; JOE HICKS, '28ba, MRS. JOE HICKS, '22, and two daughters of CHICAGO; JOE BIRD, '27ba, MRS. JOE BIRD of PHILADELPHIA; JOSIE LEE, '17ba, and LOUISE LEE, '23 of WASHINGTON, D.C.; LYNDEN MANNEN '27ba, '38ma; S/Sgt. HOWELL ZINN, '44-45, of FT. DIX, NEW JERSEY; are just a cross-section of the other "native Okies" who buzzed right over to that party to swap yarns with SOONER acquaintances.

Then, the next day, it was Riding the Range by floating up the HUDSON RIVER by boat. 3,700 strong (yes, a percent were natives of the east starboard, they were not all SOONERS)—then to the "mountain top," that foot hill "KNICKERBOCKER" at WEST POINT. At 2 p.m. the big struggle was on! That, now, of course, is history, but brother, how history was recorded — O.U. "handling" mighty Army in the football classic of the year.

The ARMY-SOONER game over, it was a special train back to NEW YORK for three full days and nights of organized SOONER activity. Activities of taking over the little town in the name of "Spirit of the South-West." The musical "OKLAHOMA," then Oke Billy Rose's Horseshoe, plus Rady City, plus Ice Palace and "Nathanial." And, they knew that OU Alumni gang was in town!

Then a return, or at least a start on return to home soil, with a stop in WASHINGTON where the hundreds of SOONERS in the "Busy, Busy District" are always an interesting lot when they get underway. In the middle of their busy business day, the O.U. ALUMNI LUNCHEON at the BURLINGTON HOTEL, noon, October 2, brought out more than 250 OKLAHOMA SOONERS, now serving in various governmental capacities; in the UNITED STATES ARMY, the NAVY; together for a "welcome luncheon" for the visiting "brethren and sisthren" who still reside in SOONER STATE, and posed in the Nation's Capitol to inspect. DR. ELGIN GROSE-CLOSE, '70ba, president of the O.U. Alumni Club.

The Cover

Ernest R. Christoper, '28ph.g, Bartlesville postmaster was named "man of the year" at the National American Legion Convention held recently at San Francisco, California. The award was for his distinguished work during 1946 in advancing the principles of Americanism advocated by the American Legion.

Mr. Christopher was particularly cited for his activities in organizing, integrating and extending the work of the American Commission, Department of O and chairman of the commission was considered to have established one of the finest state records in the nation. (See story or page 7.)

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MILLS, '31ba, revealed the fact that he had been there only a brief few days as one of the chairs in the Public Relations section of the greatly expanded Veteran's Administration. A little chatter exchanged with DR. R. J. BRIGHTWELL, '40ba, '41med, in his special medical service. He was quite interested in knowing about DR. JOHN LAMB, '28ba, '32bs, '32med, OKLAHOMA CITY; DR. FLOYD KELLER, '28ba, '29bs, '31med, OKLAHOMA CITY; DR. LEE EMENHISER, '28bs, '31med, OKLAHOMA CITY, and of the progress they were making in the Medical Foundation Fund drive, and too, DR. R. J., was interested to know "all about the O.U. Medical School."

A pleasant chat with CHARLES EVANS, JR., '22ba, '35cd, (who in a few hours was to leave for his new post of duty in SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA) was enjoyed. Then to listen to the OKLAHOMA AGGIES (now of St. Louis) encountered along the way, explain why the ST. LOUIS CARDINALS were, that day in the good old city of BOSTON, "Gonna win that game."

"AGGIES that reside in ST. LOUIS, whom we were privileged to visit, were JOHN ROGERS, formerly of HUGO, ORVILLE HOOD, formerly of ADA, G. B. WILLETT, formerly of MUSKOGEE. In passing these AGGIES, not unlike all other AGGIES, met along the trail, were most enthusiastic about the showing of the SOONER football team and naturally were greatly disappointed that their own A. & M. team in STILLWATER, had suffered so many reverses this early in the season.

Out of ST. LOUIS back home. Back home to a business office desk bulging with SOONER requests, teeming with SOONER suggestions, stacked with SOONER mail—on excellent outlines on how to have a bigger and better HOMECOMING for his new post of duty in SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA) was enjoyed. Then to listen to the OKLAHOMA AGGIES (now of St. Louis) encountered along the way, explain why the ST. LOUIS CARDINALS were, that day in the good old city of BOSTON, "Gonna win that game."

A female dares to tee off on the ARMY green! One of the Riders of the SOONER RANGE at the Sooner-Army game at West Point was PAULINE COOK, O.U. pre-med student. "Cookie," who was the official O. U. cheerleader at the game, even conquered the "Army Mule."

A pleasant chat with EDGAR L.