

Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beard

I hold it permissible for a ramblin' ranger to list for the benefit of 'Sooner fans of the late April and early May. Well, here goes for a cross section of WHAT we've seen. WHY we were there, WHEN we were there, and WHERE these Soonerers are appearing on the scene.

What a practice game on the O. U. gridiron on this late afternoon of April 25. Yes, and how these Sooner boys show up in this the culminating game of spring practice for the thousands of state citizens crowded in at this arena. There goes the final whistle, and thousands of visitors are shuffling back to their homes in various sections of the 77 counties. But not all of these thousands of visitors are O. U. grad students. There are 250 Sooner gradis by special invitation from Coach Tom Stidham, his staff, and the Athletic Council are standing the parade to the east wing of the stadium for a huge barbecue and "chatting sessions.

Yes, here it is, 6:05. In two hours I must be on my way to the Santa Fe in Oklahoma City, but what a visiting session we can get in in that two hours! My unhurried pace must be the result of my usual employment as an official for the Cleveland County Fair as well as a spot for entertaining dignitaries) are Regent LLOYD NOLTE, '21ex, Ardmore; Regent JOE W. McGRIDE, '29bus, Anadarko; Regent E. C. HOPPER, Eufaula; the red-headed hot-shot, LEE B. THOMPSON, '25, 27law, Oklahoma City; PAUL "FORDIN" ALLRED, '25 ex, Norman, Ou. U.'s student-union presy; NORMAN W. BRILLHART, '17, the Madill "hard-hitter"; and dozens and dozens of others mill by as we tackle the tendered barbecue steak and the Alumni Executive Board's efficient representative to the Athletic Council; O. F. "FISH" MULDROW, '22ex, Ardmore's O. U. & E. mem and high tension worker; KING G. PRICE, '25ex, Norman, the O. U. athletic insurance broker; SENATOR JOHN NANCE, Pureell; NEIL R. JOHNSON, '15, '21law, Oaklahoma City, and PAUL A. DUFFIELD, '30, along with wife, mothers, and teachers in this assembly in St. Louis.

It is always interesting to note the enthusiasm in Kansas City, Missouri, of the Sooner gang now well established in their homes, professions, and businesses, but who, at the same time, always have that yearning and feeling "how we'd like to be back in Soonerland.

This particular session is quite outstanding and interesting to the hired hand because my dinner partner in this alumni rally is former President STRATTON D. BROOKS. How many interesting hours as a kid beginning in the field of University work I was privileged to spend around this gentleman's "throne," and that span of years may have dimmed the eyes slightly, may have whitened the hair more, but the same keen wit and fervor is exemplified by this eminent gentleman twenty-five years later.

They are all enthusiastic in this Kansas City. They have all a message to send back to Soonerland to be, to relate. And through the long years of work on the Alumni Board, DRAKE, resigning Advisory Council Chairman, plus the efficient work of the newly elected executive council, H. W. SKINNER, '25, and dozens and dozens of others in the City area, the spirit of O. U. has become a tradition in this mid-western city. HARRY MORELAND, '20ex, vice-president of his company, has never experienced any dimming of his enthusiasm for his alma mater and the state. School-marm HELEN MORRIS, '36ed, is very much in evidence for the evening assemblies, even with her JANITA MORRIS. This lady, one of our military heroes, ARTHUR WALKLEY, '33ex, steps up and asks for information on O. U.'s WEBSTER L. BENHAN, JR., '39ex, plus the charming wife, KATHERINE COLONIAL-WALKLEY. HARRY N. CAMPER, '29ex, is counted for Even WAYNE GLOVER, now in the Kansas City Dental College after receiving his Business Administration Degree in DEAN HAROLD INGRAM, of the JAMES LINCOLN CHANCEY, '35, the big-shot staff writer of the United Press bureau, has cancelled the punching of his keys for the evening and comes up to swap yarns with us about way back when we made a trip to Ripon, Wisconsin together and to present to the hard-earned very charming young lady.

It was a pleasure in this assembly to have a 27law Sooner with headquarters in Washington, D. C. drop in for an hour's visit—WALTER TAYLORS, of the I. C. L. O. U. Its very much in evidence, enjoying this occasion.

CLAUDE A. FERGUSON, '24law, was there to represent the barristers; while Kansas City's C. E. CARTER represented President E. C. CAMMELL, '21, '25ma, and the very charming MRS. CAMPBELL (ALMA DOUG- HITT, '26). Oh yes, we could go on for lines and lines in this U. O. U. assembly, but it is 11:20, and at 11:59 that train pulls toward St. Louis and a shindig there tomorrow night. So with the assistance of James E. HOPPER, of the University of Kansas, my very special friend and guest of the evening, we are on our way to the Union Station for a hurried goodnight and the rolling of wheels toward St. Louis.

Well, this is the night of nights in St. Louis. And look 'em stacking in. The boys had to make a hurried change to a larger place in St. Louis to accommodate this outstanding crowd. And this honorary plaque to be presented to IRI. "BIG BOY" RHYNES, of Mattoon, Illinois, is causing a sensation among the large assembly of Sooners as it is placed on display prior to the meeting. And the inscription on the plaque says: "To IRI 'Big Boy' Rhynes because of his keen and continued interest in behalf of young Sooner men in his loyalty in the development of a greater University of Oklahoma; of his efforts in carrying forward many alumni programs—this alumni plaque is awarded and an honorary membership in the Alumni Association hereby granted on this the 27th day of April, 1940, in the City of St. Louis, Missouri.

There is another very distinguished group of guests in this assembly tonight in St. Louis, good-will ambassadors from the state of Oklahoma, representing some eleven senior high schools in the Oklahoma City area, the spirit of O. U. has become a tradition in this mid-western city. HARRY LOWAY, mother of Bill, Jr., of Oklahoma City, cannot make it into St. Louis but will meet us in Tees Haute tomorrow. DR. TOM LOWRY, '41, "famed, prominent Oklahoma physician, drop in for a visit and is here with his gracious little daughter, Jean, who will represent Oklahoma in the national assembly. And from down Mattoon, Illinois way, DR. J. B. BARGER, '31ed, is out meeting and greeting. DR. JAMES B. BARGER, Jr., of the L C. C., was in to report his connection with Shell Oil Company in the St. Louis area. And "Rags" and his wife—the Honorable W. E. RAGS- DALE to his associates in St. Louis and surrounding territory, who received his electrical engineering degree from O. U. in 1943, are here to swap yarns about the old days at the old wife and the young Sooner men; of his loyalty in the development of a greater University of Oklahoma; of his efforts in carrying forward many alumni programs—this alumni plaque is awarded and an honorary membership in the Alumni Association hereby granted on this the 27th day of April, 1940, in the City of St. Louis, Missouri.

This is who's who's who's who in this assembly as we look out over the crowd. Yes, it's a big time to be in St. Louis tonight! We are Riding the Sooner Range to Terre Haute, Indiana, and more of the Oklahoma gang.