Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beard

YeA lid, "It takes a heap o' livin'—in a state university and a heap o' tradition and lore—to make any state university respect its landmarks! In the "nigh onto one-half century" that the University of Oklahoma has been privileged to serve, University world-wide, many fine traditions have been planted and have lived down through the years!

The Dads' Association, at one of its earliest meetings, was by official convention resolution one of the finest traditions of O.U., namely, the selection annually of the most outstanding young man and the most outstanding young lady from the thousands in the student body of the University proper. To each of these so selected each year, there is presented a magnificent loving cup at the annual Dads' Association meeting, along with a check in honor of the student. Through this tradition, and an honor sought for by the more serious minded students in the various fields of training.

Let's drop back and review many of these outstanding young men and young women who have been selected as the honor students by the Dads' Association in former years. DILLON ANDERSON, '26, the first young man selected as the outstanding male student, is now, as he has been for a number of years, located in Houston, Texas; while his colleague on the feminine angle of the 1922 selection is now MRS. NELLIE WEAVER WILL, '28, of Tulsa.... Then look at the selection in the fall of 1928, BRUCE DRAKE, 29phys, now the youthful head basketball coach of the University of Oklahoma, and director of the nationally known Boy Scouts, was then in his palmeriest years as one of the most outstanding basketball players of all time on the O. U. campus.... The following year, the collegiality of the Dads was expressed by the selection of 29, now MRS. MEX RODMAN FRATES, a University representative in the younger set of Oklahomans.... It was in October, 1930, that the "boy of boys" was selected by the Dads, namely, CARL BREMKLE, '31, an industrial servant, Rhodes scholar, and an outstanding student of students during his days at the University, leading on to his record breaking work at Oxford, England, and now the chairman of the educational committee of the University. The University of Oklahoma has taken a most evident pride in the new honor student of Mattoon, Illinois.... The natty Beau Bruinne selected by the Dads in 1931 was no other than AL M. MULDROW, '31law, who now with his fine degree of law, is not only a capable government officer near Pauls Valley, Oklahoma, and who last week received quite a Masonic honor in the McAlester Consistory..... In the fall of '33, the Dads again selected an outstanding young man, EARL SNEDDE, JR., '34, '37law, who for many months has been one of the younger life members of the University of Oklahoma Association, and who is doing his best to carry on the tradition of his home city of Tulsa. In the same year of 1933, the outstanding MARGARET ROYS STEVENSON, of Ithaca, New York, was designated as the best all-around woman student. And back in those years, we were privileged (with a lot of pleasure) to be associated in work with Margaret while she was on the campus.

Soon after taking over the duties as "hired hand" in the Alumni Association, the late JAMES F. HORTON, '18, the first student employee of the Association. In checking his personal record we found that "Jimmie" was employed by the Association as an advertising man for College Magazine after his outstanding selection on the part of the Dads in the fall of '34. We were privileged to work with him only a few brief months, but many great ideas seem to have come from the mass of the many fine concerts and hours of work we spent together prior to his passing.... In the fall of 1935, the Dads selected another outstanding girl, BETTY HUME, '36, Miss Soctia, Rochester, Minnesota—and how many years this young lady's dad has spent in the interest of the University.... ARTHUR LEROY ELLSWORTH, '38, now an official in the University, was selected as the outstanding young man of the class of '37, and the present time, as well as when he was an undergraduate student, is doing a very successful job, by the way, in his chosen field of work.

In the fall of 1938, the Dads selected as the outstanding man, GEORGE T. MONTGOMERY, '39, who is a graduate student in the University of Oklahoma at the present, was given a most worthy opportunity to show his devotion to his university and alma mater. The University of Oklahoma has long been privileged (with a lot of pleasure) to be associated with the fine young lady's dad, a man who has "gone up" battling against all odds.

...In the fall of '39, one of the many Brixey boys—this one A. M., '39, William W. Mussner, Jr., '39, of Enid, and how many hours we have spent with him, in his school days and in his student days and in the professions, are being effectively carried out in developing a greater University of Oklahoma. Others will appear on the horizon as together we "Ride The Sooner Range."