Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beard

THIS spinin' of yarns—well, that's a Sooner tradition! Often in this Range column traditions and landmarks have been discussed. But on Sunday afternoon and evening of June 1940, this hired hand (thanks to being one of the younger alumni) had the pleasure of seeing a cross section of Sooners covering a 40-year span, and in their assemblies learn more of O. U. traditions than in any assembly we have ever been privileged to attend! And what was the occasion? The class reunions of their graduating class of 1900! A class of fourteen members, four in the meantime being deceased, and then to have 50 per cent forty years later for a reunion parler—that is something! For two hours it was our pleasure to listen to this exchange of "old times" with C. Ross (Chick) Johnson, of Oklahoma City; JOHN H. ASBURY, of Centennial, Illinois; REUBEN D. ALEXANDER, of Oklahoma City; ALFRED C. DAVIS, of Oklahoma City, and JAMES R. BROWN, of Helena. (In another section of this issue of the Sooner Magazine you will find a picture of these early day graduates.)

There was a lot of humor and event of past events were "swapped" between CLARENCE REEDS, '05, Oklahoma City; MRS. CHARLES H. PHELPS (CARRIE WARREN), Oklahoma City; and MAUDE AMBROSE WYCHE, '05, Norman.

The Scene: The Spoonholder. The Time: 4 o'clock on the afternoon of June nine, nineteen hundred and forty. The Audience: your hired hand. The Actors and Actresses: a swell gang of the class of 1910! And to watch these early day tradition makers as they search the old Spoonholder on the main oval where their name had been scratched and indented on the hardening cement that memorable night when this landmark was built by the warriors of 1910 under extreme class fight pressure—well, that is one event in alumni work in this Association that I shall never forget! Thirty years after, to watch them as they search for this earmark or that identifying scratch on the old Spoonholder—well, that's when tradition becomes lore!

And in this assembly of 1910 cronies stacked around the old Spoonholder, exchanging views on how the feat was accomplished, are so outstanding graduates as R. W. HUTTO, '10, Norman; MRS. PEARL GOODRICH PORTER, '09, '10, Tulsa; GUY Y. WILLIAMS, '11ma, Norman; P. W. SWARTZ, '10, Oklahoma City; FRANK A. ROBERSON, '10, Grand Rapids, Michigan; MRS. J. L. RADER (MARY FRANCES SIMPSON), '10, Norman; R. DAWSON, '10, Tulsa; T. FRANK H. HERALD, Texas; MRS. CHARLES T. HOCKER—along with "Charlie," the husband, both of '10, Norman; MRS. A. C. SHEAD (Blanche Belt), '10, Norman; MRS. JAMES W. KINGLESSMITH (JEANNETTE REED), '10, Tulsa; DR. ESSIE D. NEWBY, '10, '25, Edmond; MRS. FORREST L. HUGHES (RUTH THOMPSON), '10, Oklahoma City; and CHARLES W. WALTANDL, '10, Edmond.

Twenty-five years after—well, that's a few