Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beaird

FISCAL years! Yes, we all have 'em! And—here in this August (and on the dot of the 31st) nineteen-hundred-forty, we of the University of Oklahoma Association will reach another goal post, another abrupt end—of another fiscal year.

Naturally, impressions are made along the way. Some events, some few, "precious," some outstanding hours or days or nights have left their marks—and their lasting impressions, as we choose to Ride the Sooner Range!

In retrospect, let's check a limited number of these passing-by moments since the 8 a.m. hour of September 1, 1939!

Labor day, nine o'clock in the morning (September 2, 1939), conference room on the twenty-third floor, Executive Tower, Chicago. The world is mad this morning with the first serious sing of the European conflict. It's the topic (along with other business), and a few Sooners are wondering—what will be the reaction of the United States?—what will business be sixty days from today?—what will the various agencies of America do?—and what attitudes will be displayed in deciding upon such policies as the statement of endowment funds? All these—and similar questions of policy arose in that day (and night) long discussion.

Still (even at that early hour) in the seriousness of the international situation, WES NUNN, '17ex, Chicago, LES SALTER, '21, '22law, Chicago; JOE HICKS, '23, Winnetka, Illinois—plus many more of our gang, were ready and going forward with plans for the O. U. Northwestern game to follow in a few short weeks!

That secret Sooner birthday breakfast for the gentleman and scholar, "Peevy" Bizzell, in the Adolphus Hotel, Dallas, on Saturday morning, October 14—well, that too stands out. CARL McWADE, '39ex, Dallas; JUDGE OREL BUSBY, '14law, Adair; HICKS EPTON, '32law, and THERMA EPTON, '32el, Wewoka; the O. U. band 200 strong, along with Sooner Alumni from all over, made the day one long to be remembered!

Seventy Sooners (again from all over) guests in the home of JOE, '23, and LOIS MARSHALL HICKS, '23ex, Winnetka, Illinois, two hours after O. U. had "taken" Northwestern against all odds—then the long distance greetings of O. U. fans (apologies to JUDGE BOB AUBREY, '26ex, Oklahoma City, that annual Classen Alumni meeting, February 27, to be followed by the sorrow due to the untimely accidental death of JUSTIN BOWER, '40ex, while returning home next morning, will always stick!)

That fine group known as the Junior Honors Class of O. U., being honored at luncheon Thursday, March 14, by a Sooner crew—that's all worth while. The Thursday, April 4, 1940, Sooner dinner, Hotel Artesian, Sulphur—thanks again to sulphur's Reed and Armore's Muldrow for a great success—that "sticks" in memory! The excellent Sooner sessions, Muehlebach Hotel, Kansas City, April 26, and Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis, April 27, with DR. TOM LOWRY, '14, '16ed, Oklahoma City; JOHN WILKINSON, '23, St. Louis; BETTY COE ARMSTRONG, '39 Sulphur; CITY PRICE, '25ex, Norman, plus some 100 others from various other states, and the awarding of the honorary alumni plaque to "BIG BOY" RHYNES of Mattoon, Illinois—was an event!

The swift ride from St. Louis to Terre Haute, Indiana, Sunday, April 28—only to be made up to Oklahoma City, due to emergencies arising—well, that won't be forgotten ever!

So—tonight as this "end of the fiscal year" squib is being written in my room at the Muehlebach, Kansas City, (where we arrived three hours ago by Braniff to pay our last respect on the morning to a departed friend) we think of the wonderful event that flashed in this fiscal year—an event that will go down in the annals of years! The Time—9:20 o'clock on the evening of Monday, May 13, 1940. The Place—on the commencement platform of the Mangum Junior College. A long distance call from Norman! "Peevy" has resigned! Twenty-five thousand alumni of O. U. are concerned! But—with Sooner Regent like LLOYD NOBLE, '21ex, Ardmore; JOE McBRIEDE, '28bas, Anadarko; HARRINGTON WIMBERLY, '24, Atus; JOHN ROGERS, '14 law, Oklahoma City; "BOB" LINDSAY, '29ex, Wewoka—and with W. B. Bizzell being kept as President Emeritus, June 30, 1941—we are positive in our belief that the future of the University will be bright. With a Sooner Regent to go—the Regents to select a permanent head of the ever growing O. U. and to continue in their work of developing a greater University of Oklahoma—as together we all Ride the Sooner Range!