Anyway you slice it, October was an interesting and important month for the Alumni Office. Trips to Houston, College Station and Dallas with fine alumni gatherings at each stop, produced the material for this month’s secretary’s report.

October presented one of the brightest and most expansive Sooner Scenes in months, and in many ways it was traceable to a football appetite. Dad’s Day, Dallas dinner-dance and breakfast and the Texas A&M gathering all testified that there are few better places for the secretary to meet the people than at a football game. There were three really big afternoons in October (Homecoming October 27 will be featured next month) that brought alumni together.

October 6. The first thorough test of the 1951 Sooner football team was scheduled to take place at College Station, Texas, with O.U. facing Texas A&M. It was a natural for many of our Texas alumni. Special trains were scheduled from Houston, and several other Texas localities arrived by special buses and private cars. Altogether there were about 5,000 Sooners in the stands.

Houston alums probably topped the list

Here are some of the dinner-dance ticket sellers that greeted the Alumni at Dallas this year, Irving Higbee, ’42bus; Joseph J. Gordon, ’49arch; Dick Adams; Abbott Sparks, Jr., ’41bm, ’43ba; James H. Stevens, ’41bs; James T. Langham, ’35bs, and Nick Tinker, Jr., ’40bus. The big dance was sponsored by the Dallas Alumni Club.
Assembled, just before boarding their football special, is a group of the Houston Alumni. The crowd of Big Red fans from deep in the heart of Texas traveled to College Station to watch and cheer for the Sooners as they played the Texas A&M Cadets.

of Sooner partisans with their two special trains. Not only alumni living in the city, but many from surrounding areas took advantage of the specials. Helping to organize the trains were such people as J. W. Burkhardt, ’30-’31, and Mrs. Burkhardt; T. J. Fusion, ’34eng, and Mrs. Nita Marlatte Fusion, ’32ed; Henry Beck, ’42eng, and Mrs. Roberta Huff Beck, ’33ba; Jerry Nolan, ’36bus, and Mrs. Elizabet Carey Duncan Nolan, ’40-’43; R. L. Gilley, ’38ba, ’40 Law, ’43ma, and Mrs. Gilley, and Ike Truitt, ’31eng, and Mrs. Truitt.

A special bus came from Tyler, Texas, with East Texas alumni. Ed Howard, ’31 geol, Tyler, president of the East Texas Alumni Club; William Holmes, ’34eng, and Ray Youngmeyer, ’26-’27, East Texas vice president, arranged the transportation. After the game was over and the Aggies had won 14-7, the Tyler group showed the kind of enthusiasm that is noteworthy—they wanted the game replayed on another Saturday. Dallas alumni came in a chartered bus, also.

Many Oklahomans made the Texas trek. A few from Oklahoma City were George Shirk, ’35ba, ’36Law, Dr. Charles Rountree and Mrs. Kitty Shanklin Rountree, ’23ba, Hugh Carrol, ’05, Frank Ashby, ’36, and Barney Stewart. Paul Reed, ’21, and William Freeman drove down from Sulphur, and Finis Ewing and Dr. William McCurdy, ’32ba, attended from Purcell.

The Norman delegation was naturally a large one. A few of the many townspeople present were President and Mrs. George L. Cross; Dean Earl Sneed, ’34ba, ’37Law, of School of Law; Fred Thompson, ’22ba; Harold Belknap, ’25ba; Bert Hodges, ’26-’27; Robert Rucker (a Norman florist who is also a Texas A&M alumnus, but had to root for O.U. this trip); Phil Kidd and Mrs. Ina Johnson Kidd, ’12; Emery Stubbsman, Mrs. Stubbsman and daughter Mary Lou, ’45bus, who is director of student activities of the Memorial Union; Glenn Clark, ’51Law, and Lester Reynolds, ’48
Chatting at the Alumni luncheon before the William & Mary game are Guy C. Brown, '42ba, '48ma, alumni representative, and McAlester alumni, Lloyd Puckett, '37bus; Don Kerr, '34-'37; Mrs. Don Kerr, '39ed, and Mrs. Ann Brown Puckett, '37Lib.sci.

Chatting at the Alumni luncheon before the William & Mary game are Guy C. Brown, '42ba, '48ma, alumni representative, and McAlester alumni, Lloyd Puckett, '37bus; Don Kerr, '34-'37; Mrs. Don Kerr, '39ed, and Mrs. Ann Brown Puckett, '37Lib.sci.

Law; Hillyer Freeland, '38fa, manager of the Union, and Robert Harrell, decorator of the Union; and T. Jack Foster, '29, Mrs. Gladys H. Foster, '23ba, and son, Dick, who is now playing halfback for Norman High.

Henry B. Bass and Mrs. Bass, Enid, (he is an O.U. Foundation trustee) were also spotted through the game crowd. And many, many more.

October 12-13. The weekend of the big Texas game started off with practically everything favorable to the Oklahoma visitors. The weather was satisfactory, a dinner-dance was to start off the Sooner weekend and the Dallas Alumni Club had done a really fine job in making the necessary arrangements. A few of those whose work produced the finest pre-game dinner-dance in memory were Abbott Sparks, '41mus, '43ba, and Mrs. Sparks; Earl Holden, '39bus, and Mrs. Demetrice Thornton Holden, '38he; Nick Tinker, '40eng, and Mrs. Tinker; Arno C. "Dick" Adams, '33-'37, and Mrs. Adams; J. S. "Cotton" Mendenhall, '35bus, and Mrs. Mendenhall; Irving Higbie, '42bus, and Mrs. Higbie; Jim Stevens, '40ed, and Mrs. Stevens; Jim Langham, '39eng, and Mrs. Langham; Isham "Push" Nelson, '43bs, and Mrs. Gloria Swanson Nelson, '43bus; Leo Baker, '38eng, and Mrs. Baker; Jake Zadik, '39geol, and Mrs. Zadik; H. Wayne Bumpas, '28-'39, and Mrs. Bumpas; James A. Wilson, '41eng, and Mrs. Wilson, and Lendell "Jack" Steele, '43ed, and Mrs. Steele.

The dinner-dance was held at the Peacock Terrace, Baker Hotel, on the night preceding the game. An indication of what a thoroughly fine dinner-dance was expected came when more than 100 people had to be refused accommodations at the dinner. In the past the Terrace has been more than ample.

On the morning of the game, the Oklahoma breakfast was held in the Baker. It was a splendid weekend even if we did lose a heartbreaker, 9-7, in the afternoon.

A random memory search produces only a few names of the people who attended one or more of the functions. Included in this group are such people as H. H. Ball, '19, Roswell, New Mexico; R. W. Carson, '32phys, Bay City, Texas; M. S. Douglass, Jr., '38Law, Henryetta; State Legislator Paul Harkey, '39, Idabel; Ray H. Haun, '12ba, Mount Vernon, New York; Robert L. Lancaster, '32-'35, Spring Hill, Tennessee; Errett Newby, '07mus, '08ba, and Mrs. Lola North Newby, '14ba, Oklahoma City; Eleanor Tracy, '29ba, Beaver; Jack P. Adams, '34, and Hugh J. Adams, '33Law, both of Guthrie.

Still others were R. E. Barbour, '31eng, and Mrs. Barbour, Norman; H. P. Bonebrake, '21eng, and Mrs. Bonebrake, St. Louis; O. H. "Dutch" Brewer, '17ba, '20Law, and Mrs. Gladys Mabry Brewer, '29, Hugo; James R. Eagleton, '49ba, '51Law, Tulsa, Web Glidewell, '19ba, and Mrs. Glidewell, Helena; Boyd F. Koepke, '21bs, Kansas City, Missouri; Preston Moore, '50Law, Sulwater; Colonel H. Nelson, '39journ, Oklahoma City; Allan Neustadt, '51eng, Ardmore; Edgar Sanditen, '41bus, Tulsa; State Legislator Robert H. Sherman, '30ba, '30Law, Oklahoma City; Roy Spears, '14ba, and Mrs. Spears, McAlester; David Busby, '31Law, and Mrs. Busby, Ada; Dean Thurman White, '41ms, Extension Division, and Mrs. Corrine Barton White, '41med, Norman; W. R. Wolfe, '26ba, '38eng, and Mrs. Zetta Ponton Wolfe, '26, Oklahoma City, and H. E. Wrinkle, '22ba, '31med, and Mrs. Wrinkle, Norman.

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Paul Clifford Smith, II, '50eng, is now living in Tyler, Texas, on October 10, Ed Howard, '31ged, president of the club, presided at the meeting. He was assisted by the vice president, Ray Youngmeyer, '26-'27, and by the treasurer, James Collums, '49bus. About 75 alumni attended the meeting. The program consisted of a presentation of the club charter by Boyd Gunnings, '37ba, '37Law, who also made a brief talk about the University football team and OU's prospects in the Texas games.

Roxce Carter, '26ba, financial vice president of the University talked about the University building program and the plans for future expansion on the campus.

Boyd Gunnings, '37ba, '37Law, executive secretary of the Alumni Association, shows his statue of the Pioneer Woman to two visitors from Los Angeles. They are Mrs. Lucille Bell Tibbitts, '24ba, president of the Los Angeles Alumni Club, and her husband, Fred T. Tibbitts, '24ba, '25ma, who were campus visitors in mid-October.

Inaugurated this season, alumni lunchrooms have been held before each home game in the Memorial Union. They are designed to provide a quiet, accessible place for alumni to eat, and a good pre-game meeting place for alumni friends. Usually so well attended by alumni family employees, an interesting and important month for us and for many of you. Next month the Sooner Magazine will report on Homecoming activities and offer a special magazine report on the Memorial Union.

Another Texas Meeting

East Texas Alumni Club. A meeting of the East Texas Alumni Club was held at the Blackstone Hotel in Tyler, Texas on October 10, Ed Howard, '31ged, president of the club, presided at the meeting. He was assisted by the vice president, Ray Youngmeyer, '26-'27, and by the treasurer, James Collums, '49ba. About 75 alumni attended the meeting. The program consisted of a presentation of the club charter by Boyd Gunnings, '37ba, '37Law, who also made a brief talk about the University football team and OU's prospects in the Texas games.

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