Riding the Sooner Range

By TED BEAIRD

THERE they said—those who know—Gedalia, located in the heart of the Arbuckle Mountains, "hanging just under" the famous Turner Falls—well, they say it's a swell place for a group of Oklahoma State (O.S.) or University of Oklahoma (U.O.) men to get together over a series of years, to spring a surprise dinner on a new enthusiastic—still innocent alumni proxy! What they say is indeed true, and for the friends of Alumni Proxy—NORMAN BRILLHART, '17ba, who heads the parade for the 75,000 former students and graduates of the University of Oklahoma, 1921, along with his fine companion, co-worker, and director, MILDRED COLBY BRILLHART, '22ba—that Saturday night, September 21, was one to be long remembered due to the surprise dinner for the "Brill." For weeks, "the boys" had been secretly planning this affair for Brill and Mildred, and it made the main street of America (Highway 77) easy to take when we were requested to do a little Riding the Sooner Range down Turner Falls way. Yes, they came in from all over, the long time friends of Brill and Mildred, (including as he puts it) ED MEACHAM, '14ba, and VIC MONNETT, '12ba, who tolerated him there as a geo-student at the University of Oklahoma, and of course, MRS. VIC and MRS. ED (RAY FERRELL, '13) were there to see that these two crones of Brill galloped back home to schedule the new associate of Brill's, C. O. HUNT, '38ba, '30law, swooped down from the capitol of McClain County (Purcell) and paid him respects to the new alumni proxy. BIL HUTTO, '10ba, and MRS. HUTTO (BERTHA BENESSET, '07) were there as long time associates of the Brillharts. And Brill's partner in the "cause of oil" HOWARD MCCASLAN, '16ba, of Duncan, along with MRS. MCCASLAN, came over from Duncan way. PAUL REED, '16, accompanied by his charming companion, FORD-el by the name of Brillharts visit with them at their home in Ardmore for the evening and drive toward Turner Falls for the Oklahoma City O. U. proxy, JOE FRED GIBSON, '34ba, '36law, along with his "personal proxy," MRS JOE (MARION HAUCK, '35) represented and paid respects to the Brills on the part of the hundreds of Oklahoma City alumni. DR. J. B. MILES, '23med, and MRS. MILES, of Anadarko, were there and the Doctor ("his to old mountain chinpin" and co-winner on negotiations, HERB SCOTT, '26ba, '26ma) assembled to exchange greetings about way back when—the 22-hour red ride with food or water, Pikes Peak on high—etc., etc. The baby member of the crew, AL NAIFEH, '37ba, '40law, Norman, breezed back by for the special surprise dinner from his work at the U. S. Navy station in Houston, Texas, where he had been convincing the Naval powers that he could during the daylight hours, then dashed on to the University of Michigan for a special year's study. The staff of the University Press, HICKS EPTON, '52law, Wewoka, accompanied by the remainder of the Wewoka "Sooner Quartet", FRED CRIDER, '36ba, and MARSHALL HUSER, '25, pulled up to the stop sign on the scheduled hour to report, "All is well." Four other "Sooner" WHITE, '37, J. F. MALONE, '37ba, ROSOEE CATE, '26ba, joined forces with M. E. WARDELL, '19ba, and MRS. DALE (ROSELYN GILKEY, '17ba), plus your hired hand, when we attended on September 20, the dedication of the new educational plant in the Jackson County city of BLUE. No false enthusiasm for the State University was displayed on this particular dedication day; but in the spirit of those hundreds of old timers assembled there, we witnessed 25 years after—Where, what span of time—more old time community loyalty than we have been exposed to in many many moons. Out of the fire, into the frying pan, or vice versa. That's how the way the utility men (and women) around alumni headquarters must go. And on this Sunday afternoon and evening (September 29, 1940), we are brought out of the frying pan into the fire and vice versa because we are spending a series of 7 1/2 hours with a group of men vitally interested in co-operative programs and in the athletic Department, as well as the University administration proper. It being Sunday afternoon and evening, the Oklahoma Memorial Union Building is more or less the personal property, during this series of hours, of the 28 men in conference. No outside interference, and what a review over a series of 30-odd years these men gave in the joint meeting. The occasion is the joint meeting of the Trustees of the Stadium Union Memorial Fund, Inc., along with the Friends of College Football and the Oklahoma Athletic Council, plus three "special invited guests." And progress was made in that meeting and no better. Men became acquainted with the old fellows with problems. Men interested in a common cause, working for a common purpose, probably understood each other better than they had in years. In attendance were MAJOR RICHARD H. CLOYD, '16ba, '28law, up from Fort Sill where he is spending a year in special army work; RAYMOND TOLBIERT, '12ba, '1law, Oklahoma City, long time associate of the then Athletic Council, over from Dallas alumni breakfast. . . MRS. E. DEGOLYER (EVEL GOODRICH), '08ba, '07ba, Dallas, Texas, will be just another of the Tyler, Texas-O. U. members! . . . NELL GOODRICH (E. E. DABLE), '11ba, MRS. DALE (ROSALIE GILKEY, '17ba), Dallas, Texas, dashing us a note, and yes, he will be at the Dallas alumni breakfast. . . . NELL GOODRICH (E. E. DABLE), '11ba, MRS. DALE (ROSALIE GILKEY, '17ba), Dallas, Texas, dashing us a note, and yes, he will be at the Dallas alumni breakfast. . .