Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beaird

T H A T Southwest again! Back home and it looks like the weather is going to be a bit colder. The record books show that the average temperature for this time of year is usually around 45 degrees Fahrenheit. It's not too bad, but it's definitely cooler than what we've been experiencing recently.

The roads are wet and the fields are muddy, but the beauty of the landscape makes up for it. The colors of the leaves are changing, and the air is crisp and fresh. It's a great time to be out and about, exploring the countryside.

Back home, the days are filled with activities. There are picnics in the park, visits to the local library, and even a few concerts at the community center. It's a great way to spend the day, and there's always something有趣 to do.

Of course, the big event of the week is the annual rodeo. It's a time for friends and family to come together and enjoy the excitement of the event. There are competitions for all ages, and it's a great way to have some fun.

And then there's the food. The local restaurants are filled with delicious fare, from fried chicken and mashed potatoes to fresh salads and local produce. It's a treat to try all the different dishes and flavors.

But of course, the best part of it all is being back home. It's a place where everyone is welcome and the people are friendly. It's a great place to live and a great place to visit.

So come on down to the Southwest and see for yourself why it's such a wonderful place to be. We'd love to have you here and we know you'll enjoy everything it has to offer.

By Ted Beaird

March 19, 1939
CLAY, '32law, COACH DUPREE and MARVIN CHENAULT. Of course old Greer County (how I remember old Greer County as a good wind storm center in kid days) was represented by the Mangum delegation headed by LEM H. TITTLE, '35law, and Mrs. Tittle (MAILIE JO MILLER, '15), and accompanied by MR. and MRS. JOE TUTTIN with their 39 senior boys from Mangum, CHARLES McCaul and HARRISON Mcgregor.

Frederick, the Tillman County seat of activity, was represented by Coach JOHNNY GREGG, who, early next summer, moves up into Jackson County as head coach at Altus. Coach Johnny had with him three 39 seniors of Frederick, GLEN DORBIS, All-State Quarterbacks, JAMES WADE, All-Conference Tackle, and G. W. TUCKER, All-Conference Center. (What a bunch of “All’s” that Coach Johnny has developed! Wonder what he will do in Altus in future months?)

One University of Texas man, a football official for the Southwestern Conference, along with his colleague, a T. C. U. man and another football “hot shot” who calls them when they are strung below the belt, were there in attendance from Dallas, Texas—W. W. BRAGG and LAWRENCE CHAMPION, respectively.

Their immediate guest is O. U.’s ROY HOLLINGSWORTH, ’37ex, the boy who is doing the swell job at Walters. The three of them are talking over some problems of war with Supt. A. G. STEELE, ’31med, and Principal CLIFFORD PETERSON, ’36ed, of the Altus public school system. That O. U. dad, CLYDE STEPHENS, who now has a daughter and son in the University, MARY J. and JOFFRE STEPHENS, is there from Walters with senior high school son, Sammy, and is he proud of those children!

And then that good old Jackson County center, Eldorado, was represented by our “age old” friend, H. P. KUSER, ’27, city superintendent of schools, who introduced us to J. D. WESTFALL, ’38med, his Junior High School principal.

DAD D. F. SMITH, the fine old gentleman of Jackson County, was there from Eldorado attending the banquet with his daughter, Dean EMILY B. SMITH, ’31oa, of the Altus Junior College, Supt. D. L. BOYER, ’36ex, was there as the “single hand” representing the Elmer-Hess Schools as superintendent. The man of men in my young life was there with his 17-year-old son who soon comes to the University to pursue his course in business administration. He is my old friend J. FRED EAKER, at present superintendent of schools at Olustee, but for “nigh unto a century and a half” headed the “largest little school in America,” Blair, Jackson County, Oklahoma.

And then of course Central State Teachers College of Edmond always sends outstanding representatives to this southwestern assembly. On this night, O. U.’s CLAUD E. REED, ‘14, the Central athletic director, was accompanied by ERNEST HOWELL, ’15, ’35med, of the college staff as representative from Edmond. It is peculiar that STEWART HARREL, ’36ex, spent his evening somewhere between Lawton and Altus in a wreck (no, not a serious wreck—it’s the kind that Stewart and I drive all the time and it failed to breathe hard enough to make Altus on schedule).

Well, we’ll be back again, we hope, in ’40, and several more of the ’40s to follow, because this all-southwestern alumni banquet usually proves to be one of the high lights of the entire season.

The evening papers in Tulsa that’s the Oil Center of the Universe, so old ELTON HUNT, ’31aw, BILL EAGLETON, ’49law, FLOY ELLIOTT COBB, ’17, and dozens of these other “settlers” of here tell me) showed glaring headlines that on this Wednesday evening, February 8, the “school marms are coming to town.” I can testify to one thing as I look over this sea of faces in the lobby and elevators of the Mayo Hotel. I sometimes wonder if the other half of the world is meeting the first half of the world coming home from O. U. dinners.

I guess MALVINA STEPHENSON, ’36ex, is still the excellent reporter, because here she is breaking out during this convention with the art of art work on the front page of the Tulsa World. The subject (or should I say subjects) —DELL ELLSWORTH COLLINGS in his cowboy boots, breeches legs rolled to the knees, dancing the Highland Fling, and the dancing maiden is reported to be a primary teacher of Maud, Oklahoma. Malvina always scoops! We remember other occasions when she has made news out of none—well, when it was not even there.

The convention goes on, the teachers learning how to teach, educators learning how to educate, and hired hands realizing that it is hard to make a living registering and directing people of this mob proportion.

But the real goal of the convention, so far as Sooers and O. U. are concerned, was reached on Friday evening, February 10, at which time the Tulsa County Advisory Council and officers of the county prescribed what has been up to this date the largest Alumni dinner this year. The University Club was stacked to the ceiling.

A fellow crowd was even sent to the main dining room and after consuming a well-balanced dinner came back for the indignation measures in the form of two-minute speeches which, incidentally, were greatly relieved by Prexy Bizzell’s address which followed later in the evening (and he rang the gong), with the evening being tapered off with JAP HASKELL, ’22, and PETE SMITH presenting motion picture films of the Orange Bowl escapade.

In looking back it’s stimulating to see how well C. C. INGLE, ’24, the immediate man in charge, along with his co-workers, GEORGE L. SNEED, JR., ’37law, FLOY ELLIOTT COBB, DR. OLIVER HODGE, ’33med, ’37ed, DR. J. T. WADE, ’24ed, ’35oa, JUDGE HARRY L. S. HALEY, ’17law, HR. HUGH PERRY, ’26med, DAVID MILSTEN, ’28aw, CLAUD ROSENSTEIN, ’33aw, ELTON HUNT, BILL EAGLETON, TON, and DR. FRANK R. PAULY, ’17, really managed this dinner. And of course all of us look forward to two years hence when this same committee will welcome hundreds of O. U. gradis again.

Well, that’s the way it goes in the run of the mill, but I sometimes wonder if the other half of the world is meeting the first half of the world coming home from O. U. dinners.

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