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Riding the Sooner Range

BY TED BEARD

April showers have failed to dampen the trails on the Sooner Range in this first seventy-two hours of April, 1948. Winds windevidently, however, and even multi-million dollar twisters make war on the Army's Tinker Field mere masses of crumpled steel and anxiety nerves, and the air—uncertainty is a pass word—instability grip people and professions.

Out of all this semi-chaos breaks a story of accomplishments of a Sooner son in this morning's Oklahoma Daily that convinces one that nowhere in the world could it happen but in America! It is the story of American pluck, courage and determination! It is the story of one man exemplifying "the way of Democracy!" But, here is the press release of an advanced and experienced soldier—Sooner on the campus from up WATONGA-way. Read it—it should give renewed appreciation of the American way of life! Here it is:

"Amazing Sid Stewart has just completed a book in six weeks! "It's 286 pages of crisp, newly typewritten pages, only half a foot high—but mountains in emotional interest."

"A Campbell-Harris professional writing student, Sid felt that I was ready to write the book so I sat down and started it."

"You gasp but tall Sid reminds you, 'Wait a minute, though. I'd been thinking about it and planning it for two years.'"

"Survivor of the Bataan death march and the Jap Hell Ship, Sid in his book, Give Us This Day, relives his four tortured years in Jap prison camps."

"Sid lives in a swank apartment at 333 South Webster street with affable Leonard Snyder, the true crime and confession writer. The apartment is full of soft, rosy lights and Sid's paintings. The two writers decided to rent the apartment last summer. They made most of their own furniture."

"In a darkened little room they have a wire recorder. Sid told his story into the little machine, then played his voice back to himself for typing and rewriting. The recorder accounts for part of his speed in writing the book."

"After completing the last line, Sid checked in for a week at the University infirmary. Doctors told him he'd worked himself into a state of exhaustion."

"But Sid carried so much lead in him they admitted him to Medical School. But he turned it down."

"He was captured April 9, 1942. In fifteen invested prison camps he watched his buddies die when he begged them to live and prayed for his own life. Once he was locked in a cell with 48 others. Two months later Sid was the only man alive."

"The Russians freed him August 18, 1945, from a prison in Manchuria. He was returned, suffering from beri-beri and malnutrition, to hospitals in the United States. He'd been starved and beaten from 200 down to 57 pounds.

"Sid studied art at the University for a year before the war. He completed pre-med work at the University and at Baylor, and after the war was admitted to Medical School. But he turned it down. He decided to write. 'To tell the truth, he quips, 'I'd sure like to have a degree but I don't want to be bored with it!'

"While at Baylor, he wrote a column for the Dallas Morning News. 'A Young Man's Fancy' was the name of the column and Sid wrote 'on politics to God knows what. The nice thing about education is, if you ever have to clean a toilet bowl, it gives so much to think about while you're doing it', he said.

"As for writing, Sid recently had a story published in Extension magazine. This summer he goes to work on a historical fiction novel based on an 18th century castle in the Philippines."

"During the war bond tour, Sid developed a habit of dictating news interviews outright to reporters. The interviews were good. Lazy reporters like him. So do plenty of others."

"His book is 'For my mother and father, and for all the other mothers and fathers who waited and prayed, and especially for those who still burn the lamp in the window.'"

"There is his story within a story! That is the Sooner Sid, who a brief few years ago was a carefree kid on the O.U. campus, now back at a mature man of the world. One of the many, many men who staked their all that a world might survive!"

"Yes, it is the same story, world-wide, if we as good Americans, but pause to think. As these lines about death marcher Sid Stewart come off the press, back there on the East Coast in New England other news lines are coming over the ticker tape dealing with the "symbols of a nation's disgrace." Let's read that Battan story—the story of "a convention of bitter memories" that closed as of twilight last night. Here is the report from that international assignment:"

"NEW YORK—Stripped of all the usual convention gaiety, a small band of Americans—self-termed 'symbols of a nation's disgrace'—met in convention here, and their memories were bitter. The occasion was the opening of the third annual..."
meeting of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor. The cats, laughter and clinking of glasses were missing, instead, the boys, led by their president, MaT, Gen. Edward P. King, Jr., (ret.) gathered in small groups. In husked voices, they talked of Bataan, of the death march...of buddies dying...Maj. Gen. Edward P. King, Jr., (ret.) gathered in those last days on Bataan, in April, 1942. 'Our real lethal harvest. Wartime wounds and privations reap their belated homage,' he told reporters, then added, grimly: 'And the boys who died on Bataan during the last week, 'We ran out of our rations for weeks. I couldn't order a lunch at the Mayo Hotel with Harry L. S. Halley and Bill Eagleton, both of whom were in his law class in 1918. It was a quite a reunion.

thought you might want to print some of this in the Sooner Magazine, because we always enjoy reading it about other alumni groups and their members.

Sincerely, Anne Elmore Stites, '46, secretary-treasurer, Tulsa County Club.

An Active O.U. Foundation

The University of Oklahoma Foundation, under the direction of Boyd Gunning, '37ba, '37law, now has a full-time fund-raising office located in the Administration Building. Each academic department of the University is being invited to make a careful study of the needs of the department which are of a nature that they probably cannot be met from state funds, and which therefore are appropriate objects for gifts or bequests. Such objects might include highly specialized research equipment, special library, specialized laboratories, auxiliary buildings for specialized research, and grants to employ assistants for special research projects.

In submitting reports on needs, departments are instructed to give a general description of needs, in terms understandable to prospective donors. Also, the appropriate cost, with sufficient breakdown of items to show how the amount was determined is to be listed. Explanation of the good to be accomplished if the need is met by a gift is further requested.

Degrees, Hard Work Pay Off

Forty per cent of the graduates of a university commerce college will be making annual salaries of more than $10,000 by the time the class has been out of college thirty years. These figures were compiled by Ohio State University.

'The average commerce graduate must expect to work five or six years before he earns $4,000,' so the study goes. The survey showed that in some of the college trained businessmen will rise steadily throughout his career.

A study by the Engineers Joint Council found that experienced engineers in 1939 received four and one-half times the salary of the beginner, but by 1946 he was paid only two and three-quarter times the wage of the inexperienced engineer. Also pertaining to the engineer is a report by the Occupational Outlook Division of the Bureau of Labor. "The 1950 graduating class will total well over 45,000 engineers," reads the report. "In view of the impending over-supply in the profession, it is important for students to get the best training they can so that they will be better able to compete for jobs."

The report advises engineering students to take a rounded curriculum including such courses as economics, business administration, English, statistics and accounting.

Summer School Plans

Hundreds of courses from A to Z (accounting to zoology) will be offered during the University of Oklahoma summer session, June 4 to August 4, it has been announced by A. E. Joyal, director and dean of the College of Education.

Courses will be offered in 46 schools, departments and colleges this summer. In education, for example, teachers and administrators will have their choice of 84 courses.

Classes in law will be offered during a 12-weeks quarter, some of the classes to run for six weeks, while others will run for the entire quarter. A limited number of graduate courses in education, English and history are scheduled for the intersession, which will be held August 4 to September 1. 