Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beard

Well, this event is pre-Pearl Harbour! This event rolls back the curtain on a pre-war basis! This Thursday noon, February 14, 1946—well, this is a new-old deal!

Seated here in the banquet rooms of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce in this February of 1946, you forget the advance threat of a World War II but can soon visualize things to be as things are as of this hour—more or less back to normal?

Yes, this is the old assembly. How many years now has it been happening? Oh, well, why guess? At any rate I can personally think of some 25 years when the school superintendents of the public school systems in the 77 counties of Oklahoma have locked in for this special event—the moon Oklahoma School Administrators luncheon wherein they are guests of the Educational Committee of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce on the Thursday noon of their annual Oklahoma Educational Association state meeting. Things are back to normal in more than one way! That general announcement, wickering and handling the show is none other than this year's big proxy of the State School Administrators' Association of the State of Oklahoma, the present head of the Oklahoma Educational Association and the present-hour proxy of the University of Oklahoma Alumni Association. Yes, it is GEORGE HANN, '36m.ed, Superintendent of Chickasaw Schools, and the person shown has given the gong and sound for the meeting to be off.

The congenial gentleman to my left is sipping his coffee awaiting the "go" sign from GEORGE to make his bow. The man—the University of Oklahoma and state co-worker, MORRIS L. WARDELL, '19ba. From Prexy GEORGE the go is given and he gives me all the "introductions" and the historian is off to the races! In 42 minutes—a job marvelously done with good common sense and good "Wardellism."

Oh, yes, I am bluffing, in a nonchalant manner, on the 26c stogie (or is it one of those 7c's) to my immediate left is another one of those "proxies," namely DR. GEORGE L. CROSS, president of the University of Oklahoma. The experience of gathering is not new to GEORGE CROSS either, because he has been a Sooner "by choice" for these 13 years now.

Now for the small talk common to all things and quiet is M. L. (through the channels of oratory) has the attention of this audience! But let's check a few that catch the fancy as we glance over the crew.

The distinguished new doctor recently back from eastern study, N. L. GEORGE, '26ed, '31m.ed, business manager of the OKLAHOMA CITY public school system is missing a lurch of cake as he listens to words of wisdom. G. S. "DOC" SANDERS, '24, the new superintendent of schools at Idabel, is making his annual bow.

The U. S. Army Colonel T. DON GARRISON, '29ba, '36m.ed, a distinguished officer of the Army for the past 5 years on this tour of duty, but a very interested educator from the city schools of Oklahoma City for planning the enlistment program in the Army for the 18 year olds along with the trimmings of the GI Bill of Rights.

DR. LOREN BOWN, '28ma, '37ph.d, president of State Junior College, TONAWA, and Superintendent ELBERT COSTNER, '29ba, '34ma, POTEAU, are busily engaged and interested in the event.

DR. RONald R. MCLEAN, '38m.ed, ANADARKO, checking up on small items, medium items and big items—probably making a little preliminary survey for the State Board of Education Meeting which he will undoubtedly attend before this meeting is over. Along with "Red" is NOEL VAUGHAN, '40m.ed, of the University of Oklahoma staff; Superintendent FRANK HEIS, '25ba, DRUMRIGHT; Superintendent JIM RAGLAN, of MAUD, and Superintendent O. D. JOHNS, '33m.ed, of SEMINOLE.

DR. JOHN T. MITCHELL of the State Board of Education (and the multiplied years "keeper-of-the-cash" of the O.E.A.) is greeting DR. HERB BRUNER, superintendent of schools, OKLAHOMA CITY; Superintendent CHARLES HOWELL, TULSA; Superintendent DR. M. O. WITSON, '24, of the Oklahoma University staff; and the proxy of School Principals Association, J. GORDON STEVENS, principal of Duncan Junior High School.

President HAROLD BURTON of the Southwestern Institute of Technology, Weatherford, with Superintendent HARRY HOUSTON of BLACKWELL; and Superintendent MILO BERNARD, '35m.ed, of COMMANCHE, are up for the winter activities, and don't a lot of fancy visits! JOE HURT, the official harp of official from EDMOND way is greeting Superintendent HARRY SIMMONS, '29ba, STILLWATER; Principal of High School GEORGE ROBERTS, '27ba, '28ma, of BARTLESVILLE; Superintendent E. BELL, of HOLDEN-VILLE; Superintendent CECIL CROOKS, of GUTHRIE; and waving his friendly greeting to Superintendent J. M. MADDUX, '41m.ed, MOUNDSTOWN; GUY CONNELL, '24, superintendent of the GARBER city schools.

Of course, from down PURCELL way is Superintendent ART HERRON, '50m.ed, along with the official representative from the McClain County capitol, EDDIE HUGHES.

The speeches on and off goes on into the 42 minute period of M. L.'s speech. And now the show is out and adjournment has been called. So these "professors" will scatter to their thousand or more meetings, conferences, and assemblies to carry forth their business. Yes, they will meet, confer, and resolve—meet, confer, and resolve for "we, the people." They will carry the load on the basis of plans perfected as they in their important field of professional work continue, with the rest of us in our various fields of endeavor—Riding the Sooner Range.

District Speech Tournaments Being Held

Patrick Henry won't participate in part, but hundreds of would-be orators have and will enter in the tournaments set for the schools of the Oklahoma high school public speaking league.

Jack Douglas, secretary, who is assistant professor of speech at the University of Oklahoma, has announced the following schedule for qualifying tournaments to be held in late February and March:

Central State College, Ada, February 22 and 23; Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, March 8 and 9; Northwestern State College, Alva, March 15 and 16; Southeastern State College, Durant, March 14, 15 and 16; Panhandle A. and M. College, Goodingston, March 22 and 23; Eastern State College, Tahlequah, March 28, 29 and 30.

School of Pharmacy Popular

Having doubled in the fall over what it was in the spring of 1945, the enrollment in the School of Pharmacy at O. U. this semester has doubled itself again.

University Pharmacy Association Elects

The January 18 meeting of the Pharmacy Association was addressed by Val Adams and J. Pat Henry, both of Fox-Viet Drug Company, Oklahoma City. On January 25, Drug Store Cowboy "buckaroos" certificates were distributed, and the following interim officers elected: treasurer, Thomas Lou, Louann, Arkansas; chairman of the public relations committee, J. E. Black Oklahoma City; chairman of the sports committee, J. E. Estep; chairman of the alumni relations committee, Edgar Nicholson, Wirt; and chairman of the membership committee, Lynn Boggett, Purcell. On February 16, Clyde Shannon, Clinton, was elected secretary of the society of retail pharmacists, and copies of the O.U.Ph.A. constitution and by-laws were distributed. At the February 18 meeting John Burchette, Albany, Kentucky, was elected president of the society of Retail Pharmacists. The date for the 12th Annual Convention of the O.U.Ph.A. was announced for Friday, March 1, and Don Belden, Enid, was elected toastmaster for the convention banquet.

Vets Are Singers

All branches of the armed forces are represented in the University of Oklahoma men's glee club. Many members in the ranks are veteran service men. Eugene Green, president of the glee club, was a sergeant in the Air Corps with service in New Guinea, the Philippines and Okinawa.

February, 1946