Riding the Sooner Range

By Ted Beard

Once each year the desk piles high with this assignment. It's August—the peak month of the year for checking special mailing lists in an endeavor to clear, as near 100% as possible, the address lists among these 61,000 addressograph stencils, representing more than $8,000 alumni of the University of Oklahoma.

Each special list checked uncovers many interesting stories. Amusing incidents, a flash-back of yesteryear—all pass in review as name after name flashes on the screen—then, details recorded, the filing process goes on.

In this special list now under review, let's take a swing out over the Sooner Range and see how these alumni are doing their riding over their particular trails.

MENTER G. BAKER, JR., '42b, is one of the kingspins in the OKLAHOMA CITY Chamber of Commerce with his recent promotion to public relations director of that organization. MEN is one of the “junior members” of the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma Memorial Union Corporation and is often on the O.U. campus. C. GUY BROWN, '23a, is rehaling at the OKLAHOMA CITY Veterans Administration Headquarters during the day and assisting in the local law school at night. "C-GAR" is a member of the Executive Board of the Alumni Association. JOHNNY CALDWELL, '41b, impressario, song writer, lawyer and book-keeping agent, has a recording studio in the Municipal Auditorium, OKLAHOMA CITY. BARNEY CRAWFORD, '32L, built a new house recently in Oklahoma City's capital. Architect for his domicile is ROBERT VAHLBERG, '33b, who also designed a home for his family and was fetured on the front cover of a recent issue of American Home Magazine. BOBBY FORGAN, '36-37, and JOE WRIGHT, '31-38, can still be found "down in the Sooner Range" out at the OKLAHOMA CITY stockyards.

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BILL BREEDLOVE, ’38Law, after spending five and a half years in the army, has returned to his home on Lake Brownwood, near Brownwood, Texas. George Borecky, ’21s, ’23med, is a practicing physician in Oklahoma City. A. B. Carpenter, ’27Law, is now associated with T. J. Brodin in the law office in Kansas City, Missouri. A. R. Barry, ’36cm, lives with his family in Colorado City, Texas. He’s still active in radio work—that’s Hillis Bell, ’24. Until a few months ago he was the general manager of KSL in Silver City, New Mexico.

For the past several months he has been connected with the radio station in Ardmore. Hugh M. “Bobby” Bland, ’21s, ’23med, is still practicing in Fort Smith, Arkansas, with the radio station in Ardmore. H. M. “Bill” Breedlove, ’38Law, (Dan’s, D. S., and Paul’s brother) also lives in San Gabriel.

Leland assumed his new title with the O. U. Alumni Association. R. V. Carleton, ’24, is one of the top-flight executives of the Standard Oil Company of California. He was promoted to the position, which he was qualified for, as assistant district manager, from the position of regional manager of the marketing department. Paul L. Fairney, ’20ba, was recently elected vice-president of the Standard Oil Company of California. He was promoted to the position, which he has held for almost four years, from general manager of operations in the marketing department. He has been living with his family at Port Arthur, Texas, since 1946. He moved to Texas from Minneapolis-St. Paul, back down to Madison, Wisconsin, across the border, and lives in San Marino, California.

The “banker” is a member of the Executive Board of the O. U. Alumni Association.

Perry Carmichael, ’33med, is in charge of the radio station in Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia, to teach elementary and secondary school. Carmichael and Mrs. Carmichael have been in Addis Ababa two years. He is director of the Ministry of Education. Recruiting teachers is just one of his many duties. He also is operating a cotton plantation and is the manager of it.

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Red, Red Rose Initiates

The secretive Old, Old Man of the Red, Red Rose has come and gone again. He allegedly buzzed into the campus on an evening in July to officiate at the initiation of a hundred neophytes.

The Order of the Red, Red Rose was founded 31 years ago at Southeastern Teachers College, Durant, by a group of school teachers, "after the Grand Old Man provided in his will that all school teachers would be 'taken care of.' This fellowship organization for years has provided laughs and a lot of "horse play" for its members and neophytes. The annual initiation at O.U. is staged while schoolmen are on the campus attending the American College Administrators Conference. Although composed mainly of school teachers, the organization in recent years has taken in other prominent men of the state.

Pictured on the opposite page are a few of the hundreds of members and neophytes who attended the 1948 meeting:

1. "Appearing on the program" are these neophytes shown on the front row. Left to right they are: Dr. John Smale, visiting professor in the School of Education; Bob Blackstock, Student Senate president and summer chairman of the senior class committee; James Randolph; "Jimmy" Frazier, 24ba, 32m.ed, Whitewater; Bob Kerr, 22m.ed, Oklahoma College for Women professor.

2. It was a hot night. Dr. Delbert G. "Mike" Willard, 27ba, 29med, Norman, wipes his brow while E. E. "Jake" Hill, student editor of the Oklahoma Daily student publication looks "fagged out." Bob Lundsford, student, 1948-s, is present.

3. Kerr puts his socks on following his initiation. Preston Moore, left, student commander of the campun American Legion post; Dean Taylor, center, and M. K. Sheppard, of Kerr's staff, Enid-Oklahoma City, seem to enjoy watching him work.

4. Maj. Gen. William S. Key, a neophyte at the event, left, poses with Dr. George L. Cross, O.U. president; Mike Monroyne, 27ba, Fifth District Congressmen, and Clee Fitzgerald, student, manager of the Celebrity Series.

5. Blackstock talks it over with two of his former school teachers. Wiley White, center, is superintendent at Keystone, and S. E. Spann, '31ba, right, is superintendent at Oiltton.

6. Monroyne, left, and Dr. Guy Y. Williams, '06 ba, 1'0ma, professor of chemistry, smile over a discussion of old times when Mike was student editor of the Oklahoma Daily.

7. Here a few members and neophytes take a look at the Old, Old Man's picture. Standing left to right are Elmer Fraker, 22ba, 38ma, department adjutant, American Legion Headquarters, Oklahoma City; "Fats" Morton, oil distributor, Norman; Kerr; A. C. Streeter, 35ma, Chickasha; Monroyne; Sheppard, and Col. Joe Miller, 22m.ed, Oklahoma College for Women professor. Kneeling in front are left to right Charlie M. Love, 24ba, 47med, an elementary school principal, Muskogee, and Leslie L. Thompson, 35ba, 39ma, American Legion, American Legion Headquarters, Oklahoma City.

8. Shown here is a part of the group of neophytes. Numbers are placed on pictures for identification. Size of the picture prohibits identification of everyone. The figure "8" in the square in the foreground is the number of the picture, not of a person in the picture. However, it is happenings to fall on "Doe" LaFevers. Those numbered are: (1) George Cobb, Norman; (2) Wayne Quinlan, 48ma, 48Law, president of the League of Young Democrats; (3) John Russell, student, State Representative from Oklahoma; (4) Grady Hiner, 18, American Legion headquarters, Norman; (5) Dr. "Mike" Willard, former officer for identification; (6) Robert Lundsford, student, 1948-s, Norman; (7) J. L. Thomas, Oklahoma College for Women. Those numbered are: (1) George Cobb, Norman; (2) Wayne Quinlan, 48ma, 48Law, president of the League of Young Democrats; (3) John Russell, student, State Representative from Oklahoma; (4) Grady Hiner, 18, American Legion headquarters, Norman; (5) Herbert Branan, 32ba, 38law, member of Alumni Executive Board, Oklahoma City; (6) Paul Harkcy, 29ba, 29law, student, 1948-s, Norman; (7) Alice G. Porter, Norman; (8) George R. Smith, 21g, student, State Representative from Oklahoma; (9) Robert Lundsford, student, 1948-s, Norman; (10) Bob Lundsford, student, 1948-49 commander of the campus post of the American Legion; (11) Dr. "Mike" Willard, former captain in the Navy who is now practicing medicine in Norman; (12) Paul Harkey, student, legislator from McCurtain County; (13) Russell N. Smith, 21g, former student editor of the Oklahoma Daily; (14) R. L. Thomas, Oklahoma College for Women. (15) Kerr.

Others who may be recognized in Picture 3 are Clay DeJord, Jr., who is doing doctorate work in the field of public relations; Charlie Dunn, 48ba, a Norman graduate student; Charles Dunn, 46ba, a book representative; Bob Porta, student, assistant in the Memorial Union business office; Lee B. Thompson, 25ba, 27Law, Oklahoma City attorney and vice-president of the Memorial Union Board of Governors; Earl Maxwell, Norman manager of Long Bell Lumber Co., 21g, former student editor of Sooner Magazine; Bob Porta, student; and D. R. Kimrey, 40ba, purchasing officer for the University.

Clark Attends Staff College

Lt. Col. William R. Clark, '36journ, graduated from the regular course of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, in July. He is the son of Mrs. Ruth Clark, Norman.

Clark received his commission in 1933 and was ordered to active duty with the Army in April, 1941.

The Command and General Staff College is the highest level educational institution operated entirely by the Army, and consists of five schools and a department of analysis and research. The regular course is designed to qualify officers for duty as commanders or general staff officers in divisions or larger organizations.

Colonel Clark served in the European Theater of Operations during the years 1944 and 1945, as a battalion executive and commanding officer, during which time he saw service in Northern France, the Ardennes, Central Europe and the Rhineland. The 253rd Armored Field Artillery Battalion, of which he was commanding officer, received the Distinguished Unit Citation. Among other decorations and awards, Colonel Clark is authorized to wear the Bronze Star Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, and the European Theater Medal with four campaign stars.
Rex F. Harlow

Business Consultant

One of the outstanding men in the United States today is Rex F. Harlow, who attended the University as a freshman in 1915, and as a graduate student in 1935.

Harlow has made quite an impressive record in the fields of public relations, education, writing and lecturing. At present, he is serving as consultant to several of the leading business and financial institutions in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver, and Chicago.


Among his many hobbies and recreational interests is travel. It is evident that the desire is inherent. He was born in Winfield, Missouri, and attended Central High School in Oklahoma City. He has since attended the University, Central State Teachers College, University of Texas, and Stanford University. He holds the Doctor's Degree from Stanford. His present home is in Palo Alto, California, near the Stanford campus.

During the one year he attended the University as an Undergraduate, he was a member of the freshman football team, the glee club, the Y.M.C.A. board, was vice-president of the freshman class and was elected into the Athenaeum Debating Society. While a graduate student, he became a member of Phi Delta Kappa, honorary educational fraternity.

As an author, Rex Harlow is quite versatile. He has written 26 books of fiction, history, biography, public relations, education, salesmanship and research. His latest books are Public Relations in War and Peace, Practical Public Relations (of which he is co-author), and Top Management and Public Relations, all published by Harper & Brothers.

Also in the field of writing, Harlow has been an editor. He is the founder, and for its first two years was editor, of The Public Relations Journal. He now serves as chairman of its editorial board. Formerly he was editor of "History in the Making" department of Child Life, associate editor of Harlow's Weekly, and editor of several regional trade publications.

In the realm of education, Harlow served as a professor of education and public relations at Stanford University from 1937 to 1944. Since 1939 he has conducted more than twenty special courses in public relations from coast to coast for the American Council on Public Relations, of which he was president from 1939 to 1947. He is the author of and directs "Public Relations in Action," a course by mail for executives.

Yates Climbs to Top

George Latham Yates, '34eng,'35ms, has climbed to the top of the engineering ladder literally without the use of his hands.

A recent letter declares that he is a partner in Amstutz and Yates, Inc., Wichita, Kansas. While attending the University, a mishap with "Old Trusty" on March 19, 1933, resulted in the loss of both his hands. The University was shocked; however, it has been both surprised and pleased with the continued reports of his success since graduation.

Yates said that the responsibility for any success that he has made goes to his father who reminded him while he was in the hospital that, "He would have to stop working with his back and begin using his head." He further states, "I have always remembered that," and, to say the least, his record verifies it.

After receiving a Master's Degree in mechanical engineering, he went to the University of Pittsburgh where he served as an instructor and later as assistant professor from 1935 until September, 1943.

Yates went to draft during the summer vacations, Yates worked for the Phillips Petroleum Co. as an engineer. One summer he made an analysis of water encroachment problems in the Wilcox zone of the Billings Field, and another summer he spent studying the North Burbank pool to determine water flooding potentialities.

In January, 1944, he was employed as senior engineer by the Standard Oil Co. of Ohio, specializing in reservoir analysis and reserve estimates and valuations.

In June, 1945, he was promoted to the head of the valuation engineering section, and, during the next two years, he did valuation work for the purchase of $18 millions worth of properties.

On November 1, 1947, he formed a partnership with P. T. Armstutz, Jr., who formerly worked for Sohio as head of the engineering section. The articles of incorporation of the firm allow them to enter any phase of the oil business that they desire. However, their primary objective is "to offer petroleum engineering services on a consulting basis, specializing in the analysis of reservoir problems and reservoir estimates and valuations of oil and gas properties."

Yates recently married Miss Marian McNiece, who was his secretary at Sohio. She is a graduate of Carlton College, Northfield, Minnesota, where she was a Phi Beta Kappa.

While attending the University, Yates was not only very active but also quite popular among his fellow students. He belonged to 19 honorary, social, and sports organizations, chief among which were Beta Theta Pi, L.E.O.T., Men's Council, the wrestling squad and many engineering and military groups.

Dukes Receives Permanent Rank

Lt. Col. Joe L. Dukes, '26aw, formerly of Prague, Oklahoma, was recently appointed to the permanent grade of lieutenant colonel, United States Air Force. He had held the permanent grade of major since October, 1947.

Colonel Dukes is the base legal officer at Mather Air Force Base, Sacramento, where the Air Force's only training center for navigator-bombardiers is under operation.

Dukes graduated from Okfuskee County High School at Paden, and served as a member of the Eleventh State Legislature from 1927 to 1929 after receiving his law degree from the University.

He spent a year and a half overseas with the Fifth Air Force during the war, and served as commanding officer of an Air Service Squadron which was stationed at various times in New Guinea, the Dutch East Indies, the Philippines, and Okinawa.

Prior to his Mather assignment in January this year, he was base legal officer at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona.

He is married to the former Mildred L. McCutch-in of Dallas and is a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association and the Masonic Lodge.

Max Chambers

Noted Educator

W. Max Chambers, '21ba, '29ms, completed his Doctor of Philosophy Degree at the State College, Greeley, Colorado, July 30. Chambers is one of the recognized educational administrators of the entire country in the field of secondary education. He attended and graduated from Central State College at Edmond; Berea College at Berea, Kentucky; and the Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he holds a professional diploma for superintendent of schools, and upon completion of his work at the University of Oklahoma, he attended the Harvard Graduate School. After his return from Harvard he was admitted to the state bar of Oklahoma by state bar examination.

Superintendent Chambers has served in a number of educational administrative capacities in the state of Oklahoma. He began his work in Cushing, Leaving Cushing he served as superintendent of Newkirk schools for four years, then moved to the Perry schools for five years, from there to Sapulpa for three years, and in 1931 assumed the position as superintendent of city schools at Okmulgee, where he has held that position for 17 years.

Chambers is a member of the Methodist Church, for a number of years has been a prominent Rotarian, and is an active participant in the Masonic Lodge organizations. He also is a member of Phi Delta Kappa, educational fraternity; the National Association of School Administrators; the National Educational Association, and holds a life membership in the Oklahoma Congress of Parents and Teachers. He has been honored by membership in the "Ninetynine Club," a select N.E.A. group comprising two school men from each of the 48 states.

In 1940 he was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the N.E.A. In 1945 he was appointed by the Governor of Oklahoma to the Textbook Commission, while at the present time he is a member of the Commission for the Selection and Improvement of Teachers for the State of Oklahoma.

Alumna Named to Legal Post

Miss Vivien McConnell, '41law, has been appointed attorney general of Guam, according to a recent issue of the Guam News.

Miss McConnell went to Guam in October, 1946, as attorney with the Land and Claims Commission and was appointed assistant attorney general a year ago. Previously she had engaged in the general practice of law with the firm of W. G. Stigler, '16, of Stigler, and for several years was law clerk to United States District Judge Bower Broaddus of Oklahoma City.
We're Better for Having Known Him

When Studdert-Kennedy, the English chaplain, died, one of his friends summed him up with the phrase, "the breath of life's morning was upon him." It isn't given to you and me to know in this world many men of whom such a statement could be seriously made. But it can be seriously and reverently applied to Streeter Speakman.

You didn't think of Streeter ever as being of a particular age, did you? That was somehow a part of his magic. And didn't it give you the feeling that horizons had been placed around your day just to deal with him, whether exchanging some phase of his many-faceted concerns? That was somehow a result of his magic. One casts about for some verbal clue to express it. There's nothing so hard to delineate as a real personality. But might not Streeter Speakman's richest trait have been his whole-souled generosity? It wasn't merely that he was the easiest of all marks in a case of need, whether that need was real or imagined. It was the way he gave of himself to everyone regardless of the hour or the occasion. It was the way he let you know when you faced him that your welfare was a matter of real moment with him. It was the way you sensed in him the determination to get through every stockade of prejudice, rampant of indifference, wall of resentment, and give himself as a man to the men who had need of him.

Our state has been mourning the passing of an able legislator, conscientious barrister, tireless leader. We who knew him along Dewey Avenue add to that the deeper dimension—we've been mourning the passing of a friend. And we say of Streeter Speakman the ultimate praise, we're better for having known him. There's a benediction in his memory, this man of whom Scripture could approve, in that he lived justly, and loved mercy, and walked humble with his God.