

A MEMBER OF THE R. V.'s TELLS ABOUT . . . .

# The Inauguration

BY FOSTER WISE

Many are no doubt wondering what happened in Austin during the five hour inauguration ceremony and the part played by the Ross Volunteers and Band from dear 'ole Aggieland. So with a great deal of effort and an unforgettable memory of nearly freezing to death in a thin piece of "white duck" I will attempt to expound on the subject. Whata time!

We left here on a special at six in the morning which seemed like the middle of the night to most of us and arrived in Austin around nine. National Guard trucks met us at the station. Just so it might not seem a little too special it might be added that they were meeting every train coming into Austin for something like nine other trains came in about the same time we did bringing some of the eighty odd other bands which played for the ceremony. In fact khaki-colored trucks were everywhere we looked.

The Ross Volunteers boarded several of these trucks and were rapidly rushed to the stadium at an amazing speed of twenty miles an hour. Just like summer camp, eh guys? The band followed a little later in more trucks and were lost track of for an hour or so by this writer until they entered the stadium to pass in review.

We formed in a column of squads and marched up to the stadium entrance with everyone staring at us as if they thought we were the men from mars or something. Halting at the entrance for a little mild "bull session" and also to await our turn to enter, we were informed briefly of what was expected of us. It all sounded very incoherent but no one seemed to worry much about it except Staples, who, I think, acquired a few grey hairs before it was all over.

A signal came from somewhere and we marched into the stadium in a column of twos and around the track to the lane formed on the football field by the reviewing stand and inaugural stage. From the opposite

end of the field an announcer's voice cracked out that the white-clad Ross Volunteers from the Agricultural and Mechanical College were coming on the field to be Guards of Honor to the Governor.

Soon after we formed a lane to the reviewing stand the Governor-elect and his party entered the stadium in a long line of automobiles and stopped. On command the R. V.'s did "present sabres" and Governor-elect O'Daniel with his daughter, Molly, on his left passed through to the reviewing stand followed by Mrs. O'Daniel escorted by Pat and Mike and Legislators and other State Officials. They all took places in a reserved section in the football field facing the stage.

We were then marched to seats on each side of the reviewing stand and the parade of high school bands continued. Many photographers, reporters, friends and others crowded around the O'Daniel family in the corridor talking, laughing, shaking hands and taking pictures. They had to be cleared away each time a band passed, much to their distress, by State Police and U. T. students dressed to resemble cowboys from the rolling west. (A camouflage is often deceiving.)

At ten o'clock the military, college, and university bands began passing the reviewing stand. Several National Guard and other military bands passed before the announced boomed forth that the famed Aggie Band was entering the field and was the largest band on the field that day.

True to form, with every man in step, every line straight, and playing perfectly the Aggie Band passed the reviewing stand in grand military form which outclassed all the other bands. Several comments to that effect were heard in both the reviewing stand and the reserved section.

While a massed chorus of school children sang "Texas, Our Texas," and "The Eyes of Texas" in the north end of the stands the Ross Volunteers formed a lane from the review-

ing stand to the stage. At the conclusion of the last piece the Governor-elect, his family and the official group passed under the crossed sabres of the R. V.'s to the stage.

When Mr. O'Daniel was halfway through the crossed sabre formation some wisecracking "twerp" from the vicinity of the Longhorn Band sounded off with, "Well, Texas has been under six flags and now I guess it's a flour sack," however it seemed to go unnoticed and everyone smilingly continued to their seats on the stage. We then marched back to our seats by the reviewing stand and the Inaugural Ceremony got under way.

Molly, seated behind and a little to the left of Governor O'Daniel, seemed very excited and had quite a lot to say to her brother Mike who was on her left. Pat seemed to be taking it all as a matter of course and listened intently to the speeches of the outgoing officials.

When the Governor-elect had been administered the oath by the Chief Justice, James V. Allred, retiring Governor, spoke for a while and then introduced Governor O'Daniel. The entire throng in the packed stadium listened closely to Governor O'Daniel's speech, except for a few of the Ross Volunteers who by this time were well on their way toward being an icicle in spite of the long flannels.

We again formed a lane from the stage to the corridor for the Governor to walk through to his car however before he descended from the stage Governor O'Daniel led the assembly in singing "Beautiful Texas." Everyone joined in with him and the Hillbilly Band. The Aggie Band played the "Star-Spangled Banner," and the program ended. While photographers and reporters crowded around the new Governor, Molly slipped out the back way to the car. Governor and Mrs. O'Daniel then walked through the lane followed by their party while we did "present sabres."

Thus ended the inauguration ceremonies.