

## Stovall Still Seeking Leather Football Helmet, But Exhibit Plans Go On

The University of Oklahoma's Stovall Museum of Science and History has gone from dinosaurs to football in the twinkling of an eye. With the closing of the Dino Daze exhibit and art contest (See page 4), the Stovall staff had only to gaze north across Lindsey Street to find their next subject.

Opening September 1 is an exhibit chronicling OU's football fortunes, which will include approximately 200 collector's items and 100 photographs. Represented will be histories of the diverse groups associated with the sport, everything from coaches and players to cheerleaders and the band.

The exhibit was the brain child of Stovall administrative assistant Judy Jordan, whose husband Bill, OU assistant vice president for administrative affairs, is volunteer chairman of the project. OU President Emeritus George L. Cross and head football coach Barry Switzer are honorary co-chairs.

The exhibit will continue until January 1, 1987, with museum officials expecting the heaviest traffic, of course, on home football game days, which this year are September 6 and 20, October 4 and 18 and November 8. On those Saturdays, the museum will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Regular hours are 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Stovall is closed on Monday.

On four of the home game days, Stovall will show highlight films provided by KTVY Channel 4 in Oklahoma City. On the first Saturday, the film will recap last year's national championship season, while the homecoming film on October 4 will feature past OU stars. On OU/OSU day, October 18, films of past Bedlam Series games will be presented, and past bowl games will wrap up the season on November 8. The half-hour films will run every 45 minutes, or as crowds dictate.

Hoping to obtain memorabilia dating back to the team's beginning in 1895, the same year Stovall opened, museum officials put out calls for help in locating exhibit items and have



*Big Red followers are emptying their attics for Stovall's fall football exhibit.*

been deluged with offers from people willing to lend various keepsakes. "Numerous calls have been received from people all over the state with items they wish to share," says Judy Godwin, Stovall promotion and information specialist.

Trophies will be in abundant supply. Already available are Tony Casillas' Lombardi trophy, Steve Owens' Heisman trophy, J. D. Roberts' Outland Award, and the museum is hoping to secure Brian Bosworth's Butkus Award—all to be displayed in the museum's front portico.

One item missing, however, is a leather helmet. "That would be extremely valuable, but a lot of the physical artifacts are gone," Godwin says, pointing out the contrast with the seemingly never-ending parade of OU collectibles available today. In the old days, uniforms and other pieces of athletic equipment were given to high schools and non-profit organizations.

"That has raised an awareness at the museum," Godwin explains, "because after all, our job is to preserve Oklahoma history, so this really has made us aware of what has been lost."

Even the infamous OU Ruf/Neks will have a place in the exhibit, celebrating the fact that they are the oldest

male pep club in the country and in one year will be the oldest continuous organization ever on the OU campus.

"As unconventional as they are, they can't be ignored when you are talking about OU football," she contends. The Ruf/Neks were founded in 1915 by a group of varsity football players attending a basketball game between the Sooners and Oklahoma A&M (Oklahoma State University). When a woman at that game admonished the "rough necks" to quiet their boisterous cheering, the club had its name.

Offered for sale at the exhibit will be a "trivia" poster, crammed with old photos and tidbits of Sooner history. The Stovall staff anticipates a tremendous number of visitors, and they expect to have a lot of fun with the project.

Godwin insists, however, that the football theme will provide more than just an enjoyable lightweight exhibit. "At the University of Oklahoma, everyone thinks football is just fun and games, but the game has had a lot of influence on the school and the state. We felt it was the University museum's responsibility to explore all of the cultural and social aspects at the University, and that, of course, includes football." —MF