

A candid view of student life

By Bill Selvidge, '38

EDITOR THE 1937 YEARBOOK

ABANDONING the traditional formality of college yearbooks, the 1937 *Sooner Yearbook* appeared shortly before the close of the spring semester with many distinctly modern touches made possible largely by the candid camera.

The foreword tells the theme:

"The 1937 *Sooner* brings you life on a western campus—a life of longings and ambitions, raptures and regrets, disappointments and ecstasies that fill the hours spent in youthful pursuit of University experiences. It is a cross section of student life in all its fleeting moods and manners, tastes and opinions—a sort of moving picture, capturing moments of 1936-37 and reducing them to the printed but unexpurgated page.

"To that end the book is designed to be a plain and simple story, lighted here and there by facts for readers who wish to know, imagination for those who wish to dream, and pleasure for all who wish to cherish the moments in which life found its strangely subtle beginnings."

With this foreword, the book sets out to prove its contention that life really begins during those years of University experiences—with all due respect to Mr. Pitkin—and to record pictorially life as it is on the campus.

The opening section includes views about the campus, pictures of Governor Marland, President Bizzell, Dean Findlay and Dean McDaniel—all semi-candid pictures—and the cross-section of informal shots of campus life that has been reproduced with this article.

The 1937 *Sooner* is dedicated to E. N. Comfort, dean of the Oklahoma School of Religion. Dean Comfort was selected because for more than a decade he has been striving to bring a real and vital life to the students on the campus. His efforts have won him their love, admiration and respect.

The book has three main divisions: curricular, extra-curricular, and social. Each is introduced by a cross-section of scenes and events that typify that particular phase of school life.

The introduction to Book One covers labs, drama, scenes from the classroom, physical education, and students at the much loved military drill. Leafing through the pages following, we find the usual class panels, with the customary extra consideration shown the seniors, who have their achievements listed. A Sam Cobeau cartoon depicting the lighter side of studies opens each school. In-

cluded in the sub-divisions are snapshots of faculty members in guarded and un-guarded moments. Candid pictures of the deans are used, with comments on their off-the-campus activities

The opening for Book Two touches upon everything from El Modjii initiation to the Dads' Day cup winners, along with some of the rah rah from the football field. The feature section comes first with eight pages of informal pictures. It is run in the form of a clock this year, with the eight most important hours of the day depicted. The candid camera follows student life from the early morning shave to the last after-hours telephone conversation. In the "Who's Who" section devoted to outstanding students, the candid camera again is used. Book Two closes with the athletic section, edited by Glenn Bayless.

The introduction to Book Three includes everything from the Senior Prom to the well-known "stand-up." George B. Petty, noted *Esquire* cartoonist, selected the eight *Sooner* beauties this year. Ranking first and second were Demetrice Thornton and Rachael Oster, both independents. Third came Ruth Verne Davis, Alpha Phi. Other beauties included Ruth Darling, Mary Wirt Head, Helen Hume, Maxine Gray and Geraldine Eberle. Thirty-two popular girls made up the society section.

In the Sorority and Fraternity section, informal pictures of the presidents were added. Copy on these pages ranges from a history of the order to the latest "inside dope" on what the brothers have been doing.

Thumbing through the final pages one finds the ads and an occasional new joke.

The business management of this year's *Sooner* was under the direction of Julius M. Bankoff, Tulsa. Circulation, under direction of Jack Chandler, reached a new high.

On the editorial side, Walter M. Harrison, Jr., editor-elect of the 1938 *Sooner*, handled the copy. Marian Trosper acted as managing editor.

Eight months and 3,000 candid camera pictures after the opening of school, the book reached the hands of *Sooner* students.

