

This month

The Cover

Bob Seymour, big senior back who played an outstanding brand of football for O. U. in early games this season.

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Richard T. Pendleton, '26law, who wrote the interesting article on football from the officials' viewpoint, is a practicing attorney in Norman and is president of the Midwestern Intercollegiate Officials Association. This organization includes officials who handle games in the Big Six and Missouri Valley intercollegiate conferences. Mr. Pendleton in his long experience as a football official has seen many amusing incidents—and some not so amusing—that were overlooked or misunderstood by the crowd. He tells about some of them in this article, "Football Behind the Whistle."



The cartoons in this issue of *Sooner Magazine* are by Lowell Hess, a University student from Anadarko.



Sigfrid Floren, who handled the laborious task of compiling the directory of '39 graduates who have reported their addresses and occupations to the Alumni Office, is a business administration student from Muskogee.



What's happened to members of O. U.'s earlier classes? The magazine receives many news items about members of classes from about 1920 on; very few from the classes before that. How about some reports on activities of those earlier graduates?



The *Norman Transcript* keeps on winning prizes so rapidly that we can't keep up with them. Last month *Sooner Magazine* published an item about Editor Fred Tarman, '10, and Business Manager Harold Belknap, '25, telling about national prizes their paper had won. After we went to press the *Transcript* was awarded the Mead Sweepstakes trophy at the 1939 Oklahoma State Fair and Exposition for having scored the largest number of points in this year's state newspaper contests. We refuse to be responsible for any prizes won after this magazine goes to press.—THE EDITOR.

Vol. XII November, 1939 No. 3

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THE SOONER MAGAZINE is published the fifth day of each month by the University of Oklahoma Association, Union Building, Norman, Okla. Entered as second class matter October 13, 1928, at the post office at Norman, Oklahoma, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Subscription price \$3.00 per year, of which \$2.00 is for the Magazine and \$1.00 for Alumni Dues. Life subscription \$60, of which \$40 is for the Magazine. Single copies 25 cents. Opinions expressed in the Magazine are those of the editor and do not necessarily represent official action of the Alumni Executive Board. Member of the American Alumni Council. National Advertising Representatives: The Graduate Group, Inc., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City.

NOVEMBER, 1939

The SOONER MAGAZINE

Oklahoma Lags in Higher Education

Is Oklahoma spending too much on higher education? In the widespread discussion of the State's financial condition during recent years, observers have frequently declared that Oklahoma has "too many" institutions of higher education; that the State therefore is spending too much in this field.

"Too much" is, of course, a purely relative term and its application depends upon personal opinions. To some persons in Oklahoma, any expenditure whatever of public funds on higher education would be too much. Others feel that the present expenditures could be greatly increased without spending "too much."

How shall we judge? Well, there is one way to get some indication of whether Oklahoma's expenditures have been unreasonably large or unreasonably small, and that is by comparing Oklahoma's expenditures with the surrounding states.

We can compare Oklahoma's willingness to support higher education with the sentiment of Oklahoma's neighbors.

This comparison is easily made on the basis of statistics included with an article on "The Wealth of the States and Their Facilities for Higher Education," published in the August 12 issue of *School and Society*, a top rank publication in the field of education.

The article was written by Richard H. Logsdon, of the Graduate Library School of the University of Chicago. He used figures for all states and presumably subjected Oklahoma to exactly the same tests as its neighboring states.

The conclusions are not particularly flattering to Oklahoma. Instead of having a surplus of facilities for higher education—as most Oklahomans believe after hearing the perennial comments about "too many state colleges"—Oklahoma is shown in this survey to rank *below* all of its neighboring states in respect to facilities for higher education as compared to wealth and population.

In the table published with Mr. Logsdon's article, Oklahoma ranks lower than Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Colorado, Louisiana, Arizona and New Mexico.

Oklahoma is ranked, in fact, 18 per cent below the national average.

Mr. Logsdon frankly admitted that there were limitations to the preciseness of his statistics. But he used the best information available.

Perhaps, then, Oklahoma's college and university system isn't so wasteful and expensive as has been intimated.

Do Oklahomans really want to spend a smaller percentage of their wealth on higher education than our neighboring states?

Of course, with the state's finances in their present condition, no immediate remedy is in sight. Few persons would criticize the state administration's objective of trying to keep expenditures for the present fiscal year within the revenues provided.

But it is important to make a fair appraisal of whether Oklahoma is spending too much or too little on higher education, and to start working at once to provide some means of stabilizing the necessary revenues just as soon as the state's tax structure is readjusted—a step which seems inevitable within the next few years.