

This Month

The Cover

This unusual campus scene, looking toward the back of the Administration Building past the northwest corner of the Library, was made by Harold Tacker at 3 a.m. Professional skill and ultra-fast film make it look like a daytime shot. If you doubt it was made at night, note the *upward* shadows on the building, cast by a sidewalk light behind the shrubbery.

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● Several University alumni are special contributors to this issue of *Sooner Magazine*. Grace E. Ray, is assistant professor of journalism and author of numerous magazine articles and newspaper features. Outdoor and western subjects are her specialty. Morris L. Wardell, '19, is assistant to the president of the University, has the faculty rank of professor of history, and has recently completed several months of travel making a survey of university administration for the Carnegie Foundation of New York. Oliver E. Benson, '32, is assistant professor of government, author of the recent University Press book *Through the Diplomatic Looking-Glass*, and author of a weekly column of comment on foreign affairs that is printed in many Oklahoma newspapers. Jerome Dowd, a veteran member of the University faculty, is professor of sociology and author of a number of books in the field of human relations. Loyd E. Harris, '22, is professor of chemistry and until recently was on the pharmacy faculty. His interpretation of the new federal food and drug regulations is based on a wide background of experience and information.

● The March issue of *Sooner Magazine* will be the annual Engineering Edition, and will contain articles of special interest to engineering alumni.

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The SOONER MAGAZINE

Telling Our Story

VICTIM of a state financial situation beyond its control, the University of Oklahoma has had to take drastic reductions in its budget this year—a budget which administrative officials considered severely low even before these reductions were made.

Since Governor Phillips found the new reductions in state educational institutions necessary in order to prevent a large deficit in the state's general fund, the University has accepted the reductions without complaint and tried to make the best of a bad situation.

The full seriousness of the situation is difficult to explain to the general public of Oklahoma without being accused of obstructing the governor's economy program, and certainly an economy program is fully justified by the present discrepancy between general fund revenues and the legislative appropriations.

Too, the organization and functions of a University are so complicated that the general public finds it difficult to understand a lot of statistics and budget detail.

Perhaps one of the best ways to let the general public know about the University's predicament is to describe it in terms that are familiar to most Oklahomans.

You can tell a farmer, for example, that some divisions of the University are trying to get along with laboratories that are about as antiquated for university purposes as an old-fashioned cow-shed would be for production of Grade A milk. A farmer has to have modern, concrete, well-equipped dairy barns before he can turn out quality dairy products. A University has to have modern laboratories to turn out well-educated students in engineering, home economics, geology, and other fields.

Or you can point out to a cattle man that letting faculty salaries get too low is like trying to operate a ranch with only scrub cattle to breed from. A faculty with too many scrubs in it can't be expected to turn out college graduates of good quality.

You can ask a business executive how well his business would fare if he had to cut down his overhead to such an extent that his bookkeeping department was understaffed and his general office staff was too small to supervise and co-ordinate the work of the different departments of the business.

Or ask a doctor or lawyer how efficient his work would be if he couldn't buy new books and equipment in his special fields from time to time.

Or ask the average man working for a salary whether he could keep his mind on his work satisfactorily if he had to sign up for his job for a year in advance, but wouldn't know from one month to the next what his salary would be; and if he had very little, if any, prospect of any increase in salary for a number of years regardless of the quality or brilliance of his work.

These are human things that everyone can understand. In some ways, they tell the University's story just as accurately, and just as effectively, as a string of statistics.