

# SOONER MAGAZINE

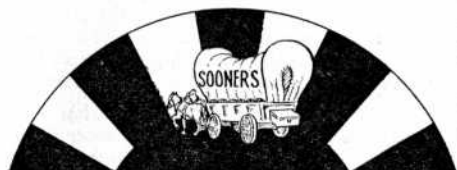
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## The Cover

Summer school isn't frequented entirely by graduate students back on the campus for the summer months, as is evidenced by the *Sooner* cover this month. Here the *Sooner* photographer has snapped a shot of Wilma Jean Ford, Norman journalism junior, and Joe Coker, accounting junior of Plainview, Texas, chatting between classes. The shot was made at the south entrance to the Administration Building.

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# Riding the Sooner Range

BY TED BEAIRD

Let's take a swing on a path of the Range this July morning that is a MUST! This time we will center down on the accomplishments of an outstanding alumnus of the University of Oklahoma (eliminating as far as possible all the drivel about the said hotshot). The accomplishments of this featured alumnus are the items to be discussed along the trails of the Range just now. The outstanding alumnus? None other than HAROLD "GRANTLAND" KEITH, '29ba, '39ma, who, for the past 18 years has been sports publicity director of the University of Oklahoma and sports editor of the world's premier alumni magazine—*Sooner Magazine!*

Yes, ole HAROLD "GRANTLAND" has come through with an outstanding book, namely, *Oklahoma Kickoff*. This is a new book about football at the University of Oklahoma. Indeed, *Oklahoma Kickoff* is a must, and it is enthusiastically recommended to every graduate, former student, and friend of the University of Oklahoma. Yes, it is a must!

*Oklahoma Kickoff* is not only a faithful, well-written account of Sooner football from 1895 through the 1920 season, and about hundreds of former Sooner players we all know, most of them still living, but it also gives an accurate, readable, informative history of the University itself during its territorial and early statehood eras. Old-timers who read it will have nostalgic memories. Later students will like its humor and frankness and its identification of the origin of so much of O.U.'s unpublished tradition. Your Rider of the Sooner Range predicts *this book* will lie well-thumbed on the desk of every University graduate and former student, attaining a lasting popularity.

And it is a handsome book, too, clothbound, containing 468 pages, jacket in three colors, 15 pages of illustrations, six pages of diagrams of old University football plays, from PARRINGTON to BENNIE OWEN, and a complete index so you can quickly find yourself and your friends within its pages. C. E. McBRIDE, sports editor for the past 41 years of the *Kansas City Star*, wrote the introduction to *Oklahoma Kickoff*.

Harold had the book privately printed in New York, but of course, you order your copies directly from Harold Keith, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma. The price is \$3.50. Your check or money order will be accepted. And, after going over there and seeing the "returns," our advice is "better order now, since only a small edition, 2000 copies, was printed, and the advance sales look like an avalanche or requests for Texas-O.U. tickets in the Cotton Bowl."

The author tells the Oklahoma football story from the viewpoint of 62 former University players of the old period, which establishes its authenticity to everybody's satisfaction. In writing the

book, Harold Keith contacted each of the University's early coaches, except Professor Vernon L. Parrington, who died in England in 1926, before Harold began the project. In 1931, after a five-month search, Harold found JACK HARTS, '95, the first coach, living in Los Angeles. FRED ROBERTS, '99, the third coach, was found farming near Mayfield, Kansas; and MARK McMAHAN, the fourth coach, was practicing law from the top suite of a Fort Worth skyscraper. Harold quickly contacted both Fred and Mark by driving to their home cities for personal interviews. DR. FRED EWING, '05-'06, the fifth coach, is a M.D. at Oakland, California; and, of course, BENNIE OWEN, the sixth coach, was easily accessible since he is still hale and hearty and going strong here at the University, at the age of 73.

But, Harold's main sources were the University's old-time players . . . starting with BUD RISINGER, '95; FRED PERRY, '95; JAP CLAPHAM, '95-'00; JOE MERKLE, '06ba; HOMER BURSON, '96; C. C. "LUM" ROBERTS, '01ba; BOB WINGATE, '99; CLYDE BOGLE, '02ba; DAN SHORT, '23; HARVEY SHORT, '99-'02; and JOHN HEFLEY, '01ba, '35d.ed, all of whom played in the 1890's. He ended up with SNORTER LUSTER, '22ba, '22law; JAP HASKELL, '22geol; SKIVEY DAVIS, '31ed; MYRON TYLER, '22ba; DR. PHIL WHITE, '22; PAUL X. JOHNSTON, '21ba; DUTCH HILL, '18, and ERL DEACON, '21eng, of the 1920 team. He saw scores in between. Harold visited and wrote down the stories of each. One by one, all the University's games of the old days—the setting, strategy, action and all the heroic figures—are played over, only this time we find out what the players and coaches were trying to do, and what really happened and why, in the games we watched years ago as students.



Pictured above are two O.U. football stars of some 30 years ago. On the left is Phil White, O.U.'s immortal half-back, 1918-20, now a practicing physician in the state. Roy Smoot, right, tackle of 1918-20-24, is now employed in the personnel department of Tinker Field, Oklahoma City.



*Producer of multiplied thousands of words in press copy over a series of 18 years as sports publicity director of the University, Harold Verne "Grantland" Keith, '29ba, '39ma, is shown in typical "work and labor" pose. Now Keith has come forward with a new book about football—OKLAHOMA KICK-OFF, wherein additional multiple thousands of words present a most interesting historical document not only on Sooner football but informative history, filled with humor and frankness, of the University and the origin of so much of O.U.'s unpublished tradition.*

While the football is emphasized, your Range Rider particularly likes Harold Keith's background writing concerning the University's social history and development. The football is thrillingly told,

but right along with it the book also describes such vital milestones in the University's early history as the hiring of VERNON PARRINGTON, later a Pulitzer Prize winner; the old territorial oratorical

contest at Guthrie; the snipping off of PRESIDENT BOYD's mustache by the football players in 1901; the desperation of the first faculty to obtain students; the class fights; the burning of the first University building in 1903; DR. DAVID C. HALL'S intelligent efforts to make his physical education program build up the bodies of the undernourished students of the territory; the firing of President Boyd, Parrington, and many of the old faculty by C. N. HASKELL, first governor of the new state of Oklahoma, and the vivid characterization of all the coaches, the leading players, and the first three presidents, DAVID ROSS BOYD, A. GRANT EVANS and STRATTON D. BROOKS.

After you read *Oklahoma Kickoff* there will be no doubt in your mind what the University looked like in the old days, and what kind of people ran it. You will be struck by the total dissimilarity between the small, isolated but intensely loyal pioneer school at Norman, Oklahoma, half a century ago, and the big, sprawling, bustling, modern University of today, with its 12,000-plus students.

Yes, ole HAROLD "GRANTLAND" has made a contribution, and those along the Sooner Range will greatly enjoy *Oklahoma Kickoff* as they thumb through its pages in the quiet of their study in the months to come!

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## Correspondence . . .

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Vienna, Austria

Mr. Emil R. Kraetli,  
Secretary of the University of Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Kraetli:

Thank you for your letter of April 30 in regard to Dr. Herta Peschek.

Yes, I graduated from the School of Nursing, University of Oklahoma, in 1925, post graduate work at University of Pennsylvania, 1926 and 1927, and Major Lewis V. Smith, '24-'29, attended the University four years—later practicing law in Leflore and Muskogee Counties. He was called on duty in August, 1940, and was stationed at Fort Sill until 1944, coming overseas at that time, and was a Field Artillery officer during the campaign in Germany and later Austria. He was with the Division Artillery of 65th Infantry Division.

Major Smith was in the first group of Americans sent to Vienna in summer of 1945 and was the first officer to complete the transfer from Russian to American occupation of the 7th Bezirk district of approximately 50,000 Viennese. He was Bezirk commander (similar to mayor) for several months. Later he was executive officer for military government affairs in Vienna until August, 1946. Since that time he has been the staff judge advocate of



*Some of the old-timers about whom Harold writes are pictured above. They are, left to right, Tom Tribbey, tackle in 1899-1903, who died more than a quarter of a century ago; Fred Roberts, Sooner half-back of 1899-1903, now a retired farmer at Caldwell, Kansas; Claude Reeds, full-back on the 1910-13 teams, now a prosperous farmer near Newcastle, and Homer Montgomery, Sooner footballer in 1914-16, now a prominent geologist at Mineral Wells, Texas.*