

Who Was Kenneth Kaufman

Twenty years after the late Sooner educator first joined the University faculty, Savoie Lottinville vividly presents the answer.

The following remarks were made at the dedication of Kaufman Hall, October 12, by Savoie Lottinville, '29ba, director of the University Press, honoring the late Kenneth Kaufman, '16ba, '19ma.

There must be many among you who have heard the question, "Who was Kenneth Kaufman?" the man in whose memory we have come together to dedicate this building. And you must have heard the answer, "He was a professor."

For those of us who knew him intimately, this simple identification seems entirely appropriate. It strips away all the other great elements of worth which Kenneth Kaufman represented: a boundless love of mankind and of the land where he lived from his boyhood until his untimely death; a joyousness in the very act of living; a poetical sense which gave beauty to his prairie world and to every subject upon which he wrote; a courage and a devotion to duty from which the noblest qualities of his character were developed; and an intellect which was keen, imaginative, and sympathetic to all that it touched.

When all of these elements are removed by time or forgetfulness, there will remain the great fact of his calling; he was a professor, a teacher of the young. He, like the thousands of his fellow teachers throughout the land, held a respected place in the anonymous council from which learning and character are developed in our youth and the best values of democracy are sustained in our national life. Perhaps no other fact really matters. Without these things we perish. Without such men we are lost. For they are the keepers of the fires, the messengers of light, the conservators of the spiritual life in any civilization.

When we give Kenneth Kaufman's name to this building, we dedicate it to those personal and professional virtues he represented. In doing so we have the privilege, perhaps the obligation, of endowing it with some of the values which are peculiarly Oklahoman in character. For Kenneth Kaufman drew from the "level land," the watered valleys, and the timbered hills of Oklahoma shades and rhythms and visions which have enriched the lives of all of us.

Oklahoma, which is admittedly a land of extremes, was his home. He was impatient with the tendency of a later, city-bred generation to express its feeling towards Oklahoma pioneering as "drab," or towards any part of the landscape as "barren" or "bleak." As someone has said in another connection, he was no spineless laureate of the land he loved. He had himself lived the life of a pioneer; he possessed enormous physical energy; and he enjoyed creating things from any resources at hand, no matter how meager. His understanding, therefore, was complete, for nothing in the Oklahoma landscape or way of life was a mystery to him, and his affection for both was compounded of sure knowledge and an appreciation of material and human values.

It seems altogether fitting that, in an era which sees the world recovering from the acts of virtuous but half-blind statesmen, one university should honor, not one of them, but a man from its own ranks, in part because courage, which is the better part of character, was one of his richest endowments. In the society from which Kenneth Kauf-

man sprang, no good came of a man who could carry water across a creek on both shoulders. The undisciplined, the unwary, the uninformed are not made for decision but for compromise. As anyone with experience of life must know, the courage required to make a right decision is more important than the decision itself. This was an obligation he never shirked, but his decisions were conveyed with an abiding humanity and a respect for the ideas and opinions of others which won for him the respect and affection of all who knew him. . . .

The people who lived and worked with Kenneth Kaufman in those days were to influence the development of the University of Oklahoma profoundly. From his classmates, the University subsequently gained a dean and two splendid teachers of the humanities, one of whom was to become nationally known as a writer, and from the faculty of the college it gained a second dean and a linguist who was to achieve world renown. . . .

In Kenneth Kaufman's being there was not the usual human defect of dualism—the tendency to live in two worlds and to visit them alternately. He had integrity in the classical sense of being one with himself. The two aspects of his life—a highly developed intellectual interest and the ability to enjoy to the fullest the practical phases of existence—were always in harmony, always in balance. Life, which was not always good to him, he always

found good, knowing that happiness is a perishable commodity, renewable only from the resources of one's own spirit.

While it is not possible to portray him in the familiar settings which all of his friends here will recall, it still needs to be said that there was about him nothing of the starry-eyed visionary, the forgetful teacher. He could cook and he could bake. He was an unerring rifle shot and a splendid sportsman in the field. He could shuck corn and smoke hams with the best of men. His hospitality was built upon good, old-fashioned standards, and centered in a full board. The out-of-doors in all of its moods appealed to him mightily and filled his occasional writings with a charm which none can forget. . . .

Kenneth Carlyle Kaufman was born April 30, 1887, at Leon, Kansas, the son of John and Grace Kaufman. In 1898, at the age of 11, he moved with his parents to a farm in the vicinity of Weatherford, Oklahoma. He was graduated from Southwestern State Teachers College at Weatherford in 1908, and in 1916 received the B. A. degree from the University of Oklahoma. His M. A. was taken at the same institution in 1919. He was head of the department of modern languages in Central High School, Oklahoma City, from 1916 to 1929. In the latter year he was named assistant professor of modern languages at the University of Okla-



Posed under the portrait of Kenneth C. Kaufman, '16ba, '19ma, late chairman of the department of foreign languages, are Robert Gardner, University instructor in art who painted the Kaufman portrait, and on the right Kaufman's son and daughter. The son is John Kaufman, University sophomore in civil engineering, and the daughter is Mrs. Ralph Hudson, '33ba, of Oklahoma City. The portrait was unveiled at the dedication of Kaufman Hall, October 12.

homa; in 1935 associate professor; in 1937 full professor; and in 1942 chairman of the department. He was a member of the Modern Language Association, the American Association of University Professors, Oklahoma Writers (or which he was at one time president), Phi Beta Kappa, Acacia, the Masonic Order, and the Christian Science Church. He was managing editor of Books Abroad, and the author or translator of the following books: *Level Land, A Book of Western Verse*, 1935; *Home at Last*, from the German of Ernst Harthern, 1939; *Sun and Storm*, from the Danish of Unto Seppänen, 1939; *Renni the Rescuer*, from the German of Felix Salten, 1940; *The Good Shepard*, from the Danish of Gunnar Gunnarson, 1940; and the co-editor of two foreign language texts in Spanish. He was a contributor to the *Southwest Review*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *Dallas Morning News*, Poetry: *A Magazine of Verse*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. For many years he was editorial advisor to the Bobbs-Merrill Company, general publishers, and for fifteen years he was literary editor of the *Daily Oklahoman*. He died April 29, 1945.

Journalism Scholarships Awarded

Dr. Fayette Copeland, '19ba, has announced scholarships for 24 University journalism students. The scholarships, given for the first time this year, were awarded by the McMahon foundation of Lawton.

The late Eugene B. McMahon, '15ba, established the foundation in 1940. He was a Texas industrialist and former editor of the *Lawton News*. Awards totaling \$7,000 were presented to 10 freshmen, five sophomores, five juniors, two seniors and two graduate students.

Students receiving the scholarships were Harry S. Culver, '47journ, Shawnee, and Charles L. Ward, '48journ, Norman, graduate fellowships; L. D. New, Shawnee, and Jack Holman, Idabel, seniors.

Glenn A. Butler, Okmulgee; Wayne L. Lane, Eldorado; Thomas E. Kappelle, Ponca City; Richard W. Mayo; Sallisaw, and Bob L. Scranton, Oklahoma City, received the junior awards.

Sophomore scholarships were awarded to Lon Argabright, Duncan; Paul S. Bloodworth, Perry; Joy Johnson, Spiro; James Kyle, Oklahoma City, and Paul Mayberry, Claremore.

Freshmen awarded scholarships were James D. Allen, Hartshorne; John Dyer, El Reno; Jerry Emenhiser, Oklahoma City; Robert Lee, Buffalo; William John Mertena, Ponca City; J. M. Poynor, Wewoka; Herbert Scott, Guthrie; Bill Spohrer, Drummond; Dale Warner, Geary, and Ullie Wells, Ardmore.

Business Men Attend Conference

State business men, 250 strong, attended the Oklahoma Industrial and Mineral Industries conference September 30 at the University.

Registration began at 9 a. m. Friday when a continuous showing of industrial films were presented. Registration ended at noon when Homer Dunlap, Oklahoma City, president of the St. Clair Lime Company, presided at a luncheon.

Subjects considered at the conference included an inventory of further manufacturing possibilities from minerals, factors affecting location of industries and favorable and unfavorable factors and their remedies.

Speakers included Richard W. Smith, Washington, D. C., assistant manager of the natural resources department for the U. S. Chamber of Commerce; William A. Holloway, Kansas City, regional director of the bureau of foreign and domestic for the U. S. Department of Commerce, and Richard B. Tucker, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, vice president of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company.



Four leading candidates for All-honors are Stanley West, guard; Wade Walker, tackle; Jim Owens, end; and Darrell Royal, quarterback.

They're Bowl Bound

Amid rumors of bowl bids the proud Sooners closed out their 1949 Big Seven conference campaign with a 27-7 lashing of Missouri's Tigers. The win earned the Oklahomans their 18th consecutive victory and their second straight Big Seven crown.

In a season which has been noted for football upsets, the Sooners have managed to run pretty true to pre-season dopesters' form. One of the limb climbers who has found the limb pretty strong is Grantland Rice.

Hal Middlesworth, sports editor of the *Daily Oklahoman*, conferred with Rice in Chicago following the Missouri game and wrote the material below:

"Oklahoma's superb football team is making a lot of folks happy these days but it is doubtful that many are more pleased by the performance of Coach Bud Wilkinson's eager young men than the veteran sportswriter, Grantland Rice."

(Here's the record that all alumni can be pleased about. With only Santa Clara and Oklahoma A.&M. to go, the scores read:

46	Boston College	0
33	Texas Aggies	13
20	Texas	14
48	Kansas	26
48	Nebraska	0
34	Iowa State	7
39	Kansas State	0
27	Missouri	7

That's 295 points and an average of 36.9 points per game for the Red and White.)

Middlesworth continues, "It was Rice, you may remember, who hauled off last summer and said right out loud that the Sooners would be the No. 1 team of the season. They haven't quite reached that lofty point in the weekly ratings but they're looking better every week and it's getting to the

point that you can get a pretty good argument on Notre Dame vs. Oklahoma for the national championship."

Commenting on the team, Rice told Middlesworth:

"I've been getting very good reports on that team all year," he said. "How about that (Wade) Walker, (Stan) West and (Jim) Owens? I understand George Thomas is a great running back, one of the best. And Clyde McBride (*Kansas City Star* sports editor) tells me that Darrel Royal is one of the finest quarterbacks he's even seen."

Statistics bear out the reports. Oklahoma has led the nation in rushing with an average of better than 300 yards per game and also leads the nation in rushing defense with an average hovering at the 50 yards per game mark. That would seem to indicate the strength of the line.

The backfield is no slouch either. With Royal generaling the attack, Thomas has carried 108 times for a net gain of 637 yards for an average of 5.9 yards per carry. That's good enough to make him the Big Seven rushing leader at this point. He has also scored 87 points to rank among the top five scorers in the nation.

Lindell Pearson is third in Big Seven rushing ranking with 604 yards in 95 carries for an average gain per try of 6.4.

Leon Heath ranks eighth in Big Seven rushing with 480 yards on 56 attempts. His record is even more flattering when his average per try is listed. It's a very respectable 8.6.

By the time this issue of *Sooner Magazine* is in the hands of its readers, the Sooners should have accomplished the following:

1. Completed an all victorious season.
2. Set a new consecutive win record. (The win (Continued page 30))