

Aeronautical Department Grows

The department of aeronautical engineering is in the midst of a large expansion program. This includes an increase in the faculty added courses and a new aeronautical engineering building.

The department is located at Max Westheimer field, which is owned and operated by the University.

L. A. Comp, head of the department, and his staff members have planned an efficient and productive graduate school, which will deal with the many problems of high speed aircraft and guided missiles. Comp is recognized as one of the nation's foremost authorities in the field of stress analysis.



KENNETH FARRIS

Farris Succeeds Fitzgerald

The new business manager of athletics at the University is Kenneth Farris, '43bus, first lieutenant in the marines and ace Sooner broad jumper of the early 1940's.

On May 1 Farris succeeded Clee Fitzgerald, '49ba, who resigned to assist in a political campaign. Athletic Director Bud Wilkonson announced Farris's appointment.

The new Sooner athletic business manager won three Big Six conference broad jump championships for Coach John Jacobs' Sooner track team in 1942 and 1943. He set a new Big Six indoor record in the broad jump in 1942 and also a new Colorado Indoor Relays record the same year.

Farris is from Muskogee where he won letters in basketball and track at Muskogee Central High-school.

He is 29 years old, married and has three children, a daughter 7 and sons 4 and 3. He is a member of the Board of Deacons and also general superintendent of the Sunday school at the First Baptist Church of Norman.

President Cross said Farris was responsible for the inventory of the University and had made the system one of the best in the state. Farris was supervisor of inventory and receiving at the University for two years.

Fitzgerald said he was glad to know "Kenny" had the position. "And I hope he will find there are a few people who are pleased with their seats," Fitzgerald added.

A Streamlined Job

A magazine for Independents, "Smoke Signal," is bringing prestige to the University's consolidated Independent Students Association.

"A frugal first issue"—that's what editors of *Smoke Signal* called their January 1950, effort. It was the first issue of the magazine as official publication of the National Independent Students Association.

The magazine is edited and published on the University of Oklahoma campus, where Dr. James F. Findlay founded the Independent's Men's Association in 1933. Dr. Findlay, now president of Drury College, has seen the Independents grow to an organization of 120 college and university chapters over the nation.

Planned to form a consolidating link between college chapters, the monthly magazine has associate editors who contribute articles from the various campuses. Wayne Barrett, University of Oklahoma senior, heads the force of pencil and paste pot wielders who put the magazine together in an office located in his home.

Smoke Signal began sending up rings of smoke in February, 1949, when the magazine was launched as a project of the University of Oklahoma chapter of IMA. Barrett has edited the publication since its beginning.

The first issue came off the press with the cover proclaiming it as "the different college magazine." At the 1949 national convention of Independent Students it was decided *Smoke Signal* would become the official publication of the national organization.

The issue published this March was a new, streamlined job. The magazine had been chopped to a new size, nine inches high and six inches wide. The reason, Barrett says, is to increase the number of pages and keep down costs.

Printed on slick paper, the magazine is no slouch as publications go. It's illustrated with good-quality photography and cartoons. It also contains fiction, poetry and articles which cover the Independent Student front. Feature articles written by ISA members help to make it a general interest magazine.

While the March issue of the magazine was being put together, a new Independent move began on the Norman campus. It was the beginning of efforts to consolidate Independent Men and Independent Women into an organization to be known as the Independent Students Association.

John Cooper, president of O.U. IMA chapter, announced consolidation is being sought to strengthen the two main activities of the organizations: student service and the sponsoring of social and athletic programs.

"Working as one group we will be able to prevent conflicts which sometime arise when we are working as two separate organizations," Cooper said.

Early in March IMA and IWA began holding joint council meetings. A joint committee drawing up constitutions for the proposed Independent Students Association is now working toward union of the two groups.

Present constitutions of IMA and IWA include as members all men and women students on the university campus who are not members of organized social fraternities and sororities. Cooper estimates there are 800 Independent women and 6,000 Independent men on the Norman campus. The objective of the organizations is to give these students the same opportunities for social develop-

ment and leadership as those who belong to Greek letter organizations.

"The IMA wants to get the student who knows only his roommate and whose social activities are confined to an occasional game of snooker," Cooper said. "If we can get him to join in the activities of IMA, his college life can help him to develop into a leader."

The IWA has the same idea, but is bogged down in a swamp of women's organizations which compete with each other. There's an organization for women's athletics, one for women who live in the new Quadrangle housing development—and the IWA. IWA officers believe consolidation with the IMA will increase participation by women and reach more non-sorority women than the present setup.

Boyce Timmons, '37Law, now IMA faculty sponsor, outlines the purpose of IMA this way:

"Before the Independent Men's Association was organized, the student who was not affiliated with an organized social group became a lost individual as soon as he left the classroom.

"His extra-curricular program was entirely one of his own making and he had no voice in any activities concerning the student body as a whole. He had nothing to say in respect to any University program that affected his life as a student, either on or off the campus.

"Before IMA was organized, the average social life for the non-fraternity student consisted of shows, the pool hall, dances in Oklahoma City, and occasional Student Senate dance in the Union. His intramural activities consisted of signing up to represent a cleaning establishment, a cafe, or his boarding and rooming house. As a rule, when he signed up for an intramural sport, it was for one particular type of activity, and his opportunities for participating in any other sport for the year were very small.

"After the IMA was established, the non-affiliated student became group-conscious and had an organization through which he could express his views concerning matters that affected his school work and his extracurricular activities."

The Independent Women's Association has been patterned closely after the objectives of IMA.

Trial union of the two groups already has borne some fruit.

An independent student file of examinations given in all university courses is a triumph for both organizations. Late in March, President Cross circulated a memo to all college deans, requesting that professors turn copies of their examinations over to the Independent Student file.

The Independents believe this will counteract harsh feelings between Independents and Greek organization members who have access to files maintained in their houses. "It puts Greeks and Independents on an equal basis on exam day and requires teachers to prepare new examinations for each quiz," Cooper explains.

► Dr. Horace B. Brown, dean of the college of business administration, and three members of the college of business administration faculty attended the annual meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association in Houston, April 6-10. Those attending with Dr. Brown were: Burton H. Gildersleeve, associate professor of finance; James C. Powell, chairman of the department of business law, and Othel D. Westfall, assistant professor of accounting.