

Sometimes I think I am guilty of seeing a fine performance repeatedly and taking it for granted. That's the habit I fall into when a football Saturday approaches. Bud Wilkinson has created so many good editions that I automatically assume his team will play well. And there is another team of performers whose football Satur-

Saluting a special day or observance, the band moves briskly out of a marching formation into a grand piano pattern or into a surrey with the fringe on top that wheels merrily along. Each new figure is accompanied by an appropriate melody.

The crowd has come to expect an overture or other non-marching music as a reg-

A year ago I wrote a piece about Christmas at the Burrs. It received such fine response that I thought it would be interesting to ask others for a particular Christmas experience that stood out in their memories. The results can be found in the story entitled, "My Most Memorable Christmas." Some of the stories are light, some packed with deep emotion. All are worth a careful reading.

Each month the staff tries to produce a new magazine a little better than the one that preceded it. Of course the toughest thing to improve is the value of the contents. Since each of us have our own set of standards, what may be valuable to one may have no merit in the eyes of another.

As a part of our experiment in journalism, a feature, "They Know Where they're Going," appears on page 8. Presented in dialog form as tape-recorded at a November "bull session," five outstanding students give their views on many subjects. A faculty member, Dr. M. L. Wardell, '19ba, David Ross Boyd professor of history, and an alumnus, Roy P. Stewart, '33ba, *Daily Oklahoman* special staffer, were invited to present their views at the session, also.

I have read the informal discussion many times during the process of editing, copy reading and proof reading. I have never grown tired of reading the thoughts of the student generation and the footnotes of the older generation. I recommend it to you.

One of the most distinguished additions to the O.U. faculty took place in 1951 when George M. Sutton came to the University. A distinguished ornithologist, Dr. Sutton's enthusiasm for his work is the type that can be communicated to others. After hearing him speak at a dinner many months ago, I was determined that the *Sooner* would carry a feature about him. It has taken longer to appear than I had hoped but a story about the man, his work

Continued page 31

## Under Cover

By DAVID BURR, '52ba

day excellence I have come to take for granted.

As the loudspeaker announcer informs the audience that "now forming at the south end of the playing field is the University of Oklahoma's marching band, The Pride of Oklahoma," I know that I am in for a treat.

From the opening fanfare through Boomer Sooner, the band gives a demonstration of spirit which isn't always matched by the student cheering section. This year something new was added. For many of the "big" games, the band raced across the playing field to the players' bench on the opposite side of Owen Stadium to demonstrate that same spirit to the team just prior to kickoff.

Through the first half of the game, the band provides "inspirational" music for the fans, but it is halftime that gives the band its real chance to shine.

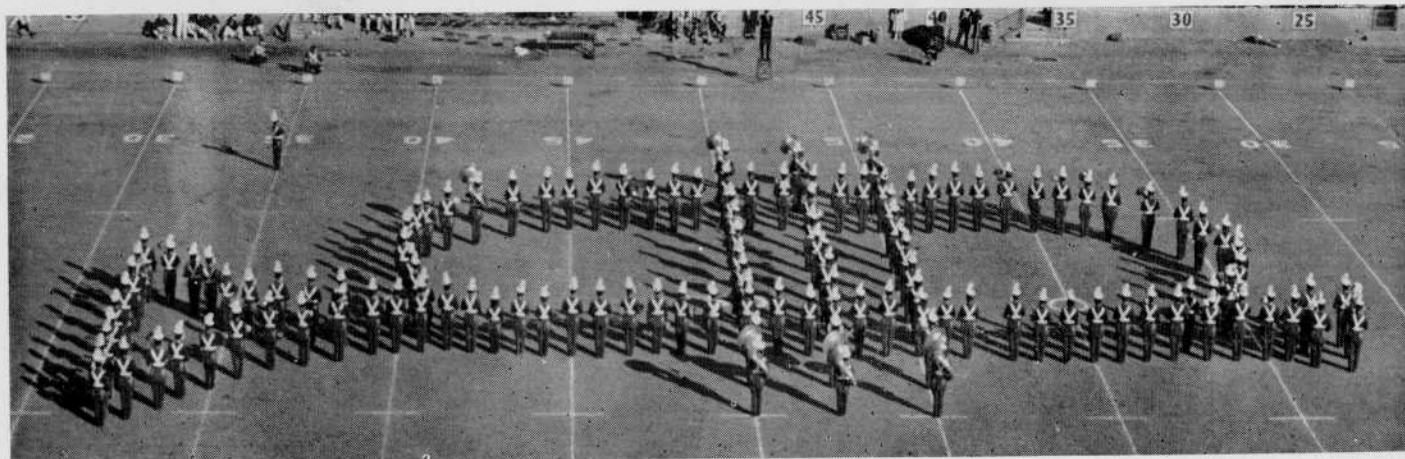
It doesn't take a very old Sooner fan to remember the day when many of the spectators made a run for soft drinks at the half. Now very few leave their seats. They came to watch a football game and to be entertained. Bud's team can hold its own in the football field. The band can hold its own in the entertainment field.

ular part of their musical feast. A soloist may perform the Sugar Blues. Anything that a band can perform to good advantage on the floor of the stadium is apt to be a part of the Saturday halftime program.

As this is written, the Pride of Oklahoma is in an intensive fund raising campaign to secure the necessary money to provide an Orange Bowl outing when the Big Red plays in Miami January 1.

I talked with band director Leonard Haug—the man mainly responsible for instilling the precision and polish into the "Pride"—shortly before press time. I told him I was going to use part of my column to salute his fine organization. In the discussion that followed he made a remark that was probably as true of the football team as it is of the band. "I never saw the band with as much spirit as it has this year," he said.

The more I think about it the more I'm sure that it is spirit, coupled with fine training, that makes any team formidable. The band has it and although you will be reading these remarks too late to contribute to the "On to Miami, Florida" club, watch for them on television at the Orange Bowl. They're about as fine a representation as any school could have.



ONE OF THE CROWD PLEASING NUMBERS the Pride of Oklahoma has presented at halftime performances is this trumpet formation with a soloist playing Sugar Blues. The bandsmen were planning to show Orange Bowl spectators some of their polish if needed funds were raised in time.

the policies of aiding athlete-students. He had known first hand the problems of the boy who wants sports and yet must make his own way. Out of Kraft's endeavors came the Big Seven's present realistic rules. Kraft also led the movement several

years ago that succeeded in moving the annual grid clash with Texas to Dallas, ending the long trips either to Norman or to Austin.

"... In order that he may have written evidence of the infinite debt of gratitude due him from all loyal supporters of Sooner athletic teams..." The loudspeaker ended the Athletic Council's resolution, drawn up for Kraft at its final session. In a moment applause rattled the stadium, and Kraft and Dr. Cross moved from the field.

The University had honored a man whose work will be remembered many years. And to Walter W. Kraft, the *Sooner Magazine* offers its smartest salute.

taken the trouble to write and emphasize that which you liked and which you disliked. One friend, also a journalism graduate, gave me a complete critique of the October issue.

These comments are solicited. The magazine cannot be all things to all people, but it can try to include as many of the points that you want to see as possible.

As I close this somewhat disjointed column, I want to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season.

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**Under Cover . . .**

and his art, appears on page 14.

The September, October and November issues of *Sooner Magazine* have been well received by many of you. Some of you have

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