

O.U.'s Lawton Campus

PHOTOGRAPHED AND WRITTEN by TOM FORD, '55

LAWTON is a fast-growing city in southwest Oklahoma that has many phases of life typical to the state. The city serves a large farming area and has a cosmopolitan makeup from Army families stationed at nearby Fort Sill.

A photographer-journalist was assigned by the *Sooner Magazine* to visit Lawton and see how well the University of Oklahoma, through its Extension Division, is serving the adult education needs of the city. Here is his story.

"Since 1940, the population has constantly expanded, making Lawton the fifth largest city in Oklahoma. One of the problems of the city involved the expanding number of school-age children. Teaching methods had to be streamlined to keep up with the pace.

"This is where the O.U. Audio-Visual Department came in. All city schools began using films and tape recordings from the

University. Students were able to see and hear subjects of the Atomic Age formerly limited to a few.

"The sudden growth also presented new problems in the family-school relations of Lawton families. No mother could afford the advice of an expensive sociologist or psychologist, so Family Life Institute stepped in. Each week the institute covers a topic of family interest through newspaper columns and radio-TV broadcasts. Lawton mothers meet in their PTA discussion groups to view the programs and take notes on the expert advice.

"Interest in the Big Red football team runs high in Lawton. The O.U. Alumni Club there sees films of the games taken by the O.U. Motion Picture Unit. Other civic clubs use films of state interest made by the unit for their weekly programs.

"The members of these clubs are touched in other ways by the Extension Division.

Merchants in Lawton received a report of their customers' opinions through the Hi Merchant! program of the Industrial and Business Services Department.

"Countless professional and business citizens of Lawton have received training in their fields through the Short Course and Conference Department at O.U. Lawton bankers, teachers, photographers, police officials and beauty parlor operators have attended specialized meetings on the campus. The Lawton list includes public health nurses, school band members, lawyers and church laymen. In the past year over 25,000 people in 122 different fields attended programs sponsored through this department.

"The service to education goes even further. Speech students in Lawton schools and Cameron Junior College participate in tournaments sponsored by the University. Potential scientists get state and national

Continued page 28

Main Street in Lawton on a busy weekend has little resemblance to O.U. campus, but University's students can be found in many business houses.



O.U.'s Lawton Campus . . .

recognition through the annual Science Fair. Budding journalists meet each year for school newspaper and yearbook information from the Interscholastic Press Association.

"Education in credit courses is furthered by the Correspondence Study Department. Military personnel at Fort Sill finish high school work and progress toward college degrees through this mail-service education.

"The list of University services in the southwestern Oklahoma City could go on and on. There's the night classes for teachers, the entertainment service for civic clubs and the guidance of students through the Evaluation and Testing Department.

"A survey of businessmen on Main Street seems to indicate that the University has made a good start toward providing the educational services that Lawton wants."

They Had to Swim . . .

held and even pushed them back a few feet.

They had to kick on the third play, against a 40-mile-per-hour wind. What

was worse, the punter didn't have enough room. He had to aim high and get the kick off before we blocked him.

The Aggie fullback, Callahan, got the punt off all right, but it went almost straight up. Then the blast caught it and took it back over his head and the goal.

The crowd went wild. If O.U. got the ball, it was a touchdown. If the Aggies recovered, it would be a touchback.

The ball fell on the ground behind the goal on the edge of Cottonwood Creek and began to roll toward the water. It reached the water as Baird, an Aggie, got to it. He started in after it. But Tom Matthews was close to him, gave him a shove, and Baird, not being able to swim, scrambled out. Burleson, another Aggie, followed Matthews. Ed Cook, one of our halfbacks, and I followed them into the water. Three were too much for one, so Burleson turned back. We cornered the ball. Cook got it and yelled "Down" before he made it to the bank.

Wet, muddy and shivering, yet crazy-happy, we crawled up the bank and got our touchdown.

Final score, O.U. 75, Aggies 0. And O.U. had the distinction of making the first touchdown in history by swimming for it.

IMAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE DUE TO COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS.

A paper copy of this issue is available at call number LH 1 .06S6
in Bizzell Memorial Library.