

# The Commuter

By DON MAIN, '55

When people think of students, they think in terms of resident students. Seldom do they think of the almost unknown student, the one who goes back and forth to school—the commuter. When you consider statistics, there are many commuters going to O.U. According to the campus Safety Bureau there are 476 cars registered as commuters, and 952 students indicate they are commuting—almost one-tenth of the student body.

People ask, "Why on earth are you commuting?" and at times at 6 a.m. on a cold, bleak, wintry morning, you ask yourself the same question. You are commuting because it enables you to go to school. You couldn't go any other way.

Most people commute from the home of relatives or friends or have a job which pays more than Norman jobs, all of which lets you cut corners on expenses. Even though you don't like getting up at 6 in the morning and hurrying to catch your ride down to Norman every day, in the long run all the trials and tribulations will be forgotten on the day you receive your diploma. You will probably decide then that it wasn't really half as bad as you imagined—in fact you sort of wish you would be coming back to your friends and associates for another semester of school.

A commuter gets quite a different view of school and school life than a person who lives on the campus. He doesn't see too

much of the social side of the campus unless he joins a fraternity or sorority. He sees the more formal side of college, the buildings, the friendly classmates and the professor with his aged notes. The students living on campus get a better opportunity to go to lectures and speeches that are held at night.

One of the pleasant things about commuting is that the daily trips to Norman usually contain bull sessions. These sessions range in topics from the fall of Napoleon at Waterloo to current income tax requirements. These sessions can be almost as educational as school itself and certainly help to pass the time.

Let's sum it up this way, commuting is not the best way to go through the University because you do miss much of the feeling of campus life and activities. You do get the formal education but lose out on the campus football rallies, Christmas serenading, evening organization meetings and the many other meetings and lectures you would be able to attend. But being able to commute has been a blessing to many because it makes it possible for many people to go to O.U. when they wouldn't have a chance any other way—I know from experience.

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