



Immediately above Gate 25 is the home of the School of Architecture; above Gate 23, Lower Division Library; above Gate 24, hallway connecting two.

A DOUBLE LIFE

MORE THAN 50,000 football fans troupe into Owen Stadium each home game Saturday to watch the Big Red in action. For at least two 1955 games — Pittsburgh and Colorado — the stands were overflowing. There is a raw, exhilarating electricity in the air. This is football. Played as football should be played. Giving ground grudgingly. Taking it swiftly. Played like a champion.

This is the stadium that football fans know. But underneath the seated stands another world exists. Here the activity is not confined to Saturday afternoons, but continues throughout the academic year. Here classes actually meet. Here books take on their rightful importance.

In the North end of the stadium, young men and women, with the compelling behaviour of those dedicated, go to class every day. O.U.'s *avant garde* School of Architecture nestles com-

fortably, albeit a trifle too snugly, under the stands.

The School of Architecture moved into the Stadium quarters two years ago. Bruce Goff, director of the school, in commenting on the location said, "We still need space and a building of our own would be perfect. But this location is the best possible at present and it really is the beauty spot of the campus. The pool in front and the general impressiveness is a good environment for our work."

Goff remarked that many visitors were quite surprised to find the School of Architecture in the football stadium. Even the new freshmen expressed their wonderment. He relates this tale which happened recently. A freshman asked an upperclassman where the Architecture School was and got this answer: "They play football in OUR backyard; you can't miss it."



Lower Division Library houses text and reference books for freshmen and sophomores. The book racks are readily available for student use. The area is comfortably appointed for studying.



Ultra-imaginative drawings and designs are featured at the entrance to the School of Architecture.

*Beneath the seats that fans
fight for during
football season, another
world exists. It is
a world of books and lessons*

Continuing unusual combinations, the Lower Division Library, with reference books for beginning students available in comfortable study conditions, is adjacent to the fledgling architects' class and study area; and the "O" Club Lounge and the Archives Department also have quarters in the stadium's North Wing.

Walter Kraft, director of O.U.'s physical plant, estimates that there are roughly 50,000 square feet of space built into the north area. It cost roughly \$300,000 to provide quarters for the four units mentioned previously. Yet Gittinger Hall built at a later date but with less floor space cost a \$100,000 more. For considerably less money the stadium was made to provide class room, library, club and space for archives.

Nor is the North portion the only part of the stadium that has a double life. The other combinations are not so unusual, however. Other activities housed in the stadium include the University Band practice rooms and administrative headquarters; an indoor track, the infamous Pneumonia Downs, so named because of the lack of heating facilities; wrestling and boxing

practice rooms; several handball courts; an ROTC rifle range; the Athletic Business Office; storage space for the O.U. concessions, University Press and maintenance departments, as well as the usual athletic dressing rooms.

The building of Owen Stadium did not come as easily as Topsy's upbringing. After considerable effort among O.U. alumni and friends of the institution, enough money was raised to begin work on the West side in the mid-twenties. In 1925 the wing was completed. The East Wing was built in 1928 and capacity zoomed to 32,000. The North Wing, which Kraft describes as the "academic heart of the place," was finished in 1949. The stadium now holds 55,000.

In discussing the progress of Owen Stadium, Kraft said, "This is a vastly different picture from the horse and buggy days of 1893 when the first O.U. building was occupied. Such a building as Owen Stadium is a good example of utilizing what you have to get what you don't have." And that's why Owen Stadium became a classroom and library building as well as a memorial to O.U. football.