

memories of

The Pride of Oklahoma



THE PRIDE OF OKLAHOMA

from walking stickmen to neon signs, the band has packed the past 25 years with memorable halftimes

A GREAT many of the fans who fill Memorial Stadium on a Saturday afternoon would as soon miss the kickoff as the halftime show staged by the Pride of Oklahoma, the band that has marched its way to a place in Sooner hearts second only to the Big Red itself.

Under the tutelage of Leonard Haug, who became assistant band director in 1938 and director in 1945, the Pride of Oklahoma has been scoring marching and concert triumphs for a quarter of a century. Haug himself has pioneered with marching band techniques that have been copied by college and high school bands throughout the nation.

The band's outstanding performances have not been limited to Owen Field by any means. The Pride of Oklahoma has carried the name of the State and University of Oklahoma from coast to coast, both in person and on national television. Memorable have been the annual halftime competitions with the Texas band at Dallas, appearances at three Sugar Bowl and five Orange Bowl games and in the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D. C., where the band was named the best marching unit in the parade.

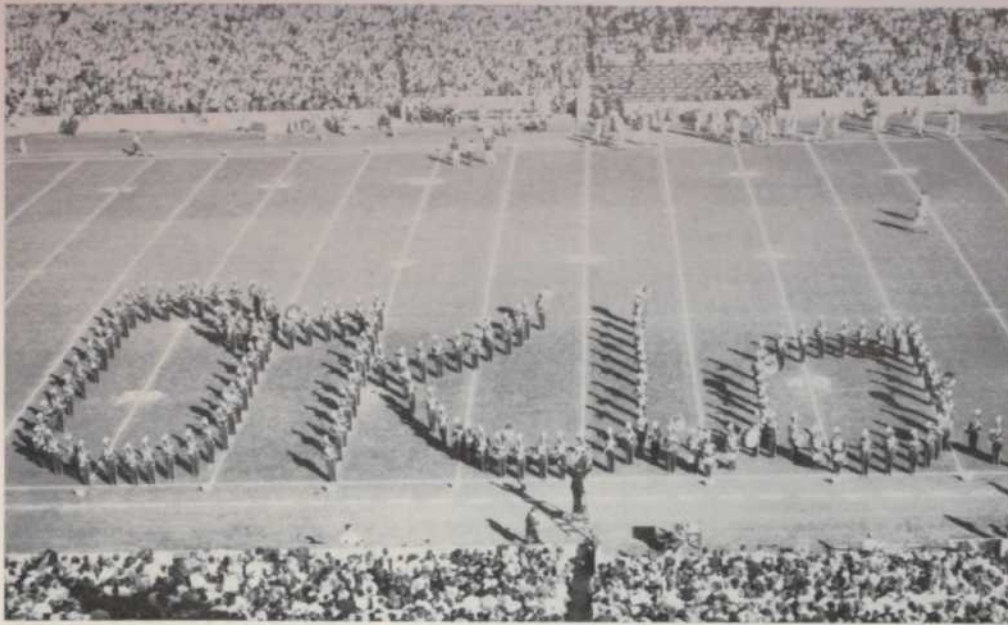
Haug's bands have praised the State with music from "Oklahoma!" and formations of the surrey with the fringe on top and outlines of the state. The bands have formed covered wagons, walking wildcats and waving flags, each show based on a central theme, emphasizing music as well as formations and script and featuring one concert band selection in each performance.

On September 29, when the Sooner band took the field at the halftime of the O.U.-Notre Dame clash in Norman, Leonard Haug marked the 25th anniversary of his association with the band, his 144th halftime show, his 625th band formation. It was also the last Haug-directed halftime performance since he is assuming duties as associate director of the School of Music.

In memory of the past 25 years, the band's Notre Dame show featured Haug's favorite formations from his most successful shows. There was only time for a few of the favorites—the walking St. Patrick, the bowlegged cowboy who tipped his hat and twirled his lariat, the stereo treatment of Overture 1812, the traditional pre-game with its three company fronts. But most of the audience, if they were band fans at all, could remember many, many other classic formations which have highlighted countless Sooner halftimes.

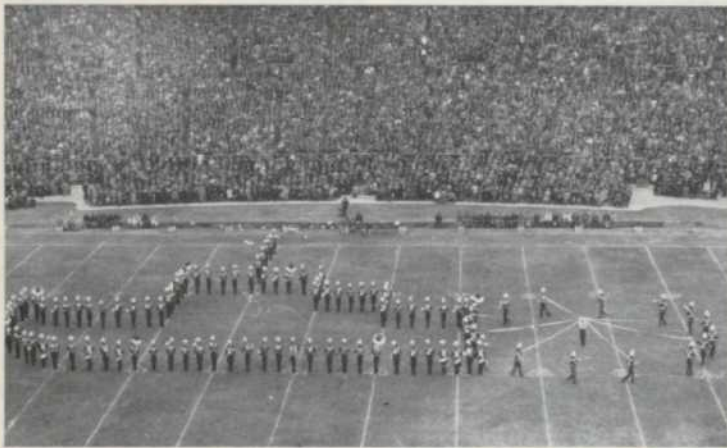
remember . . .

a cold cloudy day in South Bend in 1952? The Big Red was pitted against Notre Dame for the first time and the Pride of Oklahoma saluted their Irish hosts with this jaunty St. Patrick who strolled down the field as the band played the Notre Dame Fight Song.



remember . . .

the first time the band wrote out OKLA in neon sign fashion? It was on October 2, 1948, at the O.U.-Texas A.&M. game. The formation became a favorite with the fans and was often repeated.



remember . . .

the Sugar Bowl game when the band formed the old stern wheel river boat and took it down the field (above) . . . or the "Say It with Music" show in 1952 when the band first used the music lyre formation for one of its concert numbers (below)? Well, the man with the baton, Leonard Haug, is the man to thank for the memories.

