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Football Official Program
Alva (Okla) Teachers vs. Hays Tigers
September 25, 1937

p. 135/63

LEWIS FIELD STADIUM

By Dean Carroll, '40

Lewis Field stadium is the greatest structural undertaking ever to be attempted in the western half of the state of Kansas. Having a seating capacity of six thousand, seven hundred and fifty, it is of reinforced concrete construction and the east section is encased with native stone. A ten foot wall, also encased with native stone, is completed on the north side. The south wall is started but it will probably not be completed before the first of the ensuing year.

Perhaps dreamed of years ago by the founders of the college the initial program did not get under way until the spring of 1935. Since that time work on it has progressed continuously. According to the present program work on the stadium will be completed about the first of the year. The structure will be designated Lewis Field in honor of the late Wm. A. Lewis, former president of the college. As yet no definite plans have been formulated in regard to the program or date of dedication.

Last year Dr. C. E. Rarick and R. U. Brooks, head of the construction program, visited in Louisiana. While there they inspected the huge stadium of Louisiana State University. This is a recent construction sponsored by the late Huey Long. During his governorship Mr. Long was granted an appropriation by the state legislature, but was restrained from using it for the purpose of building a stadium, however the wily "Kingfish," ever a staunch advocate for the promotion of all types of sports, evaded this restraint by building a mens' dormitory--and incidentally constructed it in such a manner that the top of it could be used as a stadium. Thus in our Lewis Field a stadium we have embodied a simulation of the principles originated by Huey Long.

Mr. R. U. Brooks, a young and somewhat recent addition to the campus personnel, is chiefly responsible for the design and architecture of this building. He is a friendly, unassuming person, listed in the schedules as instructor in mechanical drawing and other industrial arts, but as head of the construction program his time is absorbed almost completely in the tremendous activity of Lewis Field. The architecture is modernistic, but is finished in native stone to add beauty and harmony in correspondence with the other buildings of the campus.

STADIUM FLOOR PLAN

Proceeding according to ideas derived from the Louisiana stadium, which can accomodate twenty hundred men, Mr. Brooks desgned the stadium. In place of using the entire structure for sleeping quarters, as in Louisiana, only the second floor level is utilized in this manner. In addition to the two large sleeping rooms, furnished with double-deck bunks for fifty men, there are two lounge rooms and a specially equipped study hall. The study hall has desks with individual lighting and space for two persons to sit at and work simultaneously. The lounges are furnished in modernistic style. Individual clothes closets, with light, and adequate lavatory facilities adjoin the sleeping halls. The first floor level contains a large hall running the entire length of the building from which there are three vents to the seats.. There is also a recreation room, with ping-pong tables, radios, a hand ball court and two dressing and checking rooms. It is intended that the south dressing room will be reserved for use of the home team and the north room for the visiting teams. The north room will be equip-

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ed so that it can easily be converted into an infirmary for the residents there if the need arises. There are shower and lavatory facilities in connection with each dressing room. There is also a general office and two ticket booths on this floor. The lower floor of the stadium contains the heating and plumbing apparatus. There is some space on this level which may be utilized as storage room for field equipment.

THE FIELD ITSELF

Leading from the dressing rooms, there is a doorway in each end of the building which enters onto the field itself. The field is one of the finest to be found anywhere. By constant work and care, a splendid, durable turf of Buffalo grass covers the field like a seamless rug. A special sprinkling system is provided which insures a fine growth of the grass even in the dryest seasons. The field is splendidly lighted by a number of huge flood-lights which render a visible daylight.

bility comparable to daylight. This high degree of visibility plus the other advantages of nocturnal playing make night games very popular.

A stone curb encircles the field and provides the inside for the track. Cinders for the track have been purchased and will be put on in the near future. On the west side there is a two-hundred and 20 yard straightway of the same construction as the main track.

A crushed rock and gravel drive parallels the stadium to the east. Several of the city streets will open onto this and numerous small walks will lead from it to a broad walk which is to be laid from the front of the stadium to the drive. Action is pending for the authorization of construction of a six foot walk to link the stadium with the other campus buildings.

Plans for the rearrangement of some of the old drives through Lewis Field and construction of some new ones are tentative. Pro-Field and construction of some new ones are tentative. Various programs providing for an extensive landscaping feature and general upkeep of the grounds have been suggested but as yet nothing has been definitely decided in this connection.

A glass enclosed press-box is an outstanding feature of the stadium. This press box will be equipped with sound facilities, telephones, and other equipment. It is from here that most of the details of the game will be broadcast to the spectators.

HUGE FINANCIAL UNDERTAKING

As provided by the present program the total cost of the project is one-hundred-forty thousand dollars. In the event that further plans are decided upon the total cost will run well over one-hundred-fifty thousand dollars. This was erected as a WPA project with WPA furnishing about two-thirds of the capital and the college sponsoring the other one-third.

The management of construction was by Mr. Brooks with the exception of the plumbing and heating units which were let on contract. All local labor was used, most of the men being on WPA payrolls.

Besides the Louisiana State University which initiated this combination of dormitories and stadium, there is the Ohio State University which also uses this system. While Fort Hays is hardly comparable in size to these large universities, it is nevertheless a leader in the promotion of the system. This idea is rapidly gaining

in popularity and a few schools have remodeled their original stadiums and constructed dormitories beneath them. Numerous small stadiums which are now being constructed are utilizing this space for some purpose.

As if in confirmation of the prophecy that this college will develop in material as well as in intellectual and spiritual manner, Lewis Field stands as an eternal symbol of its progress. To those of the present and future who sit on its benches and revel in the excitement of the game it will only be another building but to a few individuals it will be representative of high ideals and never ceasing industry. To a few it will be appreciated as a means of facilitating their acquisition of a greater intellectual development. However to those brilliant, far-seeing individuals who conceived the idea and labored to bring it into actuality, adequate tribute will never be given. To them will come the personal satisfaction of a good job well done, of material being which will serve them in the great game--be it life or be it football.