Hardin-Simmons University

A Glimpse at Greatness
James B. Simmons — Originally named "Simmons College" for its founding father, Hardin-Simmons University was first endowed by this minister from New York.

Train Station: A Sign of Progress — The stage made its last run in 1861; but the Texas and Pacific Railroad came in 1881 — and the city of Abilene, Texas was born in the same year.

Butterfield Stage! This nationally known stage line made its last southern overland run in 1861. It left not long before Hardin-Simmons University came. Its route is commemorated today just west of the present day H-SU campus.

First University Building — Ten years after the city of Abilene was founded, the University's first building was begun — February 1891.
Basketball: 1914 — Hardin-Simmons fielded a basketball team as early as 1902. H-SU basketball teams have twice advanced to NCAA playoffs. Basketball continues as the major sport at H-SU.

Football: 1904 — Leather helmets, cotton-patch shoulder pads, a mesquite grass field and you can't tell the coach from the players.

"Bulldog Turner" — An H-SU All American in 1939, "Bulldog" Turner went on to greater fame as center for the Chicago Bears. He was elected to the Football Hall of Fame in 1960.

Dam-it; Mascot of 1920 — No one knows where the name came from; however, it came about the time his tail went!! Alas, he died. The class of 1920 held his funeral with the funeral oration text entitled, "Every Dog has his Day." His headstone remains on campus today.
Cowboys Ride! This is the way a real Cowboy team plays football. The H-SU Cowboys played football 50 years before the NFL had a cowboy team.

Famous Brothers — And the coach was well known too. “Model A” Ford and “Model T” Ford with coach Sammy Baugh.

Talented Tosses — by Pap

Sammy Baugh — One of H-SU’s last football coaches. After a great “pro” career, Sammy Baugh coached the H-SU Cowboys during the 1950’s. He left H-SU in 1960 to coach the New York Titans.
World Famous! The Cowboy Band is world famous. Here, the Cowboy Band parades in New York City. This band is not only known throughout the United States — it has also toured Europe and Asia.

Famous Band with Famous People! The Cowboy Band has performed with many famous personalities. Will Rogers was a firm supporter of the Cowboy Band - as pictured here with Prexy Sandefer about 1927.

On Tour! The Cowboy Band is pictured here with Texas Governor Dan Moody and Texas Adjutant General W.W. Sterling.

A Little Help — In 1926, when things were a little tight, Will Rogers helped out with a check for $100.
"Sheriff" Will W. Watson — This generous man adopted the Cowboy Band and performed with it until his death in 1963.

Rodeo! — The first inter-collegiate rodeo was organized at Hardin-Simmons University in 1948. The rodeo continues as a major spring activity at H-SU each year.

Six White Horses — Each rider carries a flag that has flown over Texas. You'll see these H-SU performers almost everywhere today.

Cowgirls — One of the nation's first organized performing drill teams. It also had its own band.
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hardin-Simmons University has had a long and active history. It has had an important part in shaping and building the West. We hope you have enjoyed this glimpse at the past — pictures of a few events, traditions and people associated with the development of this strong educational institution.

Hardin-Simmons University exemplifies a philosophy of life which must not die. Emphasis is given to those traditional ideals, qualities of character and personal responsibility which produced a strong America. Herein is the reason and purpose for private education. The greatest potential of Hardin Simmons University exists today — and we'd like for you to be a part of its future.

Drawer I - H-SU Station
Abilene, Texas 79601