

# Program collection notes Husker football since 1927

By Andy Riggs

Many small boys save Nebraska football programs. They identify themselves as future Rich Glovers, Johnny Rodgerses or Frosty Andersons, playing for the Cornhuskers. Why would a 48-year-old man collect football programs?

George Ostermiller does just that. His collection of Nebraska football programs dates back to 1927. He was two years old when the first program in his collection was printed.

"I started saving the programs when I was 12, when my relatives gave me about ten programs dating back to 1927," he said. "I thought it would be nice to have some record of who played during certain years and to keep track of players in their later lives."

Ostermiller grew up in Lincoln and said he attended many of the Cornhusker games with his relatives. He attended Lincoln High School and enrolled at UNL in 1944.

"I played football at Lincoln High and really enjoyed it. It's just that I wasn't good enough to play at Nebraska, so I turned spectator. But I never lost my love for the game."

Ostermiller was called into the military service in 1944 and spent two years away from Nebraska, returning to finish his education in 1946. He graduated in 1950.

"After I graduated, I went away from Nebraska for a few years and I missed the games and the programs. There are a few programs that I don't have in the fifties," he said.

He said he sees nothing strange about a

man collecting football programs. He has had many requests to show his collection at class reunions and gatherings. Many persons are interested in the old football teams, he said.

"It helps in settling arguments too," he said.

Although Ostermiller doesn't have all the programs from every year, he has one program from each year. He said he doesn't need all of them because only the covers are different.

He didn't collect all the programs by himself. He said many persons who had copies from years he didn't were more than glad to help him try to complete his set.

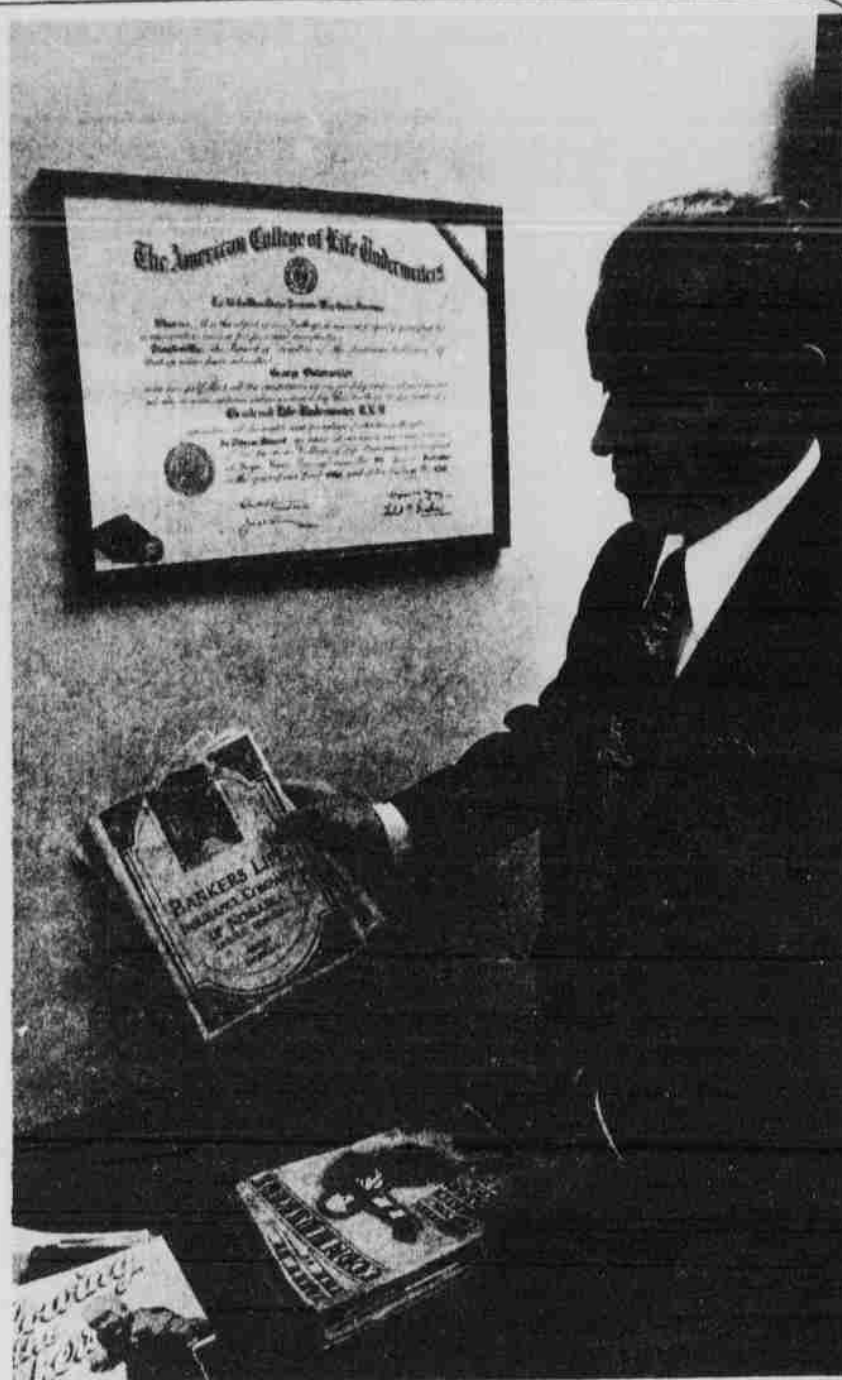
"I got a few from the football coach at my son's high school, who played in the early sixties, and I picked up some others from friends who knew I was collecting them," he said. "If I get some help finding issues that I don't have, soon I'll have fifty years of Nebraska football on record."

Ostermiller also collected *Football Illustrated*, a magazine which carried stories and pictures on all the college teams from 1929 to 1948, when it folded. He said he kept the issues to see how the teams were doing in those years.

"My wife can't understand why I keep this collection around. She calls me a pack rat, but I think some of the issues could be valuable some day," he said.

Ostermiller has a program from the 1940 Rose Bowl team, which he considers almost as rare as the late 1920s issues.

"Pack rat or not, I still intend to keep collecting the programs," he said.



Football Fan George Ostermiller displays his collection of Cornhusker programs and other dated memorabilia. Ostermiller owns at least one program from each football season since 1927.

## Correction...

A statement made by Regent Robert Koefoot was reported incorrectly in the Friday Daily Nebraskan. Koefoot was quoted as saying "the purchase of additional land for parking (at the NU Medical Center) has been studied and is thought to be a bad investment."

Koefoot was talking about student off-campus housing, not parking space. The Daily Nebraskan regrets this error.

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