

# The Cornerstone

SPRING 2004

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RICE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. 9, NO. 2

## THREE EARLY RICE STUDENTS

Compiled by Karen Rogers

*As mentioned in the winter issue of The Cornerstone, the Rice Historical Society receives autobiographies from Rice alumni occasionally. These are always welcome! This issue tells the stories of three alumni who came to the Rice Institute in the early twenties.*

*Jesse Madden was born in 1902 in El Campo, Texas; his wife, Madge Deering Barrick, in 1905 in Coal City, Indiana. Mildred Ogg was born in 1908 in Bellville, Texas. They all, one way and another, found their way to the Rice Institute.*

### JESSE MADDEN

Jesse was the seventh son of eleven children. One son died in infancy and that left seven boys and three girls who grew up on a sandy farm in Wharton County.

His father had been born in Tennessee around 1864 and his mother, an orphan, had become an indentured servant to a family in Southern Illinois. His parents ran away to Missouri to get married when they were 16 and 14. Jesse wrote, "I do not know how they met. A land boom in Texas brought them to the rich, black land of the central cotton belt of Texas near Temple in a covered wagon. Later, Dad heard of another great land boom in Wharton County put on by the famous, or infamous, 'Shanghai Pierce,' whose enemies and others who stood in his path simply disappeared, hence the



*Madden Home in El Campo, Texas at 408 Avenue B*

name 'Shanghai.'

"Dad bought a section of land from 'Shanghai Pierce' and everything looked fine until one year he had a crop failure and could not pay 'Shanghai.' Dad did not want to disappear, so he traded his equity in the good, rich, black land for a poor, sandy land farm three miles south of El Campo."

Life on the farm was hard. His father worked at occupations other than farming because the land would not support them. His brothers, though, were able to hunt and fish, so they always had plenty of food. Jesse said that in a small town there was really "nothing to do but work, work,

work. Working in the garden, cutting wood, caring for and milking cows, feeding chickens, gathering eggs, etc." He felt that his life was very dull.

He remembers his mother as "a dynamic ball of energy" who did not like being without spending money. "She always raised a garden and they tell me she worked the garden constantly. In fact, she was working in the garden until fifteen minutes before I was born."

On this farm his father discovered that he had a talent for drilling water wells which paid well. They bought a house in the "Heights" of El Campo when Jesse was 3½ years old. "My earliest recollection was moving to

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# The Rice Historical Society

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To collect and preserve for the future  
the history of Rice University

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The Rice Historical Society welcomes letters  
to The Cornerstone, its official newsletter.  
Rice alumni and friends are encouraged to  
contribute photographs and remembrances of  
historical interest which may be used in  
future issues of The Cornerstone.  
Items cannot be returned and will be  
donated to our archival collection.

NEWSLETTER DESIGNED  
BY TOMORROW'S KEY

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Senior photos of Jesse Madden, Madge Barrick, and Mildred Ogg.

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*Only known photograph of Jesse as a child.*

town. I lay on a mattress high on top of the furniture carried in the old farm wagon. We had a nice house which was located on a quarter of a city block with room for a horse, a cow, and, of course, a barn. We had our own water, two kinds: a windmill with a tower and a cistern to have soft rainwater." His father was "a success at making money but a total failure at collecting his bills, so we suffered."

Jesse enjoyed the ponds for fishing and hunting ducks although he was lonely and sensitive. "Since we were very poor, I fell to feeling sorry for myself." He was unhappy because he was not accepted by the "best" of society. "I developed a great desire to get out into the world on my own like all my brothers and sisters had done."

In 1919 he quit school and went to work on a big rice plantation at the age of 17. He began by driving mules and plowing. He was then promoted from horses and mules to the tractor. When the rains came,

he and his boss's son had nothing to do but read in the library of the wealthy rancher for about a month. "It seems now like an act of God, because I read some very good literature, as well as a story about a mountain boy who was poor but was determined to get an education and better himself...I pictured myself as that boy with the drive to succeed and decided to go back to school in the fall." However, at that time an oil craze was gripping the country and he and his brothers invested in an oil company that failed and they lost all of their money.

He then went back home and enrolled in school with students three and four years younger than he. "I had a bad reputation of a trouble maker to live down and overcome. I burned the midnight oil to catch up and for the first time in my life, really liked going to school." He played football and was encouraged to go out for track. "During the next two years I developed a desire to go on to college. I was the champion miler and half-miler on the track team. This allowed me to visit several school campuses." The largest contest, the Southwest Invitational Meet, was held at the Rice Institute. Jesse came in second to a boy from Atlanta and his picture appeared in the Rotogravure section of the Sunday newspaper in Houston.

The boys in his class began to talk about going to college together and, since one of the boys on the football team had a brother who was a Cadet Colonel, the highest ranking officer at A & M, "we all half way pledged to go to A & M." He had strong opinions about the friendliness and spirit of each school he visited. "After looking them all over, I decided that I would try to get into Rice, which had the highest scholastic standards.

"I was accepted at Rice, but after paying off all my graduation debts by working in a refinery in Port Arthur,

I had only \$40 left to go to college. But to Rice I went! There was no such thing as an athletic scholarship, but the schools did provide jobs for the top athletes."

He went to Rice early in an attempt to secure one of these prime jobs. He visited the registrar, the bursar, and the coach, but no one had a job for him. The coach suggested he go to see Mr. McCants, the bursar, to see if he could find him a job in town. Mr. McCants sent him back to the coach, who sent him back to the bursar, who said he could find him a job in town running an elevator at night.

Jesse then stormed back to the coach and said he would scrub floors, carry garbage, anything, for a chance to play football, but he had to have a job on campus. The coach told him, "Well, go back to see Mr. McCants and maybe it will be different this time." He stopped in at the mess hall and the headwaiter told him he had a job as a waiter. This was a grand athletic job. "I was beside myself with joy."

He had been working out with the varsity football team because the freshmen did not start practice until school started, so he had a head start. When school began, he made the first team. Then "disaster struck before our freshman game. I sprained my ankle, a bad sprain they thought, as no x-rays were taken; that was for millionaires in those days. I really had a fibula fracture. I could not even suit out for the first game. Luckily for me they taped up my ankle and I hobbled around for two or three weeks. Then, although it was painful, I got back into action and tried my best but I was no longer a starter." During the second game he was sent from the bench and scored three touchdowns. "I was back on the team the rest of the year. And my job as a waiter was safe...I was very happy."

*Continued on page 4*



*Barrick Home in Pearland, Texas.*

*The family lived upstairs – the lower floor was a post office.*

## **MADGE BARRICK**

Madge was born in Coal City, Indiana, “a wide place in the road.” When she was five the family moved to Pearland, Texas. She went to school in a big country schoolroom with all the grades together. Her father was the teacher and principal. He was a scholar, a teacher, and a preacher but



*Madge at 2 or 3 years old in Indiana.*

“never much of a money maker,” so they were very poor. Her mother pushed her father a lot. “If she hadn’t we never would have gotten out of Pearland.” Although she had only gone as far as the eighth grade, her mother was strong and ambitious. In 1915 her father got a job in Houston at Harrisburg High School and preached on Sundays “when he could.” Madge was placed in the third grade since she had come from an ungraded school. She should have been placed higher but this allowed her to excel.

Her family belonged to the Church of Christ and dancing was forbidden. In high school “everybody started having parties and that meant dancing. Dancing was a sin, as was wearing lipstick and playing cards. Mama made sure that I couldn’t go to the parties by not making me pretty Sunday dresses to wear... It was really quite awful... I would go to school all day, walk home, and then have to wash all the dishes which were waiting for me in the sink. The lye soap was murder on my hands.



*Madge in junior high school.*

Life was quite unbearable.

“My friends knew my situation and they taught me how to dance in the afternoons at their homes, but there was still the problem of clothes.” She finally decided to go to some of the largest parties and wear the only Sunday dress she had or borrow a friend’s dress. “Then there was the big trouble of my hair. Of course, powder, lipstick, etc., were *out of the question*, so I used my friends’ makeup after I got to school but my hair was a problem. I finally managed the spit-curls around my face.”

Eventually, she stopped trying to go to all of the parties and devoted her time to her studies with the idea she would go to Rice.

“It never occurred to me that I would ever be anything but a school teacher like my father.”

Her mother began taking in boarders and “did all sort of things to make money because Daddy started going to school in the summertime to get his college degree and on a small salary of nine months we had to live twelve months. Times were really hard.

“Rice! A big adventure! It was the most wonderful thing that ever happened to me.” Not everything was great at first. Her mother arranged for her to ride to school



*Madge before she bobbed her hair.*



*Jesse (left) wearing his letter sweater for the 1925 track team. Bill McVey (right)*



*Jesse's sophomore annual picture.*

with a neighbor, not the friends she had been counting on.

She was not invited to join a literary society since she was from the “other” side of the tracks and “really the first year it didn’t matter – later it hurt.”

“I loved all my classes – even Math 100, which I memorized as I knew I couldn’t reason that stuff out and I got along fine in Chemistry because I liked algebra and the chemical equations were easy for me. Of course, I loved English and history and was bored to death with Education 100 – elementary education plus the history of education.”

One day a different boy was seated next to her. “He was a freshman football player and looked darling in his slime cap. This boy had deep dimples, twinkling eyes, and a scar on one eyebrow.” The professor made a joke about the change in seating arrangements.

“The whole class laughed except me. I was so stupid I didn’t know why he was there and I didn’t know who he was, but it didn’t take long for Jesse Madden to make his way into my heart.”

## JESSE

“About this time I saw a girl who really appealed to me. We sat in some classes together. In fact, I even traded seats with a friend in one class so I could sit next to her. She seemed very shy and demure and was very pretty. Madge Barrick was her name. We strolled to Autry House, across Main Street from Rice, which was a meeting place for students.”

He asked her for a date and she laughed at him. He stormed out and she followed and asked if he was asking her for a date to study the night before their exam.

“That’s how our first date was made. I don’t think either of us got much studying done. As I left, I kissed her... and said good night. I thought to myself what a wonderful girl as I caught the Heights street car. It was a long ride across town out to Eagle Street where the streetcar turned back to town. I then thumbed a ride back to Rice.”

## MADGE

“I floated through my freshman year very happily until the yearly May Freshman Dance came along.

Of course, Jesse asked me and I said no. I think he would have raised a scene, but at this time he was asked by the freshman president to help hide him out. It was a great thing in those days for the sophomores to kidnap the freshman president and bring him to the dance in baby clothes.

So Jesse accepted the invitation since he didn’t have a date and he and the president worked out a hazardous plan. Three days before the dance Jesse went to the attic of the old Turnverein Club and stayed there with barely enough food and water. At a certain time, 2:00 a.m. . . the president climbed to the roof of the cotton exchange next door and Jesse threw a rope to him. He weighed a lot more than Jesse and I’ll never know how Jesse pulled him into the attic but *he did* and after that Jesse was the big Rice campus hero.”

## JESSE

The plan was that Bill McVey, the freshman president, would swing over from the cotton exchange building that was under construction. Apparently there had been a miscal-

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Above: Jesse in front of one of the columns of Lovett Hall at Rice.  
Below: Jesse in his junior year.



Jesse raising the freshman president to the attic before the freshman dance. This is a tile outside Will Rice College (dorm).



The El Campo 1920 team in formation.  
Jesse is the halfback on the right side of the photograph.

culuation on the length of rope needed. "It made him come to me below the top of the roof. We had our problems getting him up through the cables and electric wires. I shudder yet when I think of what could have happened if he had fallen three floors to the cement alley."

They spent three days in the attic and Jesse watched Madge decorating for the dance. "At the appointed time, 8:00 p.m., the lights were all shut off at the main switch. We raised the ventilator screen, chopped our rope and McVey first, we slid down to the dance floor and success was ours!"

### MADGE

"Jesse told me he lay there everyday in the attic, watching me work and knowing that I couldn't go to the dance." The next week while Madge was not at home, Jesse paid her mother a visit. "I don't know what he said, but he told her that he wanted to take me to all the Rice functions and we did not want to sneak around. He must have told her off well for after that I could go to all the dances and do anything I wanted."

Madge's sophomore year was much happier than the one preceding. "Since I didn't go to any freshmen dances, Jesse was a bit hesitant at how I would be received." He

did not need to worry; she was very popular, so popular, in fact, that she had a couple of other boyfriends along the way. At the end of that year, Jesse got sick. "He had overtaxed himself with track, I thought, and had been depressed all year because he didn't letter in football and *should have*. The assistant coach disliked Jesse because he had a girl and was in love. However, his sickness was physical, not mental and he stayed with us about three weeks before he went home to El Campo."

### JESSE

Jesse tells this story that happened during his sophomore year: "As the President of the Class of '27, I was to be kidnapped or abducted by the freshmen and kept from leading the 'Grand March'" [at a dance]. His roommate and he "were dressing for the dance when someone came to my door and said there was a lady in a car outside who wanted to see me. Since I had received a cake during football season which was 'Verboten' to players, I had given it to the coach's wife. She in turn said, 'When the season is over, I shall bake a cake for you and bring it to you.' Since there was only one other lady in my life, I thought it had to be the cake."

"When I went down to the car I was hit from all directions by big freshmen football players, overpow-

ered, and put into the back seat of a Model T Ford. They got the car started and away we went. By super-human effort I broke loose, still yelling at the top of my voice. I reached over the driver and grabbed the steering wheel and turned the car into a ditch and on up into a hedge-row." Jesse escaped!

## MADGE

"Our junior year was the year of trouble. Jesse came back to Rice with vim and vigor and started football practice. He had evidently done a lot of thinking at El Campo and he asked me if I minded if he broke all our dates during the football season." She minded!

"It was quite a blow to me for two reasons: one was that I was crazy about him and the other one was he had cut out all my boy friends period." She met a young dental student at a party and thought she was falling in love. "I took him to the Rice games and the Rice night lectures, but the more I tried to do my part, the more Jesse kept hanging around in the halls."

Her relationship with the dental student began to sour and they started to have disagreements. "Then



*Madge (far left) at May Fete at Rice Institute.*



*Graduation from Rice in front of Lovett Hall. Madge and Jesse on right.*



*Madge in her junior year.*



*Madge's wedding party.*

*Continued on page 8*



*Madge's engagement photo.*

poor sweet Jesse pulled a ligament in his neck or shoulder...and would have to have an operation. Football was over for him and he was glad enough to come back to Madge." She was convinced that Jesse never knew about the dental student.

"We continued our junior year and Jesse was Chairman of the Prom Committee and naturally I helped out." Jesse continued competing in track and cross country and was "big man on campus."

That summer he was unable to work because of his surgery so Rice got him a night watchman's job in Southside Place guarding the construction materials for the new swimming pool.

"Jesse said he would lie in the moonlight and think about me. He fell in love with Southside Place and planned to buy a lot there. They actually went out and picked out a lot where Jesse planned to present Madge with an engagement ring "But it didn't happen that way!" During their senior

year, they were taking a course

together on Shakespeare from Dr. Axson and Jesse had the ring in his pocket. "I guess that ring burned a hole in his picket, so he got it out and put it on my finger in English class. I could have killed him."

During her senior year, besides becoming engaged, Madge was elected to the May Fete Court. "I cried when I was elected for I felt so ugly."

She also started earning money on her own. The flu season had started early in the year and she was able to substitute teach. They graduated in 1927. "We graduated all too soon. My four years at Rice

were over and now I was engaged to be married." The wedding was June 2, 1928.



*Jesse Madden and Madge Barrick in caps and gowns in senior photos.*



## MILDRED OGG FISHER



*Mildred's junior year photo.*

Mildred Ogg was born on December 29, 1908, at home in Bellville. Her grandfather had served in the Confederate Army. He returned to Austin County after the war "but never

recovered from the illness, fatigue, and hunger and died in 1867 when my mother was on the way."

Mildred's mother was 41 when she was born and her father 54. He had been married previously and had six children: four boys and two girls. "I wonder how on earth these two had the courage to try to make a success of a marriage.

"In addition to the six children of my father, my mother's entourage included the following: Ann Hinson, an elderly mother, Mary Emma McDade, an invalid sister, and Mary C. McDade, an adopted daughter" who was really her niece. Her father was the district clerk and had been in office for eleven terms and had "seldom been defeated." He died of euremic poisoning when Mildred was four.

"I have meager recollections of my father. I remember that he only had one arm – the right arm. He had lost his left arm as a result of an accident on a squirrel hunt when he was a young man. I can remember waiting in the corner of the front yard and running out to get into his buggy to ride with him into the barn

and watch him unharness his horse with his one arm.

"Life in a small town before radio and television made it necessary for a child to be resourceful in the matter of entertainment. We played the usual games – marbles, jacks, hopscotch, hide-and-seek; we walked on homemade stilts, flew homemade kites," and went "craw fishing" and horse-back riding.

She attended school in Bellville through the eleventh grade and had excellent high school teachers. "At that time there was not a paved road in Bellville, not even the town square or highway out of town. And was there ever a lot of mud and/or dust."

The day of her graduation she received a gift of \$1,000 from her brother. "How grand that was! Only



*In 1930, her senior year, Mildred was a member of the Glee Club, and the Young Women's Christian Association (Y.W.C.A.).*

by knowing how poor we were can it be conceived how grand it was. From the time of my father's death, our chief source of income had been the proceeds from the sale of cotton and corn on the farm at Buckhorn. Drought or floods or boll weevils controlled our income. Hog butchering was an important day. I would put my head under a pillow to deaden the squeal when the hog was killed, but I loved to watch the rest of the process if it occurred on a Saturday. It had to be done on the first day of a brisk norther because there were no freezers."

She played the banjo in the high school orchestra and made money playing at school dances. "Some of the popular songs during the 1925-26 year were 'Brown Eyes, Why Are You Blue,' 'Alone,' and 'Sleepy-Time Girl.' I also made a little money playing the piano at the picture show" - \$1.00 an evening.

"I was determined to go to college, but there was no money. As valedictorian, I had received numerous scholarships but they were either 'drops in the bucket' or were from schools that I did not want to attend. I dreamed up an absurd scheme, but it worked. Mary McDade, my adopted sister, had gone to work in

San Antonio and was living with her natural sister.

"My plan was for us to move to Houston (my mother, my invalid aunt and me) and for Mary to get a job in Houston. She and I would split expenses with me using my \$1,000 as far as it would go. I applied and was accepted at the Rice Institute which was free. I would get whatever part-time jobs that I could and we would rent our house in Bellville. It worked."

After her first year at Rice she worked during the summer at Foleys for six dollars a week. "We first lived in a small apartment on Eagle Avenue, which was the end of the South End Streetcar line and the junction of the 'Toonerville Trolley,' which struck out across the prairie to Rice. Weather permitting I walked the mile and a half to Rice to save carfare.

"I was not a social success at Rice, but academically I did well. I always made the Dean's List and in the fall of my senior year, I was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. At commencement of my junior year, I was awarded an Edith Ripley Scholarship which helped the finances. I was also runner up for the Graham Baker Scholarship which goes to the most outstanding senior.

"Even though I was not a social butterfly, I made many friends whom I still see often. During our 'off' hours we could walk across Main Street to Autry House, then the student center, and play bridge. On lab days we ate lunch at the cafeteria there." She graded papers for extra money and sometimes made as much as \$5 a week.

"Two outstanding professors during my freshman year were Dr. Edgar Attenberg, a real character, for biology and Dr. Floyd S. Lear, a real scholar, for Ancient History 110. Mr. Chillman, who taught Architecture 510, which was the history of art, opened new doors for me. When I was in Europe the fall of 1979, I thought of Mr. Chillman many times as I went through the Doges Palace in Venice and other museums all over Italy, especially Florence and Rome.

"Two English teachers who really influenced my life were Dr. Allen McKillop and Dr. Stockton Axson. Dr. McKillop taught the History of English Lit. in my sophomore year and a year's course in the English novel. We read outstanding novels categorized as romance or realism. They were listed in chronological order, beginning with *Tom Jones*.

"Dr. McKillop had a tremendous sense of humor and a dry wit. He had a remarkable toothy smile. One pleasant aspect of this course was the 'get-togethers' at Marian Hubbell's house on the afternoon or evening before each bi-weekly exam. Marian, Julian Sakowitz, Edith Westerfield, Mary Tallichat, and I would look up criticisms and commentaries on the various books and would bring them along with our own ideas, and we would talk.

"Dr. Axson, brother to the first Mrs. Woodrow Wilson (Ellen Axson Wilson), taught a year's course in Shakespeare. He and his course have really had an impact on my life. Dr. Axson read the play to us college

*Continued on page 10*

seniors, and his reading was wonderful...what an actor. I was spellbound then, and I still am whenever I hear or read lines from Shakespeare. During the last several years of my teaching I was privileged to teach an elective course in Shakespeare to high school seniors, and I tried to emulate Dr. Axson.”

In the summer of 1929, Mildred’s two half-sisters gave her a trip to Southern California. “Edna bought my clothes for the trip and paid for the transportation and Virginia paid for all my expenses.”

Her brother’s widow and daughter were living at the Hilton and so they stayed there. She met some memorable young men and visited Coronado Beach, the Silver Strand, Tia Juana, Aguas Calientes, Capistrano and Riverside. “En route from California, Edna and I went to Salt Lake City and had a sightseeing tour there and went onto the Royal Gorge, which was beautiful.



“We had a boring day across Kansas to Muskogee, Oklahoma,” where they spent a day and a night before returning to Texas. “It was a grand trip for a 20-year old.”

Mildred graduated from Rice in the spring of 1930 right at the

beginning to the Great Depression. She found a teaching job in Humble for \$150 a month. “I had grown up in a little town, but not the kind of little town that Humble was – an oil field drilling town. Most of my students were the children of oil field ‘roughnecks’ and different standards from mine.”

Mildred, obviously, went on to teach school. Jesse became a high school coach and assistant principal. He then became a homebuilder and subsequently joined Southwestern Savings Association, where he served as vice-president. Madge taught English in Houston for forty-two years, retiring in 1971 from Bellaire High School.

*These stories are vivid profiles of young people with the courage, tenacity, and drive to follow their dreams. What a tribute to them and to the school that made their transforming experience possible!*

## THE SCRAPBOOK OF ADELE WAGGAMAN '17

*From the Rice University Archives*



*The Rice University German Club on the day it was organized.*

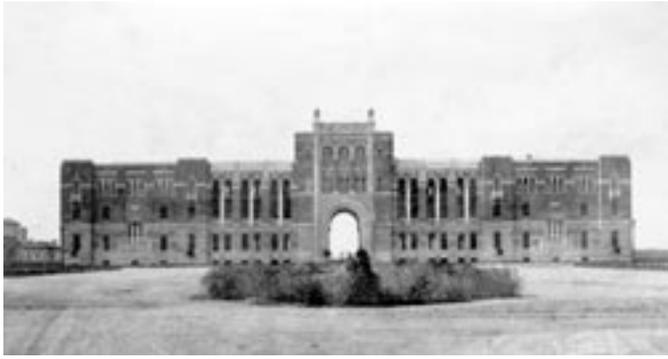
## THRESHER ARTICLES FROM THE TWENTIES

*Compiled by Karen Rogers*

September, 1926 began Jesse and Madge’s final year at Rice and Mildred Ogg’s first. The September 21 headlines proclaim “Rice Registers Largest Student Body.” Nearly 1,300 students were enrolled, due to two reasons, according to the *Thresher*: “an increase in accommodations caused by a greater number of class schedules (the number of classes available) meeting from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and the large number of desirable applicants wishing admission to Rice.” The dormitories were overflowing and students were seeking off-campus housing.

The following rules were published for freshmen:

1. Be respectful and obedient to upperclassmen and answer “Sir” to name “Slime.”
2. Wear regulation Slime cap at all times, except Sunday. Do not wear Rice belts until notified.
3. Keep on gravel at all times. Trot to and from classes and other places every Tuesday.
4. Shall wear coat, collar, and tie to all meals, classes,



*Main Street side of the administration building, 1912*



*Rice's first football team*



*Picnic at Galveston, February 22, 1913*



*Y.W.C.A. house party at Bay Ridge, Summer 1914*

laboratories, and all public places. Football Slimes excepted at supper.

5. Shall wait in cloisters until all upperclassmen have been seated at noon meals.
6. Freshmen must seek rides at first and third gates only. West Hall Entry is reserved for upperclassmen.
7. Wear loud suspenders, green Windsor ties, and no coat on Fridays.
8. No Slimes shall wear knickers or grow moustaches.
9. Must learn school songs, attend all pep meetings, and Yell like Hell.
10. Dorm Slimes must put name placards on door.

These rules apparently applied only to the male students.

At the time, Coach Heisman was addressing the student body, defending the institute's policy of seating the students from the 10-yard line to the goal posts at football games. He told them that the founder had left no provision for athletics and the trustees were personally paying the deficit of \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year. "The presence of this deficit prevented any additional outlay for a swimming pool, basketball court, or other improvements." He said that Houston residents, who pay ten times what the students pay to attend football games, should have the best seats. "Not a dissenting voice was raised."

In November the *Thresher* announced: "New Plan Eliminates Traditional Mess Hall Rush." The article stated that the new plan "allows students to go quietly into the commons and take their seat without waiting for food to be served."

The commons were modeled on those of Oxford and the students originally were seated at long tables that ran the length of the room. As the school grew and new residential halls were built, a different configuration was put in place. The first students to get to the food took all they wanted and the ones who came after had to make do with what was left. Actually, early in the twenties the food service had become so bad that in the spring of '24 "dissatisfaction became so general that a riot occurred in which the mess hall was practically wrecked and the chef was pelted with small dry oranges he had been serving for dessert."

The system improved but was far from perfect. The students were kept waiting until the food was on the tables. The headwaiter would call "Come and get it" and "a wild stampede would ensue.

"This continued until last week when J. Madden, headwaiter, prompted by a recent editorial in the

*Continued on page 12*



*Rice Baseball Team*



*Above and below: Rice men at play*



*Below: Rice women dressed for a "Girl Party"*



*Thresher*, decided to institute the one now in effect." It worked "admirably and represents a permanent solution. It is at least more consistent with Rice's ideals of gentlemanly conduct."

The *Thresher* also noted that two North Dakota colleges had informed the Kappa Delta National Forensic Society that they will not prepare debating teams to argue against Prohibition.

At this time Rice also had instituted a system whereby town men had to submit bids to attend Rice dances. This was intended to "weed out undesirables."

In the Fall of 1927 Mildred Ogg saw the article, "New Chapel Will Be Big Addition." Construction work on Palmer Chapel, joined to the Autry House by a long archway, will be completed by Thanksgiving, according to architect William Ward Watkin. The work on the new structure adjoining the Rice campus was started in June. Given to the glory of God and in memory of her brother Edwin Palmer, Palmer Chapel is being erected by Mrs. E. L. Neville as a towering tribute to youths of today." Edwin Palmer was drowned "while nobly endeavoring to save his sister's life. The Episcopal chapel will be entirely for Rice students and will not comprise a parish of the Episcopal faith."

The same issue laments that "the attitude of Houston papers toward the Rice Institute showed a feeling of decided unfriendliness."

*Officers of Rice Y.W.C.A. 1915-1916  
President Adèle Waggaman on far left*

