Wave Of Construction In Sight; Brown College Tops In Priority

By CHARLES DEMITZ

The expansion at Rice is moving forward vigorously on several fronts.

Of most immediate interest is the announcement by President Pitzer of a prospective second women's residential college. The new college, to be located near the site of Jones College, has been made possible by a gift of $1,000,000 from the Brown Foundation, Inc.

THE NEW structure will be named the Margaret Brown Root College in memory of the late wife of Herman Brown, the deceased president and co-founder of Brown & Root, Inc., of Hole fame. A Rice beneficiary for many years, Mrs. Brown was also noted in Houston for her support of the Houston Symphony and Museum of Fine Arts.

Relieving the University's near-critical shortage of women's housing, Brown college will put 200 additional women students on campus. They will reside in a building similar in size and architectural motif to that of Jones College, complete with the fabled air conditioning.

ENVIOUS MALE inhabitants will welcome the projected men's college recommended by Dr. James Fulton, chairman of the University Committee on Residential Housing, in a special report to President Pitzer. He considers the men's housing problem "less urgent" than the women's, but places it next on the expansion agenda.

"It's very encouraging to have just one new college in hand," he said; "two in the same breath is almost too much to hope for."

Hoped for or not, a plausibility study is underway with a view toward possible sites. Dr. Pitzer has asked Dr. Fulton's committee to study on an urgent basis the advisability of "more study space and, hopefully, a modest library" for the college. "In time he believes even the current crop of male sufferers may be air cooled.

FOR LEBENSRAUM-MINDED denizens of Wiess College, Dr. Pitzer confirms the long-extant rumor of midnight sappers expanding the college basement:

"An architect has been contracted to study the feasibility of a Wiess College addition."

The RMC is also the object of numerous intentions. "Funds are available," President Pitzer said, "for a modest improvement of the basement. The air conditioning is in, but plans are uncertain as to the wall arrangement and additional improvements."

The RMC parking lot of beer-bike fame will remain as is.

Much sought but long in coming, the Ryon Civil Engineering Laboratory is now in the hands of the architects. According to donor L. B. Ryon, Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering, the plans are soon to be completed. The structure will contain "offices, research space, and laboratories. It will have a very attractive exterior similar in appearance to the Mechanical Engineering laboratory."

The Thresher learned from the Chemistry department that its improvements are near completion. The re-roofed, remodeled lecture hall will be ready next week, and the badly-needed research and lab space has been provided for several professors.