

Few Remnants Left Of Old Hazing

Beanies and polar bear races may be bothersome, but freshman hazing at Rice is a far cry from the "good old days." Long established traditions like grabbing freshmen as they completed registration were beaten down only after years of administrative effort.

The result of such activities is recorded in a 1928 Thresher report of a \$50,000 lawsuit instigated by a former student who was permanently disabled after being "unlawfully assaulted." The Trustees announced that they were not liable because of rules against such practices.

For years the administration continued to issue protests and

ultimatums against hazing, but an effective crackdown did not come until 1956 as a result of the death of two students in the old Campanile tower.

The slime parade, greased pole climb, and homage to Sammy are the principal remnants of traditional freshman activities. Last year even the greased pole climb lost its traditional form when Hanszen freshmen rented a helicopter to recover the beanie atop the pole.

Eighty-nine freshmen contributed a dollar apiece for a "beer party" and kept the secret for a week so that Life, the Chronicle, and the Post could record the outwitting of Hanszen's sophomores.