RICE BAND HAS BEEN GROWING FOR A LONG TIME. HISTORY REVEALS

By SKIP JOHNSON

The words "Rice Band" connote many different things to different people. This organization has received almost as much heavy flack and ridicule as have the "Rice Girls." Admittedly the band has looked bad at times but they have also looked very good and have brought much respect to the Institute. Many jokes have been launched about the "completely voluntary" Rice Band but stop and think about it a minute...

It's Voluntary

The band is completely voluntary. There are six annual scholarships for the officers who devote much valuable time to their jobs—but other than that the other seventy-five to eighty-five members are just donating their time.

Why? We know they don't do it for the honor and prestige— that's obvious—from the attitude of the student body. Since only six get scholarships I hardly think they do it for monetary reward. Maybe they have four to six hours a week to kill?

More Spirit

Could it be possible that these people have more school spirit than we do? They show up at every pep rally, play at every parade, every home ball game and many out of town games (basketball too), they never quit yelling and playing when the Owls are losing...do you?

The Rice Band is not the best band in the S.W.C., but they try harder and with less incentive than any of the rest.

History

The Rice Band started back about 1916 with only 12 members. In 1921 there were about 35 or 40 members with Chas. M. Supple, director. In 1934 Lee Chatham was the director. Chatham also organized a dance band called "Lee's Owls." Names on the 20 band roster included Maurice Ewing, pres., Walter Moore, Harvin Moore, Sr., Henry Huffman, Corydon Abercrombie, Walter Reeves, Julian Shephard. The next year, 1927, Harvin Moore, Sr. was president of the band.

High in 1941

In 1938 Kitt Reid, a former band member took over as the director. In 1944 membership for the band hit an all-time high of 85-100. Kitt Reid was still director but the dance band was now called Walter Symonds' "Knight Owls."

The "Knight Owls" had made a name for themselves all over Texas but at the end of 1943 the entire group went into the service. In 1944 the band was reorganized and the student director was Hugh Saye. In 1947 Kitt Reid was back from serving Uncle Sam and started serving Sammy by being band director once again.

Majorettes

1943 heralded a new thing...Majorettes four of them...for the first time. They were Mary Amsler, Martha Gibson, Lynn Inglehart, and Ratty Jo Juplin. In 1951 for the first time there was a GIRL in the actual ranks of the band proper.

In 1951-52 Mr. Holmes McNeely came here to take over as band director and is the present director. There were only about 40 members then.

Original Overalls

The band's uniforms have changed from the original coveralls to cape and West Point style to the Sam Brown style with wide leather belts to the double-breasted suits to the present sharp-looking single-breasted style.

Since 1951 many improvements have come about. A budget was secured from the Institute for music and expenses in 1952 and the Alumni and Athletic Dept. now help by giving proceeds of the Blue-Gray game to the band. New uniforms have been obtained through the Alumni Association.

Antiques Replaced

Value in equipment has increased from $3200 to $16,700 including many school-furnished instruments to replace the antiques of the past. Both Army and Navy ROTC. bands have been formed under the direction of Mr. Holmes McNeely. Housing has always been a problem. In recent years the band has moved from the Senior Commons (which had to be completely sound-conditioned) to the basement of Hansen College to the new permanent quarters in the new Student Center. Harvin Moore, former president of the band was instrumental in getting these new and permanent quarters.

Largest Since 1941

The present 1958-59 band of 91 members is the largest since a high of 95-100 in 1941. The Rice Institute Band has come a long way and has included every type major in the Institute. They are trying hard to give us a band we can be proud of so let's give them a salute for hard work and a little much needed and earned encouragement.