Miss Nellie May Mills To Give Rice Valuable Egyptian Scarab

By MARJORIE TRULAN

The first woman student ever to matriculate at Rice has made known her wish to leave an ancient Egyptian necklet to the University upon her death.

Miss Nellie May Mills, who since 1942 has taken care of mothers and babies just out of the hospital in their homes, acquired the necklet from a patient about fourteen years ago and has taken it off only three times since then. The necklet itself, a sacred scarab from the tomb of one of the ancient Egyptian pharaohs, is estimated to be over 2400 years old.

INSURANCE HAS been taken out on the necklet so that if it is lost, the money will go into an assistance fund for women students at Rice, to be known as the Nellie May Mills Assistance Fund. Also the money from Miss Mill's life insurance will go into the fund upon her death.

Although she was unable to complete her studies at Rice, the school has always been dear to Miss Mills and she boasts of having taken care of five Rice "grandchildren." In 1919, Dr. Edgard Odell Lovett, then president, showed the plans and the location of a women’s dormitory to her and to her family from the tower of Lovett Hall. Since its completion three years ago, Miss Mills has felt a special attachment to Jones College and has given the college its large guest register with matching...
EGYPTIAN NECKLET ...

(Continued from Page 3) scrapbook and pictorial record. She has also been voted an honorary alumnus.

TAKING TIME OUT from her duties as a private nurse, Miss Mills was for two years custodial care nurse for retarded bedfast children at the Houston Opportunity Center. She now specializes in taking care of premature babies and works closely with Dr. Allan Penny Bloxsom, one of the first doctors to receive a degree from Rice.

Born May 11, 1885, in Orlando, Orange County, Florida, Miss Mills and her family moved to Houston October 23, 1892. She graduated from the old Central High School in 1904 and entered the College of Industrial Arts, known today as Texas Women's University, on a scholarship. There she was a student assistant in chemistry and physics, and received her diploma in 1906.

SHE WAS determined to be the first woman to matriculate at Rice and fulfilled this ambition in 1912, the first year Rice opened its doors to students.

Miss Mills is impressed with "the long-range planning and pioneer spirit" that she feels has always been a part of Rice, and with the fact that the high standard of work expected from students, both graduate and undergraduate, has been maintained throughout the years. She has seen the atmosphere that a well knit faculty group can produce.

The Thresher and the Sallyport, Miss Mills feels, have "kept students and faculty working closely together," and have kept a close and colorful record of the school's history. Favoring the recent name change, Miss Mills says, "it emphasizes Rice's standing among other universities and institutions."