The time is midnight, January 17, 1917. Grim shadows across the deserted Rice campus hide a ghostly band of conspirators from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of the University of Texas. Accompanying them is the god of Rice's football fortunes, Sammy is not theirs. Sammy is being abducted to College Station.

Detective Named Snowball

The events unfolded after that night are remarkable. On January 19, a right-thinking organization of Rice men self-styled the Owl Protective Association, costumed themselves in tattered clothes, and took a detective named Snowball, and made a pilgrimage to College Station with the intention of locating Sammy. These reckless adventurers unhesitatingly posed as Aggie bull sergeants and publicly searched every room in the Aggie dormitories — but Sammy remained unfound.

In The Armory

On January 30, Snowball sent the OPA a telegram: "Sammy is well and would like to see his parents." In two Fords and a Hudson Six, seventeen daddies left Houston, arriving at Kyle Field at 11:30 pm. Snowball said Sammy was on the third floor of the U. S. Armory.

The Beast Guard

Two of Rice's finest athletes exhausted themselves on the Armory door, splattering gore and flesh all over it before they opened it. A nightwatchman who became curious was distracted by an OPA operative, who stepped out a third-story window and dropped to the ground. The watchman was led by the operative at a rapid pace to the depot, where he was taken care of by the OPA's rear guard. Several other watchmen were accomodated in the same manner as the night wore on.

Reunion With Sammy

Upon reunion with Sammy, the OPA doused him with gasoline, pitched him up, and started downstairs. They were met by a sinugularly dull cadet, who was satisfied when told the owl was being taken "over there." But when the Hudson was loaded and moving, the poor man's perception returned, and he shattered the night with the roar of his 44.

Anxious to coat the Farmers' collective pride with a common barnyard commodity, the OPA undertook a leisurely and noisy tour of the cadets' campus. An immediate and profound abundance of around Aggies forced the unscheduled cancellation of the tour, and the OPA set its course for the home campus.

In a Hudson

Cars and roads were not then what they are now. The two Fords lost their lights and collided with each other. Sammy and all seventeen of the OPA jammed into the craggy Hudson and rattled toward Navasota. At this point the OPA heard angry voices, and in dismay saw the HTAC train from College Station, andwarned Sammy to get down. They were led inside the train, which stopped at the station.

The area. They traded clothes with the hunters and drove the hunters' car out. What happened to the hunters is not exactly clear.

On February 3, the OPA jubilantly returned Sammy to Rice Institute.

The moral? Maybe there isn't one. This operation does not mark the inception of the Rice spirit, but certainly it is the most publicized manifestation of that spirit. It is doubtfull today whether such an affair could be undertaken. The modern spiritual heirs of the Owl Protective Association must burn Christmas trees and brawl at football games to carry on the tradition.