HAMMAN HALL PLANNED FOR COMFORT, UTILITY

By DAVE RUSH

Hamman Hall, the gift auditorium in memory of George Hamman, is modern and well designed in every respect. Like the biology and geology building, Hamman is contemporary yet blends in with the overall spirit of the older buildings. Upon entering the front door one is greeted by an impressive wall of black marble inscribed with a timely quotation from Emerson.

To enter the auditorium properly it is necessary to climb the stairs on either side of the first floor lobby. On the second floor the lobby doubles as an exhibit area and entrance into the auditorium.

**Convertible Seats**

The auditorium itself serves a dual purpose. Its 500 tiered seats can be converted into desks for taking lecture notes. Other interesting features of its use as a lecture hall are the blackboard which can be brought up through the floor and the projection screen which can be lowered from the ceiling.

The stage has two huge curtains and several sliding partitions which can be made to divide the stage in a dozen different ways. Backstage spiral stairs on either side lead to modern dressing rooms. The backstage lighting and partitions are controlled by a special IBM machine.

**3 Air Conditioners**

Hamman boasts three separate air conditioning units. Two facing units cool the auditorium and the other unit cools the remainder of the building. By pumping in the 48-degree water supplied by gigantic units in the boiler room near Abercrombie, the conditioners cool by blowing air over two coils. The first coil contains the 48-degree water and the second coil, which takes the moisture out of the cool air, contains steam-heated water. Anyone who has felt the dry, cool air in the auditorium will undoubtedly agree that this system works perfectly.

**In the Basement**

In the basement directly under the raised seats of the auditorium is located the Shepherd School of Music. Two rehearsal rooms containing two pianos and an organ comprise the greater portion of the space while Dr. Hall's office fills the remaining portion. Outstanding aspects of these rooms are their indirect lighting and soundproofing systems. This soundproofing is so complete that a trumpeter can be practicing while a lecture is going on overhead without either one disturbing the other.

Without a doubt Hamman Hall will be a chief entertainment and educational center on the Rice campus for years to come.