Tradition Of Lockout Traded For A Weekend

By JOY OPPENHEIM

Tradition has been put back on the shelf for another fifty years. The glory that was Rice becomes merely a background for the glory that is Rice. But one tradition-filled event was noticeably absent during the review of Rice's past achievements: the tradition of lock-out.

As the name implies, lock-out is the process whereby various miscellaneous and sundry objects (sawhorses, chains, chewing gum, hoses, ropes, wires, etc.) mysteriously make their way into and around the gates of this institution (institution, not institute) of higher education thereby prohibiting professors, administrators and gardeners admittance.

ALTHOUGH THE most recent occurrence of the remarkable phenomenon was in 1957, the tradition goes back to 1928. Its original design was a little vague and remained that way until about 1931, when the students proclaimed an “officially unofficial” holiday on the event of beating the University of Texas in football.

Strangely enough, it was a direct result of the defeat of this particular team by the men in

blue and grey (white, when they’re the home team) that has resulted in most of the holidays.

IN 1949 the tradition became more defined and was expanded to include a holiday after the first conference victory.

The Student Association has had various agreements with the Administration through the years to the effect that a football weekend a year would replace the lock-out ceremony.

THE MOST recent successful campaign was conducted in 1957 under the leadership of a mysterious junior referred to only as “Mr. Jones.” The freshman class was routed out of bed around 4:30 a.m. and made to stand guard and help with the barricade. A few stalwart souls managed to sneak in. Dr. Katherine Drew imparted pearls of wisdom to ten students in History 100. A pep rally climaxed the day’s activity along with a dance in the student lounge.

The mass demonstration was the result of the defeat of the previously unbeaten Texas A and M team by the Owls. A and M was, at that time, the number one team in the nation, a distinction now owned by another Texas team.

Mr. Jones ... where are you?