'Golden Years' Has Air Of Healthy Pride

By RICHARD DARILEK

A featured highlight of Rice's Semicentennial year celebration and the annual Homecoming activities was the campus premiere on Saturday afternoon, October 13, of a movie entitled "The Golden Years."

This film, which was well attended by alumni, faculty, and students, reviewed the vast panorama of people, events, and developments which have marked the Rice growth—from conception in 1912 through virtual maturity in 1962, from Institute to University.

SPONSORED by the Alumni Association, or, more correctly, produced by Ruth and Shad E. Graham as a token of their appreciation of this school. "The Golden Years" especially prepared for initial showing during the Semicentennial.

ON THE WHOLE, all the technical work seemed to be painstakingly well done—even the imaginative interplay of background music—an is certainly a tribute to the "love and gratitude" with which the Grays admitted produced the film.

Certain questions, however, are raised by the content of the narrative, which is attributed to Grace Leake Watts. The theme of "The Golden Years" is evidently "greatness."

That word or a derivation thereof is employed throughout the production at least twenty times in describing Rice. The point is this: if a school, its professors, and everything about it is admittedly great, does one have to keep reiterating this over and over? Or is more accomplished in overall objectives if one presents the facts and lets the intelligent audience deduce the only obvious conclusion?

THEN TOO, the transitions from one scene to another seemed weak—partly because they were constantly being summed up by that ever-popular word (that's right — "great") and partly because, when they were not, some other all-encompassing adjective or weak conclusion was substituted.

On the other hand, this attitude can, in some ways, be defended. Viewed in a different light, "The Golden Years" has a certain spirit about it which does issue forth, despite evident weakness and hasty generalizations. It assumes an air of healthy pride, one which undoubtedly projects from the author but which also permeates the listener.

IT PORTRAITS Rice not as a school of isolated machines but as a home for human beings pursuing common ends.

Finally, it serves to remind everyone that while Rice University now rides high on the recent was of timely publicity, it will take a serious effort in terms of industry and productivity to keep it there.