

NEIGHBORS OF NOTE**Mrs. Kelley Among
Top Rice Boosters**

BY SAUL FRIEDMAN

Chronicle Staff

Before the front door of Mrs. Edward W. Kelley's home at the northern edge of Rice Institute campus stand four sturdy white pillars.

Perhaps these pillars at 1 Remington Lane could personify the influence of Mrs. Kelley and her family in the growth of what is finest in Houston.

Mrs. Kelley, a vivacious, blue-eyed lady, considers herself a housewife, but she admits that her pet project is Rice Institute.

To Enjoy Self

And this week, 30 years since she graduated from Rice, Mrs. Kelley will sit back and enjoy herself in the gay festivities of Rice homecoming. For in those 30 years Mrs. Kelley has been a tireless worker for Rice Institute growth. Just a year ago, for example, she gave Rice \$250,000 for the construction of Autry Court, named for her mother, which will be the scene of homecoming celebrations.

Mrs. Kelley is the daughter of the late Judge James L. Autry, who was general counsel for the Texas Co.



MRS. EDWARD W. KELLEY
Rice Patron

Her great grandfather, Micajah Autry, died at the Alamo.

Mrs. Kelley, the former Allie May Autry, was born in Corsicana, where her father was county judge. When their daughter was four, the family moved to Houston.

Mrs. Kelley attended Fannin School and old Central High, graduating from Rice in 1925.

After graduation she made her debut in the first Allegro Ball, and joined the Junior League.

In 1930 she met Army Lt. Edward W. Kelley and they married.

Retired from Army

Her husband retired from active service in 1936 and when the couple came back to Houston to live they had two children, Edward W. Kelley, Jr., and a daughter, Allie Autry.

On their return, Kelley bought out what was then the Tennison Mfg. Co., which later became the Kelley Mfg. Co.

Since her husband's sudden death from a heart attack in 1946, Mrs. Kelley has been president of the company.

Today she is a member of the Houston Garden Club, Houston Country Club, Texas Corinthian Yacht Club, and Milford House. She is active in the Episcopal Church, St. Luke's Hospital, Florence Crittenton Home, and Rice Associates.

Her son, a Rice graduate, is now serving with the Navy in the Far East. Her daughter is attending Smith College.