



UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA TAKES TIME OFF TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE ARTISTS

## The "Legend of the Sea"

### *How the artists charmed Soonerland*

**E**ACH spring sees the importation of a fragment of Fairyland into Norman. Last year it was whatever province of Fairyland you might particularly fancy that was chosen. This year it was the magic realm of Neptune, of Sinbad the Sailor, and of Botticelli's "Cytherea" that transformed a conventional ball room into a pageant of strange figures garbed in seaweed and cockleshells and foam. The transformation in each case

was the handiwork of the student art club, El Modjii.

The "Legend of the Sea" charmed forth many strange creatures from the caverns of the deep but foreign as they may have seemed to the Oklahoma plains they were truly in their proper setting in the Union ball room. For to the general eye the Union ball room had disappeared and an oceanic grotto replaced it.

Panels of myriad colored mosses and shells and of strangely beautiful sea crea-

tures hung from the walls. One was of a sea nymph encircled by a serpent and surrounded by exotic fish and mosses. Another was of a mermaid, another of a giant octopus. The colors of the panels were blues, greens, corals, golds and silvers, and all of their variations.

The thrones for the King and Queen of the Sea had as a center motif a large green dragon's head flanked on each side by fluted shells. The thrones were on a raised dais of silver and gold and from them the king and queen received the homage of their subjects in the grand promenade.

The coming of the king and queen was



ON THE BENCH LEFT CENTER: WALTER W. KRAFT, DEAN J. F. FINDLAY AND PRESIDENT BIZZELL

## Original designs mark ball *King Neptune rules El Modjii festival*

heralded by a fascinating nymph in silver tissue who danced into the grotto driving four sea horses. The entrance of the royalties was succeeded by a ballet of the sea danced by mermaids in cloth of silver. The motives and rhythms of the dance were all derived from marine sources.

The grand promenade before the king and queen revealed all manner of pirates, turtles, shells, starfish, dragons and sailors. Long fins, grotesque tails, fascinating mosses and colors of every hue adorned the youthful subjects of King Neptune.

Lights hung with emerald green seaweed cast a glamorous radiance over the

promenade and dancing. Music came enticingly from a sunken cavern and intermissional dances by two Kiowa Indians added to the exoticism of the evening.

The transformation wrought on this gala night was not however the work of a fairy wand nor of Neptune's trident, though the visitor to the Legend of the Sea might well have believed it. Actually the Fairyland was created in Norman by members of El Modjii under the direction of Miss Edith Mahier, their sponsor.

Chief glory in the miracle goes to Mrs Olive Nuhfer, a dainty, black eyed senior student. Mrs Nuhfer chose the theme of the dance, designed and executed the panels in miniature, and designed the costumes for the ballet given by the members of the Adagio club under the direction of Miss Peggy Schnitzer. Not only is she a housewife, student, and creative artist but she was the nymph who led the seahorses in the charming dance which opened the evening's entertainment.