

Taus Spin NU's Biggest Ball



Poised On The Slippery Slide

Earl Grothe and Sally Berg balance precariously on the slippery slide, the only entrance to the dancing floor, as from left to right, Eileen Mullarky and Bill Weber, representing Tinkerbell and Peter Pan; Nancy Hemphill and Dave Jones, water-front bums; Mary Alice Anderson and Jack Trabert, costumed as Sampson and Delilah; Mel Fahrbruch and Bob, attired as Mark Antony and Cleopatra, pose beside the huge paper mache replica of Aunt Jemima.



Dan Boone And The Convicts

Pictured here are Tom Olson and Carol Smith, clowns; Don Orr and Carol Tremain, Daniel Boone and an Indian; Jan Yost and Bob Ebers, convicts, and Dianne Towne, Bill Weber, Martha Hill and Jerry Jensen.



Hansel And Gretel

Humpty Dumpty sitting warily on his wall drapes a background for Jerry Jensen and Martha Hill, representing Hansel and Gretel; Donna Smith and Doug Dunn, costumed as a bride and groom; John and Barbara Swanson, playing the restful pair of the Sleeping Beauty and her pillow; John Albertson and Jean Harmon, animating the tattered duet of Raggedy Ann and Andy; and Art McKeown and Audie Jones as Mexicans.



Peter Pan And Tinkerbelle

Perching on axe-hewn chairs before snapshots of storyland pictured on the murals, are Bill Bosking and Pat Mulligan, cast-offs from the Gay Nineties; Jim Seranton and Elaine Unterseher, representing a scalpel duet as a doctor and his nurse; Shirley Hampton and Bob Rainforth, dipping into history with costumes of Balboa and an Indian princess; Jo Krueger and Larry Langley, attired as Little Bo Peep and Little Boy Blue; Phil Bliss and Marsha Johnson, dressed as fugitives from the state penitentiary; Sally Berg and Earl Grothe, as Peter Pan Tinkerbelle, and Sylvia Gease and Rod Wolfe, borrowing a jester and a noble Roman from the courts of old.

Storie Booke Balle Splashes Forth

The Thirteenth Olde Tymme Storie Booke Balle, a biennial Alpha Tau Omega costume party, splashed forth in theatrical technicolor Saturday evening as scores of gaily bedecked fugitives from the land of Make Believe gamboled about the Cornhusker Ballroom.

Jack and Jill were there with their pail of water, Hansel and Gretel tripped in with Dutch shoes. Ichabod Crane appeared with the Headless Horseman. St. George was continually sparring with the dragon. Sleeping Beauty brought her pillow. Antony and Cleopatra and Sampson and Delilah added a romantic touch. Raggedy Ann and Andy were present along with Daniel Boone. Wee Willie Winkle, Santa Claus, Peter Pan, Tinkerbelle, The March Hare, the Mad Hatter, Little Bo Peep, Little Boy Blue, the tortoise, the hare, Balboa and an assortment of convicts, Mexicans, Romans, slaves, dancing girls, lollipops, candy canes, bums, little boys and girls, football players, referees, Indians, cowboys, woodsmen, and sailors.

Huge murals, representing scenes from King Cole's court, Mother Goose and Nursery characters, draped the walls of the ballroom and completed the mystical transformation. A huge Roman gladiator met the guests at the entrance and shoved the couples down a slide, which sent the guests whizzing through the huge paper mache construction of Aunt Jemima and spilled them onto the dance floor. Overhead several hundred yellow and blue balloons dangled from the rafters.

Undoubtedly one of the campus's most elaborate productions, the origin of the Storybook Ball may be traced to 1928 when five Alpha Taus, fired with the idea of doing something different in the way of a party, conceived the novelty of a costume ball using storybook characters.

The invitations were handlettered in Old English, the same form which is used today. Elaborate murals were painted which completely covered the walls of the Scottish Rite Temple where the first ball was held. These same murals, as life-like and as eternal as the storybook creations themselves, have been projected on the walls for each succeeding ball. They are so bulky they must be carried to the ball in a semi truck.

The ball is held every two years—both because of the money expended and because of the tremendous amount of work involved. Bob Brown was overall chairman of this year's presentation. Bruce Lippke was in charge of making the Negro mammy and Sam Marvin and Art McKeown did the art work.

At midnight the magical spell was broken . . . the balloons descended in torrents . . . the costumes were torn, tattered and littered over the floor . . . couples murmured goodbyes and slipped into the darkness . . . Humpty Dumpty, silent and subdued, still sits on the wall waiting for 1957 and the next Storiebook Balle.



Hector The Second Says

"Hector the Second by the grace of God of Universitas of Nebraskensis, Lincoln ford, and Gammathetaville king, defender of women, and so forth, to you of Greekville, Greetings. We request you in favor of his Majesty if you are to remain in this balliwick, to present your body before our justices at Ye Olde Cornhusker Balle Roome on the eve of the Holy Trinity (March 19, 1955) bytwene the hours of nine and midnight, to answer to the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity gentlemen, to render your esteemed presence at their Twelfth Olde Tymme Storie Booke Ball, which you own them but may unjustly detain. And have then and there this writ, mask, and suitable costume." Dressed in the green and brown of Robin Hood's Sherwood forest, Jim Switzer, Tom Zastera and Harold Demaree prepare to issue the royal proclamation, bearing gold and blue ribbons, the ATO seal, to the sorority houses.



Headless Horseman Rides Again

Seated on wooden stumps, the only furniture aligning the ballroom floor, are Rady Johnson and Dianne Towne, representing Caesar and Cleopatra. In the back row are Bob Rainforth, Anne Desmond and Wayne Gunderson, dressed as the March Hare and the Mad Hatter; Earl Grothe and Sally Berg, arrayed as Peter Pan and Tinkerbelle; Rod Wolfe and Sylvia Gease, playing the court jester and the Roman; Jo Krueger and Larry Langley, attired as Little Bo Peep and Little Boy Blue, and Bill Pyle and Janet Aunspaugh as the legendary duo from Washington Irving, Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman.



Over The Bounding Main

Standing before the orchestra, attired jauntily as Mediterranean buccaners, are front row, left to right: Roy Keenan, Sylvia Gease, Bill Weber, Eileen Mullarky. Back row: Bill Thompson, Courtney Campbell, Lou Ann Ross, Dick Cook, Bob Hofacre, Jackie Switzer, Rady Johnson, Mel Fahrbruch, Bob Brown, Mary Alice Anderson, Jack Trabert, Marilyn Bourck, Roger Gohde, Rita Jelinek, and Mike Edwards.



The Tops In Storyland

Shown here, all fugitives from Never-Never Land, are the winning costumes of the evening. From left to right, Rita Jelinek and Mike Edwards spar as St. George and the Dragon; Catherine Hodder and Rod Schroeder rest momentarily from the perpetual race between the tortoise and the hare, and Jackie Ray and Jack DesEnfants complete a twin treat of the lollipop and the candy stick.



Jack And Jill

These castoffs from the pages of fantasy are (from left to right) Bob Nieman and Janet Lindstrand, dressed as bakers; John Musgrave and Jo Leutenhoger, animating figures from the Wild West; Mike Korff and Kay Riley, attired as Chinamen; Norm Watkins and Martha Hunter, portraying the nursery rhyme characters of Jack and Jill; Con Schneider and Carolyn Speak, representing Chinese coolies, and Barbara and John Swanson, costumed as Sleeping Beauty and the pillow.



Before The Spires Of Camelot

Grouped before the castle walls of King Arthur's Camelot are (left to right) Tito Mladovich and Sally Jo Speicher, Peter Bergsten and Nan Engler, and Sharon Ann Reed and Jim Anderson.



Santa And Wee Willie

Grouped against the backdrop of Aunt Jemima are left to right Bruce Brugmann and Ann Trandall, costumed as the kindergarten lad and his mother; Dick Hartsock and Judy Ramey, representing the favorites of the Big Top, the clowns, and Jackie Switzer and Bob Hofacre, attired as redclad pair of Santa Claus and Wee Willie Winkle.

ATO's Entertain Storyland