Archis-Arts Returns To Rice After One-Year Prohibition

By MIMI MUNSON

The Archi-Arts Ball, a Rice tradition inspired by faculty member John Clark Tidden, and dating from about 1920, will be held again this year in the city auditorium.

THE NAME of the dance, "Archi-Arts," was derived from its joint sponsorship by the Architects and the students of drawing and painting. However, the name has not been changed, although the ball is now, practically speaking, the responsibility only of the Architecture Department.

Back in the twenties, the ball was held at Autry House, but as attendance grew, its sites included the Rice Field House, various country clubs, and the Rice Hotel.

ORIGINALLY, Archi-Arts was always based on certain periods in time, or a setting chosen as "a motive for the study of costuming," said Dr. James Chinman of the Fine Arts Department. Examples are the Deep Sea Ball and the Byzantine Ball. Gradually the trend turned to themes, with the costumes representing different aspects of that year's theme.

The custom of presenting Rice coeds as honorees has also changed over the years. At first this part of the ball was conducted along the lines of a beauty contest, the central idea of the ball being of little import. More recently, the honorees have become an integral part of the theme,

which the girls' costumes are carefully chosen to underline.

THE ARCHITECTURE Department's most recent and most successful ball ended on the stern note of probation. The decision resulted from "offending" costumes involving a pregnant nun and a priest, and a brick and a brick layer. (See box below.)

But the Archi-Arts ball has been revived from the dead and a new ball with a new theme will be presented this year, hopefully without similar disastrous consequences.