JAMES SWAIN DESIGNS COSTUMES
For Anton Chekov's Upcoming Theater Production

DURING COLLEGE DAYS

Costumer's Sewing Learned at Resort

By JEANIE WALKE
Lariat Staff Writer

Amid buttons, yards of material and unfinished parasols stood a tall, distinguished-looking man. His first choice is used. If the material cannot be found, then minor alterations must be made.
Another thing that affects costume design is the person cast in the roll. Swain pointed out the figures of some of the actors and actresses do not comply with original costumes; therefore some alterations must be made.

For this play there will be about four costume changes for each character, because the play setting will cover a period of four months. When possible, Swain tried to use costumes left over from previous performances, but most dresses and suits will be new.

"The students in the drama department make the costumes in an assembly-line fashion. Two people might cut all of the material while two others gather all accessories. Hardest to obtain for the play is women's lace-up boots. Three pair were ordered from Ohio."

After the play is over all costumes will be packed into storage until next spring when the play will run again. Because the play is scheduled again, "we have to keep everything intact, and we are trying not to borrow," Swain said.

Swain got indoctrinated into sewing while working at a summer resort where he was in college. The girls who worked with him decided to teach the boys how to sew, so they rented a sewing machine, and Swain made his first shirt.

"When I got to college, I had to take costume courses, and I just got interested in it," he said.

Swain received his bachelor's degree at North Texas State University and his master's degree at the University of Texas. He as taught at Sam Houston State College for six years, one of which he served as guest chairman of the drama department.

He has just come from Tulane University after working on his doctorate to Baylor where he is teaching several classes as well as working with the play. He would like to stay in educational drama, even though he has done some acting of his own. Eventually he would like to do more acting and directing,