

PARISH BALL SETS NEW RECORD 600 ENJOY GREAT NIGHT

A new record for attendance at a ball in Mansfield was set on Friday night last, when six hundred patrons packed the enlarged St Mary's Ballroom to capacity for the annual Parish Ball. The new gallery also had its accommodation fully taxed and was much appreciated by the onlookers, who were able to enjoy the night in comfort.

The hall was tastefully decorated with late autumn berries and artificial flowers, and had as a centre piece a gaily-lighted Dutch mill, through the door of which the debutantes entered to be presented to the Shire President (Cr. Cummins) and Mrs Cummins.

There was the usual tense atmosphere of anticipation prior to the presentation of the debs., and although the crowd were enjoying the excellent music of Frank Johnson's Band and B. Clancy's Orchestra, the air of expectancy was evident as they awaited the highlight of the night.

The debutants were preceded by little Ann O'Toole and Stephen O'Brien, in Dutch costume, who presented a lovely bouquet to Mrs Cummins. They acted as door keepers to admit the debs., and once again the artistry of Mrs. Hope O'Brien was reflected in the manner in which the young ladies and their partners were trained for the occasion. They presented a picture of indescribable beauty as they were presented in the following order:-

Miss Lorna Dodemaide (partnered by Kevin Dodemaide) wore a figured organza frock over taffeta. The circular skirt fell gracefully from a tight fitting bodice, which was finished with tiny pearl buttons and cape collar.

Miss Joy McColl's (partnered by John Allen) frock of nylon marquisette had a matching double frilled apron front. The lace bodice was tastefully finished with a marquisette yoke, on which were appliqued lace flowers.

Miss Leveah Weingott's (partnered by Bill Wellwood) lovely frock had a bouffant skirt of many layers of tulle, a wide guipure lace collar studded with rhinestones gave the finishing touch to a tight-fitting bodice.

Miss Lorraine Ritson (partnered by Ernest Jones). Frock of tulle, with full circular skirt gathered on to a lace bodice which had a sweetheart neckline and softly folded cap sleeves.

Miss Margaret McConnell (Basil Egan) wore tulle over taffeta. The full skirt had a half peplum trimmed with white roses, the lace bodice having the neckline and cap sleeves edged with a frill of tulle.

Miss Eileen Dinan (Teddy Bell). The lace bodice had a net yoke and Peter Pan collar, while the full net skirt was trimmed with pointed inserts of lace around the waistline.

Miss Marie Revell (Norman Sharpe) wore silver figured tulle with a boater neckline. The skirt was very full and was caught up from the hemline to show tiny rows of frills underneath.

Miss Elaine Bell (Noel Egan). The lace bodice had a sweetheart neckline trimmed with tiny velvet flowers, and the very full marquisette skirt was appliqued with lace hearts outlined with fine tulle pleating, which was repeated around the waistline.

Miss Marjorie Arbuthnot (Ray Waters) wore white tulle over taffeta with rows of ric-rac braid around the full circular skirt. The simple bodice was very effective with its Peter Pan collar and pearl buttons from neck to waistline.

Miss Margaret Waters (Rex White) wore a frock of white organza over taffeta. The wide bertha collar was trimmed with lace flowers, which were also appliqued on the skirt to give an apron effect.

Following the presentation the debutantes and their partners pleased the gathering with their dancing of the lovely Hawaiian Waltz and were then led in the old time circular waltz by the Shire President and Mrs. Cummins. Mr. Norman Dodgson proved an efficient Master of Ceremonies for the entire proceedings.

Dancing then proceeded at a merry pace set by the two orchestras.

A poultry supper served in buffet style was another feature of a memorable night. Catering for a crowd of this magnitude was an achievement which only a remarkable co-operative effort on the part of the ladies rendered possible. The tables were laden with delicacies and the smoothness with which the arrangements were carried out ensured that no patron lacked for anything, and was indeed a notable and praiseworthy contribution to the ball.

To the President (Rev. Fr. E. Keogh), secretaries (Miss P. Allen and G. Atta), ticket secretary (Mr. F. W. Brammer), the committee and all others associated in any way with this ambitious effort heartiest congratulations are due on the record success achieved, and, if it is possible, we are certain they will rise to even greater heights when the finishing touches are put on the ballroom and all the newly-installed amenities are in full working order. Under these circumstances the 1953 Parish Hall will certainly be an event to look forward to.
