

Sponsored By Shelby Junior Charity League

KM Ladies Are Among Debutantes



SETTING FOR GALA DEBUTANTE BALL — A Cleveland County debutante stands in a formal setting at the thirty-third annual Junior Charity League Debutante Ball Saturday evening in Malcolm Brown Auditorium. Most of the young ladies had their fathers as chief marshals. The debs wore long white formals and bouquets of roses.

Photos By Tom Watson



KINGS MOUNTAIN DEBUTANTES — Pictured are the five Kings Mountain young ladies who were among 131 who made their formal debut at the annual Junior Charity League Ball Saturday evening in Shelby. Front row, from left, Nancy White and Laurie Jenkins. Back row, Mary Louise Adams, Gina Lee Patterson and Mimi Mercier.

Five Kings Mountain debutantes were among the 131 young ladies, all graduating high school seniors from Western North Carolina, who were presented to society at the 33rd annual Shelby Junior Charity League Ball Saturday evening in Malcolm E. Brown Auditorium.

They were Nancy Love White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. White, Laurie Ann Jenkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jenkins, Mary Louise Adams, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles H. Adams, Gina Lee Patterson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jay H. Patterson, Jr. and Mimi Michale Mercier, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mercier.

Miss Mercier was escorted by her father as chief marshal and by Kenneth Thomas Bailles.

Miss Jenkins was escorted by her father and by Kelly Eugene Land.

Miss Adams was escorted by her father and by Scott Aydin Paksoy.

Miss Patterson was escorted by her father and by William Dickey McGill.

Miss White was escorted by her father, Jack H. White and by Warren Keith Goforth.

Since mid-March when the season officially opened in Shelby, 131 young ladies from western North Carolina cities and towns have anticipated the gala event. Shelby was the scene of a two-day social whirl the past weekend for parties, lunches and dances.

Begun in 1946 by the late Mrs. Isabel Hoey Paul, the event has been sponsored annually by Shelby Junior Charity League. Through the debutante season is a round of parties and fun-filled activities, its underlying purpose is serious — continuation of the League's community projects through revenues from the event.

A formal garden scene set the stage for this year's presentation. Topiary trees flanked a white laticed gazebo in center stage, where debutantes were presented, then walked to center stage with their senior and assistant marshals.

A serpentine border of brick and stone continued the garden theme, complete with begonias and dwarf holly. Magnolia topiary trees also accented the gazebo setting. As girls were presented they walked a red carpet to the front of the stage, where they curtsied to the large crowd of families, friends and guests of debutantes.

Following tradition, each girl wore a long white gown and carried 18 long-stemmed red roses. After the final girl was presented, the debutantes returned to the stage for a traditional debutante walk. As one group of girls circled and left the stage, another group began the walk, until each girl had completed the design.

Ziggy Hurwitz provided music for the event, as a background music for the commentary of William Campbell who introduced each girl.

Sons of League members who served as honorary marshals were: James Christopher Ellison, Thomas Scott Ellison, Edgar Blanton Hamilton Jr., Brian Dean Murphy, David Brian Noblitt, Bruce Reid Vaughan and Stough Alexander Wray III.

Mrs. Harold Plaster, Jr. was chairman of the decorations committee, assisted by Mrs. Fred Mills, Mrs. Lowrance Harry, Mrs. James Lutz, Mrs. Jac Reville, Mrs. Michael Schenck, Mrs. Fields Young, III, Mrs. William Henshaw and Mrs. Thad Busby, advisor.

House committee chairman was Mrs. James Toole.

Mrs. Edgar Hamilton and Mrs. Joe Walker were co-chairman of the event. Mrs. Richard Bowles was Debutante Secretary; her assistant was Mrs. Richard Palmer. Mrs. Dennis Beam, Jr., was Party Coordinator, and Mrs. George Wray, Treasurer.

Leading off the events sponsored by Shelby Junior Charity League was a Registration Brunch for debutantes and their mothers from 11 to 2 p. m. at North Lake Country Club. League president Mrs. Lyndon Hobbs greeted guests at the front door, joined by Debutante Ball co-chairman Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Walker.

Brunch chairman Mrs. T. R. Harris greeted guests at the dining room door. Members of her committee included Mrs. Gordon McLarty, Mrs. Clyde Fesperman, Mrs. Franklin Mabry, Mrs. Charles Horn, Mrs. James Taylor, Mrs. Ralph Gilbert, Mrs. Fields Young, Jr., Mrs. Byard Edwards.

Centering the buffet table was a bronze statue of a woman and girl, surrounded with marigolds, ferns, geraniums and begonias. Arrangements of summer flowers were used in the lounge area.

Debutantes and their mothers selected from a buffet of chicken mousse, ham biscuits, barbecue on rolls, stuffed celery, strawberries, and an assortment of desserts.

During the brunch, the guests were greeted by William Campbell, commentator for the presentation, and Mrs. Campbell.

During the afternoon, debutantes, their marshals (fathers) and assistant marshals (escorts) rehearsed for the presentation and the traditional debutante figure.

Following the rehearsal, debutantes, parents and escorts all met at Shelby Elks Club at 8 p. m. for a dinner dance. Torches lighted the path as guests arrived to a summery scene of bright summer flowers and candlelight.

At individual tables, gold tablecloths were used, centered with candles and ivy. Debutante dance cards marked the girls' places. The buffet table was centered with a silver wine cooler overflowing with colorful mixed flowers. Ferns and mixed flowers formed a canopy around the bandstand where the "Castaways" a band from the Chapel Hill area, played for dancing.

During the evening the traditional Debutante waltz was enjoyed by the debutantes and their fathers.

A large buffet featured fried chicken, baked ham, green beans, corn, squash casserole, melon balls and lemon tarts.

Mrs. Jack Arey was dinner-dance chairman, assisted by Mrs. Tom Ellis, Mrs. Loyd Smith, Mrs. Dale Short, Mrs. Paul Ellison, Mrs. William Lutz, Mrs. Joe Mauney, Mrs. Robert Kiger, Mrs. Jim Ramsey, Mrs. Robert Stone and Mrs. Don Yelton, advisor.

At 11:30 a. m. Saturday, North Lake Country Club was scene of a glorious garden party for debutantes and their assistant marshals. Bright yellow tablecloths were spread on the lawn around the patio and pool area, where couples picnicked on hamburgers with all the trimmings, French Fries and nut chocolate cake.

Carrying out the garden theme were white wicker baskets filled with bright garden flowers, dozens of potted plants such as begonias and petunias, and flowers banking the bath house where a folk duo, Toni and Steve provided the music during the party.

A rope swing, entwined with ivy, ribbons and flowers, was hung on a low branch of a huge oak tree near the pool. Here, debs and dates gathered during the party for photographs and to receive a pink carnation as a party favor.

Garden party chairman was Mrs. Stough Wray, Jr. Her committee included Mrs. Michael Kennedy, Mrs. James Horn, Mrs. Jack Hunt, Mrs. Eugene LeGrand, Mrs. Charles Lampley, III, Mrs. Clyde Stutta.

While the debs and their escorts were picnicking and fathers of debutantes were playing golf or tennis, the mothers of debs were invited to a Mother's Brunch at Cleveland Country Club.

The traditional luncheon, sponsored each year by Sustaining Active members of the League, opened on a cheerful summer note — caladiums and red geraniums banking the door. At the front door, guests were greeted by Sustaining President Mrs. Robert Stone.

In the lounge, Debutante Co-chairmen Mrs. Edgar Hamilton and Mrs. Joe Walker chatted with the mothers as they arrived. In the lounge, a low table was decorated with day lilies in a brass urn; magnolia leaves decorated the mantel and commode.

League president Mrs. Lyndon Hobbs and Brunch chairman Mrs. William Campbell directed the mothers to the dining room, where an elegant buffet featured chicken a la king in patty shells, cheese fondue, marinated asparagus, tomato aspic with dressing, meringue shells with whipped cream and strawberries.

A large epergne filled with summer flowers centered the Italian cutwork cloth.

Others assisting at the event were Mrs. W. K. Rowan, Mrs. David White, Mrs. Robert Litton, Mrs. Jack Morgan, Mrs. Robert Morgan, and Mrs. C. L. Vaughan.

Mrs. Julian Hamrick and Mrs. Eugene Arrowood were pianists for the event.