

Paris, September 3rd. 1953

CUEVAS BALL

Also covered by all competition
Positive developed: 140 meters - 466 ft
Ghiberta-Biarritz on September 2nd. 1953

The "Ball of the Century" given in Ghiberta pine woods near Biarritz brought together Europe's famed international set and was the most important event since Don Carlos Beistegui's famous reception in Venice two years ago.

At the time the Ballet mecene Marquis de Cuevas had sworn he would also organise such a Ball that would outshine Beistegui's convention, and it seems he succeeded in his venture. His XVIIIth Century costume Ball brought together over 2000 people, many of them dressed in their ancestors' before their heads were cut off, and they mingled on the beautiful lawns of the Ghiberta Golf course.

The host, Marquis de Cuevas is owner and spiritual leader of the world famous Ballet de Cuevas and one of the most important members of the international set. The purpose of the party was to revive interest in the Basque Coast, which many of us had been ignoring in favor of the warm sands of the Riviera and the cool breezes of Deauville.

The entire decor was done in 18th-century style by New-York decorator Valerian Rybar and food catered by Prince Alex Obolensky also had an 18th-century flavor. But the guests arrived in the most modern and luxurious cars, Cadillacs, rolls-Royces, Jaguars and Bentleys poured their headlights in the surrounding woods on the way to Ghiberta.

After the guests arrived, the Marquis de Cuevas, dressed as the God of the Four Seasons, presided over a pageant in which many of the most beautiful men and women participated. Among the guests were an estimated 50 princes, 35 marquises, 95 counts, 20 dukes, 15 barons, 60 detectives and 978 photographers.

Picture shows :

- Arrival of guests with servants holding lights
- Marquis de Cuevas greeting his guests
- shots of photographers wearing Louis XIVth costumes
- cameramen too had to be dressed. they wear Basque costumes.
- Marquis de Cuevas on the stage. He is dressed as King of the Seasons and the four Seasons are surrounding him. He bows to the crowd.
- entry of TITANIA (Mignon) and her Monkey-gardener, (Merle Oberon and Count Raspini.)
- entry of "FLORE" (Mrs. Clark Gable)
- entry of "Shepherdess of Casa de Campo" (Madame de Juncadella) with her baby sheep.
- entry of a "Soubrette and her Escort" (Anabella and Mr. Asselin.)
- entry of "The Desert Diamond" (Ballet star Zizi Jeanmaire and her camel.)
- entry "The wonderful trips" (a group with Duke of Brissac)
- Entry of "Don Quixote and Sancho Panca". American newspaperwriter Elsa Maxwell in Sancho Panca on a donkey and Don Quixote is Mr. Martin Montis.)
- Entry: "Gardener and florist" a group of celebrities dressed by Carven and Virginie)
- Entry "Le Boucanier et les Trois Dames" (Suzie Solidor Countess Crespi and Mme Rousseau are the three ladies whilst the "Boucanier" is famous matador Luis Miguel Domingain)

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- entry "The French in the Islands", a group with Pierre Balmain and Marquis Pierre d'Arcangues.
- shot of Balmain cheering at show,
- shots during passage on the stage, shots of guests.

after the entries the Ballets danced on the lake, LAC DES CYGNES, and then began the ball which lasted until dawn.