

13/7/58

PATHE JOURNAL

PARIS, July 14. 1958

The "DEBUTANTES" BALL in VERSAILLES
positive developed: 39 meters - 130 ft

The Orangerie of the Versailles Palace, one of the architectural masterpieces of Mansard, was the stately setting for the First American Debutante Ball at Versailles, in the course of which 49 american debutantes were presented to French and international society. Some 1200 persons, including 500 young frenchmen and 250 french debutantes were on hand to greet the american debutantes who flew to Paris from the United States Wednesday.

Dressed in the latest creations of the great PARIS couturiers, the american debutantes from many parts of the United States danced in the historical hall which is 170 yards long and 12 yards wide.

At midnight they took part in a cotillon with young frenchmen and at one in the morning the Versailles Restoration Committee put on a special "light and sound Spectacle" in their honor.

Most of the 1200 guests gathered before the Versailles Palace to watch the dazzlingly beautiful illuminations of the Palace and to hear its dramatic history as told by some of France's best actors. As a climax the illuminated fountains of the park were turned on and the american debutantes were able to watch the famous "jeux d'eau" one of the most luxurious of the entertainments devised by Louis XIV.

The debutantes danced in the gayly decorated and brilliantly lit Orangerie which was built in 1686 by Mansard to house Louis XIV's precious orange trees. They were greeted at 10.30 p.m. at the Orangerie by the French Committee headed by Duchesse de Maille and the Duc de Brissac and including such personalities as the Duc de Mouchy, Duchesse de Luynes, Princesse Guy de Broglie etc.

Among the most remarkable beauties in the group of debutantes specially attracting were Miss Joan Hearst, Gloria Kent, and many others of the richest "heritieres" of the American society.