



The
Inaugural Ball
1957

Inaugural Ball

IN HONOR OF

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Dwight David Eisenhower

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Richard Milhous Nixon

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY

THE MAYFLOWER HOTEL

THE SHERATON PARK HOTEL

THE STATLER HOTEL

WASHINGTON, D. C.

JANUARY 21, 1957

Program

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

WENDELL COREY

WILLIAM GAXTON

JOHN GRANT

WILLIAM LUNDIGAN

GENE RAYMOND

CHORUSES

APOLLO SINGING CLUB

MICHIGAN STATE GLEE CLUB

ARTISTS

TERESA BREWER

KATHRYN GRAYSON

JEANETTE MacDONALD

LAURITZ MELCHIOR

JAMES MELTON

LILY PONS

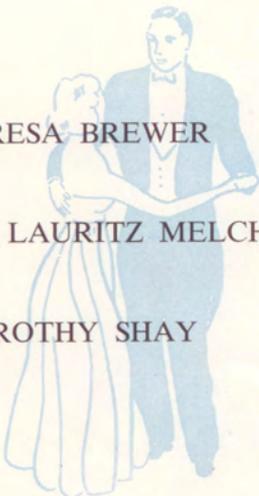
DOROTHY SHAY

LOUIS SUDLER

BRIAN SULLIVAN

THE TOPPERS

AND MANY OTHERS





THE PRESIDENT

Program

DANCE ORCHESTRAS

EMIL COLEMAN

MEYER DAVIS

HOWARD DEVRON

LIONEL HAMPTON

GUY LOMBARDO

SIDNEY

FRED WARING

LAWRENCE WELK



GEORGE MURPHY
Director of Entertainment

Jack Bolton

Orville Crouch

ASSISTED BY

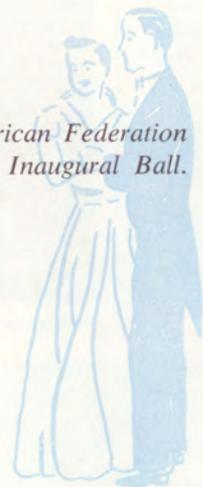
Jack Foxxe

Joel Margolis

LeRoy Prinz

The Inaugural Committee acknowledges with gratitude the generous assistance of the American Federation of Musicians, its members and its president, James C. Petrillo, in the production of the Inaugural Ball.

Wines compliments of Almadén Vineyards.





THE VICE PRESIDENT



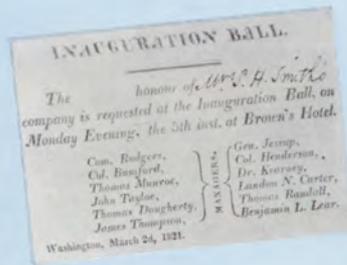
MRS. EISENHOWER



MRS. NIXON



Invitation to President Adams' Ball in 1825.



Ticket to President Monroe's second Ball in 1821.



Invitation to President Harrison's Ball in 1841. Note Daniel Webster's name as head manager. Cost: \$10.00.

The Past Is

A stately levee where the President danced the minuet . . . a de-emphasis on Balls as "too Royalist" . . . Dolly Madison creating a great stir with yellow plumes from Birds of Paradise on her hat . . . rowdy, predominantly male gatherings in a new Capital with mud-hole streets . . . separate parties for the "rich" and "poor" . . . midnight "snacks" of 10 course dinners for \$1 . . . carriages jammed horse's head-to-tail light . . . several times as many tickets sold as space allowed . . . inside a ballroom so cold the champagne froze . . . guests badly jammed and ladies and escorts separated . . . Alice Blue . . . Indian chief singing "Star Spangled Banner" . . . Margaret Pink . . . Mrs. Eisenhower in a gay crystal-sparkled pink gown . . .

All this and much more makes up the 168-year-old history of The Ball. Here are some highlights:

President Washington

The General's wife did not arrive in New York from Mt. Vernon until several weeks after his Inauguration. When she did, a Ball was arranged in their honor by the exclusive New York Dancing Assembly in 1789. The Chief Executive and Mrs. Washington sat on a raised dais and the dancers bowed to them after each number.

When he was installed for a second term in 1793, an elaborate private ball was held to celebrate the event by the Philadelphia Dancing Assembly.

President Madison

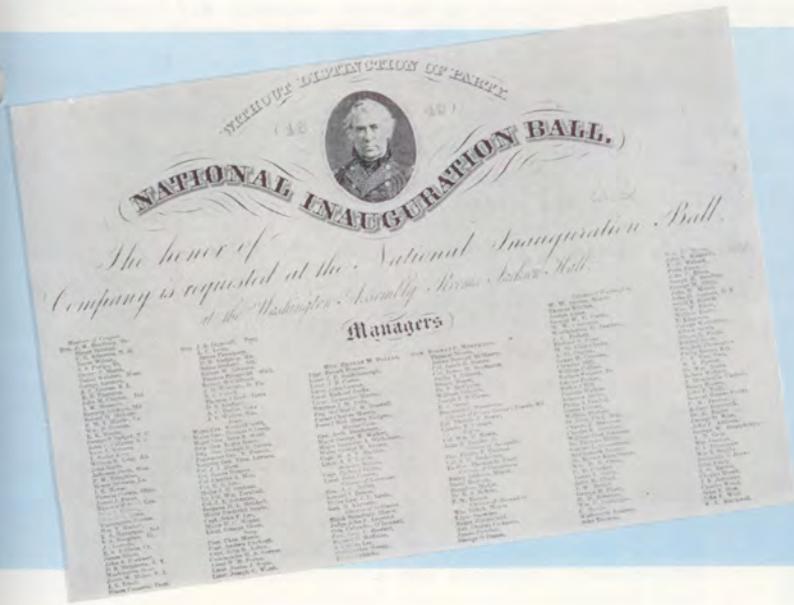
The scholarly James Madison gets credit for making the Ball into an "official" event in 1809. The city of Washington was the Nation's Capital, but also a rude and untidy center populated largely by males whose families could not accompany them. Dolly Madison, age 40, loved gaiety and she joined happily in arranging a party for 400 guests.

The affair was held at Long's Hotel, now the site of the Library of Congress. An early arrival was the retiring President Jefferson, normally stern but now in a jovial humor as he told a friend, "you must tell me how to behave, for it is more than 40 years since I have been to a ball."

When the band struck up "Madison's March," the President's wife led the grand parade. No First Lady before or since has been gowned more elegantly. Behind her buff velvet gown trailed a long train, and two superb yellow Birds of Paradise plumes adorned her hat.

The first Ball set a precedent that has rarely been broken—it was hopelessly jammed with humanity. An observer noted, "The rooms became more and more crowded and the heat intolerable. And as the sashes of the windows would not come down, panes of glass were broken to let in the air."

Jefferson left after a couple of hours, but the Madisons stayed for a late dinner. The new President wearily



In 1849 three Balls honored President Taylor. Herewith invitations to two, run on somewhat "rival" basis. Abraham Lincoln helped manage both.

Prologue . . .

confided to Mrs. Samuel Harrison Smith, an old friend, "I would much rather be (home) in bed."

President Monroe

His first Ball was held in 1817 at Davis Hotel on Lower Pennsylvania Avenue, where a great many members of Congress resided. Such people as Henry Clay attended. Like everything else in Monroe's two terms, the Balls were splendid affairs.

President John Quincy Adams

This Ball was held in 1825 at Carusi's Saloon, a large restaurant at 11th and Pennsylvania, which later became a famous rendezvous for Washington society. The proprietor was an Italian who formerly had been a professor of dancing. Adams came late, left promptly after supper, and made only scant mention of the event in his diary.

But the envoys of such new powers as Colombia, Brazil, and the Federation of Central America were present, and many belles were present to enliven the Virginia reels and other famous dance formations. Ellen Adair White, known as "Miss Florida" White because her husband was a member of Congress from the Florida Territory, was the reigning beauty of the day.

President Jackson

In 1829 the new President was in mourning for his wife and did not attend the Ball, which was held at the

City Assembly and packed with his robust supporters. The General apparently attended both given in 1833. One was at the City Assembly and the other at the Masonic Hall on Louisiana Avenue. Historians note both were "stately and grand."

President Van Buren

Carusi's Saloon again was the site for a Ball when the bachelor Van Buren was feted in 1837. Tickets were \$10 each, including supper, and an observer noted, "A magnificent ball climaxed the day with feasting and dancing and thousands of bumpers of champagne were quaffed . . ." A second Ball, which the President also attended, was held and admission was only \$3.

President William Henry Harrison

Carusi's had been so over-crowded a committee of local citizens purchased a local theater, tore everything out and remade it into a new ball-room for the occasion in 1841. The building, known as the "City Assembly Rooms," was located on Louisiana Avenue near Pennsylvania, and Daniel Webster was Chairman. A surplus of \$2,000 was divided among Protestant and Catholic orphan asylums in the District. The President also attended a "Peoples Tippecanoe Ball" at Carusi's, and the "Native American Ball" at the Masonic Hall.

An invitation to President Buchanan's Ball in 1857—one of the most lavish affairs in history; view of interior of immense temporary Ball room built for President Buchanan's Ball in 1857. About 4,000 jammed the room.



President James K. Polk

In 1845 two Balls were held—one expensive and the other cheap. The President and his wife attended both, which were crowded despite the fact heavy rains had made the streets into seas of mud. The Presidential couple was accompanied by Senator Levi Woodbury of New Hampshire at Carusi's and the colorful uniforms of the corps diplomatique and the Army and Navy made a spectacular impression on out-of-town guests.

President Zachary Taylor

In 1849 the Ball tradition became embroiled in partisan politics. The victorious Whigs built a temporary structure for their celebration in Judiciary Square, where music was furnished by the celebrated Austrian band of Professor Gungl which had just arrived in this country. An opposition affair entitled "The National Inauguration Ball Without Distinction of Party" was promptly scheduled for Jackson's Hotel at Third and Independence. Things must have been composed somehow before the big day, because the President and Vice President Fillmore, a Democrat, attended both as well as a third one (Military) held at Carusi's. Abraham Lincoln was a manager of the first two.

President Franklin Pierce

Two Balls took place in 1853. The first was given by the Washington Infantry Band at Carusi's and the second by the Arlington Club at Apollo Hall on Pennsylvania Avenue.

President Buchanan

One of the most sumptuous balls of all time was given for this bachelor Chief Executive in 1857. Guests danced in an immense temporary building in Judiciary Square, and consumed 3,000 quarts of champagne, and assorted meats, topping it all off with 1,200 quarts of ice cream. The President appeared at 11:00, escorted by a commission headed by Senator Albert J. Brown of Mississippi, and Assistant Secretary of State John Appleton.

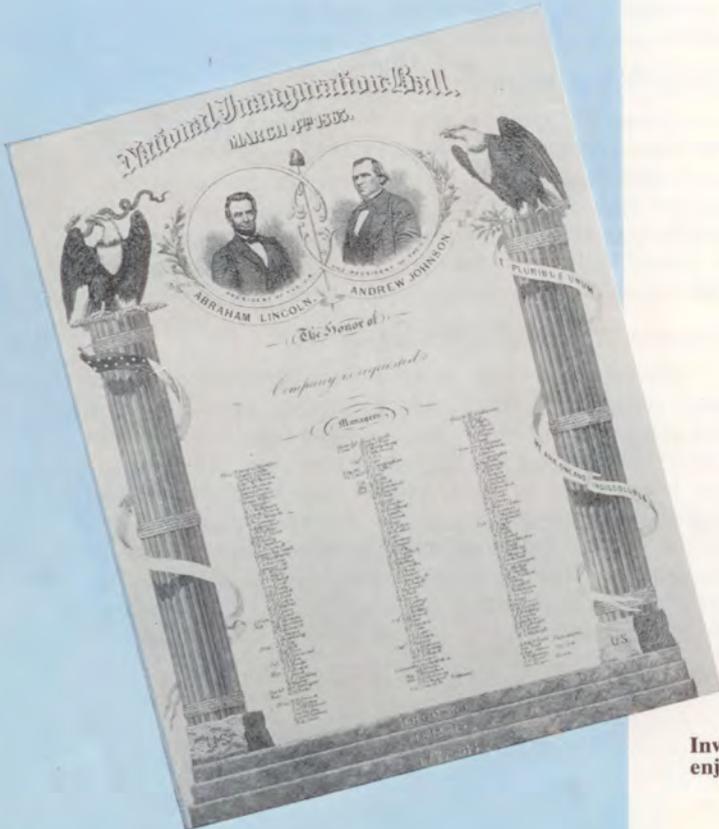
President Lincoln

The President and Mrs. Lincoln attended the affair in 1861 honoring them in a special building 235 ft. by 77 ft., erected in Judiciary Square. He and Mrs. Lincoln were escorted by Senator Stephen A. Douglas.

In 1865, the Ball was held for the first time in a Government building. The Model Room in the Patent Office was the scene of the festivities. The President, we are told, took a boyish delight in the dancing. About 5,000 guests attended. The inevitable decision to abandon supper as part of the affair was speeded by experience at the 1865 Ball. A dining hall, which would seat no more than 300 at a time, was provided, but the immense crowd could not be restrained and pushed into the room, making a shambles of the elaborate spread.

President Grant

The Balls, in 1869 and 1873, fared badly. The first was held in the Treasury Building. Several times



Invitation to President Lincoln's second Ball in 1865. President enjoyed party, but food arrangements were most awkward.

Ball for President Garfield in 1881 in new National Museum, which stands at 11th and Constitution.

as many tickets were sold as the building would accommodate; many persons went home without their own coats and hats. The prominent party leader and New York publisher, Horace Greeley, was reported to have sworn mightily during his hour and a half wait for his wrap.

Grant's second was held in a specially-constructed building in Judiciary Square. However, the building was unfinished, so could not keep out the bitter cold, the champagne froze and valves stuck on the orchestra's instruments. One reporter noted, "Ice cream was not much in demand."



President Garfield

In 1881 the National Museum at 10th and Constitution was just completed, and the Ball was held there.

President Cleveland

From 1885 until 1909, the Pension Office, which held 10,000 persons, was used. It, too, is located on Judiciary Square and is a magnificent building with three tiers of galleries with huge pillars to support the roof. Currently it is a Government office building.

President McKinley

Victor Herbert provided music at McKinley's first Ball in 1897. A large chorus also sang patriotic music. The President's wife fainted while trying to make the grand march at both Balls. An optional 10-course supper for \$1.00 could be had in 1901.

President Theodore Roosevelt

As a Rough Rider hero, the President had been the center of great interest at the second McKinley Ball in 1901. In 1905 his daughter, Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, who is Chairman of the Reception Committee for the present Ball, organized a grand march of her own. All the Roosevelt children attended.

President Taft

Newspapers of the day described the Taft Ball as the most brilliant affair ever assembled under one roof in the Nation's Capital. Value of gems on the guests was estimated at \$10 million. During the grand march, someone stepped on Mrs. Taft's train, causing a traffic jam.

President Wilson

President Wilson discontinued the Ball during both of his terms.

President Harding

He originally planned to revive the practice of an "official" Ball in 1921. However, he changed his mind, and a child welfare charity ball was held instead. Vice President and Mrs. Coolidge, along with most officialdom, attended.

President Coolidge

About 4,000 persons attended a charity ball at the Mayflower Hotel to celebrate the Inauguration. Vice



Invitation to President Cleveland's second Ball in 1893, where Vice President Adlai E. Stevenson also was honored, along with admission ticket.

President and Mrs. Dawes, Cabinet officials, and numerous Governors attended, pushing the affair solidly on the nation's front pages.

President Hoover

Washington Auditorium at 19th and E Streets N.W. was the site for the 1929 affair, again a charity ball. Vice President Curtis, grandson of an Indian princess, entered, escorted by a group of Indians. One, Chief Roaring Thunder, proceeded to sing "The Star Spangled Banner" over the mike, indicating that the hatchet had been buried with the 8,000 guests.

The resulting traffic jam was so bad, however, that a reporter noted "neither conscientious effort nor political influence could cope with it."

President Franklin D. Roosevelt

This was an "official" event in 1933. The First Lady, having put in a strenuous day that included entertaining 2,000 persons for tea at the White House, was dressed in "Eleanor Blue" as she led the grand promenade on the arm of Rear Admiral Carey T. Grayson, Chairman of the Inaugural ceremonies.

President Truman

The President and Mrs. Truman attended this event in 1949 accompanied by many members of their families from Missouri. Their daughter, dressed in "Margaret Pink," joined the throng on the floor for a great deal of the dancing and was the "belle" of the affair. A society reporter noted that "General Eisenhower, dressed in white tie and tails, and Mrs. Eisenhower, in a white taffeta frock," were present at the National Guard Armory.

President Eisenhower

Two Balls were held in 1953—one in the Armory and



Admission ticket sent to President and Mrs. Cleveland to attend the Ball in the Pension Building honoring President McKinley, his successor, in 1897.

the other in the McDonough Gymnasium at Georgetown University. Top capacity for both sites is about 13,000, but about twice this number were present because of an unanticipated heavy demand for invitations. One reporter took two hours getting by taxi and other means from Dupont Circle to the Gymnasium and described the affair thus: "The Ball guests (or victims) having fought to get their tickets, fought to get through traffic, and upon arrival, fought to keep their heads above humanity for a gulp of oxygen."
—by Pat Munroe



Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth, Chairman of the Reception Committee for the 1957 Ball, and daughter of the famous President "Teddy," as she appeared at her father's inauguration in 1905. Pose was made in the East Room of the White House, when she was widely known as "Princess Alice." She attended her first Ball at McKinley's second inauguration in 1901.