

State University of New York College at Buffalo - Buffalo State University

Digital Commons at Buffalo State

Newspapers

Royal Serenaders

6-22-1957

News-1957-06-22

The Royal Serenaders Male Chorus

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/rs-newspapers>



Part of the [History Commons](#), [Music Commons](#), and the [Religion Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

"News-1957-06-22." Newspapers. Royal Serenaders Male Chorus Collection. Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State. <https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/rs-newspapers/18>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Royal Serenaders at Digital Commons at Buffalo State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Newspapers by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Buffalo State. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu.



High School Students Do the 'Rose Waltz' in Major Negro Production

Approximately 128 high-school students in groups of eight were featured in a "Rose Waltz" at the Rose Cotillion Saturday night in Memorial Auditorium. In this group, from left, are Sinotto Johnson, 15; Shirley Jones,

17; Michelle Graham, 16; Donna B. Johnson, 15; Albert Scott, 19; Luke S. Willoughby, 19; Albert J. Baxter Jr., 18; Edward S. Collins, 16. An audience of approximately 2000 persons applauded the performances.



One of the High Points of the Rose Cotillion

A ballet number by Donna Lowe, 17, and Frank A. L. Hill entitled "Flight of the Birds" was one of the major attractions at the Rose Cotillion in Memorial Auditorium Saturday night. The cotillion was a showcase for Negro talent in the community, the first annual production of the new Co-ordinating Council on Negro Affairs.

Cotillion Successful; 3000 at Event

Leaders of the Negro community, pleased by the response to their first formal Rose Cotillion, today re-asserted their determination to make it an annual event dramatizing "the strength and solidarity of the Negro community in Buffalo."

Almost 3000 persons attended the "Night of the Roses" Saturday evening in Memorial Auditorium. The tiers of seats were

Pictures on the Picture Page.

a sea of colors, with the women in party gowns and almost all the men in tuxedos or full dress. Much of the audience was of high school or college age.

Even after a four-hour-long program of choral singing, ballet and almost-endless pageantry, many remained to dance quietly on the giant auditorium floor. As the evening had worn on, the temperature rose in the hall. At least half-a-dozen were reported affected by the heat; several required first aid.

Give \$500 to NAACP

The speech-making was held to the end of the formal program, beginning shortly before 1 Sunday morning. Charles W. Halloran, first deputy industrial commissioner, represented Gov. Harriman

in the presentation of the first Star & Sword Award to Roy Wilkins of New York City, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Buffalo's Co-ordinating Council on Negro Affairs, sponsor of the Cotillion, also turned over a check for \$500 to the NAACP.

"Activities such as this stimulate community consciousness and pride," Mr. Wilkins observed later. "They improve relations by enlisting the entire community in a common endeavor, and they give people an opportunity to support a cause, to do something for their community. It happens that this contribution was to the NAACP. In other years it might be to a hospital or children's home or community fund."

Youth Featured

The Co-ordinating Council representatives agreed that the Cotillion fulfilled its purpose of providing an occasion, "cultural and social in nature," which would develop "pride in achievement by the community" and would display the talents and abilities of Negro youth.

Howard T. Robinson, general chairman, estimated that about 600 of the 750 persons who took

part in the production were between 5 and 21 years of age.

Almost all of Buffalo's Negro organizations contributed participants to the massed choirs and other Cotillion performers. In addition, there was the Philadelphia Cotillion Ballet, with a remarkably professional and graceful ballerina in the person of 17-year-old Donna Lowe, and the resplendently-uniformed Collegiate a Cappella Choir of Philadelphia.

The producer of Buffalo's first Cotillion was Dr. Eugene W. Jones of Philadelphia, where similar affairs have been held for the past eight years. The plan is to have future Buffalo Cotillions all-local affairs.

Pages Escort Queen

The program was decorous in the extreme, with no vocal or instrumental number—except the marches, of course—at a beat faster than a Viennese Waltz. It began with the Edenite Choir singing spirituals and religious songs, moving through semi-classical songs by other choirs, ballet numbers and a piano concerto.

The evening's tranquility was shattered when a blast of drums and a high-stepping, green-clad drum majorette led the uniformed Elite Lodge Drum &

Bugle Corps, IBPOEW, into the arena amid heavy applause as the advance guard for the Queen of Roses.

Six tiny page boys bore the 24-foot-long train of Miss Margaret L. Alexander, 18-year-old Bennett High School junior who presided over the night's festivities. Her entrance was preceded by a 20-minute-long procession of tiny tots dressed as robeusds, maids in white gowns, ladies-in-waiting and jewel princesses.

Her final escorts were nine young men in full dress suits, their floor-length cloaks of brilliant hue sweeping from one shoulder, and bearing aloft wide wooden standards from which dangled large colored paper-mos balls.