

T.P. 875167

Police Close Jamaican Inn

Club Was Stage for Topless Waitresses

Police closed the Jamaican Village Inn, 800 N. Rampart, Friday night, the lounge which had been the scene of New Orleans' first topless waitress act Wednesday night.

Detectives confiscated four loaded revolvers and various tools from the establishment after Robert Songy, licensee for the lounge, found them while removing his personal effects.

The goods were discovered while members of the alcoholic beverage division of the police department were in process of supervising the closing. Besides the four pistols, officers confiscated several pairs of gloves, a large pair of bolt cutters, a sledge hammer and a crowbar.

Songy told officers he didn't know the property was there nor did he know the owner or owners of the goods.

Officers closed the establishment at 7 p. m. after its alcoholic beverage permits were surrendered. Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso said the outlet will remain closed until proper permits are applied for and granted by the city revenue department.

Meanwhile, the two waitresses who bared their breasts have begun serving 10-day sentences in Parish Prison.

Yolanda Calzada, 19, and Charlotte French, 25, both of 716 Dauphine, pleaded guilty to obscenity charges Thursday night in Judge Joseph R. Bosetta's section of Municipal Court and were sentenced to \$50 fines or 10 days in jail. Not having the fine money, they were sent to the prison.

"The judge asked us. We just told the truth," said Miss French describing their plea Friday morning in the prison.

As they sat together glumly in their prison-gray outfits, they explained that neither was represented by counsel in Municipal Court.

"We don't know anything. They didn't tell us anything," said Miss Calzada.

Both women were arrested by

district attorney's men and vice-squadsmen Wednesday Night after they removed their pasties in the lounge. The operator of the business, Jay "Sonny" Bennett, said he ordered the girls to do so for a test case of their arrests.

Miss Calzada said that Bennett told her Thursday night he would attempt to have a lawyer get them out, but the girls said no one contacted them Friday.

"It's not very nice," complained Miss French, who added, "He got all the publicity. All we get is a jail term."

Both girls arrived in New Orleans about one week before their arrest, and decided to room together. The Jamaican Village was their first job, they said.

The next battle looms in Civil District Court, where the district attorney's office has instituted padlocking proceedings on the basis of the alleged obscenity violations.

The owner of the property, two lessees, and the three liquor licensees, including Bennett, have been ordered to appear in Judge Walter F. Marcus' section of court to show cause why a preliminary injunction prohibiting the bare breast act should not be issued.

Jamaican Village Owner Files Suit

On Friday, Edward Centa, 884 Crystal, named as defendant in the district attorney's suit against the Jamaican Village, sought legal action against licensee Robert Songy.

In the Civil District Court suit, Jamaican Village owner Centa opposes serving by bare-breasted waitresses but also is trying to prevent a one-year padlocking by the DA.

Centa's attorney said Friday that Centa "has never been on the premises. He knew nothing of what was going on and never approved Bennett as sublessee."

Sonny Bennett, or Jay Bennett, was the manager Wednesday night when the young wom-

en were arrested and booked with obscenity.

Bennett was booked with permitting obscenity in an alcoholic beverage outlet.

Centa wants to break the lease, alleging that Bennett was operating the lounge without his consent.

In an affidavit, Centa says he leased the premises to Songy and also Gordon Novel. The latter has been sought by DA Jim Garrison in the Kennedy assassination probe.

Without his knowledge, Centa alleges, Novel sold his interest in the Jamaican Village, with Songy promising to "straighten the Novel matter out" but failing to do this.

After Novel's interest was sold, three other persons, Bennett, Frank Testerman and Mario Terrio became sublessees, Centa says.

In addition to the illegal selling of an interest in the lounge, Songy also made interior renovations without permission and failed to carry sufficient insurance, Centa says.

Centa said he knew nothing of the topless waitresses at the Jamaican Village until reading The Times-Picayune story Thursday morning about the arrests there.

The D.A.'s suit wants to close the Jamaican Village and keep it locked against any use for one year, but Centa opposes this.

Centa's suit seeks \$2,000 in attorney's fees from Novel and Songy and another \$15,000 in damages.

Following the filing of the D.A.'s suit on Thursday, Judge

S. Sanford Levy issued a temporary injunction preventing topless waitresses at the Jamaican Village.

He further ordered Centa and the other defendants to show cause in an Aug. 11 hearing why the lounge should not be padlocked for one year.

At this hearing, the D.A. is also trying to get a permanent injunction against the defendants' alleged practice of obscenity.