

5-1 8/4/62 DRAW 10-DAY JAIL TERMS

Topless Duo Broke, Scared But Clothed--Prison Gray

By JACK DEMPSEY

Two 19-year-old girls have exchanged their gaudy topless nightclub costumes for the drab gray of New Orleans' Parish Prison.

The beauties who bared their bosoms at the Jamaican Village Wednesday night were behind bars today, broke, forlorn and more than a little scared.

THEY WERE SENTENCED TO 10 days in jail or \$50 fines by Municipal Court Judge Joseph R. Bossetta yesterday afternoon.

"We pleaded guilty," Charlotte French said. "We were topless. What else was there to do?"

Miss French and her friend, Yolanda Calzaba, were booked with public obscenity after the vice squad raided the Caribbean-style night spot at 800 N. Rampart.

They said they took off their "pasties" at the request of manager Sonny Bennett, who wanted to test the constitutionality of the obscenity laws.

"He told us to be in court at 4 o'clock yesterday," Charlotte said.

"HE SAID THERE'D BE a lawyer there and to let him do the talking."

Somehow, the girls got mixed up on the way to Municipal Court. They were almost an hour late arriving, and there was no lawyer waiting for them.

Judge Bossetta asked them how they pleaded. They looked at each other and said, "Guilty." Then came the choice of \$50 fines or 10 days behind bars.

"I didn't make more than \$10 in tips," Charlotte said. "Isn't that about what you made?" she asked Yolanda, who nodded.

"SO WE JUST DIDN'T HAVE the money."

The girls, who said they've never been in trouble with the law before, told a reporter they arrived in New Orleans from Houston a few days ago. They were almost broke.

"This man said we could make \$30 or \$40 a night

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Topless Girls Get 10 Days in Jail

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doing legitimate work," Charlotte recalled, "and that's why we went for it."

When they are released, the girls said they plan to stay around New Orleans and find work.

"As topless waitresses?" they were asked.

"Never," Charlotte declared. "Never again," Yolanda echoed.

MEANWHILE, THE DISTRICT attorney's office is pressing to have the nightclub padlocked for at least a year.

Judge Sanford S. Levy yesterday granted a temporary injunction against further bare-breasted table serving.

The DA's office wants the club closed and the operators banned from further topless operations.

Meanwhile, Edward Centa, owner of the Jamaican Inn, filed suit today against lessées who permitted the breast baring.

Centa's attorney said today of the Civil District Court action Centa "has never been on the premises. He knew nothing of what was going on and never approved Bennett as sub-lessee."

JAY "SONNY" BENNETT was the manager there when the two waitresses were arrested. Bennett was arrested for permitting obscenity in an alcoholic beverage outlet.

Centa is attempting to break the lease, alleging that Bennett was operating the business without his consent.

In an affidavit with the suit, Centa says that he leased the business last year to Gordon Novel and Robert Songy. Novel is the man DA Jim Garrison has tried to have extradited from Ohio for questioning in his Kennedy assassination probe.

Centa claims Novel sold his interest in the business without Centa's knowledge and that Songy promised to "straighten the Novel matter out" but did not.