

Lagniappe

*Jazz Fest Minus Hirt:
Can't Be Dishonest*

By THOMAS GRIFFIN

LIKE LOTS of other folks, Lagniappe also wondered why Al Hirt is not among the "name" musicians on the JazzFest '68 program, so I put the question via long distance to Al's manager, Jerry Purcell, in New York.

Jerry said: "I'm afraid I must take the responsibility for deciding we shouldn't play. The reason is Al is no longer a jazz musician and I feel it would be dishonest as well as incongruous to present him in a festival devoted to jazz. It would be similarly illogical for him to play in an opera festival.

"Al has turned down several invitations to play in the Newport Jazz Festival and we have an invitation for him to play in the Monterey, Calif., Jazz Festival, starting Aug. 8, which we will also decline. The fact is Al no longer has a trombonist in his orchestra which, as you know, is a vital instrument for jazz. He now plays contemporary music and music with the "Nashville Sound" which just wouldn't fit on any specific jazz or Dixieland type of program."



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Having explained his and Al's position, Jerry added that Al is always ready to assist his home town, New Orleans, in any way he can. "For that reason we have booked the Dukes of Dixieland into his club on Bourbon st. during the week of JazzFest '68 so they can add their talent to the occasion.

"I'm sure you're also aware that Al has played a number of benefits in New Orleans; he plays for the fans at the Saints' games, and just recently took a one-third cut in salary as host in order to bring the Kraft Music Hall program to New Orleans during the Mardi Gras. He loves the town. It's only that we feel jazz festivals are not the proper showcase for his music."

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DAVID LICHENSTEIN, a Loyola sociology senior, asked his girl friend, Ann Forcier, to accompany him to Audubon Park to feed the ducks. "I'll bring the bread," he promised.

When they got there he gave Ann a brown paper bag containing some bread and she began to feed the ducks. In getting to the bottom of the bag her hand came across something that didn't feel like a piece of bread. What? A small black velvet box. Opened, it contained her engagement ring.

David was happy—Ann was ecstatic—and the ducks felt pretty good about the whole thing!

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POTPOURRI—Seems that new French Quarter hotel may not be named "Hotel America" after all; a new name up for grabs is "Hotel Senester." What's a "Senester?" One

wag says the nearest thing he could find to it in a dictionary was "Somniferous" and that meant, "Sleep inducing." . . . "Gen" Trimble, who as chairman says she might wear a Bea Lillie hat, is reminding all members of the Orleans Club to be on hand at 3 p. m. tomorrow for a fun program: a showing of Bob Cahlman's fabulous collection of theatrical costumes which'll be modeled by some of the younger, prettier members. ("Gen's" seeking a bald-headed man for Yul Brynner's costume in "The King and I." Any takers, boys?) . . . Walter Tehippe says he boarded a Delta plane in Cincinnati the other day en route to New Orleans and just before the take-off the captain's voice came over the intercom, to-wit: "Your stewardesses today are Miss Fox and Miss Hound." . . . They're going to bury a time capsule when the Rivergate exposition facility is dedicated at 4:30 p. m. tomorrow; and copies of The Times-Picayune and States-Item will be in it . . . Word around the courthouse is THAT CELEBRATED CASE won't be brought to trial in May either . . . May issue of Holiday stars "Travel, USA," and New Orleans isn't mentioned. (Treason, n'est-ce pas, especially since it's our 250th anniversary?)

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HITHER AND YON—Ena and Joe Wrenn in Valley Forge, Pa., today where she, a Gold Star Navy mother, will make one of the speeches at the dedication of monuments to all who've served the U. S. in the Navy, Marine and Coast Guard. (Ena hopes all the "brass" from the various military academies won't frighten her speechless.) . . . Dining a deux at separate tables in the Monteleone Supper club: Frances and Addie Addison; Mae and "Ollie" Miller . . . Harry Blanke mending from minor throat surgery at Foundation Hospital with wife Ida in constant attendance to brighten the room . . . Simone Stern off to New York to contact artists re art for fall shows at her "galerie" on Royal st., which she closes from the end of May till Sept. 15 . . . Linda and Hale Boggs prepping their annual garden party at their Bethesda, Md., home which customarily accommodates some 2,000 guests.

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SHOW BIZ—New combo in the Monteleone Supper club is The Johnny Rolland Trio with Johnny himself on drums, Al Bernard on bass, and John Sansoni, piano. Johnny, a Scot who's never lost his accent, has previously played with Lester Lanin, Nick Stuart, Sammy Kaye and Russ Morgan. "Chico" Albert who ambidextrously plays the accordion and piano still fills in during the breaks . . . Kay Starr, her husky voice, and her "Wheel of Fortune," move into the Blue Room Thursday for three weeks; which means you've only got Tuesday and Wednesday to catch Frankie Laine if you haven't paid your annual respects to his talent . . . Credit timpanist Dickie Taylor of the Ronnie Kole Trio for drawing the official symbol of JazzFest '68: a bugle-toting little fellow who looks like a combination of Napoleon, hipster and, of course, musician.