

2 July 1970

LAGNIAPPE

# Thomas Griffin

*Former Consul in New Orleans  
Defends Frisco Paper Interview*



FROM SAN FRANCISCO comes a rebuttal from Vere Stock, former consul general of South Africa in New Orleans, who was quoted in The San Francisco Examiner, to wit: "I wish we had gotten to spend six years here instead of New Orleans, my former post.

"San Francisco was tailor-made for me. It is fascinating, informal and hospitable," he said, reflecting on his 18 months there.

Vere explains he was indulging in "light-hearted exchanges" with his interviewer, Albert Morch, which "covered a wide field."

He writes: "The remark in question referred to the opportunities of indulging in my favorite activities of skiing, trout fishing and backpacking in these parts. Space did not allow his enlarging on this. No Parthian shot was intended or even implied and I fail to understand your interpretation of it as such.

"If the juxtaposition of the two paragraphs caused offense, may I suggest that it was inadvertent and over which, in any event, I had no control.

"In the circumstances, I feel you owe my friends in the South an explanation."

Lagniappe is always happy to explain circumstances of an undiplomatic remark. Probably just a slip of the tongue.

★ ★ ★  
NEXT STAR UP for the Summer Pops tomorrow and Saturday nights is famed clarinetist Pete Fountain and his band, featuring Eddie Miller on sax. Pete says he's going to have a surprise for the folks in that he's going to sing "Sunday in the Country" as one of his numbers. "The composer, Freddie Crane, is coming to town to hear me do it with the full orchestra," he grinned. He'll also play "Mood Indigo" with the orchestra; and Eddie will solo on "Alfie" and "Shangri La" with the big band.

All that will be in the first half of the show. Pete and his combo will occupy the

stage exclusively during the last half.

★ ★ ★  
PATRICIA BOYLE is sending up an S.O.S. for 100 volunteers to act as assistants to teachers for Project Head Start for preschoolers which gets under way Monday. Volunteers must agree to serve a minimum of three days a week from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; they must also be no younger than 15 and have completed the 10th grade.

Interested persons may apply at 721 St. Philip or telephone Patricia at 522-2207.

★ ★ ★  
POTPOURRI—If that tax on a tax (on state income tax returns) passes, name of the game will be "Get your legislator" next time up for election; wouldn't be surprised either if some honest people stopped making returns a la some state officials . . . Shake the hand of Jeff Parish bank veep Jacob Duncan; he's been named "Mr. Rotary" by the Metairie Rotary Club . . . Gus Aucoin says word from his 19-year-old son Michael with the Marines in Da Nang, Vietnam, is that an opinion making the rounds is: "We are unwillingly led by the unqualified, doing the unnecessary for the ungrateful." (Aside to Gus: Pass the word back to Mike, "We aren't all ungrateful.")

★ ★ ★  
BENJY MORRISON checked in from a New York holiday during which he visited novelist Jim Kirkwood in East Hampton; says Jim's first novel, "There Must Be a Pony!", will be republished in paperback in the fall—and that his book on the Clay Shaw trial will be out in January . . . Good deed dept.: Lou Sino and The Bengals are obliging with a matinee performance today for 200 kids at the Belle Chasse State School for Retarded Children . . . Late patrons at Al Hirt's Annex Bar (just behind the club) got an unexpected treat the other early a.m. when "The King" himself stopped in on his way home to blow a few free notes with Ronnie Kole providing the piano accompaniment—and Blue Room star Lainie Kazan watching the show from atop a juke box.