

Lagniappe

City Makes News
In Five Magazines

By THOMAS GRIFFIN

OUR TOWN, "America's Most Interesting City," made news in no less than five national magazines last week. True, two of them, Time and Newsweek, were concerned with the Clay Shaw trial. But the others, February issues of The Ladies Home Journal, Mademoiselle and Holiday, touched on more pleasant subjects.

The Journal, for instance, carried a full page (color picture and text) of Walda and Sydney Besthoff, the drugstore chain prez. Mrs. Besthoff was described as one of New Orleans' 10 best-dressed women, a superb cook, and a frequent hostess of dinner parties.

Mademoiselle's article is a two-page paean to New Orleans-type jazz, titled "The Local Legend," with three-fourths of the double-page taken up with a black-and-white photo of "Sweet Emma" Barrett seated on the front porch of her home. The author, Leo Lerman, terms "Sweet Emma" the "most remarkable local legend we've heard . . . adored New Orleans-locally and by an ever-zooming LP in-that-know. She's on Riverside, Nobility, and at least two Southland LPs—try latter's 'Sweet Emma Barrett and Her New Orleans Music.'"



TOMMY GRIFFIN

The Holiday story, titled "The Taste of New Orleans," is by gourmet Silas Spitzer. The article, which runs seven pages, contains some mighty savory color pictures of New Orleans food and several recipes, courtesy of the Pontchartrain's Caribbean room. Mr. Spitzer defines the taste of New Orleans food as "a subtly foreign taste that has been American for two centuries. It has a rich, lively complexity that made the food of any other city I know seem pale and flat by comparison."

Verily so, n'est-ce pas?

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NOTE FROM a Jesuit High classmate of mine (never mind how long ago). Father Harry L. Crane, S.J., former provincial of the order, informs he is planning to move back to New Orleans. He's been stationed for the last two years in Ponchatoula as province treasurer.

There's a little hitch, however, before Harry can make the move. He's got to sell the Ponchatoula property. The house has 12 rooms and three acres of grounds. It was acquired by the Jesuits from Mrs. Marion Fannally Aylen, widow of the "strawberry king" of Ponchatoula.

Harry thinks a word in Lagniappe might, as he puts it, "touch a responsive note" on somebody's part—and inasmuch as he used to beat me at handball, I'd better do it.

The provincial headquarters, which has been located in

Ponchatoula since 1960, will be transferred to New Orleans in the spring. A new residence is under construction in Aurora Gardens (Algiers) and is expected to be completed in late March or early April.

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POTPOURRI—Call from Jill Jackson in Hollywood assures the deluge of rains didn't dampen her high on her hill; but the last thing she needed, she said, was a pair of "silverfish" that came along with some mail from New Orleans . . . Brennan's Houston restaurant had patrons swinging their heads in the direction of one table recently: Dr. Robert Brinsmade was entertaining Dr. Christiaan Barnard and Frank Sinatra for dinner . . . A jazz jamboree in an art galerie? Yup, that's what Simone Stern staged for the opening of Robert Goodnough's show yesterday. (Band was led by 80-year-old John Jones Sr., father of her janitor, John Jones Jr.) . . . Invitations to Mrs. John A. Waters' (Bobbie Simoneaux) party were on black paper, asking kith and kin to help celebrate the demise of her 40th birthday . . . Joan Tolhurst, United Fund PR girl, has three unique antiques for sale for the benefit of the fund; call her at 522-6681.

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HITHER AND YON—Mario Bermudez off to Madrid, Barcelona and Malaga for the Inter-American Municipal Organization; due back Feb. 20 . . . Capt. Harry Hoerner, wife Linda, and sons Harry Jr. and Bobby, back to duty at Davis Monthan AFB in Tucson, Ariz., after a look-in on his parents, Dottie and Ed Hoerner Sr. . . . Roman Gabriel, quarterback for the Los Angeles Rams, sipping a cool one at the Top of the Mart and asking that the proposed site of the dome stadium be pointed out to him from the panoramic view . . . Julie and John Neumeyer, of the West Bank's Cellar club, busman-holidaying at the Black Knight to celebrate her birthday . . . Mildred (Mrs. Absolm) Pettit on the mend from serious surgery at Baptist . . . Chef Antonio Lopez, of Espana restaurant, taking a bow for the delicious paella he created for the monthly meeting of the Trenchermen club—which had 100 per cent attendance for the occasion.

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SHOW BIZ—The Goldiggers, that group of lovelies who accompanied Bob Hope to Vietnam on his Christmas junket (one of whom, Debbie Thomason, was mentioned in Lagniappe the other day because her dad, Tom, is a frequent New Orleans visitor), have been signed by Summer Pops manager Mary McCann for June 27-28. "I think we should have something for the boys," quoth Mary . . . French film producer-director Marcel Blistene (he's megged such stars as Edith Piaf, Yves Montand and Simone Signoret) checked into Lamothe House for a couple of speeches to L'Athenee Louisianais and Causeries du Lundi today; his presence at Lamothe House has hostesses Gertrudé Munson and Peachy Villere all a-twitter.

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