

LAGNIAPPE ^{27 Oct 69}

Thomas Griffin

*Cleanup at Navy Air Station
'Rattles' Dinner Bell for Officer*

AN EXAMPLE of one man's poison being another man's meat is currently being practiced at the Naval Air Station in Belle Chasse.

Seems the area around the station is somewhat infested by rattlesnakes much to the distress of the crew of civilians who cut the grass. In three days last week they killed six rattlers, each five to six feet long, and considered themselves well rid of the pests.

Equally elated at the kill was Lt. Comdr. Zeke Roberts, a gourmet whose educated palate likes rattlesnake steaks. Result was he had rattler meat on the table for several days.

Zeke was born in Huntsville, Ala., so naturally he turned to hunting at an early age, a pursuit he still continues whenever time and season permit. And Capt. Evans, the station's commander, taking cognizance of Zeke's eagle eye and dead shot, has named him the station's game warden.

Carrying that eminence a little further, Clark Hoffpauer, director of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission, bestowed on Zeke the honorary title of "Special Agent." Thus the state now has an "in" on federal property.

★ ★ ★
WHEN THE Mexican mariachi band closed its month-long engagement at the Royal Orleans, general manager Archie Casbarian decided to toss a farewell party in their honor. Things proceeded swimmingly along with the cocktails. There were shouts of "Amigo! Amigo!" along with embraces which are an old Spanish custom.

Archie was enjoying it immensely until one very emotional musician got carried away and squeezed with the force of a bear hug. Archie ended up in the hospital with three cracked ribs. He's back on the job with his ribs taped now—but please don't ask him "Como esta usted?" in Spanish. He might wince a little.

POTPOURRI—Perry Russo, celebrated witness in the big conspiracy trial, has turned haberdasher; opened an "Iff" shop, selling men and women's mod clothes in Lakeview . . . Lucy and Ben Hay rounded the 36th wedding milestone — and friends Chris Blake and Roc Johnson sent them 36 roses to commemorate the occasion . . . It's a boy in Boston for Dr. I. R. "Rick" Martinez Jr., and wife Dolly, making the medico's parents ecstatic that the Martinez name will endure; the couple also has a 6-year-old daughter, Odessa; Dr. Martinez, a B.S., M.S., M.D., and Ph.D., is currently practicing at Boston Medical Center; a further claim to fame is that he was "mascot" of the 59-inch basketball team that Peter Paul Finney, the sports scribe, played on at St. Louis Cathedral School in 1940 . . . Everyone's staring at a new ravishing blonde—Jane Fox.

★ ★ ★
HITHER AND YON — Sandy and Michael Reese home from Ocho Rios, Jamaica, where he gathered data for an article on skin-diving . . . Charmaine Weber and Raymond Edwards on the town, celebrating his important 18th birthday . . . Ginger Vosbein readying a "Holiday Elegance" fashion show at Lotar's for high noon on Halloween.

★ ★ ★
SHOW BIZ—If the circus equals the Shrine Circus party tossed by Jerusalem Temple for the press at the Royal Orleans the other p.m., it'll excel anybody's imagination; newsmen are still recovering from their hosts' "liquid" hospitality . . . Secret's out about what happened to the air-conditioning at the Auditorium, Monday, when Margot Fonteyn and Edward Villela danced; building superintendent Forrest Lotz explained, "It was the way Miss Margot wanted it." Seems ballet dancers perform better when the temperature is not too cool.