

# Haggerty Arraignment Set Friday

Criminal District Court Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. will be arraigned at 9 a. m. Friday before fellow Criminal District Judge Alvin Oser on three charges in connection with an alleged "stag" show.

Judge Haggerty is charged with soliciting for prostitution, resisting arrest and exhibiting obscene films.

The charges grew out of a Dec. 17 police vice squad raid on a party at the De-Ville Motel, 3800 Tulane Ave., in which 16 others also were arrested.

Asked if he would try the cases, Judge Oser was non-committal today and said, "Let's wait until Friday and see what happens."

In a case several years ago, Judge Bernard J. Bagert recused himself at the arraignment of the late Judge J. Bernard Cocke, who was charged with contempt of the Orleans Parish Grand Jury and malfeasance in office.

Judge Leslie Gardiner of Opelousas was brought to rule in the case.

Yesterday, the district attorney's office formally

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charged three men arrested in the same raid.

Charged yesterday were Victor M. Soto, 39, 926 E. William Davis Parkway; Max A. Williams, 36, 1931 Farmington Place, Gretna, and Joseph G. Zarza Jr., 26, 3800 Tulane Avenue, Apt. 105. The charges consisted of gambling, obscenity and resisting police officers.

Eleven others, including three women, were arrested in the raid on the night of Dec. 17.

Soto faces two charges of gambling and one of resisting officers. Bonds were set at \$2,000.

Zarza and Williams were charged with committing obscenity by exhibiting obscene motion picture film. Their bonds were set at \$500 each.

## Letters to the Editor

### Satisfying Sugar

Editor, States-Item:

Ah, New Orleans! . . .

The fantastically beautiful look of those unfurled American flags billowing in the high wind, and carried by those super looking Merchant Marine cadets in our first Sugar Bowl parade . . . the floats at once beautiful and amusing with their spirited riders. . .

We saw the televised Orange Bowl parade in Miami with Miami's usually gorgeous weather. It was too big, that parade. The half mile long expensive floats looked like a Hollywood spectacular. The concept of a street parade as a theatrical production is not my idea of illusion. It is the perfect ideal of the Machine Age—the idiotic concept that to be beautiful, everything must be big — the newly rich look.

Of course, the Sugar Bowl floats will never replace the romanticized medieval papier mache Carnival floats with their enchanting, fancy dressed mas-

kers. . . Papier mache is an ancient French art developed to a high degree by the artisans of New Orleans who take a provincial pride in their craftsmanship.

But, heaven forbid, all the American cities now have the same idea for New Years bowls, bowls, bowls and endless miles of parades. Why don't we in New Orleans do our thing differently — have our Sugar Bowl game in November and the parade under a rainless starlit sky. November weather in New Orleans is usually perfection.

May Nelson Knapp

### Defends Haggerty

Editor, States-Item:

"Justice For All" (Jan. 1 Letters) has set himself (or herself) up as judge and jury and found Judge Haggerty guilty without a trial.

Judge Haggerty is not only a judge; he is a mature man. As a man, he has a right to

attend a stag party if he so chooses.

Being a female, I have missed out on stag parties. But I have heard stories of curvaceous girls stepping out of oversized cakes and removing almost all of their clothing while dancing.

Who set up the rules for what constitutes a "usual" stag party? For the particular stag party in question, the guests shared the expenses and used a motel room instead of a private club room in a public lounge. Because this is not customary in the opinion of some people, these men are condemned for obscenity.

The privacy of these citizens was invaded. And when they objected, their objections were called resisting arrest.

Because a judge is involved, this case is being blown up way out of proportion by press and TV coverage. May Judge Haggerty receive the justice due to every ordinary citizen.

Justice For All