

JACK O'BRIAN

Feds Snubbed New Orleans

CANADIAN PROMOTER LOU CHESLER (pushed out at a big loss of the Bahamas-Wallace Groves deal) has another Bahamas island he'll start promoting . . . New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison tried to hand over his Lee Harvey Oswald-not potato to The Feds—who looked it over and shrugged . . . The Chase Bank's "in" with the new Nassau gov't; a Rockefeller sent a political errand boy down the day The Bay Street Boys started being treated like men, not masters . . . Henry Luce, who died yesterday, fresh out of Yale, got a job in Chi. as ass't to Ben Hecht, then writing his famed "1001 Nights in Chicago" column; subsequently, or consequently, Ben Hecht advised Luce to "Go into something else—you'll never make it as a columnist" . . . Good advice; Hecht himself was the source.

Pegeen Fitzgerald advertised for a secretary; a very young girl answered the radio star's adv. and Peg asked how old she was . . . "I'll be 18 in three years," the stenographic Lolita promised . . . Yul Brynner's here, his wife's in Europe.

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ON HER WAY TO HER PLANE to London, Sarah Churchill loaded all her considerable luggage into friend Loraine Merritt's car; went back upstairs to lock up her Beaux Arts flat and on return within minutes discovered our local bobbies were attaching the towaway truck; Sarah explained her honestly momentary predicament, advised the N.Y. cops she was on the way to Kennedy Airport but they insisted on attaching the hooks and hauling it off to the tow-yard where \$40 fine was collected and international relations battered.

Jackie Mason's 13-stitch plastic surgery following the Miami Beach beating (Sinatra got the probably unearned once-removed blame) entailed daily doctor visits ever since; Mason closes in Miami tomorrow when it looks like G'bye Charlie . . . Mo. Sen. Ed Long's daughter Anne (Mrs. Frank) Miller's baby due in a month . . . The Bob (former mayor) Wagners are house-hunting in Albany (Bob's due for a long siege with the Constitutional Convention upstate).

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WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY SURVEYED and said the only Manhattan store windows doing proper honor to George Washington on his birthday (other than "sale" signs) was in the Japanese "Azuma" shop at 61st & Madison . . . Also—Van Cleef's "bullet-proof" windows had three bullet holes in 'em t'other a.m. . . . "Candid Camera" now has been used and dropped by four networks (including the old Dumont) . . . Mr. & Mrs. Beldon Katleman (of the early Las Vegas hierarchy) are divorced but have one thing in common: her dates are with a 21-year-old gardener, his are with a 22-year-old who's not a gardener.

Lowell Thomas' TV firm (Capital Cities B'dcasting) paid \$6,500,000 for its Providence, R.I., TV station half a dozen or so years ago and just sold it for \$16,500,000 . . . Lowell's group will buy a Houston TV station (for \$21 million) . . . Monique Van Cleef, who busted front pages last year with boots & whip clubs in New Jersey is at it again: now runs an "escort service" in Frisco . . . Vanessa Redgrave said the "loveliest" smells are "wet, rotting leaves, wet, rotting grass and pig manure" (she didn't include her hero Castro, defended by the very-Redgrave in many public London speeches . . . She's being quiet, now she's making Big Money in H'wood.

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A "TOUGH TICKET" WILL BE those for the "Thoroughly Modern Millie" post-premiere poddy at the Rainbow Room March 21 . . . The Queen's ("By App't") bootmakers H. & M. Rayne posted London notice it's suing the Maharaneé of Baroda for \$10,500; and dem boots wuz made for walkin' . . . "Liberal" Cong. Ted Kupferman's quoted by pals as saying he could live with a 1968 GOP teaming of Actor Reagan & Bojangles Lindsay versus Lyndon & Hubert . . . Oscar-nominee ("Sand Pebbles") Steve McQueen's square given monickers are "Terence Steven" and he said he was named after a one-armed bookie, yet . . . Woody Allen wants his hero Groucho Marx to see his Bdwy. hit "Don't Drink the Water" and found the ideal persuasion: offered to pay all Groucho's expenses from & to Edwy.

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"THE MAMAS & THE PAPAS" are rumored more dissonant in real life even than in their singing . . . Twosome at Club Sardi: Lynn ("Black Comedy" star) Redgrave's long legs . . . Estelle Parsons of "The East Wind" show dropped child-support litigation against writer Dick Gehman; figures Dick has enough trouble with another suit by his more recent wife Betsy ('Stelle's a real gentleman, we tell you) . . . Harry S. Truman's daily Independence, Mo., hikes have been curtailed because of vertigo attacks . . . Millionaire producer Gilbert Miller's seriously ailing, has to stay in bed around the clock . . . Between the reviews and his edgy relations with star Joan Fontaine, Tom Ewell's being replaced by Wm. Prince in the pre-Bdwy. tour of "The Armored Dove," due at the Westbury, L.I., Music Fair March 14. . . When Edw. Albee house-guests in Palm Beach with his mother, vaudeville-rich widow Mrs. Reed Albee, Frank (Mr. Palm

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Beach) Hale will coax him into reviving some of his own
actors at Frank's plush P.B. theatre.

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