

Walker Percy in December's Esquire

Walker Percy, the Covington author whose books are customarily hailed by national critics, has an article in the December issue of *Esquire* in which he gets a few pet peeves off his chest.

The magazine, in a pre-publication blurb about the piece, offers this tease to its readers. Quote:

" 'People don't read much in the South,' writes Walker Percy, author of 'Lancelot.' 'They don't take writers very seriously. I've lived (in this small Louisiana town) for thirty years and am less well-known than the Budweiser distributor.' Does the anonymity offered by the South bother him? 'I would have hated to belong to the Algoin round table, where people made witty marks and discussed Ezra Pound. Most in the South don't read and the women do usually prefer Taylor Caldwell . . .'

cy, one of America's great contemporary writers, talks about the myth of Southern writing, the art and act of writing, Catholicism and 'the Southern point of view' in an extraordinary self-interview in the December *Esquire*."

It'll be interesting to read the full text, n'est-ce pas?

Jack Flynn, president of New Orleans White Trucks Inc., is a man who gets around and frequently finds it's a small world, as witness this note in the mail:

"Tom: On a recent visit to Oakland, California, I stayed at a Dunfey Hotel, a national chain, and in their house magazine was a picture of Lt. Gov. Jimmy Fitzmorris presiding at the opening of their new unit in Baton Rouge, the Chateau Capitol.

"The next morning in the Oakland newspaper was a picture of Father Peter Rogers ministering to one of the victims of the shooting spree in downtown New Orleans.

"No matter where you are, New Orleans is not very far away."

Well, it's "America's Most Interesting City."

POTPOURRI — "Bear" Bryant, the 'Bama coach, checked out the Hyatt Regency's facilities with another member of the Southeastern Conference Association last Monday; Tom Gaskill, the hotel's general manager, presented him with a pre-game



Percy says in his hometown he's "less well-known than the Budweiser distributor."

trophy, a decanter shaped like the Hyatt. The Bear appreciated the gesture, but allowed as how he's a recent convert to "teetotaling." . . . The Algiers Sunshine Club, which annually has been raising funds for the poor of that bailiwick since 1930, will meet for that purpose at 8 p.m. Monday at the Holy Name of Mary School auditorium, 500 Olivier St., although two of the club's main cogs are hors de combat: general chairman Roy Hingle is hobbling around on a broken leg, and committee member Richey Dixon has his arm in a sling with a broken wrist. "Nothing stops this bunch when it comes to helping those in need," declares Richey.

HITHER AND YON — Adrien Sunkel back in his Park Island home after his second visit in that many years to Dr. Denton Cooley's operating table in Houston; he's mending now midst his prize orchid plants and resting up for Carnival when he'll play an important role in one of the krewe's revelry . . . Al Tubbs, the Versailles' jovial maitre d', busman-holidaying at Pittari's to host a birthday bash for friend Steve Blackwell, plus other club members Otto Stierle, Willy Marroy, Carl Magee and Dan Meaux.

Sally and Jerry Quinlan livin' up Jerry's birthday with Patti and Herb Quaid at Jonathan . . . Peter Dassinger round-town-ing with a couple of American Indian friends Biff Roach and Phil Chappel of Tyler, Tex., here for the big medical convention.

SHOW BIZ — Mary (Mrs. John) Bishop and her son Shawn, 12, flew to Los Angeles to catch a screening of the long-awaited film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," about UFOs landing in mid-America, in which Shawn plays the eldest son of the picture's star, Richard Dreyfuss. Naturally, the Bishops must restrain from boasting of Shawn's histrionic ability, but critic Al Shea, who also caught the flick out there, declared the Bishop boy was "just wonderful" in the role. Al added that others in the picture are Pat McNamara, who has a continuing role, and Nick Krieger, who plays an Indiana farmer. Shirley Harrison also worked a few days during the filming in Mobile but unfortunately her scenes were cut. "She appears in one of the still photos for the movie's promotion but not in the picture itself," says Al. Incidentally, "Close Encounters" was directed by Steven Spielberg, who zoomed to fame with "Jaws." Columbia Pictures is expecting another blockbuster with this science-fiction film. It opens here Dec. 14 at the Lakeside Cinema.

Celia Huan, Shanghai-born pianist and adopted Orleanian, will give her annual Thanksgiving piano recital at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Delta ballroom of the Delta Towers hotel; she's dedicating her services this year to the first anniversary celebration of the Tulane Medical Center Hospital and Clinic, where she's employed as accounting assistant to the comptroller . . . Try-outs for Thornton Wilder's "The Long Christmas Dinner," to be directed by Paul Rosefeldt, will be held 7 p.m. tomorrow and Monday at Christ Church Cathedral, 2919 St. Charles.

When the Saints meet the Falcons tomorrow for the Deep South championship of the NFL, a Southern touch will be provided by Southern U's Jaguar Marching Band. The Saints are also asking fans to bring one usable item to the game as a donation to Goodwill Industries.

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