



By Mabel C. Simmons

# Turning Over a New Leaf

## 'Confederacy of Authors' planned Jan. 24 at Tulane

T-P Jan 11, 1981

See also Jan. 11, 1981

Mary Louise Mossy  
Christovich

Authors of recent books written by other faculty members or former students of Tulane University will contribute to the program of the 28th annual Tulane University Educational Conference, a continuing education program of the Tulane Alumni Association, to be held Jan. 24 at Tulane University Center.

"A Confederacy of Authors," is the title given this year's program as a tribute to the late John Kennedy Toole, a former student at Tulane whose posthumous novel, "A Confederacy of Dunces," published last year as a hardback by Louisiana State University Press and coming from Grove Publisher in paperback soon, has received the acclaim of literary critics throughout the whole country.

The program is open to the public through purchased tickets.

By presenting these speakers to the alumni and to the New Orleans community in general, the Tulane Alumni Association intends not only to display

their achievements but also to strengthen the link between the university and its writers. This is the first time alumni members have been featured in the conference.

After registration, a luncheon will be held with a welcoming speech by Dr. Eamon Kelly, acting president of the university, and an address by Mrs. Emilie Dietrich Griffin who, with her mother, Mrs. Helen Russell Deitrich, will preside over conference meetings.

Six writers will make talks about their fields of interest in separate 45-minute afternoon sessions, with three sessions running concurrently from 1:30 until 2:15 and the other three beginning at 2:30.

The earlier meetings will be on Children's Literature, Southern History and Southern Literature. Mrs. Berthe Marks Amoss who is both a Tulane graduate and a member of Tulane's University College faculty, will discuss some of the many children's books she has written (some of which she has also illustrated), as well as other works

on literature for children. She contributes a column on children's books to this newspaper. Her latest book is "Secret Lives," a novel for young adults.

Charles L. "Pie" Dufour, also a graduate of Tulane and a member of University College faculty, will talk on the most recent 100 years of New Orleans history. He is the author of "New Orleans" (with photographs by Bernard M. Hermann) and "Women Who Cared," both published in 1980, and other books on historical subjects.

Michael P. Kreyling, assistant professor of English at Tulane and a Welty authority, author of "Eudora Welty's Vision of Order," one of Louisiana State University Press' 1980 offerings, will talk about the recently published "Collected Stories" of Eudora Welty.

Southern Music, Southern Architecture and Southern Religious History are the themes of the later meetings. Tulane Professor of History Bill C. Malone will give a demonstration and a discussion of country music and its

history in the South. He is the author of "Southern Music, American Music," published in 1979, and also of "Country Music USA."

Mrs. Mary Louise Mossy Christovich, a Tulane alumnae who wrote "New Orleans Interiors" and had a great part in the preparation of the series of books on the architecture of New Orleans sponsored by the Friends of the Cabildo, will present an illustrated discussion of exteriors as well as interiors of some interesting and important New Orleans buildings.

John B. Boles, a history professor at Tulane, will share his studies of the beginnings of the Bible Belt. He wrote "The Great Revival," "The Origins of the Southern Evangelical Mind," and "Religion in Antebellum Kentucky."

(Complete information on the conference is available from Tulane Educational Conference, 6319 Willow St., New Orleans, La., 70118, or by phone at 865-6701.

Mary Louise Christovich, author

and editor of the historic six books in the New Orleans architecture series produced by the Friends of the Cabildo, probably knows the buildings of New Orleans, both inside and out, better than anyone else in the city. Her writings about them heretofore have been focused on outside architecture.

In her recently published "New Orleans Interiors," she opens to the public the doors of many of the buildings described in her other volumes. The interiors of 50 New Orleans homes and buildings, most of them of National Register status, may now be visited through her descriptions and the splendid color pictures made by N. Jane Iseley, a photographer well experienced in this type of picture-taking, having been the staff photographer of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for nine years.

In an introductory essay the author gives a brief history of the settlement of New Orleans, of the formation of its many neighborhoods — some of them

still well-defined — and of the kinds of buildings of which they are made up. She also provides short notes on some of these areas and full captions to accompany the pictures, illuminating the lifestyle of days gone by in museum-like scenes, as well as showing how antique furnishings are adapted to modern living in New Orleans. Unusual and historic individual pieces of furniture, rugs, hangings, arrangements and floor plans are given generous descriptions, thus documenting the artistry, authenticity and elegance of the interiors.

Samuel Wilson Jr., architect and architectural historian, one of the founders of the Friends of the Cabildo and its present president, in his foreword to the book lists the priceless collection of historic buildings that house the Louisiana State Museum and gives a bit of the history of each one. He states that, with the exception of Colonial Williamsburg, the Louisiana State Museum is the largest historical museum in the South.

much more than the portraits, this viewer appreciated the few photos on temporary dimension to the blockbuster "Gold of El Dorado" show.