

Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

Vol. XVI

10-19-94

No. 42

HOBOS



Hobos? No, a Halloween costume party extraordinary. The year was 1943 and the party was hosted by John and Geraldine Larwood with Albert and Ruth Mason. It took place in the commercial building at Five Corners which at the time was owned by John Larwood where he sold agricultural equipment. The second floor which had a large open space is where the party was actually held.

Invitations were sent to the prospective guests on brown paper bags which stated there would be a meeting of the "Knights of the Road," a term used for hobos. Upon arriving at the party site, guests were greeted by John Larwood who was signaling with a red lantern. It seems he had gone to the trouble of laying some track from the west door of his building out some distance upon which was placed a railroad hand car. Guests were given a ride upon this device as a mode of entry and to set the mood of the evening. All had to climb a steep ramp by holding on to a rope to get upstairs.

The Larwoods and Masons had hired Charles

Howard to decorate the place. Charlie had a flair for designing stage sets and floats for parades. Such accouterments for this party included a fake bonfire, a clothesline with bloomers and other old-fashioned underwear and a make-believe privy. Each guest was given a stick with a bandanna attached which had tied up in it, eating utensils including a tin cup. The only thing to sit on were bales of hay. Dancing was a part of the evening entertainment with music provided by a Jute Box which had been rented for the occasion.

Those in attendance were top row L-R: Albert Mason, Ruth Mason, Marcus Phillips, Dr. John Jackson, Sanford B. Church. Middle row L-R: Margaret Jackson, Geraldine Larwood, Doris Phillips, Dorothy Miller, Agnes Wilson, Angie Brown, Grace Phillips. Bottom row L-R: Cary Lattin (standing), Jack Larwood, Avis Lattin, Robert Brown, Katherine Church, Fred Miller, William Phillips and Ward Wilson on the floor.