

A jazzy place

Tallulah's offers jazzy atmosphere, good times

By RACHEL PERRY

LOOKING for an inexpensive alternative to Chapel Hill's beach rock and disco nightlife? Search no more. There is a lively, atmospheric jazz club in far-away Carrboro that fits any student's bill.

Tallulah's Old Place, a restaurant in Carr Mill featuring live Dixieland jazz music, offers this pleasant alternative.

The candlelight and white tablecloth atmosphere in Tallulah's lets the students relax while the Royal Carolina Dixieland Jazz Band belts out New Orleans jazz classics like "Sweet Georgia Brown," "Bill Bailey" and "Georgia On My Mind," for a cover charge of only \$1.

The mood at Tallulah's is relaxed and congenial. The band plays requests and the audience claps time to the lively music. The spirit of Dixieland seems contagious—even the hostess does the Charleston over in the corner.

Tallulah's clientele is a mixed breed. Owner Blackie Sanders said students, professionals and Chapel Hill natives all frequent the restaurant. "One of my waitress' professors comes here all the time. All different kinds of people come here, they're all sure as hell having a good time," he said.

"I am trying to turn this place into the entertainment center of Chapel Hill and Carrboro," Sanders said. He said the crowd response here has been very good. "We average 100 people here on Sunday nights, for example. Tallulah's has a very relaxed atmosphere, and I hope it stays that way," he said. "I try to keep an informal mood, where

people can bring their dates, their families and their friends," he added.

Indeed, the atmosphere in Tallulah's is relaxed, yet lively. Customers, employees and band members alike seem to enjoy themselves. There is no dance floor, but there is much applause after renditions of Dixieland tunes such as "The Original Dixie-Land One-Step."

Tallulah's Old Place named after a legendary Cajun dancer said to be buried in an unmarked grave near Chapel Hill, definitely exhibits New Orleans flavor. The mirrored bar, the ornate chandeliers and the Gibson Girl posters on the wall add to the unique atmosphere.

Profile

Sanders said "we serve great steaks, seafood and chicken dishes," but the prices (ranging from \$4.00 to \$5.00 for an entree) are a bit steep for the student budget. Beer and mixed drink prices are average for Chapel Hill, but are reduced 25 cents and 50 cents respectively for Happy Hour. Hot hors d'oeuvres also are served during Happy Hour, which is 5-7 p.m. Monday through Friday, Sanders said.

Although Sanders said Tallulah's does more restaurant business than bar business, most of the customers lingered at their tables Saturday night, obviously relishing the live entertainment. "They (the Royal Carolina Dixieland Jazz Band) are good, and they're very enthusiastic. You get more music for a dollar than anywhere else," said one patron.

Sanders said that the Royal Carolina band, which has played Tallulah's every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday night since October, has played together off and on for 10 years. Tommy Smith, the trombone player and lead singer, played with Al Hirt, and also played Bourbon Street in New Orleans for two years.

Blackie Sanders, a former merchant seaman, took over Tallulah's Old Place in October 1980, but is no newcomer to the restaurant business. "I first went into the restaurant business in 1947," he said. "I opened up the Peddler in 1966, and had the very first salad bar in Chapel Hill," Sanders said proudly. He also managed the Pine Room for six to eight months.

"I really like the restaurant business, but my main regret in life is quitting the seafaring business," Sanders said. "I was in the Merchant Marines for 20 years," he said. "I traveled everywhere in the northern hemisphere. Iran, Japan, Egypt, France, England—you name it and I've probably been there," Sanders said.

In spite of his travels, Sanders decided to settle down in Chapel Hill. "I love it here. I probably will be here for the rest of my life."

Tallulah's Old Place provides a breath of fresh air from the packed, smoke-filled, student hangouts of Chapel Hill. The music is lively, pure New Orleans Dixieland. The people are friendly, and the drinks are strong. If you're ready for a change of pace, try Tallulah's this weekend. **W**

Rachel Perry is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.

The Fine Arts Festival plans exciting schedule of dance, literature, drama and special guests

By JONATHAN SMYLIE

FOR many students their commitment to class and homework too often leaves little time for exposure to the arts. Typically, students may have time for only an occasional play, a novel or two between semesters, a free flick or maybe a trip through Ackland Art Museum. There never seems to be enough exposure to this out of class education. But Chapel Hill does offer a more exciting way to enjoy the arts.

In late March and early April the Fine Arts Festival Committee is presenting a 10-day celebration of the arts. "We want to bring in artists that would not otherwise come to the community," said Margot Longenecker, the project's publicity director.

This student-organized festival will feature artists of both local and international prominence. It is designed to give students a better understanding of what goes into making and performing the arts, such as plays, motion pictures and novels.

"We want to present artists up and coming who cross the borderline of the arts," Longenecker said. Artists that deal with more than one art form will be brought to the festival, for example, a dance company coordinator that must work with the artists and a playwright in order to create a performance.

The festival is scheduled to show five art forms; drama, music, art, English, and motion pictures. The committee hopes the panel discussions, workshops, readings and class visits planned with the artist will give students a broader view of the arts.

"The festival is art, not just from local artists but from all over, said Diane

Beckman, a committee member. "We want students to see what people practicing these arts are doing outside the university community."

Liz Teviodale, the festival's treasurer described the scheduled artists as those dealing with art on the "cutting edge" where they may not have a large popular appeal. The idea is that this variety of artists will get students interested in art across the board and not just in the areas they are familiar with, Teviodale said.

"We stress artist involvement," she said. "They must be interested in the students, not just performances. This way they (the artists) can get to know the community and the community them."

Examples of the variety and talent to come can be seen by early scheduled artists. On the opening day, Jon Deak, a composer and double bass virtuoso for the New York Philharmonic, will give a concert. Sam Art Williams' Broadway play "Home" will be presented. Discussions with Williams about his play also are scheduled. Kathleen Dowdey, an independent filmmaker from Atlanta, will show her films and conduct workshops. Also contemporary poet Heather McHugh will give readings and will visit classes during the week.

The festival committee said the performances during this 10-day, \$24,000 festival will be held campus-wide.

The Fine Arts Festival is held every other year and with all the planning and organization invested in this year's festival, Teviodale said she anticipates that the affair would be very successful with more than half of the student population participating. **W**

Jonathan Smylie is a staff writer for The Daily Tar Heel.



Pat Graf of the William Dunas and The Trust dance company ... company will be one of many performers at the Fine Arts Festival