

NEW ORLEANS NOSTALGIA

Remembering New Orleans History, Culture and Traditions

By Ned Hémard

Quotable New Orleans, Part 4

Below are a number of additional noteworthy quotes on America's truly unique city, my fourth installment. Musicians, writers, politicians and philosophers – they all had something to offer. Hope you enjoy.

New Orleans is the only foreign city in the United States.

- WALKER PERCY

Noisy, bustling, gossiping, and a thousand leagues from the United States.

- ALEXIS DE TOQUEVILLE, who toured the United States in 1831

A restaurant is a place where dollars are exchanged for food. Neither should be counterfeit.

- JULES ALCIATORE

I sing God's music because it makes me feel free. It gives me hope. With the blues, when you finish, you still have the blues.

- MAHALIA JACKSON

New Orleans is not in the grip of a neurosis of a denied past; it passes out memories generously like a great lord; it doesn't have to pursue "the real thing."

- UMBERTO ECO, *Travels in Hyperreality*

New Orleans is like the bad-kid island in "Pinocchio."

- JONAH HILL

People don't live in New Orleans because it is easy. They live here because they are incapable of living anywhere else in the just same way.

- IAN McNULTY, *A Season of Night: New Orleans Life After Katrina*

Everybody started calling my music rock and roll, but it wasn't anything but the same rhythm and blues I'd been playing down in New Orleans.

- FATS DOMINO

There is no other place on earth even remotely like New Orleans.
Don't even try to compare it to anywhere else.

- ANTHONY BOURDAIN

In New Orleans ... You can't separate nothing from nothing.
Everything mingles each into the other ... until nothing is purely itself
but becomes part of one funky gumbo."

- MAC REBENNACK, aka DR. JOHN

The word [jazz] never lost its association with those New Orleans
bordellos. In the 1920s I used to try to convince Fletcher Henderson
that we ought to call what we were doing "Negro music". But it's too
late for that now.

- DUKE ELLINGTON

I hope to die in my sleep, when the time comes, and I hope it will be
in the beautiful big brass bed in my New Orleans apartment, the bed
which is associated with so much love.

- TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

New Orleans was like that. A live-and-let-live attitude was ingrained
into the fabric of the city; no one cared who you were or what you
looked like - you had a place, and everyone respected that.

- LAURA LANE McNEAL, *Dollbaby*

The past is a source of knowledge, and the future is a source of hope.
Love of the past implies faith in the future.

- STEPHEN AMBROSE

Mrs. Reilly called in that accent that occurs south of New Jersey only in
New Orleans, that Hoboken near the Gulf of Mexico.

- JOHN KENNEDY TOOLE, *A Confederacy of Dunces*

We wander through old streets, and pause before the age stricken
houses; and, strange to say, the magic past lights them up.

- GRACE KING

You know, it's funny ... when you're making money, people don't think
you're playing jazz. Now when you're not making money, people think
that you're a good jazz musician.

- PETE FOUNTAIN

We dance even if there's no radio. We drink at funerals. We talk too
much and laugh too loud and live too large and, frankly, we're
suspicious of others who don't.

- CHRIS ROSE, *1 dead in attic*

Herb Abramson and I went to New Orleans ... and we heard about this Professor Longhair, and the very name fascinated me, you know ... He played like nobody I'd ever heard. Had some of the characteristics of some of the early boogie-woogie piano players, but with a strong Latin influence. He had a little bit of Jelly Roll Morton, a little bit of Yancey, a little bit of — But he played in his own time. He kept a very strange, different tempo. And a lot of Spanish influences — West Indian, you know. And it was just a strange mixture but the most marvelous thing I'd ever heard. And I said, 'My God, no white person has ever seen this man.' So as soon as he finished, Herb and I, very excited, said, 'Look, we have to tell you, we're just astounded by your playing,' you know, and shaking his hand. 'We want very much to record you.' He said, "Oh, what a shame. I just signed with Mercury."

- AHMET ERTEGUN, Chairman of Atlantic Records

Black or white, local or out-of-town, they all had Longhair's music in common. Just that mambo-rhumba boogie thing.

- ALLEN TOUSSAINT

Also on Professor Longhair:

He's a seminal force, a guru, an original creator of the New Orleans piano style ... the teacher of great players like Fats Domino, Allen Toussaint, Mac Rebennack, James Booker, and Huey Smith. All acknowledge him as The Great Master.

- JERRY WEXLER, the man who introduced the term "Rhythm and Blues" into the lexicon of popular music

I cannot believe that the killing of 2,000 Englishmen at New Orleans qualifies a person for the various difficult and complicated duties of the Presidency.

- HENRY CLAY

There's certain things in life that I love. One is architecture. And music, culture, food, people. New Orleans has all of that.

- LENNY KRAVITZ

New Orleans, more than many places I know, actually tangibly lives its culture. It's not just a residual of life; it's a part of life. Music is at every major milestone of our life: birth, marriage, death. It's our culture.

- WENDELL PIERCE

New Orleans is like a giant flashing yellow light. Proceed with caution ... but proceed.

- MATTHEW McCONAUGHEY

Don't you just love those long rainy afternoons in New Orleans when an hour isn't just an hour – but a little piece of eternity dropped into your hands – and who knows what to do with it?

- TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

New Orleans jazz is a complex and embracing art form that began about the same time as the blues and encompassed many of its excellences.

- TIM CAHILL

My father's record collection was full of New Orleans music of all kinds. I used to listen to the radio in New York, and all there was on it at the time was Madonna and Michael Jackson, so it sort of passed me by.

- MADELEINE PEYROUX

What we used to say was whoever had the bow tie got to lead the band. There was never any jealousy.

- PETE FOUNTAIN

America has only three cities: New York, San Francisco, and New Orleans. Everywhere else is Cleveland.

- TENNESSEE WILLIAMS

NED HÉMARD

New Orleans Nostalgia
"Quotable New Orleans, Part 4"
Ned Hémard
Copyright 2016