

History of Mardi Gras

Mobile is the Mother of Mystics. In this city the centuries old custom of masking and merry-making was born in the New World, for almost from the founding of the old city in 1702, the French staged the annual celebration they had known in the old country.

The term "Mardi Gras" comes from the French work meaning "Fat Tuesday" which is the eve of the Lenten Season.

The Mardi Gras season as we know it, originated on the eve of Ash Wednesday in 1866. The parade that year consisted of a young wit dressed as an Indian Chief driving a charcoal wagon. In 1868, appeared the oldest of the present day parading societies, the Order of Myths.

From that one parade, the carnival season has grown until we now have a score and more of Mystic Societies, each of which presents a brilliant annual masked ball and parade during the weeks prior to Mardi Gras Day.

The parades begin twelve days before the great day and on that day one parade follows another from mid-morning until almost the middle of the night.

There's nothing like Mardi Gras in Mobile!



206 St. Louis Street

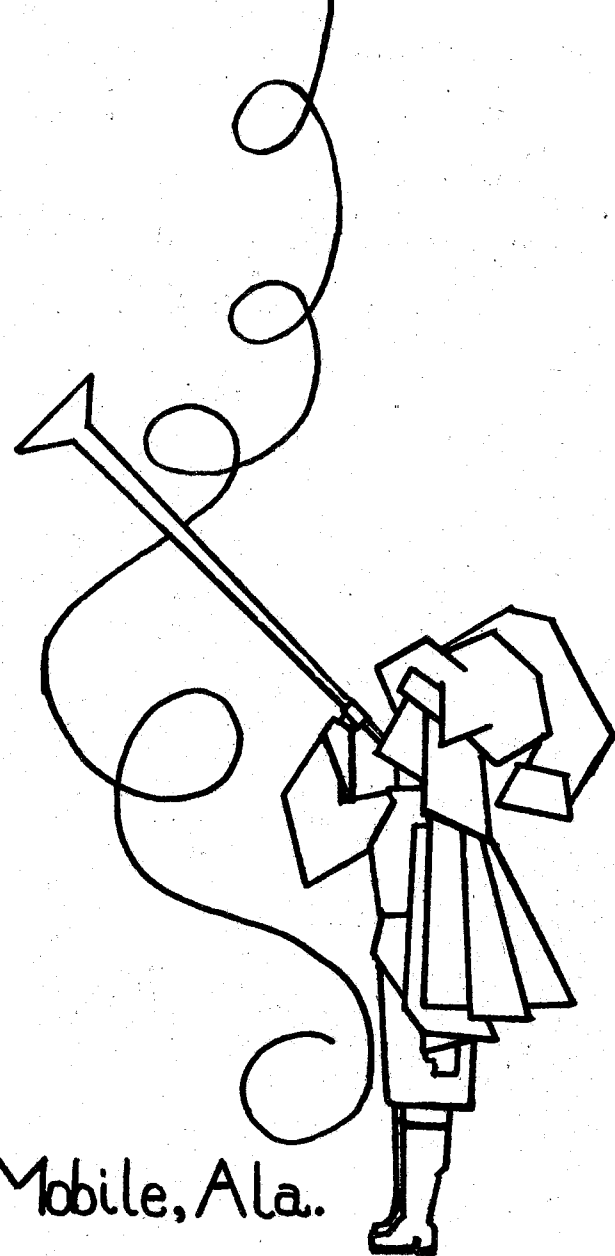
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Mardi Gras



Mobile, Ala.