



SOME OF THE CROWD AT DOC HOLLIDAY'S MASH PArty

2-28-83 13YRON





Mash Bash at Mrs. O'Leary's Doed grants photo by Arnold Gold

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E. P.S.



'M*A*S*H' parting HOTO BY brings war stories CIA historicimages.com from partying fans

BV FRANK DONZE and RICK RABER

Masks fixed, martinis mixed and stethoscopes polished, it was "M*A*S*H" live before the big bar screens and household televisions of New Orleans.

Costumed fans flocked to their favorite bars to watch the Monday finale to the 11-year-old series. Solemn and silent, faces glowing from the screen, they sprawled on couches with ragged bandages, paced carpets like nervous doctors, whispered memories from shows gone by.

"Believe it or not, this is usually a rowdy crowd of people," said Paul Arrigo, scanning the attentive costumed crowd at The Original Melius Bar on Conti Street. "But tonight is special. This is serious stuff."

Serious like a funeral. Serious like a heart attack. And if you grew up with Hawkeye and Hot Lips and the rest of the 4077th, you had some tales to tell about life during prime time. You had some war stories.

Ethelyn G. Orso, 42, sat in a dimly lighted corner of the Marriott Hotel bar three hours before showtime.

"The show brings back parts of my life," said Orso, her father's World War

II medals dangling from her green Tshirt. "My cousin, John, went to Korea because his buddies went, only he couldn't kill because he was a Seventh Day Adventist. He ended up in a MASH unit, I mean a real one, and he pulled a lot of his buddies out of the trenches, dead."

She sipped from her beer mug, removed her khaki cap.

"So I watch this show to laugh, remember the good. When it's sad, l look away."

Said 52-year-old Ronald Eschete, a machine gunner in the Korean War; "I was treated in a MASH unit outside. Tajue, Korea. I had my leg infected from sewerage water in the rice paddies. There was no laughing and joking by the doctors. They weren't the goodtimers and bedtimers you see on TV.

"Television is funny," he said. "War is hideous."

"M*A*S*H" was a show you lived more than watched, said many of the spectators. And many bar owners cashed-in on the sentiment by featuring "M*A*S*H" theme nights, convert-

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-Staff photo by Ellis Lucia

R*5*

Randy King and Ellen 'Hot Lips' Drury at M*A*S*H Bash at Marriott Hotel







