Deep South Writer's Conference A Success

By Gladys Calboun Case

The first annual Deep South Writer's and Artists Conference has just come to a close at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. The conference was sponsored by the Louisiana State University Graduate School and Art of American Pen Women. The three previous conferences, held in the same place at the same time, were equally successful.

Since one need not be a member of an organization to attend the number of people who attended the conference was thirty-two. The people in attendance were of various ages and backgrounds. Although the conference was held in a time when many people were interested in the arts, the interest was greatest in the two women who spoke at the conference.

Some of the speakers and their subjects included: Dr. Leon Gans, Education Division Director of the University of New Orleans, and John Strayhorn, who represented the city of New Orleans. Dr. Gans discussed the importance of education in the arts and the role of the arts in society.

Other names of the program were Don Kingsey, author, Bob Welch, promotion manager, and the members of the MZTV network. The program included a workshop session and personal interviews.

An unusual highlight of the conference was an evening of poetry and music. The poet was Mrs. McBea McCray of Baton Rouge, an artist in her own right. The music was performed by the New Orleans Symphony Orchestra.

This was Esmidene Brunson's first public appearance, and the audience showed much appreciation for her artistry. The conference ended with a farewell dinner at the Volkswagon Company, where everyone enjoyed a meal and a chance to talk about the future of the arts in the South.