



# Against the Klan

A Newspaper Publisher in South Louisiana during the 1960s

**LOU MAJOR**

Foreword by **STANLEY NELSON**

**From the Forward:**

"In my view, there was no other editor or publisher in Louisiana, and only a few in the South, who displayed such courage, integrity, and morality in the face of deadly adversity and such life-altering social advances. Lou Major's work should be taught to students studying journalism and community newspapers in Louisiana. . . . The memoir is fresh, exciting, and an important account of Louisiana history, civil rights, the South, race relations, journalism, and the value of an outstanding newspaper publisher and editor in a community where one is vitally needed."

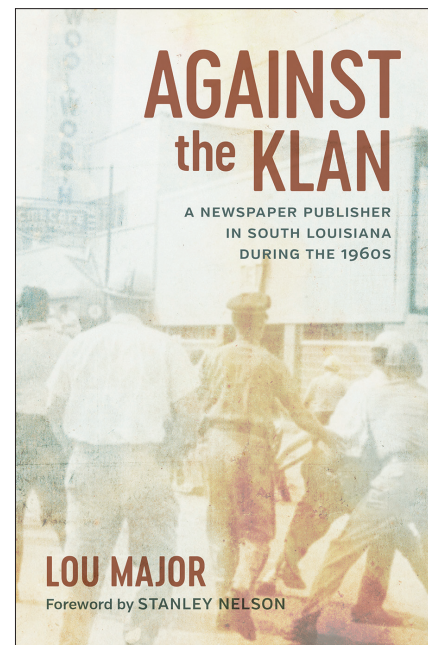
— Stanley Nelson

In 1964, less than one year into his tenure as publisher of the *Bogalusa Daily News*, New Orleans native Lou Major found himself guiding the newspaper through a turbulent period in the history of American civil rights. Bogalusa, Louisiana, became a flashpoint for clashes between African Americans advocating for equal treatment and white residents who resisted this change, a conflict that generated an upsurge in activity by the Ku Klux Klan. Local members of the KKK stepped up acts of terror and intimidation directed against residents and institutions they perceived as sympathetic to civil rights efforts. During this turmoil, the *Daily News* took a public stand against the Klan and its platform of hatred and white supremacy.

*Against the Klan*, Major's memoir of those years, recounts his attempts to balance the good of the community, the health of the newspaper, and the safety of his family. He provides an in-depth look at the stance the *Daily News* took in response to the city's civil rights struggles, including the many fiery editorials he penned condemning the KKK's actions and urging peaceful relations in Bogalusa. Major's richly detailed personal account offers a ground-level view of the challenges local journalists faced when covering civil rights campaigns in the Deep South and of the role played by the press in exposing the nefarious activities of hate groups such as the Klan.

Before his death in 2013, **LOU MAJOR** worked at the *Bogalusa Daily News* and its parent company, Wick Communications, for more than fifty years. A graduate of the LSU School of Journalism, Major was inducted into the Manship School of Mass Communication's Hall of Fame in 2010.

**STANLEY NELSON** is the author of *Devils Walking: Klan Murders along the Mississippi in the 1960s* and the editor of the *Concordia Sentinel* in Ferriday, Louisiana. His investigative work at the *Sentinel* made him a finalist for the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in Local Reporting and has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and on CNN and NPR.



**FEBRUARY 2021**

184 pages, 5½ x 8½, 9 halftones

978-0-8071-7492-0

Hardcover \$29.95, ebook available

Civil Rights / Southern History / Louisiana Studies

Media and Public Affairs Robert Mann, Series Editor

Published with the assistance of the Michael H. and Ayan Rubin Fund

338 JOHNSTON HALL | BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70803

225-578-6294 | FAX 225-578-6461 | Orders/Customer Service 800-848-6224 | [www.lsupress.org](http://www.lsupress.org)