

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

Pleasing Giver And, at Times, Recipient, Too

The fusion of culture and travel is often a fertile picture-book formula. Certainly it makes a rewarding combination in William Claxton's "Jazz Life," a book as impressive as it is backbreaking. This is a large-format reissuing of photographs taken in 1960, when Mr. Claxton and the German musicologist Joachim E. Berendt embarked on a road trip in America. They found and photographed the great jazz artists of that time, with a particularly jubilant, evocative emphasis on vintage New Orleans spirit. If this book seems to warrant musical accompaniment, its 700-page package includes a CD soundtrack. It's a CD that is emi-

nestly usable, too.