

as
27
... tried to help him," Evans
said. "Here's this poor white kid coming
from a background where he may
have never come into contact with
if there's a lesson to be learned, it's
that we just shouldn't judge each other
on the basis of our skin tones."
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Movie Sale-Caps 'Dunces' Success

By BETTY GUILLAUD

The movie rights to "A Confederacy of Dunces," written by an author who is no longer living, have been sold to producer Scott Kramer of 20th Century-Fox.

John Kennedy Toole's rollicking piece of fiction, that is all about New Orleans, was written almost 20 years ago, but was published just last month by the LSU Press.

After the death of the author in 1969, his mother, Thelma Toole, tried unsuccessfully for years to find a publisher, but none were willing to invest in a large comic novel about New Orleans. And then she was introduced to Walker Percy, who introduced her to the folks at LSU, who have introduced the book to the world.

Called a "crazy, magnificent once-in-a-blue-moon" novel by Publishers Weekly, the book was already in its third printing prior to its May 31 publication date. Widespread and rave reviews of the book have been appearing for several weeks.

MA BELL AND UNCLE SAM make a hit: Three new songs in NORD Theater's revival of "Moon over Montevideo," which opened Friday night at Gallier Hall, should carry an additional credit: music by Ruth Moore, lyrics by Bob Bruce and David Cuthbert, assisted by South Central Bell and the U.S. Post Office.

The show's original 10 numbers were composed by Danny Rubio. But when director Ty Tracy wanted three new songs for the revival, he turned to Ruth Moore, who had supplied the music for the three original musicals that followed "Moon" at NORD. There was one small problem — Mrs. Moore now lives in Anaheim, Calif.

But that didn't stop her. For "Moon's" new opening number, "Getting There," she conferred long distance with Bruce and Cuthbert on the kind of song that was needed and what the general content of the lyrics would be. She then sat down and composed her melody. This was followed by another phone call, so Mrs. Moore could play her work for the lyricists' approval. Slight musical adjustments were asked for and made. Ruth then committed the music to paper and mailed it special delivery to New Orleans, along with a cassette recording of herself playing the music.

Bruce and Cuthbert then fitted their lyrics to the melody, with more adjustments being made by Larry Guillot, music and vocal director of the production.

The two other songs — "The After-Hours Tango" and "Cheap Champagne" were written the same way, only in reverse. Bruce and Cuthbert wrote their lyrics first, and Ruth fitted her melody to the words, conferring by phone and mailing the end result back to New Orleans, where Guillot gave it a final polish.

"It's sort of a crazy way to write songs," said Bruce, "but they really add something to the revival. And we were determined that this new 'Moon' would be a lot more to offer than the original production."



Lagniappe

Hoven, opens tomorrow night at Salem United Church of Christ.

Von Hoven's second production in his annual summer stock season will be "Annabelle Broom, the Unhappy Witch," which opens July 25.

"Music Man" performances are at 8 p.m. through Saturday, and there'll be a 3 p.m. matinee Sunday.

JUST A SHOW: Charlie Belote, who works for the Department of Streets, was a longtime friend of Jack Benny. And through Benny, he met Phil Harris.

Charlie hadn't seen Phil for a long time, but found himself on Sunday at the table next to Phil's in Nero's Nook in the Delta Towers.

Harris, who turns up at some strange places at stranger times, is in town filming a made-for-NBC-television movie, "Concrete Cowboys."

Men No Longer Talk Shop...

Continued from Section 3, Page 1

but now that he had returned he had some qualms.

"It's not that I want to go back again," he said as the coffee came along. "I thought it was time to come home and I returned here at my request, but I've found that my years abroad were not a complete plus."

He had discovered, he said, that although his business acumen was equal to that of his colleagues, his contacts were not. He had not seen most of his college classmates in years, and his personal old boys network was almost invisible.

"I don't have a list of people that I've seen and lunched and dined with over the years — the kind of contacts you build up so that a telephone call will solve almost any problem," he said. "Sure they'll come eventually, but for some time I'm going to have to take a roundabout route to achieve what some of my colleagues can do with one telephone call."

SHOULD HE HAVE come back earlier? he ruminated. Would he have been better off to have acquired a few years of foreign experience and then have returned to head an office? His lunch companion realized that he was being used as a sounding board, the man neither wanted nor expected answers.

"Five years ago, that guy would have had lunch with me and talked about how wonderful it was to be back here."

TP/SI
June 24, 1980

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Theatrical renaissance man Bruce also supervised the look of the new "Moon." He designed and executed the show's new set and costumes and designed a new logo and poster for the show. This is in addition, mind you, to three separate headpieces which Ginger Guma, as "Carmen Verandah" wears, and for which he glittered and sequined innumerable pieces of fake fruit. The second-act headpiece, in which a shimmering pineapple rests atop a crown of bananas, is something of a major engineering feat and must be seen to be believed.

The play, originally scheduled to run through mid-July, is being held over through July 27. And all Sunday matinee performances — except for July 27 — have already sold out.

ANOTHER OPENING, ANOTHER show: Peter Hagan, another song-and-dance man about town, is now the "Music Man."

The show, produced by Alec Von

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"Five years ago, that guy would have had lunch with me and talked about how wonderful it was to be back, how happy he was, and some current business deal," said his companion. "He'd never have opened up like that."

Does the opening up mean anything, does it help?

"Yes," said a sales executive. "Maybe the conversation doesn't mean anything in itself, but it's the idea that you feel free to have the conversation that's important. That stiff upper lip is vastly overrated."

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Sophia Loren Plays Dual Role in Movie Based on Her Life

Knight-Ridder News Service

Sophia Loren stars as both her mother and herself in "Sophia," a three-hour NBC movie based on her rise from poverty to world-renowned movie star.

It is being filmed on location in Italy, based on the book "Sophia: Loving and Living, Her Own Story," by A.E. Hotchner.