

Getting ready to roll the cameras on location in the Big Easy



Lagniappe

By BETTY GUILLAUD

Big bucks have been aimed at Bumberhoot's upcoming production of the late Ken Toole's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, "A Confederacy of Dunces." And so are a few Texas tycoons who will begin production of the movie by the end of the year in New Orleans.

As a matter of fact, the Texans, Mai-

dee Walker and Lionel Bevan II, are constantly on planes between Fort Worth, Los Angeles and New Orleans getting all the pre-production details nailed down. But they're having to hide out in a hush-hush palatial St. Charles Avenue location to avoid would-be actors and writers who want to contribute anything but dollars to the venture.

The only time that Walker and Bevan surface is to eat at Cafe Sbisá (where they hosted the first Bumberhoot dinner this summer for the investors), Restaurant Jonathan and the Broadway Cafe.

Walker, who is also a writer, is taking time out from work to relax with a few old chums that she went to school with at Foxcroft, Bradford and Harvard. If you haven't seen her, you may

have seen her fiction in the Atlantic Monthly and the New Yorker, and her recent piece on horses in Sports Illustrated. She's given up her editorship at Boston magazine and her column at the Boston Herald American to return to Fort Worth as the corporate vice president in charge of production for her old chum, John Langdon.

Langdon, Bumberhoot's president and chairman of the board, bought 100 copies of "Dunces" when it first came out and couldn't rest until he had bought the movie rights too.

The other half of the local Bumberhoot team is consultant Bevan, who has just wrapped up shooting a documentary called "Cow Girls" for PBS at the Cow Girl Hall of Fame. Through his own production company, he has been promoting artists and musicians

— such as Joni Mitchell, Jackson Browne, Kenny Price, T-Bone Burnett and his brand new album "Trap Door," and New Orleans' own visual artist, Robert Gordy — since 1973.

And if that isn't enough, Bevan, a fourth-generation Texas cattleman, has started his own breed called Longmasters — a cross between Longhorn and Beefmasters. Bob Dylan was so taken with this real-life cowboy that he used him in his last movie, "Renaldo and Claire," as an actor.

THE HUNT GOES ON: "After trying to corner the world's silver market, the Hunt dynasty of Texas has a new interest: hotels," according to an item in last week's issue of New York magazine. But you knew that.

And now the hunt that began in the

Big Easy last year continues in the Big Apple. According to New York: "Rosewood Hotels, a wholly owned subsidiary of a trust set up by the late billionaire H.L. Hunt for his daughter, Caroline Hunt Schoellkopf, is scouting New York for what the firm describes as a 'small' property serving the 'discriminating traveler.'"

"Schoellkopf, the sister of Herbert, Lamar, and Nelson Bunker, will herself be in the city next month at a party staged by Harley Baldwin — the Queensboro Bridge-market developer. Ostensibly the party is to publicize a new hotel Rosewood is building in Houston. However, a source said the major purpose of the celebration is to introduce the Hunt heiress — whose company purchased the Los Angeles area's prestigious Hotel Bel-Air in July

— to the people in the New York media and the food-and-hospitality world."

That's all quite different from the undercover search that the Hunts have been conducting in New Orleans. But now that they're out in the open, keep an eye posted on the mail for a silver-lined invitation.

A gilt-edged invitation has been issued to ad exec Eugenie Garrard, who's been playcating in the Big Apple with partner Linda Yasnyi. After attending the annual Advertising Age creative workshop, Eugenie has been invited — by her wine-broker husband, Tim Garrard — to France. She's accepted and the pair is off to Paris to meet Max Zander of New Orleans after touring the Loire Valley, Bordeaux and Champagne. It should be a corker.