



Michael Hollett

Herald editor

Movie goes out with a bang

The party's over, the cast and crew of *Never Trust an Honest Thief* who have spent over a month filming in Georgetown packed their bags and left town with a bang-literally.

In one of the last bits of local shooting, the film crew orchestrated a car chase through town Wednesday that culminated in three separate crashes on Thursday, the most spectacular of which saw a Volkswagen Beetle hurtle into the ravine just in front of the River Drive bridge beside the paper mill dam.

It was definitely one of those assignments Herald reporter Paul Dorsey and I enjoyed covering. Being closet pyromaniacs (who isn't?) the prospect of a car hurtling over an embankment and bursting into flames was delightful, especially since our job was to record the event in pictures. I think that secretly, weekly newspaper reporters harbor dreams of covering stories in exotic locales in the midst of some history making battle. So far, an exploding car is the closest I've come but it wasn't a bad substitute.

Pleasant assignment

Like the July 4 parade, filming the car explosion was also a para-military affair. Four different cameras were posted in strategic locations around the crash scene to record the event.

Art Bouwman of Bouwman's nurseries told me he spent almost five hours just preparing the dirt ramp over which the car hurtled into the ravine.

The usual array of film crew walkie-talkies was bolstered by those carried by members of Stunts Unlimited, a California based stunt team flown in for the crash.

While most of the public was kept at bay on the other side of the Credit River, I managed to get within 20 feet of the crash scene, next to one of the crews' cameras close by a handy tree for protection.

The stunt car was driven by Snuffy Harrison and his first run was a little disappointing. As Snuffy came barreling over the guard rail and into the ravine, his boss was predicting the car would do close to 22 rolls before coming to a flaming halt. Instead, after a few feet of crazy driving the car managed one roll before Snuffy pressed a hand held detonator in the car, setting off a four pound bomb in the back of the bug, creating a pretty good explosion.

First run

Stunts Unlimited staff rushed to the flaming car, extinguished it and helped Snuffy crawl to safety. The crowd applauded but Snuffy looked anything but pleased, in fact, he didn't even look relieved at surviving, as he peeled off his protective gear. He wasn't happy with the stunt and, it seems, they decided to take it out on the car.

The first step was to drive—yeah, drive—the car back up the hill where it was rolled down empty. Film of this will be spliced in with Snuffy's drive over the ravine. But the real punishment took place when Stunts Unlimited staff detonated the car in the bottom of the ravine.

Based on the previous explosion I didn't expect much of a bang when I was told the car was to be detonated about 20 feet from my perch. I should've figured out things were going to get a little hotter when it took the stunt crew over an hour to load the gasoline, gun powder, etc. into the car and set the fuses.

During the setup time, I was joined by a few more photographers who decided to try some shots from a closer angle. A sound man informed us he was setting up an open mike a few feet from us and urged us to stay quiet during the explosion.

I was all set, poised defiantly in the open road to take my shot when I heard director George McCowan call down from the bridge to the stunt staff set to detonate the car. He told them to cover themselves and "watch out". It was only then I noticed the stunt duo parked only a little closer to the car than me, huddled behind an embankment and some trees with a few bags of sand acting as further cushion in front of them.

I swallowed hard but at this point my 'macho' instincts wouldn't allow me to flee.

More photographers

The car went up in three explosions but I didn't know that at the time. My shot of the first blast didn't get in the paper. I jumped a little as the explosion turned out to be about 10 times stronger as the one in the original stunt. In fact the power of the blast actually pushed me back. I wasn't completely humiliated by my shakiness, however. A usually sedate female reporter parked about five feet from me let go with an impressive profanity and dived behind a tree with the first blast. I'm curious as to how the sound men are going to remove that from their tape, it's a safe bet the open mike beside us picked it up.

In two more blasts, about three seconds apart, the car was destroyed. Reporter Dorsey almost got a souvenir piece of car as a chunk of the flaming wreck landed about a yard from his position.

It may not have been the midst of a war torn battleground, but I think we are both satisfied with our taste of fireworks.

I'd feel remis if I didn't give my personal best wishes to the crew and cast of *Honest Thief* as they leave town to complete the last few weeks of filming and then head into the final editing stage of the movie. The Herald has appreciated your cooperation in making it easier for us to cover the event and, I think it's safe to say the townspeople of Georgetown have enjoyed watching and participating in the filming.

We're looking forward to the movie's spring release and let's hope the film's producers pick up director George McCowan's idea and premiere the movie in Georgetown. I think they could definitely count on a packed house.

Who says Georgetown residents were getting complacent about the movie being made in their downtown? One local resident told me he saw a buddy of his on Main St. for the first time in years last week. His pal complained about the 'Americans' taking over downtown but meanwhile, his friend reports the fellow was carrying the first bags of groceries he's ever purchased on Main St. I guess it is good for business to make a movie.

Honest Thief's schedule got a little derailed last week with a lab accident Tuesday night in Toronto. Seems somebody downtown messed up the entire day's film containing the downtown segment of the car chase. It all had to be re-shot Wednesday which put them one day behind schedule. This created problems for the people from Stunts Unlimited who were supposed to be back in California to do stunt work in another movie. Instead, they spent the day shooting in Georgetown.



Y JOG-A-THON

The Georgetown YM-YWCA are hot to trot, well jog anyway. They're busy preparing for a "walk-a-jog-a-thon" to be held between 8 and 11 am Saturday, September 22 at the Georgetown Fairgrounds. Pictured here (front row, left to right) John Cruise, Mike Dobbin and Donnie Cruise get ready for the

event along with their parents (left to right) John Cruise, Fred Dobbin and Joanna Dobbin along with family dog Brinker. They're hoping Georgetown residents will make the event a family affair and help raise money for the Y.

(Herald photo by Michael Hollett)

Letters to the editor

Glen citizens clarify stand

Open Letter To Council of Halton Hills:

In light of recent representations to council, we feel it is important to clarify our position.

1) Our appearance before "Committee of the Whole" was a re-action to a developer who was asking for a resolution of committee to approve his concept of development before the planning guidelines were in place.

2) The idea of a combination of estate-type homes and parkland is not without merit, but we suggest that it was premature as the present Official Plans and proposed Secondary Plan, do not allow for it. Population and density goals are now in place and those

proposed do not support the density suggested.

3) All we asked was that council and the planner lay out the guidelines in the form of a plan that is official, and protected by zoning, and agrees with the Regional and Esqueving Plan for the BENEFIT OF DEVELOPERS AND RESIDENTS ALIKE.

4) If our town is to prosper, it must grow, controlled by sound planning, allowing phased increases that provide for an adequate water supply, future sewage treatment, reasonable traffic patterns and still maintain the town and hamlet character.

comes a benefit to all.

We hope that good relations and not confrontation will allow open communications between developers and the people so that we can build a

better place to live.

Yours very truly,

The Steering Committee for

The Concerned Citizens of

Glen Williams

VIEWPOINT

Tut a tantalizing taste of Egypt

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH
Herald correspondent

"King Tut" a name coined by newspapers - the short version of "Nebchepru-Ra" "Tutankhamun" an ancient Egyptian Pharaoh who ruled Upper and Lower Egypt over 3,000 years ago.

Tutankhamun died a boy-king somewhere between his eighteenth and twentieth year, the cause of his death is unknown. This rather obscure Pharaoh is responsible for a craze that is sweeping Ontario right here and now in 1979.

TUTRAGE

"Tutmania" is the rage everywhere the treasures from the royal tomb of Tutankhamun have appeared since leaving Egypt for a North American tour in 1976. You can take a choice of Tut haircuts, jewelry, disco clothes, ornaments, lunches complete with mini lectures on ancient Egyptian life. Tut buttons, books, you name it - and our plastic society will find a way of capitalizing on it. How about Tut T-shirts with all kinds of garbage printed on them - "Treasure of Tutankhamun - Keep your hands off my Tuts."? That's enough to make a Pharaoh insist that his ancient curse strike out again. In New York One million tickets were sold, you couldn't get a ticket from the museum if you were Queen of England herself.

Tutankhamun's royal tomb was discovered on November 26th, 1922 by Howard Carter in the Valley of the Kings. What a discovery it was - furniture, chariots, jewels, statues, gold - everywhere the glint of gold. Over 5,000 priceless artifacts - in all it took over 10 years to remove them from their original tomb after sitting undisturbed beneath the sands of the desert for nearly 3,000 years.

Tutankhamun was not a particularly famous ruler of ancient Egypt, in fact he was almost unknown. He ruled approximately nine years ascending the throne at age nine and dying somewhere between his eighteenth and twentieth year. Because of the magnificence of his tomb we can only guess at the splendor and grandeur of some of the more prominent Pharaohs. Most royal tombs were plundered by grave robbers thousands of years ago but some Egyptologists believe there are still tombs to be discovered that

may make the Treasure of Tutankhamun look poor indeed.

Egyptian history lasted over six thousand years. Six thousand years is quite a stretch, when you compare it to the one thousand years of modern Europe or ancient Rome or the two hundred years of the United States.

Those thousands of years of history developed a craftsmanship of great beauty that would rival many an artist today.

Ancient Egyptians believed in life after death. They built elaborate tombs to house their dead and filled them with everything that could possibly be required in the after life.

Furniture, food, chariots, boats, wine, beer, clothes,

games, musical instruments, anything that could give pleasure or fill a need.

Because of their belief in after-life and the attention paid to detailing, each aspect of life in ancient Egypt is made available to us through the paintings on the walls of the tombs and the writing of songs and stories and ritual accompanying them.

On an ointment jar in Tutankhamun's tomb was written the following: "Live o Soul, Live for millions of years O darling of Thebes, seated with thy face turned towards the northwind and thine eyes filled with love."

On the first of November we here in Ontario who were lucky enough to get tickets will step back thousands of years and

view some 55 pieces on display at the Ontario Art Gallery from the funerary treasure of Tutankhamun.

The beauty of these pieces and the mystery of ancient Egypt combine in a pulling force that will have King "Tuts" name on everyone's lips. The Herald will be at a special preview of the Treasure of Tutankhamun. Tickets were sold out on the first day but there will be many news and magazine stories with pictures available for those who would see the glory that was ancient Egypt five again.



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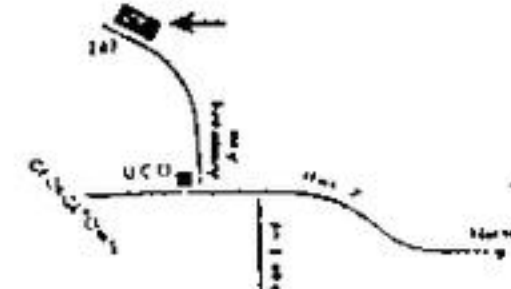
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