



Letter from the Editor

Paul Dorsey

How we gonna keep 'em down on the farm?

The saga of how Toronto has become the "Hollywood of the North" continues to be told, particularly by officials in Ontario's ministry of industry and tourism, which appears to be taking much of the credit for the current boom in the local movie-making.

The ministry's latest newsletter lists the many seven-figure projects undertaken around Toronto during 1979, with Bill Murray's "Meatballs" easily taking top commercial honors, and although "Never Trust an Honest Thief" isn't mentioned, the report goes into much detail about Magder Studio's contribution to this celluloid success story.

As recounted in The Herald several times late last summer, Scarborough's Zale Magder was the money behind "Honest Thief", which, in the overall scenario, added Orson Welles' name to the list of American stars "slumming" around Toronto. Suzanne Sommers, Donald Sutherland, Ann-Margaret and Bruce Dern, among many others, were also here, threatening to turn us all into a bunch of star-struck fans.

Welles showed up last week on Merv Griffin's talk-fest, launched into some pompous Richard III for a bit, then settled down to praise Toronto for the progress it's made as an entertaining city since his last visit many years earlier. There was nary a mention of the film that brought him here, and certainly no acknowledgement of Georgetown's role in all of this.

That's to be expected, I suppose, but this "scenic" little community did, after all, provide the background for two-thirds of the shooting schedule. We can only hope that our town gets some kind of honorable mention once the film hits the big screens.

I certainly hope I'm not getting anyone's hopes up by saying this, but as filming drew to a close here on "Honest Thief", its publicists agreed enthusiastically that something special should be done for the folks in Georgetown when the movie is released. They commented that movie-makers out in Saskatchewan had a great idea when they bussed the residents of a small community to the world premiere of the movie shot on location in their village in Calgary.

Maybe some of us will get that special invitation come next spring when "Honest Thief" opens in Toronto. I just hope I don't have to sit behind Orson, the "Man Mountain".

Apparently, a few readers took my tongue-in-cheek remarks last week about delivering Santa letters to the North Pole seriously, for their benefit, I'd just like to clarify that I really did enjoy reading Mr. Claus' fan mail (on my way to the Pole) and have every intention of maintaining the Herald's practice of accepting these letters. And, yes, I like kids, too.

Unfortunately, I must apologize for not getting all the letters into the paper before Christmas; as you can see, quite a few are featured in this week's issue, and there's still

a handful of late-comers kicking around our office and Santa's. The problem, I have to admit, was largely a matter of my own inexperience, but I can assure you The Herald is already taking steps to ensure that a much more efficient delivery-response system will be put into effect next year.

The holiday season has witnessed a couple of additions to the families of Herald contributors, past and present. Former editor Michael Hollett and Alice had a visit from the Christmas stork (so to speak) in the wee hours of December 5. The proud parents have named their first child - a daughter - Lee. Take it from me, she's a good looker, but, contrary to her father's journalism background, she missed her "doctor's deadline" by about two weeks.

Greg Landry and wife Marg, meanwhile, have introduced Curtis, born a week ago Monday. Greg, a long-time Georgetown resident now living in Milton, has been The Herald's editorial cartoonist for several years. I'll be surprised if his little carpet-crawler doesn't start appearing in his weekly illustrations, ringing in the New Year, riding a crazy beat this spring, or perhaps even casting a vote for his old man in one of the coming elections.

Further to our Dec. 5 feature on trapping this message arrived this week from the ministry of natural resources. As of December 31, 1979 not only do we come to the end of the seventies but also the end of the first Raccoon Season. The raccoon, a very important fur-bearer in southern Ontario, has been granted protection from January 1 to October 15 in any year. This has become necessary because of a growing demand in raccoon pelts used in the production of female attire and has placed a great deal of pressure on this population. It can no longer sustain its population without some protection.



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