



'Honest Thief'

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 ends: Murphy jumps from being a newly-released convict to being deputy-sheriff of Madison; he steals a bull terrier at the same time as he steals \$1 million from the Queen Street home but no one says anything about the dog hanging around his own home; no one in Madison except the owner knew about the \$1 million, but Murphy somehow found out; police initially pounce on a derelict who lives in the shack constructed for the film on the Credit River below the paper mill dam - he is neither properly introduced nor is his role ever explained; "Sheriff" Welles is ultimately summoned to Las Vegas to recover the stolen money - why Vegas and what happens there after he arrives are questions that remain unanswered.

POOR MAN'S

The failure of "Honest Thief" is most apparent in its opening credits and closing scenes. The film opens like a poor man's 007 film from the mid-1960s: a mysterious femme fatale lounging in hip-huggers and blouse against a monochrome background while the credits roll by; a blurry ball of light bounces between her and an equally mysterious male character; nondescript romance music is provided by Rob McConnell of Boss Brass fame.

"Honest Thief" closes in the Bahamas with Murphy rejoining his girlfriend and a couple of airheaded prison friends who react differently to his announcement that he gave all the stolen money back. The

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SCENES LEFT INTACT: The high speed car chase through downtown Georgetown that ultimately sees this Volkswagen flip down a hillside and explode into flames near the paper mill dam provides "Never Trust an Honest Thief" with its only spectacular sequence. The otherwise dreary and disjointed film still retains the exciting footage of "hardware merchant Townsend" leaving his Main Street store (Goodiet's) with revenue agents and police in hot pursuit. The chase takes them past the Abilibi property, through the busy John Street culvert (where two police cruisers jam together tender to fender), then several times across the bridge over the paper mill dam (all supposed to be a one-way chase over several bridges en route to the Canadian border) and finally down the embankment. Halton Hills firefighters seen dousing the car's flames at left were not filmed.

(Herald file photo)

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