

# Dick Tracy series a minor classic

GLASSY from Page 11

Ranger guy Hank Kimball on "Green Acres," produced and stars in this cheapie filmed in Louisiana. He and Anthony Eisley trek to an old shack in the swamp to investigate some murders.

There's a coven of witches, a warlock, elderly Burt Must and old horror-movie/TV show host Seymour is in there somewhere. As late as 1980, in a galaxy far away, this film was playing as "Legend of Witch Hollow." Drunken "Green Acres" theme whistles accompanied by dueling Pat Buttram impersonations. It seemed funny at the time.

Other movies available on Beta video include:

"She Devils on Wheels" (1968) Betty Connell, Ruby Tuesday.

A friend told me recently, "There is a person that makes far worse films than Ed Wood Jr. ever made." I must concur. The culprit's name is Herschel Gordon Lewis, the first man to make gore films.

With a spare \$20,000 or \$30,000, Herschel cranked out insufferable swill like "2,000 Maniacs" and "Color Me Blood Red." When it comes to filmmaking, H.G. just couldn't do anything right. Nary five minutes into "She Devils on Wheels" someone practically knocks the camera off the tripod. Our story concerns the Man-Eaters, a group of tough woman bikers who ride around taunting the studs and having sex while fully clothed.

They utter immortal lines like "I'm gonna kill them dirty mothers" and "Now look here, scum-bum." Lewis's idea of humor reaches its peak when the Man-Eaters string wire across a road and behead one of their enemies. Funny.

"Dick Tracy Meets Gruesome" (1947) Boris Karloff, Ralph Byrd.

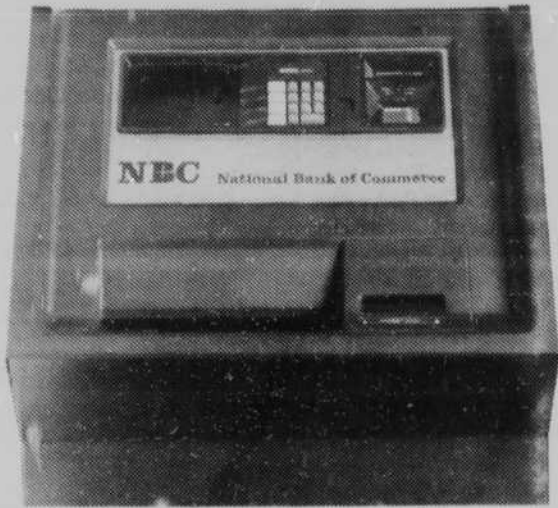
Here's just one of numerous serials or series of films that should be on TV. "Dick Tracy vs. Cueball" is perhaps the most ridiculous and un-Tracy films will be realized for what they are — fun, harmless little ch-

copies that are halfway faithful to Chester Gould's famous comic strip. Few of the real bad guys from the strip are used, though there are characters with names like Spitface, Filthy Flora and X-Ray.

Our story begins at The Hangman's Knot, where Gruesome (Boris Karloff in a rather strange and subdued role) plans crime with the aid of special gas bombs that temporarily freeze people. When Gruesome's sidekick is hospitalized, Dick Tracy anticipates Gruesome's attempt to contact him and and dis-

guises himself as the dirty little rat. Gruesome goes to the hospital and unwittingly tries to make off with our hero, but bit player Lex Barker (Hollywood's Tarzan from '49 to '53) runs interference. Or as a local Dick Tracy fan put it, "Dick Tracy is nearly saved by Tarzan... an interesting concept, to say the least."

Several of RKO's Dick Tracy films are also available at Shopko stores for a nominal fee.

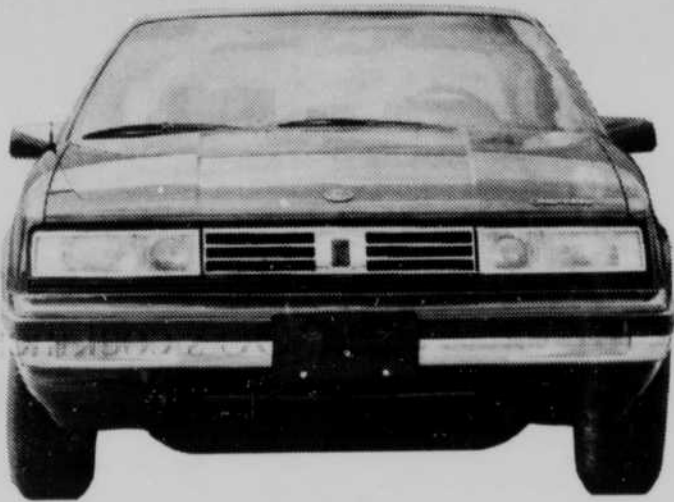


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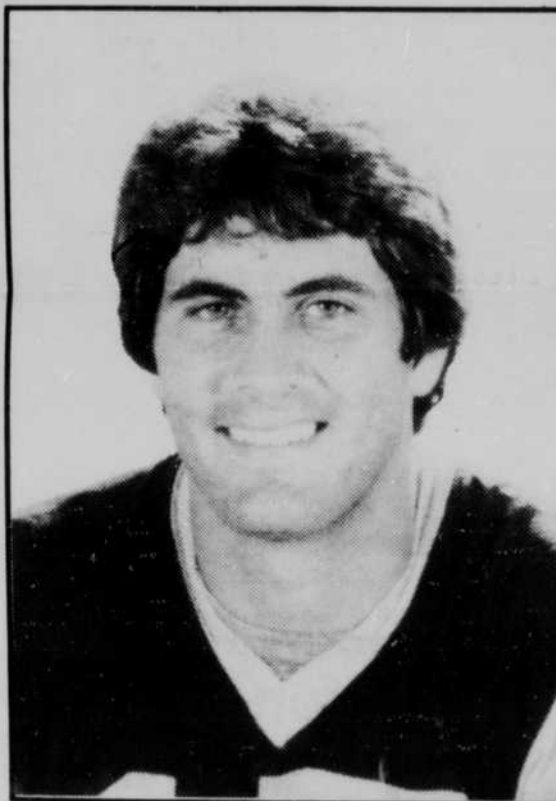
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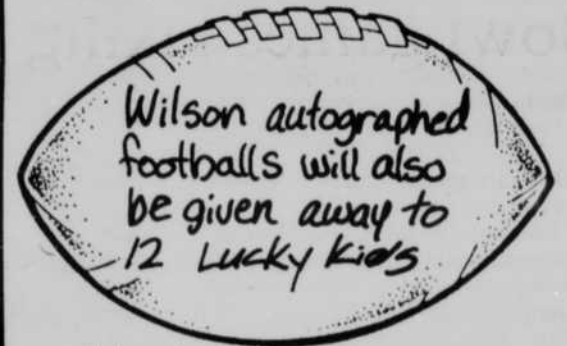
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