

Newnan Times-Herald February 1, 1979

Italian Production Company To Film Movie In City Of Newnan

By Rob Alexander

"It's almost as if somebody turned on a light and said, 'This is where I want to do,'" Bob Warner, production manager for Leone Productions, told city and county officials this week.

"This" is Newnan. A perfect place

for an Italian film crew to make a science-fiction family comedy about an American hero starring an actor famous for "Spaghetti Westerns" as the local sheriff and a Newnan barber as the town's jailbird.

"Typically Southern," Warner said of Newnan.



THE NEWNAN POLICE DEPARTMENT may be the scene for a movie filmed about a local sheriff confronted by a creature from outer space. Bob Warner, left, the production manager for the Italian film company, and Gary Womack, from the state film division, returned to Newnan this week to announce plans to film "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid" here.

Warner and Franco Vanorio, the non-English speaking artistic director of the Italian company, visited Newnan last December.

"In a matter of nine working days we covered 1,000 miles and looked closely at 20 different towns" in Georgia before the "Karma," the attractiveness of Newnan, told them this was the place to film "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid," he said.

The moviemakers are not looking for a town that is exactly "authentic." Rather, they want a small town that is basic American, with its bustling town square, staid courthouse, and beautiful homes. A town that will appeal to Europeans, the company's primary target audience, Warner said.

"This is one of the prettiest towns I've ever seen. It is truly the 'City of Homes'," Warner commented.

Although the script is not final, the moviemakers want Newnan as the backdrop to their story of the "development of an American hero" through slapstick fight scenes and police chase from Stone Mountain through Newnan and Warner Robins, the other locations for the filming, he said.

The film will star Bud Spenser, a hulking cowboy famous for his starring role in "They Call Me Trinity" and the sequels to that film, Warner said.

Spenser is currently "a major star" in Europe, he added. His movies have been in the top "two or three" for the last six months in Europe, Warner said. The six foot, eight inch, 280-pound actor also played in "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," and "Fistful of Dollars" which were released in the U. S., he said.

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Movie Production Here

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Dollars" which were released in the U. S., he said.

Some of the comic scenes in the movie will include Spenser's exploits as the local sheriff with the town's chronic jailbreaker. Warner and Vanorio think they found the man to play the part of the jailbird when they surveyed Newnan last December.

"The director was walking down the street and saw this guy, and he's just perfect for the part of the guy in the jail," Warner said.

The man they found was Ed Howard, a barber at Veal's Beauty Shop on East Broad Street. Howard's appearance, heavysset with thick black eyebrows and hair, belie his friendly manner.

In an interview Thursday afternoon, he said the director had stopped by, and after taking some pictures of the barber shop, asked him if he wanted to be in a movie.

"I said yeah," Howard recalled although he was not sure who he was playing. When told that he may play the role of a jailbird, he said he did not mind.

"That might start me in movies," he commented.

"Eddie Howard you aren't going to be in any movie," Pat Veal told him.

"I don't know, I might buy me a home in Hollywood," Howard joked.

The company will include about 20 Atlanta area actors and about 50 local people as "extras" in the movie, Warner said. The extras will be paid by the day (about five days each), but the pay scales are not established yet, he said.

"We are not a big budget movie," Warner said.

Their budget is \$600,000. About \$150,000 will be spent in Newnan, Warner said. Besides paying the extras, the company will reimburse the city and county for any expenses incurred during the fight scenes and police chases. The company will need a workshop to build sets, and accommodations at the Newnan Holiday Inn, he added.

Warner and Gary Womack, from the film division of the State Department of Industry and Trade, stressed their desire for good public relations with the local citizens. Warner emphasized that the Italian crew, numbering 35, are an "older, family-oriented crew," he said. They are coming to the United States for the first time, "and they love to buy stuff," he added.

He said the company is looking forward to working in Newnan.

"We're aware we're a traveling side-show," he also commented.

The company will spend from five to six weeks working in Georgia. About two weeks will be spent in Newnan beginning March 17th, the said. The company would like to use some private homes, a pizzeria, ice cream parlor, supermarket and a jail, for the filming, he said.

Languages will be one of the several "challenges" for the crew, Warner said.

He did not know if the name "Newnan" will be used in the film.

"Newnan is easy for us to pronounce but it might not be for them," he said.

They will need a name that will be easy for European pronunciations.

Warner will also serve as an interpreter for the directors and crew. Vanorio, the director, speaks Italian and some Spanish but no English. Warner used to speak Italian until he learned Spanish. In whatever language he speaks to the director, Warner will interpret in English for the Italian and American actors and crew, he said.

"That's going to slow us down, but that's what makes these pictures more challenging," he said.

Warner did not know if the movie will be released in the U. S. If it is not, they will try to bring a copy over for a local premier in Newnan, he said. "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid" will be "G-rated," he added.

Newnan Times-Herald

March 1, 1979

February 22, 1979

Movie — The producers of the "spaghetti western" entitled "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid" have requested use of the old county jail on East Broad Street.

The commissioners granted permission for the building to be used in the movie. The producers plan repaint the outside trim of the building for the movie.

MOVIE EXTRAS NEEDED!!

Anyone interested in being an extra in "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid" being filmed in Newnan, come to the

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March 8, 1979

In Other Business, the commissioners voted to demolish the old county jail adjacent to the county building on East Broad Street.

The jail will be painted by a movie company for use in the production of "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid." Considered an eyesore and a hazard, the commissioners then plan to raze the structure.

Italian Cameras Are Rolling In City Of Newnan This Week

By Ellen Corker

If the constant blast of rushing sirens, tied-up traffic, crowds on corners, the sight of billowing foam in the streets and "UFO Alarm" headlines had anyone confused this week, never fear.

It is all in a day's filming for an Italian movie company, Leone Film, that began this week shooting "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid" on location in Newnan.

Newnan was selected early this year as the perfect place for the Italian film crew to make a science-fiction family comedy about an American hero.

The film stars a six-foot, 280 pound actor famous for "spaghetti westerns" as the local sheriff. Bud Spenser, a hulking cowboy, is famous for his starring role in "They Call Me Trinity" and sequels to that film.

According to one of the few English speaking members of the film crew, production manager Bob Warner, Spenser is currently a major star in Europe. The director, Michele Lupo, or affectionately called "Micky Wolf," is also well known in European circles.

In "My Name is Trinity," Spenser played Terrance Hill's sidekick, as sort of a "Gabby Hayes times three," Warner said.

Co-starring with Spenser, as the kid from outer space, is six-year-old Cary Guffey from Douglasville, of "Close Encounters" fame.

Cary will be brought to Newnan for filming by an aunt, Romona Dunn. Having just started in the first grade, he will have special tutoring in the afternoons.

He could be seen on the set Monday sitting and drawing pictures of flying saucers, his favorite toys next to motorcycles. The movie life has not affected him, according to his aunt who said he "gets whipped just like any other child."

He got his start in movies when his day-care teacher took him to Atlanta for the "Close Encounters" auditions, thinking it would be a fun experience and never dreaming he would get the part.

The signing of Cary means that the G-rated film will eventually be released in the United States, according to Warner, which makes the visions of the bright show biz lights even more sparkling for the many local faces appearing in the film in one capacity or another.

Among those faces are Newnan policemen and most of the Newnan firemen who answered one mock fire call after another Saturday morning as filming got underway.

The Jaycees Little League eight and nine year old baseball team also got a workout in the hot sun most of Monday during filming of a scene where ice cream machines go crazy, spraying ice cream over everything, including the booth attendant, to the children's delight.

Basically, all of this insanity does fit into a plot. When a boy from outer space lands in Newnan everything goes crazy, fire alarms begin to go off

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MOVIE STARS "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS" CARY GUFFEY — Six-year-old Cary Guffey from the movie "Close Encounters" will play the part of a boy from outer space in "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid" being filmed by an Italian film company in Newnan. Cary could be found Monday watching action on the set and drawing pictures of flying saucers, which he is showing to the film's art director Franco Vanorio. More scenes of the movie are on Page 6A.

6A—The Newnan Times-Herald—Thursday, March 15, 1979



LOCAL POLICEMAN BECOMES A STAR — Sergeant Moses Martin of the Newnan Police Department follows the instructions of the Italian directors during filming of an Italian science-fiction family comedy about a boy

from outer space who lands in Newnan. The film, with its many Newnan faces, is expected to be released eventually in the United States.



ALL IN A DAY'S MOVIE MAKING — Traffic snarls and screeching sirens Saturday morning were hot due to disaster but to filming of an Italian movie comedy in

Newnan. Streets around the Court Square were blocked Saturday morning as the Newnan Fire Department sped to numerous false alarms for the cameras.



"ICE CREAM, ICE CREAM EVERYWHERE!" — West Washington Street was the unlikely scene of flowing "ice cream" Monday as shooting got underway for "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid," an Italian family comedy movie being filmed here by Leone Film. When a boy from outer space, being played by "Close Encounters"

Cary Guffey, lands in Newnan, machines go berserk. Here the local Jaycees Little League baseball team is yelling for the movie's version of the Coweta County Sheriff to find out what is going on. The sheriff, Bud Spenser, is considered a major star in Europe and his movies have recently been in the top two or three.

Italian Movie Production

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for no reason, cars crash, ice cream spews everywhere.

The boy is eventually befriended by the sheriff who attempts to protect him.

Some 75 local people who showed up at a recent meeting for "extras" may be or have already been included in the filming, according to Cathy Lenzler who is working with casting for the film company. People also keep appearing on the set to talk with her, she said.

Around 38 locals were involved in the filming of the ice cream scene on Monday, she said. There may be a need, especially for some "older types," middle aged and parents, she said. So far there are plenty of young people.

Along with the fire department and ice cream stand segments, filming was done Saturday at the Newnan

Times-Herald, which supplied a truer than life front page, complete with headline reading, "UFO Alarm in Newnan!" and picture of a flying saucer buzzing the courthouse tower.

The name Newnan, as well as Coweta county, will be used as the setting for the movie. The city even provided two retired police cars, leased at \$500 each for 60 days.

Those cars were taken to Atlanta, where body work, some front end and engine work and a complete paint job were done to transform them into vehicles for the movie sheriff and his staff. Signs on the side read, "Sheriff, Newnan, Georgia."

As filming proceeds, the various actors are speaking in their own languages. Italian voices will be dubbed in over the English when the film plays in Italy. English-over-Italian when the film plays in the United States and it will be completely dubbed in German to play there.

The company will be back at work Friday or Saturday, depending on the weather, filming scenes at the old county jail and at Veal's Barber Shop.

Eddie Howard, a barber at Veal's, had been singled out earlier to play a jailbird, but will not be cast in that part after all, Warner said. Howard will have a part in the film though, he said.

The jailbird will be played by a former heavyweight boxer, Joe Bogner.

Other locations and the shooting schedule have not yet been determined, Warner explained. Some Newnan homes are expected to be used, however.

For one thing the script is being translated into English as they go along, and Warner has not been able to read the entire story.

Weather is also a big factor, but Italians for the most part like to play it by ear, unlike the more rigid schedules of American film crews, Warner said.

Board Of Education

(Continued From Page 1)
transportation and maintenance costs, she said. Gasoline costs alone are up two cents per gallon.

On a brighter note, the school system is to receive an early return of depreciation and hardy reserve funds from the state which could amount to \$50,000, according to an estimate from Representative Nathan Knight.

The return is in relation to 1961 series bonds for some \$300,623 spent on Fairmount School and six classrooms at Ruth Hill under the old city system and \$107,000 spent in the old county school system.

It has not yet been determined what the state policy for expenditure of the funds will be, Dr. Lee said, or whether it will have to be spent in proportion to the bond amounts.

Graduation Requirements — Concern was expressed by the board members over the financial implications of the December decision by the State Board of Education to increase high school graduation requirements to 20 Carnegie units.

An outline of the new graduation requirements and the local school system requirements to implement them was presented to the board by Administrative Assistant for Curriculum and Instruction Don Teel.

Staff hours to write plans for curriculum changes and development of testing for the basic competencies,

added teachers for remedial work to help students meet these competencies and the added cost of typically expensive remedial programs themselves represent some of the hidden costs that came with the supposedly cost free requirements, Teel pointed out.

Beginning freshmen in 1980 will be required to earn the 20 Carnegie units. Ninth graders beginning in 1981 will be required to demonstrate competency in ten areas needed for learning through a state test on such skills as reading, writing, listening, speaking, observing, gathering information, computing and analyzing, all essential tools for life-long learning.

In addition, by 1982, the local school boards will have had to come up with a means of testing the beginning ninth graders for competency in life coping skills in the areas of physical and mental health, citizenship and government, financial planning and economics, and consumerism and career education.

Ice Days — The two days missed due to bad weather will be made up at the end of the year, on June 4 and 5. School had been scheduled to end on Friday, June 1.

Graduation ceremonies at both Newnan High and East Coweta High School are still set for the evening of Monday night, June 4, as diplomas have already been printed.

Propane Gas Bids — The board accepted the bid of Esco Gas Company in Haralson for propane gas at 31.3 cents per gallon on fluctuation.

Last year's bid was 35.84 cents per gallon, and with the fluctuation provision the price is currently 29.04 cents, Mrs. Leach said.

Attendance Up — School attendance was up four per cent at the end of six months. Also, total enrollment is now 8,755, up 400 students from the beginning of the school year.

Summer School — An increase in summer school tuition was also approved.

Tuition for in-county students was raised from \$60 to \$75, and tuition for out-of-county students was increased from \$60 to \$80.

In addition to the programs at Newnan High and Ruth Hill School, a special gifted program will be provided this summer, Teel said.

Special Ed Monitoring — A special monitoring team from the State Department of Education will be checking on the local program for the handicapped on May 16, 17 and 18 to assure that the federal Public Law 94-142 for handicapped education is being complied with.

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City Council Meeting

[Continued From Page 1]

was approved for Mary R. Stancil for Rush Food at 2 Dodson Place.

An application for a package beer and wine license submitted by Marilyn Jean Crawford for Mr. B's Citgo was tabled for further information.

Movie Cars For Sale — The council voted to declare some city machinery surplus and sell it at an auction May 1st at 11:00 a. m. at the city shop.

Besides several old police cars, pickup trucks, a lube machine and a bulldozer, the city will sell the cars which were leased to the movie company making "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid." The cars have been painted in flashy gold and some local

citizens have expressed an interest in them, said Mayor Joe Norman. The condition of the things to be sold have been rated from "very poor to junk," Bolin said.

New Policy — In the future, personnel matters concerning city employees will be handled in executive session of the council, it was decided. City Attorney Charlie Goodson said he preferred the council "not try the case" in the open forum of a council meeting.

Goodson said if personnel matters could not be handled in executive session, they should be referred to the courts for deliberation.

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STAND-IN FOR THE STAR — A Newnan boy, Michael Arrington, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Arrington, was busy last week playing movie "stand-in" for Cary Guffey of "Close Encounters" fame who is starring in

the Italian family comedy being filmed here, "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid." Mike and Cary play with a favorite toy robot between scenes.

Newnan Times-Herald

September 26, 1991

May 3, 1979

Thursday, May 3, 1979 — *The Newnan Times-Herald* — 11A

Movie Cars Sold

The two "very used" Newnan police cars which were used in the movie, "The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid" were sold at auction Tuesday.

Leased to the movie company for the production, the cars were repainted in flashy gold. Some speculated the cars would go for a high price since they were involved with the movie. But they didn't.

The 1977 Ford sedans, each of which had been driven over 100,000 miles, sold for \$350 and \$325 to Frank and Joe Williamson.

The Williamsons, who bought the cars in addition to a surplus pickup truck, said they had no particular plans for them.

"We just got them to make a profit," said Frank Williamson following the sale.



W. Winston Skinner

Sequel Time

Now that Newnan has fulfilled its first round as a second stage for Hollywood, I think the sequels probably will start up.

Sequels seem to be all the rage. All those Freddy Krueger and Jason movies claim to be the last in the series, but somehow one more plot is rehased and slashed for those who like that sort of thing.

Television is into nostalgia, bringing back sequels and re-unions for shows like "The Munsters" and "Mayberry." And of course, there's Perry Mason who simply refuses to retire but instead solves another unsolvable crime every now and again.

Having survived such local filmings as "Fried Green Tomatoes," "Driving Miss Daisy," "White Lie," "Marie Hilley" and "Grass Roots," I think the sequel machine should crank up here. Here are some suggestions:

Fried Green Eggs And Ham — This touching picture tells the story of various furry characters who visit a nursing home, hear the stories of the star-bellied Sneetches from a venerable dearie and learn the virtues of institutional food. Stars Jessica Tandy and the Cat in the Hat. Teleplay by Stephen King and Dr. Seuss.

Black Lie — A white guy (Corbin Bernsen) goes with his black girlfriend (Debbie Allen) to a small, liberal-minded northern town where his father was murdered years ago because he thought people were created equal. During their stay, the couple attend a funeral at a small town church, learn a political secret that ties together the pope,

the president and Victoria Principal and solve all the mysteries of life. Victoria Principal and some guy who looks a little like Pope John Paul II have cameo roles.

Rose Marie Hilley — This spine-tingler tells the story of a wise-cracking but good-natured television writer who mixes her jokes with arsenic-laced coffee and slowly poisons an entire production staff on the air. Her co-workers are played by Dick Van Dyke and Morey Amsterdam. Dolly Parton, Jane Fonda and Lily Tomlin offer assistance to Rose Marie because of similar escapades they survived in "9 To 5."

Desperate for Dialogue — Sequel to "Desperate for Love." In this one, the director makes the female lead slow down enough for the viewers to understand part of what she says. Brian Bloom is reincarnated as soap opera star who haunts Christian Slater. Slater eventually loses his mind, thinks he is one of Robin's Merry Men and joins his mom (Veronica Cartwright) who is in an institution with unexplainable fears of birds and Cher.

Smart Grass Roots — Corbin Bernsen (he keeps popping up in these plots, doesn't he?) plays a movie star who comes to a small town, acts like his crew should be able to do anything they want, treats the locals as yahoos and finally gets run out of town on a rail. Scenes of him wandering nude with a pistol through a cabin would be permissible only on cable. Co-stars everybody on "thirtysomething" whom you can't remember from anything else.

Decorating Day — This American Greetings Hall of Honor presentation tells the story of Coweta County grand jurors who must wait for days in the hallway while the grand jury room gets transformed into judges quarters for James Garner, Raymond Burr, Sally Struthers and Paul Rubens.

Our Losing Season — This time Dennis Quaid refuses to have anything to do with it. Instead of a losing team that amazingly wins, this movie tells about well-paid, professional athletes who amazingly lose. Stars Pete Rose, Mickey Mantle, Denny McClain and Dwight Gooden.

Driving Daisy Mae — Jessica Tandy (she's almost as ubiquitous as Corbin Bernsen) plays Mammy Yoakum in this story about Daisy Mae's rise to fame and fortune as a model of swimsuits. Finally, even Daisy Mae decides the suits are too revealing, puts back on her comparatively Victorian duds and visits Marrying Sam with her muscular chauffeur, Lil' Abner.

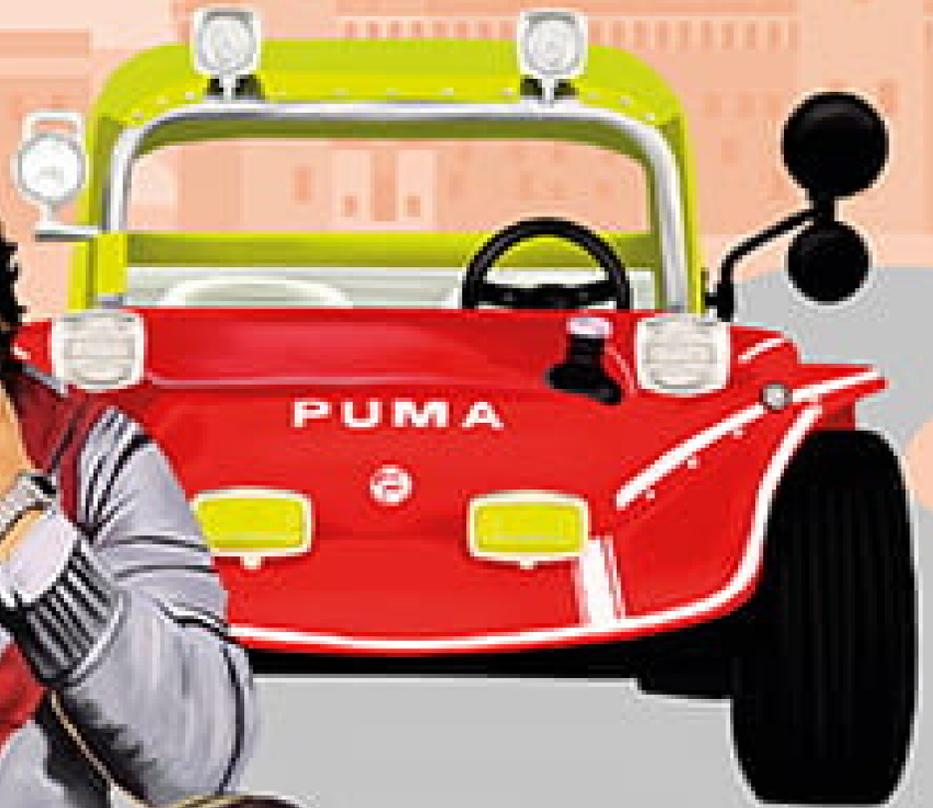
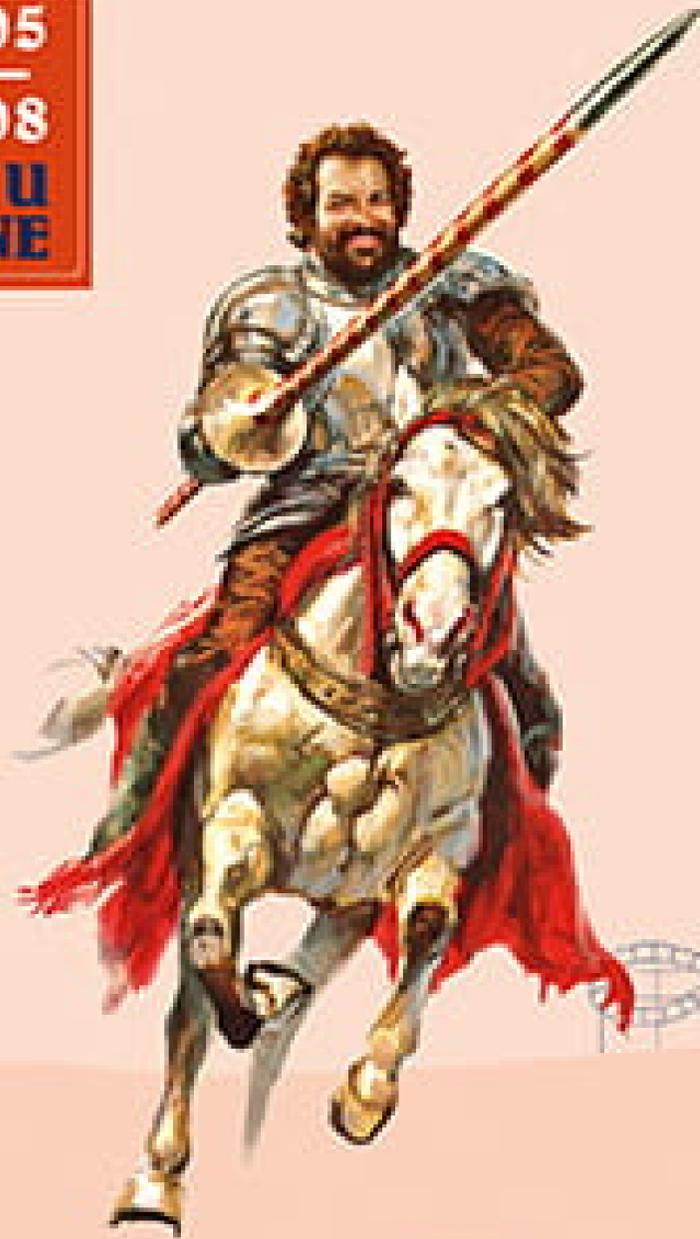
The Sheriff and the Satellite Kid II — Out-of-space visitors come to earth, are arrested and end up in the Coweta County jail. The American Aliens Liberties Union sues the county because the jail is not up to Plutonian standards and because the space critters were not judged by a jury of their peers — the number of admitted interplanetary visitors in Coweta County being insufficiently represented in the jury pool. The suit, of course, is successful, leaving the county with a \$10 million bill and the movie producers with the perfect platform for part three.

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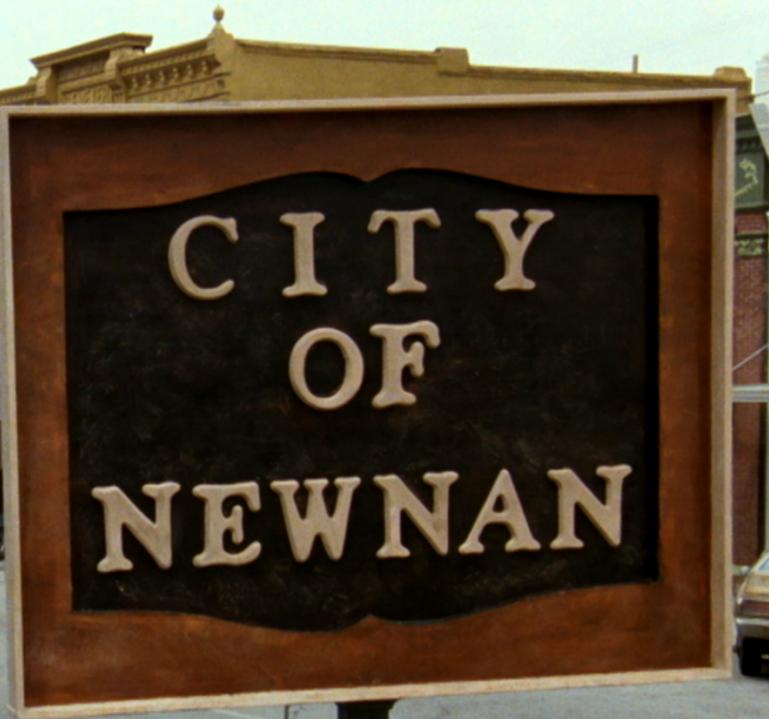
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