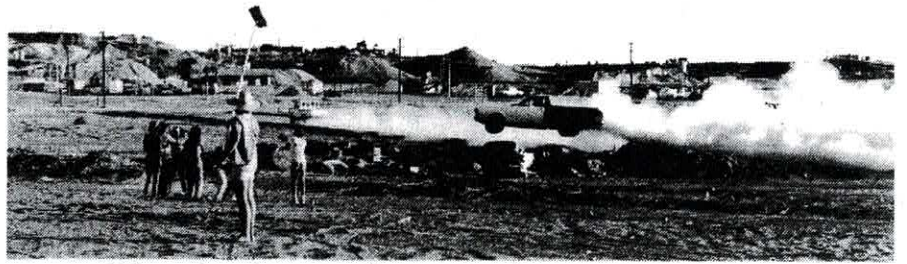


# NEWS • NEWS • NEWS

## MAKING MOVIES



"Fire in the Stone" - going out with a bang.

During March, Coober Pedy was the "backdrop" used for the location shots for the movie Fire in the Stone. The movie was taken from the book of the same name written by Colin Thiele. As many as 100 local people were involved as "extras" in the scenes filmed here and most were at least aware of the filming activities around town.

In the past, prospective "actors and actresses" would need to go to Hollywood for their film debut. Now it seems the movies have come to Coober Pedy. Of course Australia is now producing some of the finest movies in the world.

This is an often light-hearted and sometimes serious account by a few of Coober Pedy's new "stars" involved as "extras" in Fire in the Stone.

Joy Rosewarne: "Never done this sort of thing before. I quite enjoyed the experience, The technical side of making movies was very surprising. I thought the Union and Actors Equity Fees were a bit much at \$10 per week. The people were polite and the work atmosphere was good."

Bill Lemon: "I think they were a highly professional, well organised crew, handling a difficult job under extremes of conditions. It's good to see Australian producers, also one prepared to invest money in films depicting life in the outback area most often Australians only dream about."

Mike Robertson: Temporary stardom or how we nearly made the movies.

"I was involved in two aspects of "extras" filming: firstly, the hotel scenes involving more than 100 other locals. For four hours we were to celebrate Christmas and be seen to be having a good time although our instructions were that our drinks should last as long as possible. In what was described as a "key scene" we and the stars rehearsed shot, and re-shot and re-shot again

what appeared to be a very brief conversation which would last about 2 minutes on the screen. For our efforts the Actors Equity took \$10 and Union took \$5 of our wage leaving us with the grand total of \$15 for 4 hours of boring repetitive labour. I was also involved with the church scene and this was a much better rate of pay.

In the end I worked 5 hours for \$40 and saw the "behind the scenes" of movie making. Interesting! My agent is now waiting for offers of major contracts."

Warren Wentriro: "Delusions of grandeur."

Dorothy Paige: "The people were very friendly. I thought the Union fees were too much. It was a good experience and all the walking up and down must be good exercise. My children were in the movie too and they enjoyed themselves."

Konnie Rowe: "Once I was in - that was the end of that- it is now a horror movie! The people involved were very nice. I had an absolute ball.

Over 28 hours were spent on the movie by St Johns Ambulance. It is the first time we have been paid for picking up a patient in Coober Pedy. It was nearly needed for the last stunt near Telecom, when the stuntman mis-judged the speed and over shot the mark in his car, just missing the camera crew."

Bill McDougall: "I was involved with the scene where the body was lifted out of the mine. We repeated this about 20 times. I wondered if the body (dummy) would hold together until the final "take". I started work at 10.00am and finished very hot and dusty at 5.00pm. They had to be very exact on how the scenes were taken and these were repeated

many times to get them correct. We had to get the body clear of the shaft much more quickly than would normally be attempted, to fit in with the scene. We probably would have had more personnel at a real accident but it was a fair representation of what happens with this type of task. I thought that the day itself was a worthwhile experience. The food provided was very good. The film crew appeared to be a very professional group of people.

## May Race Meeting

Oodnadatta is an easy 3 hour drive from Coober Pedy. It's only 200km away and 2 weeks to their Annual Picnic Race Meeting and Gymkhana. This will be held on May 14, 15 and 16. The Races will be held on the 14th and 16th and the Gymkhana on the 15th.

Local and open horses can participate. Part of the proceeds raised over the 3 days will be going to selected charities. A Tote will be on the course and food and drinks will also be available.

There is a dance on the Saturday night in the Oodnadatta Memorial Hall and movies on the Sunday night - "9 to 5" and "Rocky III" and a Ball on the Monday night. Camping facilities are available, either in the caravan park or the surrounding waterholes. Indoor accommodation is available at the Caravan Park or at the Hotel. For a good family weekend, nip over to Oodnadatta!