

'Best Little Whorehouse' best lil' summer flick

by Bill Robinson
Battalion Staff

While the film itself is not quite as glamorous as the events which surrounded its premiere, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" could prove itself to be one of the best films to hit the silver screen this summer.

The film is a delightful musical-comedy, primarily because of the excellent casting job done by Colin Higgins, the film's

director. He skillfully spans the wide range of talents assembled

Review

Perhaps the brightest aspect of the film is its brilliant cinematography. The rich even tones of the film make it a pleasure to

behold and could easily earn Director of Photography William Fraker an Oscar for his endeavors.

And the cast!

It is such a perfect cast for the film that the screenplay had to be written especially for it, which it was — much to the dismay of writer Larry L. King, who stuck a little closer to the historical facts.

Higgins adapted the screenplay from the stage play by King and Peter Masterson with Burt Reynolds and Dolly Parton in mind.

And Dolly Parton is one of the things that makes this film great. Appearing in only her second motion picture role — the first was *9 to 5* — Parton proves that she is as good an actress as a singer and has ample opportu-

nity to demonstrate both talents in her portrayal of Miss Mona, the owner of the Chicken Ranch — the legendary brothel which inspired the film.

Good-old-boy Burt Reynolds plays Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd, the good-old-boy lawman of fictional Gilbert, Texas, (the real Chicken Ranch was in La Grange). He is even allowed to sing a cute little duet with Dolly.

One of the big surprises of the film is Jim Nabors, who shows he can do more than television. He plays Deputy Fred, Reynolds' bumbling, Gomer Pyle-like sidekick, in his first film role ever.

Charles Durning gives one of the film's funniest performances doing "The Sidestep" as the un-named governor — patterned after Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

Also, Dom DeLuise is great as Melvin P. Thorpe — a character based on the crusading Marvin Zindler, who closed the Chicken Ranch — and Robert Mandan (former star of "SOAP") is perfect as Senator Wingwood.

Even the Aggies get a big role in "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" thanks to a little victory party at the Chicken Ranch on its closing night.

7-Eleven works to reduce chances of being robbed

United Press International

DALLAS — On the door of virtually every one of the 7,098 7-Eleven stores in the United States is a height indicator.

They are posted there for a serious reason — to help solve robberies. The height from the floor is marked off at the four-, five- and six-foot levels. Lines halfway between the brightly colored, easy-to-read numbers indicate six inches.

When a 7-Eleven store is robbed, the indicators will help the rattled clerk estimate the height of the robber as the bandit hurries out the door. Anything that aids in catching the robber may help prevent further robberies.

It is one of many steps Southland Corp. has taken to prevent robberies, a major concern for

the firm whose 7-Eleven stores usually are open 24 hours a day.

Southland closely guards figures on the number of robberies and the amount of money lost. But the company says from 1976, when the robbery prevention program was started, through 1981, the company showed a 40 percent decrease in robberies.

The program involves many individual steps, but the keys are cash control and employee education in tested procedures.

"We've done interviews with armed robbers after they're caught," Robert L. Buhrig, Southland's corporate security manager, said. "They tell us the overwhelming decision to rob or not to rob is the availability of cash. Because it's cash they're af-

ter, cash control is the key to reduction in robberies."

Cash control is maintained through Tidel Systems, a Southland Division that installs money storing units called Timed Access Cash Controllers. Clerks are instructed to put all cash over a base amount in the safe-like box bolted to the floor. If bills or silver are needed to make change, the system will dole it out on a time-delay basis — typically \$10 worth of change at two-minute or five-minute intervals.

Robbers want to be in and out in a hurry, reducing chances of a passing policeman making a curious visit or of other customers arriving.

"The average robbery takes 58 seconds," Buhrig said.

Robbers don't want to wait

around for the Tidel System to dispense an additional \$10 or \$20. Nationally, the average loss in a 7-Eleven robbery is \$47.

Since the system is only as good as the clerks who use it, reminders on the registers — even the clocks — remind them to "Make That Drop."

The counter area of every 7-Eleven store is clearly visible from outside. Lighting is balanced so those inside can see out and persons outside can see in. Goods are stocked only to heights of about 4½ feet so clerks can see all areas of the store.

One reason 7-Eleven employees wear smocks is to allow instant identification in case police come upon a robbery in progress.

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