

# Horror Film Scene Shot In Cocke Co.

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A gigantic, monstrous hand rises from under the bridge, blocking the way for the fleeing car, its occupants fleeing from the terror following closely behind.

Could this ever happen in Cocke County? It did. At least partly. A film crew was in the county last week, filming sequences from an upcoming horror film.

The film is called **Book of the Dead** and is scheduled to be released early next summer. Most of the film was shot in Morristown, but the crew was in Cocke County Wednesday, filming the bridge sequence at the

old Bridgeport Bridge on Asheville Highway.

Gary Holt, a screenwriter from Morristown, is serving as assistant producer for the film, which is expected to be premiered in Morristown in June. Holt is working on this project in preparation for his own film, **Thunder Road Rides Again**, a humorous re-make of the film classic starring Robert Mitchum. That film will also be shot largely in Cocke County.

Holt said **Book of the Dead** is the story of five University of Michigan students who leave school for a weekend in the Smoky Mountains. Arriving at their cabin, they discover a trap door in the floor which leads to a cellar. In the cellar,

they find a book, bound in human skin, which contains a text written in human blood.

The book gives one of the students super-human powers which causes her to kill some of her friends. Holt said demon possession and other occult powers are a major theme of the film, which Holt describes as "a low-budget **Exorcist**."

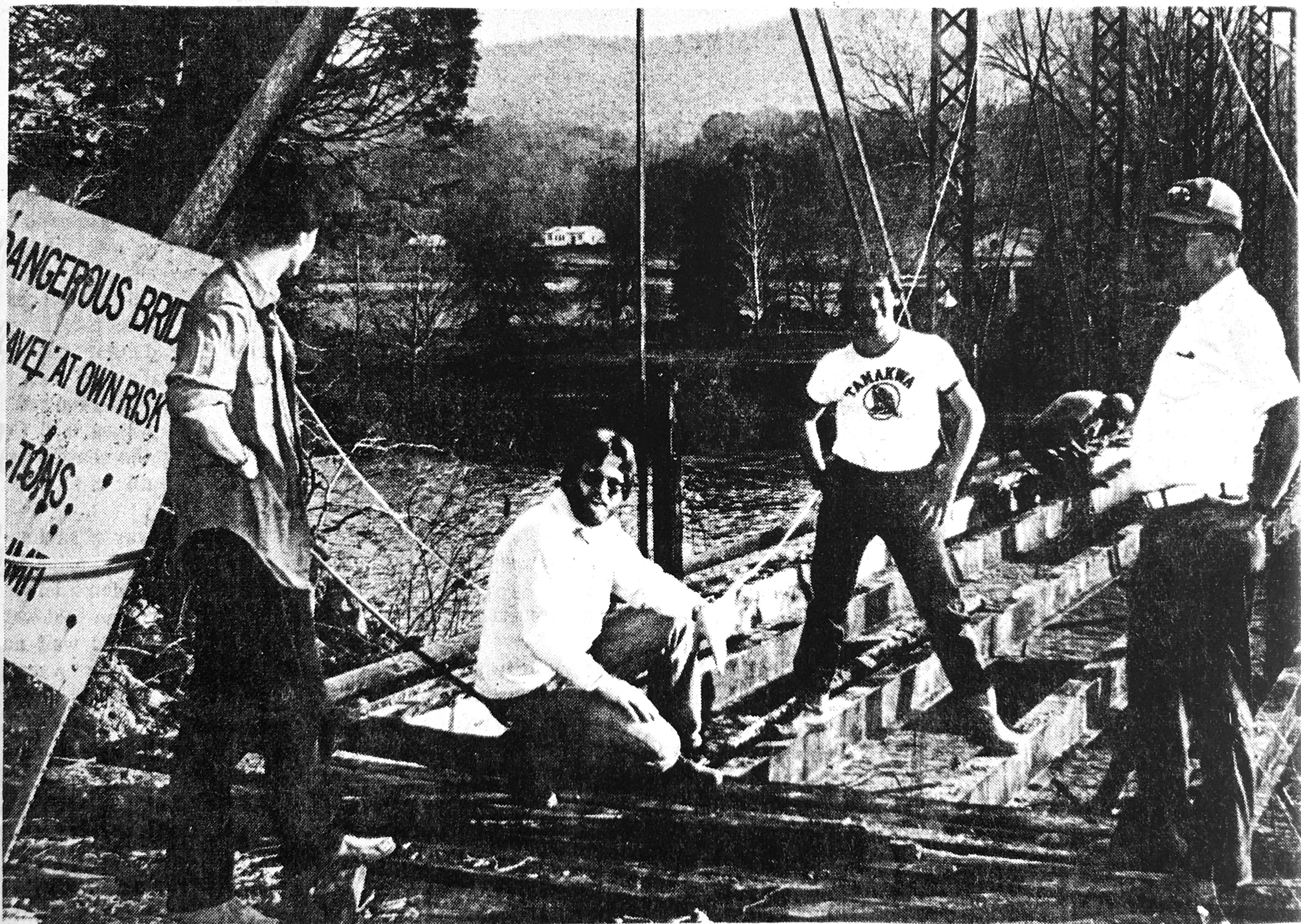
In filming the bridge scene, the old, rotten boards were removed from the bridge and welders were called in to remove the bolts holding the iron girders to the bridge. Then a wrecker was used to bend the girders back so it appears that something has forced the girders open. In the production stage of the film,

a huge hand will be added to the scene, said Holt.

Most of the cast of the film are from Detroit. Sam Riami wrote the screenplay and is serving as director of the film. The cast consists of Bruce Campbell, Ellen Sandweiss, Betsy Baker, Theresa Seyferth, and Rick DeManicor. Rob Tapert is the producer of the film.

The 14-member cast and crew work together to prepare for the filming. It took the crew almost all day Wednesday to prepare for shooting a three minute film sequence.

**Book of the Dead** is distributed by Renaissance Pictures, Ltd. and will premier at the Volunteer Twin Theatre in Morristown in June.



## Making Movie

The cast and crew of **Book of the Dead** were in Cocke County Wednesday filming a portion of the movie at the old Bridgeport Bridge. Working of preparing the bridge for filming are: Bruce Campbell, the leading actor in the film; Gary Holt, associate producer from Morristown; Sam Riami, the writer and director of the movie; and George Holt, Gary Holt's father, from Morristown. The film will premier in Morristown in June.





**Renaissance Film Corp. wishes to thank the Jim Brock Family of Dover Road, Morristown, for making us a part of their family on Thanksgiving Day while we were so far from our homes and family here in Morristown filming the motion picture:**

**BOOK OF THE DEAD**

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