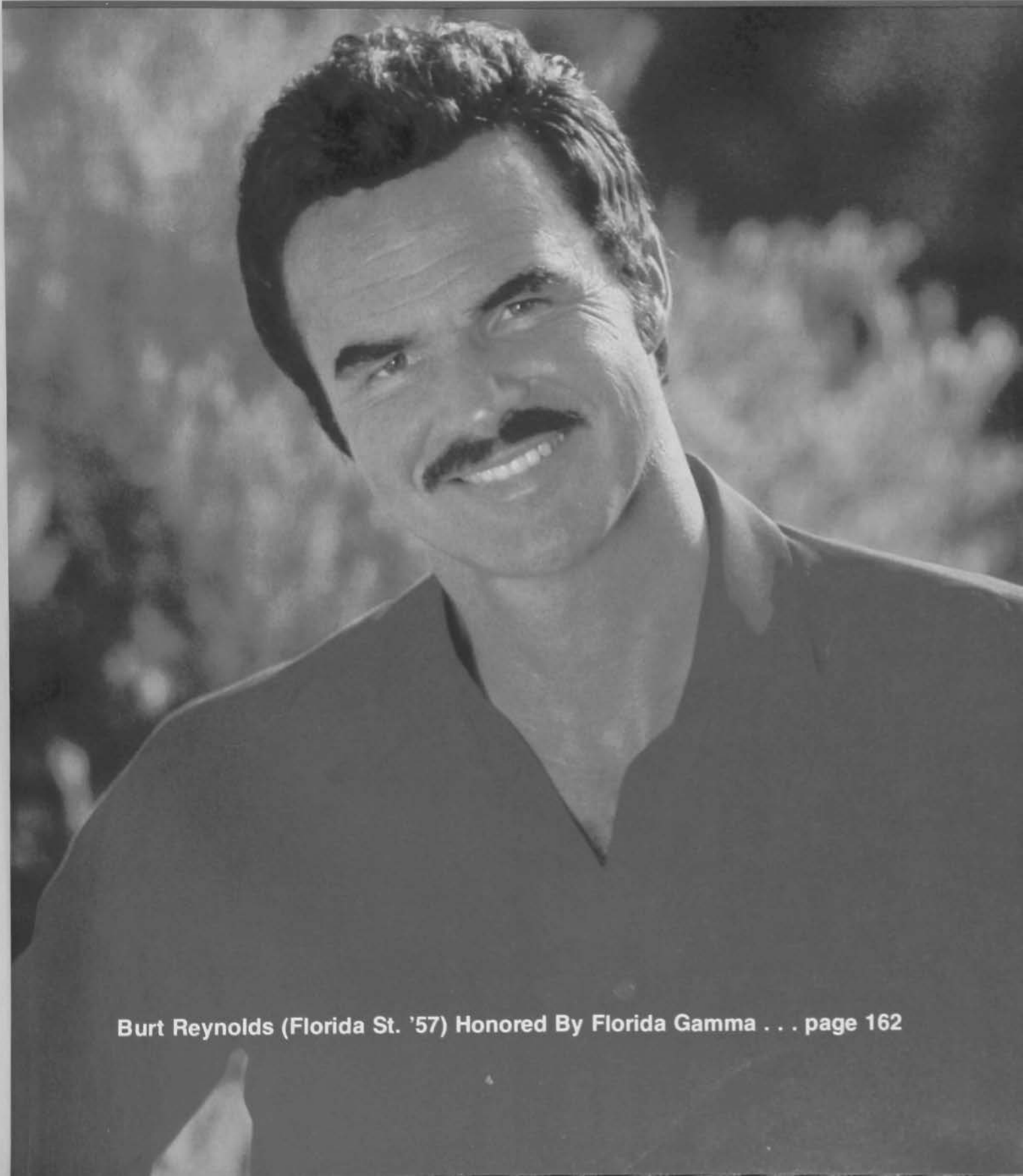


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WINTER, 1984-85



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Reynolds Honored By Florida Gamma

Last spring Florida Gamma at Florida State honored one of its more illustrious alumni, Buddy Reynolds ('57), with an "Outstanding Alumni Award." Buddy is better known to most people as Burt.

Harry W. Massey (Florida State '55), long-time friend and Burt's big brother as a Phikeia, accepted the award on his behalf at the Florida State Founders Day celebration on April 12.

"He has always been an outstanding person—a self starter—a natural born winner," said Massey, who played quarterback at Florida State while Reynolds was a running back. "I especially remember an 80-yard touchdown run he made as a freshman against Auburn. Auburn was a national power and we were just getting into big-time football then. It was really something.

"Buddy pledged his freshman year, but was seriously injured in a car accident on Christmas Eve that wrecked his knees and ended his football career," Massey continued. "After that he went to Palm Beach Junior College where he first got interested in acting. He was initiated by Florida Gamma when he returned briefly to Florida State.

Basically Shy

"I would say that Buddy is basically a shy person. He really tries to avoid the spotlight when he is home in Jupiter, Florida, where he opened The Burt Reynolds Dinner Theatre. The theatre has become a very successful operation.

"He has been very supportive of Florida State and Florida Gamma through the years. He has created a one million dollar endowed chair at Florida State called the Burt Reynolds Chair in Professional and Regional Theatre. It has been called the richest and most eminent theatre chair in the country.

"He has been an outstanding person and we are all very proud of

his accomplishments."

Universal's "Stick" marks Reynolds' 40th motion picture as an actor and the fourth he has directed.

"I hope that my ultimate recognition is as a good film director," says Reynolds, who is one of entertainment's most popular actors. "My immediate goal," he adds, "is to direct a picture in which I don't appear."

Prior to directing "Stick," in which he plays the title role, he directed and starred in three highly successful pictures, "Gator," "The End" and "Sharky's Machine."

The secret of Burt Reynolds' success was never better explained than by Frank Sinatra. When Reynolds was announced as The Friar's Club 1981 Entertainer of The Year, Sinatra said, "In honoring Burt Reynolds, we pay tribute to Everyman. Burt's that kind of guy. He is the one the ladies like to dance with and their husbands like to drink with. He is the larger than life actor of our times. He is gifted, talented, naughty and nice."

Popularity Polls

Reynolds reached the upper

rungs of the popularity polls almost a decade ago. When the Quigley Publications annual survey found him to be America's most popular star for the fifth consecutive year, he broke a record previously held by Bing Crosby. He has six times been honored with People's Choice Awards as Favorite All-Round Male Entertainer and Favorite Motion Picture Actor. U.S. Film Distributors have repeatedly named him the top money-making star and the National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO) has judged him Male Star Of The Year time after time.

He was the Variety Clubs International Entertainer Of The Year in 1981. The festivities were broadcast by CBS-TV, an event that generated resources to launch the Burt Reynolds-Variety Heart Center at Egleston Hospital for Children in Atlanta, Georgia. The Atlanta Variety Club had earlier named him Man Of The Year.

In 1982, he became the first Honorary Big Brother in the history of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters national organization. In 1980, Seventeen Magazine announced



PRESENTATION: Harry Massey (Florida State '55) receives the "Outstanding Alumni Award" on behalf of Burt Reynolds from Matt DiGennaro, Florida Gamma president. The presentation was made at the April 12 Founders Day celebration.

that teenage girls voted him number one on their list of fantasy fathers. National surveys conducted for both the 1981 and 1982 *World Almanac And Book Of Facts* among junior high school students placed him at the very top of their list of "famous or important living persons you most admire. In other words, who is your number-one hero?"

In 1980, he was honored at the University Of California At Los Angeles (UCLA) with the Charles Chaplin Award for Film Excellence for his "contributions to the art of filmmaking."

"To be honest," Reynolds confesses, "I've never understood the recognition, but I never tire of it. Each honor is very special and always comes as a complete surprise. I know I'm supposed to store them in a closet and pretend they mean very little to me. But I like to look at them!" One room of his Spanish-style home in Holmby Hills, California, displays each symbol of recognition the actor-director has received.

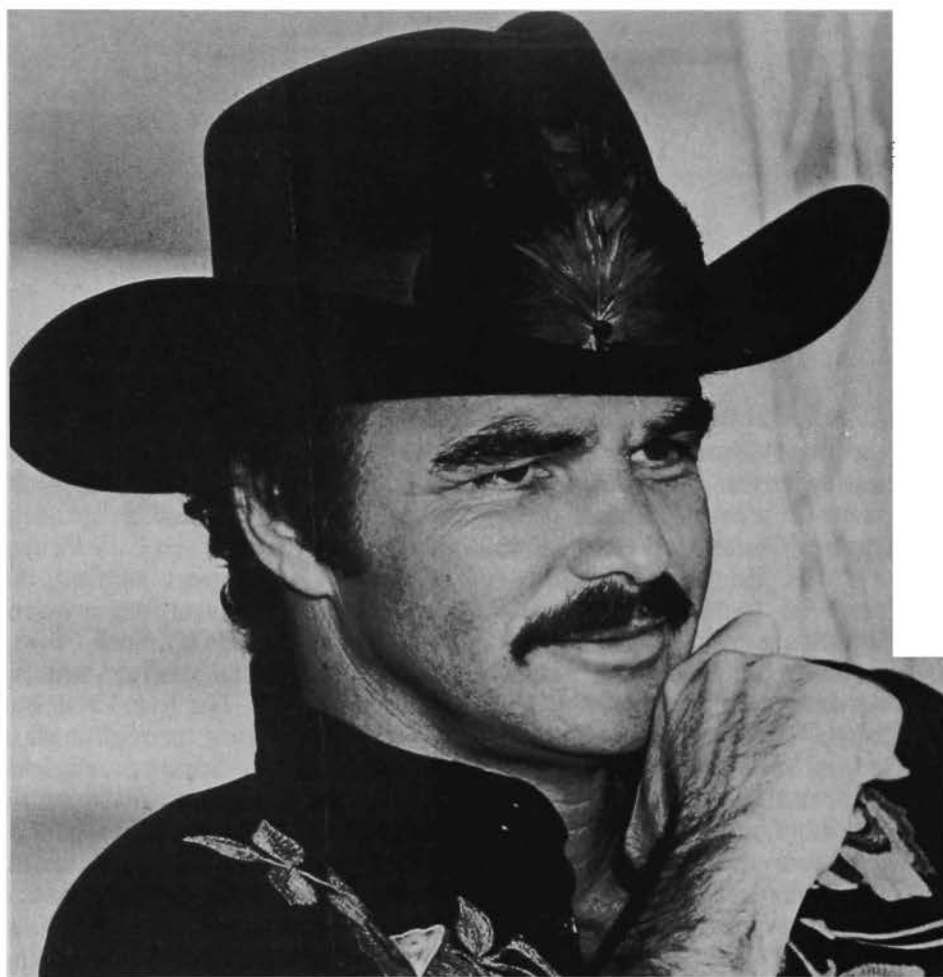
Growing Up

Growing up in Florida, "Buddy" Reynolds seemed a long shot for a roomful of awards reflecting a successful career in the arts.

Burton Leon Reynolds was born February 11, near Waycross, Georgia, to Mr. and Mrs. Burt Reynolds, Sr. "The name Burton has been in our family for decades," explains the elder Reynolds, son of a forestry teacher and a Cherokee woman who met and married on an Indian reservation. The star's mother, Fern, worked as a registered nurse and ran a small general store while her husband worked as Chief of Police in the small South Florida community of Riviera Beach.

The future film idol's first attempt at acting was in the interest of self-protection. He admits, "Italians were the majority in our Riviera Beach neighborhood, so I pretended to come from an Italian family. I avoided lots of fights that way."

'Palm Beach Junior College was my first exposure to actors. I thought they were just plain silly.'



A high school football star, he was being considered for a West Point appointment, an effort spearheaded by his father. The senior Reynolds recalls, "There weren't any girls at West Point in those days, so Bud decided on Florida State University."

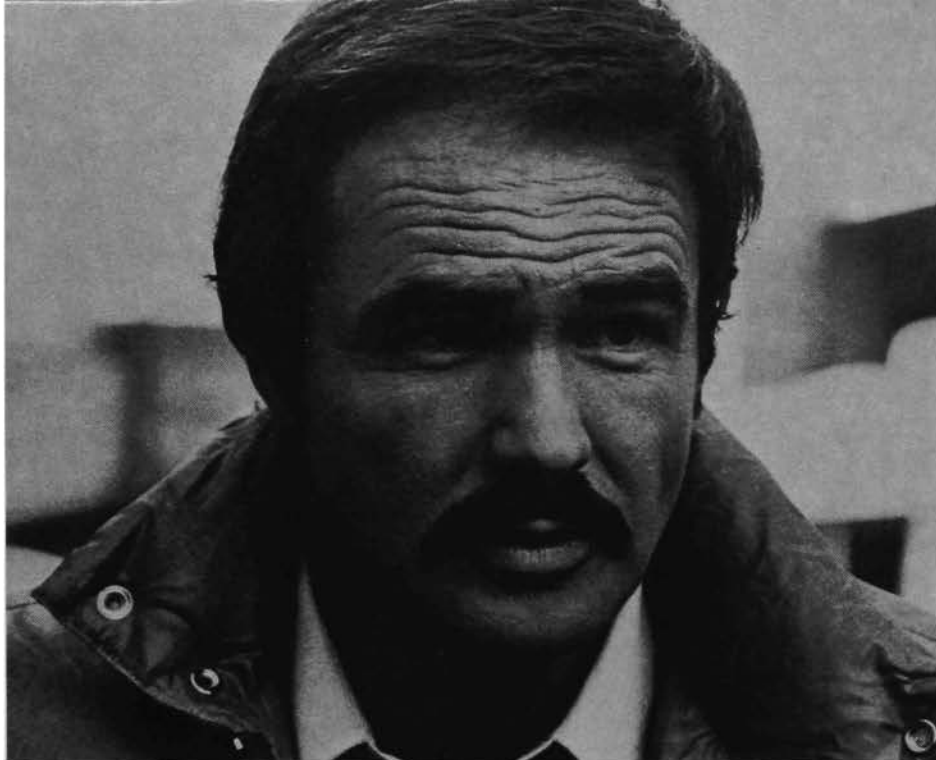
At FSU, in Tallahassee, Burt played football for the Seminoles, being named All-Florida and All-Southern Conference running halfback. Fired with a decision to make a career of professional ball, he was being scouted by several major teams. Then came the automobile accident on Christmas Eve that ended his football career.

Exposure To Acting

Discouraged, he left college and drifted to New York City for a

brief period. He encountered such a frightening abundance of James Dean and Marlon Brando clones that he soon returned to the relative calm of South Florida. "It was my initial exposure to actors. I thought they were plain silly."

Enrolling at Palm Beach Junior College, his interest in the arts was stimulated by Watson B. Duncan, III, an English literature teacher who was also the institution's drama instructor. Reynolds acknowledges, "Dr. Duncan laid the foundation for whatever I have accomplished. He awakened my mind. Amazingly, he made English lit the most exciting subject. One day he informed me I was going to be in his next stage production. I told him, 'You're a nice man, but



you're crazy!' But the next day, I showed up as the auditions ended. He was there alone. He handed me a script and I managed to mumble a few words. He told me I had the part.

"He saw a part of me that even I didn't know existed. He understood that I was lost without the ability to play ball. He knew I needed an outlet. He didn't see me as some dumb jock, and I'll always be grateful. That's why I'm forever trying to turn athletes into actors. I know what they go through. I detest stereotyping, whether with professions, race or sex. It is absolutely destructive."

Burt Reynolds' first starring performance in the Palm Beach Junior College production of "Outward Bound" won him the Florida Drama Desk Award and a scholarship to the Hyde Park Playhouse in New York State. It was his first brush with true professionals. He acted with Jocelyn Brando in "Bus Stop," Turhan Bey and Gloria Vanderbilt in "The Spa," Sylvia Sidney in "Anniversary Waltz" and Shepperd Strudwick in "Affairs Of State."

Playhouse visitor Joanne Woodward is credited with furthering his fledgling career. "I can't imagine what she saw in me, but she made a few calls and helped secure my first agent."

Stage Debut

The young hopeful's profes-

sional stage debut was with Charlton Heston in a 1956 revival of "Mr. Roberts," directed by John Forsythe at New York City Center Theatre. To support himself, he worked in Manhattan as a dockhand, dancehall bouncer, body guard and dish washer, among other odd jobs. His live TV debut consisted of flying through a glass window for a Sunday religious program. His first real acting assignment was in an episode of the popular "M Squad" series. According to the story, he got the role because, when asked for film footage on himself, he sent the only film he had—home movies as a baby!

Television

As the Sixties approached and live TV in New York dwindled, the robust young actor moved to Los Angeles, California. He soon landed a seven-year television contract with Universal and was assigned the supporting role of river pilot Ben Frazer in the "Riverboat" adventure series.

"I got the axe at the end of the first season," he laughs. "Clint Eastwood, David Janssen and I were fired the same time. They said Clint's Adam's apple was too big, that David's ears stuck out and that I had no talent. I told Clint and David I was the lucky one. I might be able to cure my deficiency someday!"

In 1961, he made both his

Broadway and motion picture debuts. He returned to New York for the stage production "Look, We've Come Through," directed by Jose Quintero. His movie bow was in "Angel Baby" with George Hamilton and Mercedes McCambridge.

In 1962, he joined the cast of the top-rated "Gunsmoke" series as half-breed blacksmith Quint Asper. He remained with the show until 1965. "Everyone urged me not to give up that regular income. But I preferred the loss of security to being stereotyped in Indian roles."

Reynolds has been quoted as saying, "The good stuff began in 1972." After over a decade learning his craft, he starred in "Deliverance," an artistic and financial success released that year. It marked a substantial turning point in his career as he demonstrated a powerful dramatic range as a macho outdoorsman on a tragic outing with three friends.

Cosmo Centerfold

Around the same time, Cosmopolitan Magazine published its controversial Burt Reynolds centerfold. Though tame by current standards, it was the first of its kind and brought teams of publicity in such major publications as Time and Newsweek. As his notoriety soared, the impact of his work in "Deliverance" was diluted and talk of an Academy Award nomination was forgotten. He had agreed to pose for the magazine layout only as a heartfelt putdown of "centerfold mentality" and to parody the male macho image. "I thought it would be amusing and might get a point across," he has often said, "but it got out of control."

An activity the rising star found more enjoyable and rewarding was taking to the television talk show circuit. He credits visits with Johnny Carson, Mike Douglas, David Frost and Merv Griffin with creating the foundation for much of the success that followed. "I was so bored watching leading men on those shows acting like royalty,

speaking three octaves lower than normal and talking about their new films as though they were life-saving miracles. The pretense was unbearable. It seemed logical that it would be refreshing to have a guest walk out and admit he just made a real turkey. It seemed possible that one could be both honest and entertaining, while not taking any of it too seriously."

The supposition was correct. Each appearance earned him an expanded following. Along the way, he set a new style for talk show guests with irreverence as the cornerstone.

The informal TV format introduced a totally different Burt Reynolds to home viewers than the one they had previously known. In 1966-67, he was "Hawk," an Indian police detective stationed in Manhattan. In 1969, he was "Dan August," a small city police lieutenant. He was able to reveal more of his true identity in the early Seventies, when he hosted and coproduced a limited series called "The Burt Reynolds Late Show."

Screen Career Continues

His big-screen career continued with "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Sex," "Shamus," "White Lightning" and "The Man Who Loved Cat Dancing." He then tackled "The Longest Yard" and scored with one of the top money-makers of 1974-75. He filmed "W. W. And The Dixie Dancekings" in Nashville, traveled to Mexico for "Lucky Lady," challenged himself by going musical for "At Long Last Love," and starred in "Hustle."

He starred in the 1976 trend-setting "Gator," another turning point in his career. It marked his bow as a motion picture director. He subsequently acted in "Silent Movie" and "Nickelodeon." Then came "Smokey And The Bandit," one of the top-grossing movie block-busters in history, having long ago passed the quarter-of-a-billion-dollar mark.

After starring in "Semi-Tough," he repeated the dual challenge of

acting and directing with "The End," an off-beat, profitable comedy in which he directed Joanne Woodward, Dom DeLuise, Sally Field, Strother Martin, David Steinberg, Robby Benson, Carl Reiner, Norman Fell, Myrna Loy, Kristy McNichol and Pat O'Brien.

He portrayed a veteran Hollywood stunt man in "Hooper," another major money-maker, then struck a desperately-desired change-of-pace in the 1979 release "Starting Over." It brought him high critical praise and earned Academy Award nominations for his two leading ladies, Candice Bergen and Jill Clayburgh.

He went to England to film "Rough Cut," then reprised the legendary "Bandit" role in "Smokey And The Bandit II," which enjoyed the most successful opening weekend in film annals. Next came "The Cannonball Run," one of the biggest worldwide movie successes of 1981.

Generally engaged in overlapping projects, he was starring in "Paternity" while preparing his third feature as an actor-director. It was "Sharky's Machine," a top attraction of the 1981 Christmas season.

While still putting the finishing touches on "Sharky's Machine," Reynolds teamed with Dolly Parton for the Universal blockbuster "The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas." He then joined Goldie Hawn in "Best Friends" and Loni Anderson in "Stroker Ace." Next, he acted with Julie Andrews in "The Man Who Loved Women" and then headed an all-star cast, which includes Dom DeLuise, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Jamie Farr, Marilu Henner, Telly Savalas, Frank Sinatra, and Shirley MacLaine, for "The Cannonball Run Part II."

"Burt Reynolds is the perfect movie star," said an article in the Wall Street Journal. William Goldman, in his recent book *Adventures Of The Screen Trade* had equal praise for the actor's magnetism, while another writer

termed him "a serious professional behind a flip facade." On the subject, Reynolds, himself says, "Being a movie star is dirty work, but somebody's got to do it."

Directing

It is not acting, however, that is Burt Reynolds' first professional love. "Directing is my passion. I find it a thrilling experience. When I act, I'm exhausted at the end of the day. But when I direct, I'm so filled with energy and enthusiasm that I really resent the day coming to an end. We each have particular abilities, and I think that directing utilizes more of mine than acting does. There's a real rush to the realization that you will get either the blame or credit for the end result. When I'm directing myself, sometimes I've been known to forget my closeups. You get so involved with the entire canvas. Being given a movie to direct is truly like being handed the world's biggest erector set."

In 1981, the actor-director became Dr. Burt Reynolds when he was honored as Doctor of Humane Letters at Florida State University. It was only the 60th honorary degree conferred in the 123-year history of F.S.U.

Six miles down Indiantown Road from his theatre is the BR Horse Ranch. Boasting a fine selection of Arabian and Appaloosa horses, it also has two busy stores and is a top area tourist attraction as well as a working ranch. Its owner has said, "If my career vanished tomorrow, the only two things it would really hurt to part with would be the ranch and the theatre." His parents live on the ranch in a house used in the early 1920's as a hideout for Al Capone's "business associates."

An avid sports enthusiast, Burt Reynolds is an owner of the Tampa Bay Bandits of the new United States Football League.

His 1984 schedule also calls for him to at last team with long-time friend Clint Eastwood for a Warner Bros. film tentatively titled "City Heat." ■