

**Chock full o' Nuts : the prop building from the classic 1981  
John Carpenter film "Escape from New York"**



*Here are a few pages that don't tell us enough about it. But we do get to find out where it was, what was near it, and where we can see it again*

**TOM "CHAIRWOLF" HIGGINSON, AUTHOR OF  
THE AIRWOLF GUIDEBOOK: [WWW.AIRWOLF.TV](http://WWW.AIRWOLF.TV)**



# INDIAN DUNES

*Two great sequences from "Escape from New York" were filmed here: the glider stunt and the Chock full o' Nuts scenes*

**"WTC Roof".** A paved square was built to accommodate the WTC roof props. The glider actually landed here

**"Chock full o' Nuts"**  
prop building

**Indian Dunes**  
airstrip. The glider  
took off from here

*This is where it was (1982 aerial)*

Location of fatal Huey  
crash during filming of  
"Twilight Zone" movie

"Chockfull o' Nuts" Building (Circled)



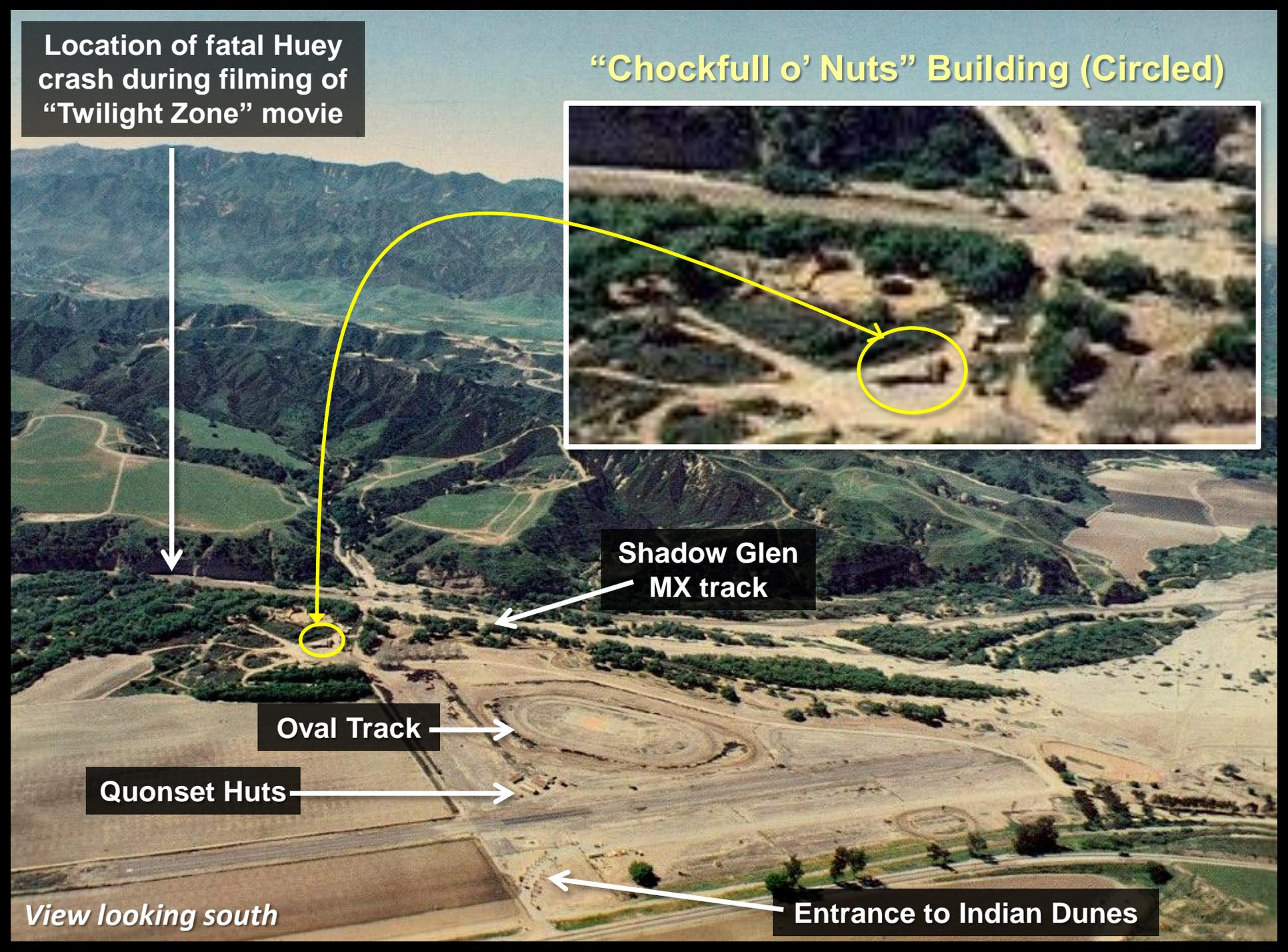
Shadow Glen  
MX track

Oval Track

Quonset Huts

View looking south

Entrance to Indian Dunes



**The Chuck Norris "Octagon" set was surrounded by other prop buildings in the training courtyard. The 12' perimeter wall and many prop buildings from the Octagon set survived and were used again**



**EFNY "WTC Roof" square pavement built for glider landing; built inside Indian Dunes' oval track**

**EFNY "Chock full o' Nuts" prop building**

**Black Sheep Squadron "Sheep Pen"**

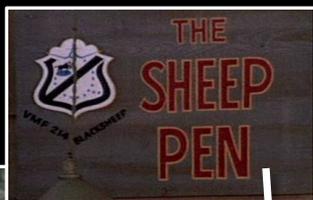


**View looking west**

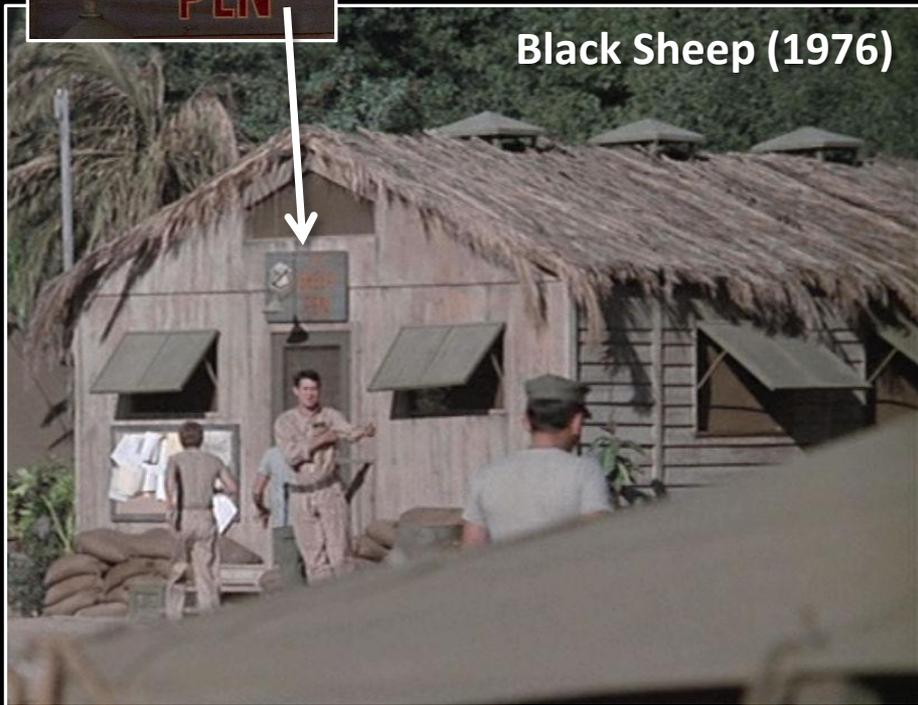
**Photo courtesy of Clark Van Hoten**

**Although they were never used or seen in “Escape from New York”, some Black Sheep sets remained standing at Indian Dunes for many years, even after the show was cancelled. They were modified over time and used in other projects. For example, the “Sheep Pen” (the boozy building where all the Black Sheep pilots hung out when not on a mission) accommodated a bizarre series of structural additions as seen in both the “A-Team” and “Airwolf”**

# “THE SHEEP PEN”



Black Sheep (1976)



Airwolf (1986)



***The heavily modified “Sheep Pen” was used extensively in the Airwolf episode “Dambreakers” (1985). Hawke frees a bunch of hostages from the building prior to taking off in Airwolf to chase after the bad guys. The A-Team episode “Skins” (1985) uses this set for an establishing shot (below), but this time we see the other side of the building. Fortunately, this angle is almost identical to an angle of the Sheep Pen that was used in the Black Sheep series . . .***



***When we combine the two shots we get an almost perfect view, despite the change in the foliage due to the fact that these episodes were filmed during different weather seasons and a decade apart***

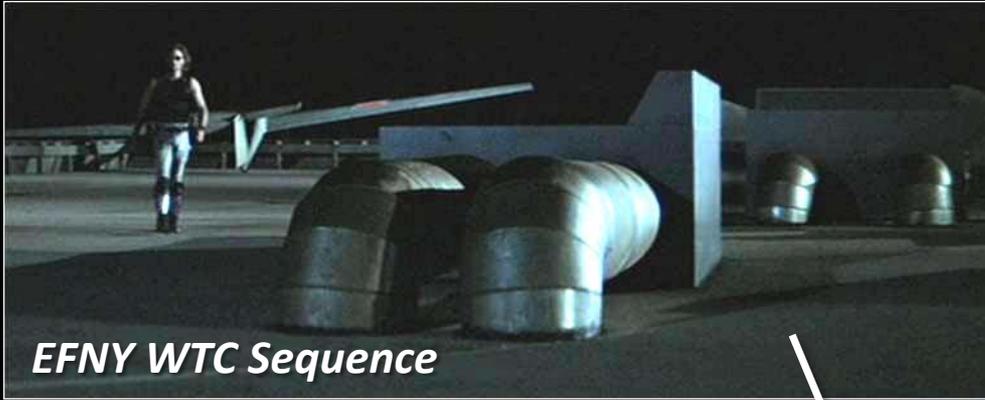


**A-Team "Skins" (1985)**



**Black Sheep Squadron (1976)**

*Black Sheep*



*EFNY WTC Sequence*



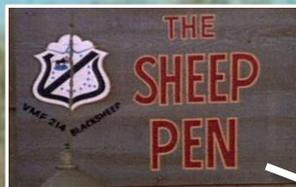
*The "Sheep Pen"*



**Shadow Glen  
MX track**

**"Chock full o' Nuts"**

*The "Chock full o' Nuts" set included a paved street corner, which can still be seen next to the building*



# The Phoenix Foundation

*The MacGyver episode "Silent World" (1985) features an array of prop buildings owned by Newhall Land at Indian Dunes, including the Sheep Pen (shown here, modified) and the Chock full o' Nuts building (shown on the next page). This area of the property eventually became known to Newhall employees and location scouts as the "Western Town"*

***Check out that same MacGyver episode for some awesome glimpses of the (beat down) Chock full o' Nuts prop building in the background of some of the episode sequences. This is the same side of the building that we see in "Escape from New York." The EFNy crew built a tunnel underneath the floorboards of the café interior so actors could come up from the floor to nab Snake. Also, the hallway he goes down stopped underneath the top floor set where he kicks in the window to get back into the building***

**Chock full o' Nuts  
once stood here:**

**34.420627°  
-118.634801°**





*This scaffolding once held a large "brick wall" panel that can be seen on the opposite side of the alley as Snake climb back inside*

***That top floor set was a partial set: no roof or back wall. You can still see parts of the original interior at the very top corner from this MacGyver screenshot***

*Without a doubt, what we are seeing in the MacGyver shot below is the backside of the window that Snake climbs through to get out of the Chock full o' Nuts shop*

*The piece of wood that blocked the other window in EFNY is gone. Snake now has a choice of either window to climb through in order to get onto the fire escape*



*The only shot we get that shows the entire length of the building is a blurry shot of it in the background when MacGyver's boss runs past it in the episode. With a little bit of voodoo, however, we can visualize what it looked like. I re-added all of the window frames as seen in EFNY*



Snake walks in here

**Chock full o' Nuts**

*The two signs were attached here and here*



*By far, the best glimpse of the Chock full o' Nuts façade is seen in the Airwolf episode "Dambreakers" (1985). You can easily see the fire escape, railings, and windows all used by Plissken to get in and out of the building*



*"Call me Snake." -- Bob Plissken*

This shitter was for  
Shadow Glen  
motocross visitors



DAMBREAKERS

*We are on the airfield looking south toward the prop building in this shot. Directly behind Chock full o' Nuts is the prop camp from "The Octagon" (not in view). Directly behind that is Castaic Creek (aka Pico Canyon Wash; also, not in view). That large rock wall visible in the background is the base of Grapevine Mesa just across from the river*

*Follow Snake out the window, up the fire escape, onto the balcony, and--BAM!--back into the building*





***I took some artistic license with the montage below by adding a large wood panel that covered a section of the building that once had additional windows in EFNY. That section is barely visible in the MacGyver episode because the van obscures most of it when it speeds away. Comparing screenshots with “Dambreakers” reveals that the building was slightly modified for another project. Do you know which one? I don’t!***



*That MacGyver episode is great to watch, but cruel. We never get a really clear and lasting view of this classic EFNY set, despite the bad shape it was in by 1986*



*If you come across better set photos, do share! Unfortunately, not even the original property owners have good photographs of this EFNY set as it stood back in the day. Good luck!*

**Get ready to squint.  
Check out the  
background structure  
way off in the distance  
as the “Fall Guy” cast  
and crew film a scene  
on the Indian Dunes  
runway. Yep, there’s  
the north side of the  
“Chock full o’Nuts”  
building. Hey, you’re  
welcome! 😊**



**The Fall Guy episode “Ready, Aim, Die” (1982)**

**Chock full o’Nuts**



**Chock full o' Nuts**



*We get another teaser shot of the building in the background of a scene in the Knight Rider episode "Knight of a Thousand Devils" (1986). We are on the outside of the fence line that surrounded the prop sets. The set was adjacent to the widely used Shadow Glen race track at Indian Dunes*



***That same Knight Rider episode lets us see the backside of those other prop buildings that make up Western Town. These same buildings were also used in Airwolf's "And They Are Us" (1984) and the A-Team episode "The Only Church in Town" (1983)***

***Western Town***



*The A-Team drive into Western Town from the east and park by the former "Sheep Pen", now dressed as 'Casa De Petrol'*



*Cool, so that's where Hawke and Santini ran out of in the episode "And They Are Us." The hotel signs were not installed on the building in the photo at left*



**A-Team "The Only Church in Town" (1983)**



*There is a nice hand held camera shot from inside the car as the A-Team pull into town. We can easily confirm that Western Town served the Airwolf crew well as Limbawe. Everything matches up pretty well, even the trees in the background, despite the seasonal changes . . .*



*The edge of  
the modified  
"Sheep Pen"*



**In "Dambreakers", stuntman Chad Randall (as Hawke) runs the exact same direction JMV and Ernie did in ATAU**

**Black Sheep Squadron "Small War" (1976)**

**Airwolf "Dambreakers" (1985)**



***There is literally a perfect fit between this shot of the "Sheep Pen" in Black Sheep Squadron and the "Sheep Pen" as used years later modified in Airwolf. Airwolf creator Donald Bellisario considered "Black Sheep" star Robert Conrad for the role as Stringfellow Hawke. Would it have been an equally perfect fit?***



***Randall isn't running out to dodge hand-tossed mortars. This time, the Lady is picking him up***



**It's still there:  $34.422603^\circ$   $-118.630836^\circ$**



**DAMBREAKERS**

*Cool, the exact same spot again*



**AND THEY ARE US**

***These goofballs (at right) run the opposite direction from the tall prop building, as seen in MacGyver's "Silent World." Since Western Town was supposed to be a prop town used to test a new missile system anyway, we get to see that it was just a façade. Hawke and Lea Logana almost smooched in there? Really???***



***This is a montage of an aerial sequence that was used by both the A-Team episode “Dishpan Man” and the MacGyver episode “Bushmaster”. The great thing about this aerial shot is that we can see all of the prop buildings in relation to one another. There are several large vehicles park adjacent to these prop buildings that give the appearance of being more buildings. But you should still be able to make out the prop buildings. Sweet, check out the Shadow Glen race track. What a cool place to play! Too bad it is all gone . . .***



# Chock full o' Nuts



Scenery  
Storage  
Building



*There were additional prop structures on the property. So stay tuned for more info! 😊*



**Chock full o' Nuts**

*I hope you enjoyed this quick trip to the west coast's Chock full o' Nuts store. Of course, it only lasted for a few days at Indian Dunes in 1981 during Escape from New York filming. But the building itself remained standing for many, many years afterwards. If you know about a production that utilized this prop building in film or television, do share. I have yet to see one that actually made direct use of it in a storyline. But keep your eyes peeled!*



**Chock full o' Nuts**



*Many, many thanks go out to Mr. Weldon Sipe. A true professional in the film and television business and the singular reason why this building survived for many years at Indian Dunes. Thanks, Weldon!*

**Chock full o' Nuts**