

# Bail bondsman keeps jailbirds in line — with a 6-foot boa constrictor



By R. NEALE LIND/*Weekly World News*

**THOMASVILLE, Ga.** — When tough-as-nails bail bondsman Gary Cooper goes chasing down bad guys, he takes along a partner who's even more intimidating than he is — a 6-foot-long boa constrictor!

"I'm the first guy since Moses to use a snake effectively in my work," says the burly Cooper, who teaches Sunday school when he's not bringing in bail jumpers.

"People have a basic fear of snakes. It's biblical. In Genesis 3, God says snakes and people will be natural enemies."

And Cooper, who owns and operates Express Bond and Collection Agency, plays on that fear by taking his buddy "Pete" with him when he goes out to bring in criminals.

"If the guy resists my request to come along peacefully, I just threaten to reach into the pillow case and take Pete out," Cooper says.

"Pete tends to make rebellious people fearful. I've seen mean Miami drug dealers melt at the sight of him."

But surprisingly, Cooper says the greatest danger in his job doesn't come from the fugitives themselves.

"It's the friends and family

you've got to watch. It's the half-drunk cousin or the wild-eyed girlfriend or the 70-year-old grandmother standing there in the kitchen with a carving knife — these people who think I'm picking on the poor innocent guy — who's usually about as innocent as the driven mud.

"But all of them keep their distance when I threaten to introduce them to Pete."

Cooper, who was named after the strong-but-silent 1950s screen actor, says he only uses Pete in dangerous situations where the likelihood of violence is high.

Most of the time he doesn't have to take Pete out of his pillow case.

Boa constrictors eat small rodents, killing them by squeezing them to death in their coils. But they're nonpoisonous and a

boa the size of Pete is no real threat to people.

"It's the idea that works," Cooper says, "not the reality."

"Once I went to a house where a fugitive was hiding out. The guy's mother answered the door.

"I said, 'Ma'am, please don't make me pull out my viper.'"

The guy gave up without a fight.

**DON'T MESS WITH ME!**  
Bondsman Gary Cooper.

## Dead man leaves grave, goes home!

**ALMATY, Kazakhstan** — A man who was electrocuted and buried shocked his friends and family by showing up at his own funeral feast. The man had apparently died while trying to steal power cables in eastern Kazakhstan, reported local media. The man was wrapped in a cloth shroud according to Muslim tradition and buried in a shallow grave. But two days later, he regained consciousness and rose naked from the ground, *Express K Daily* said. The paper said he had difficulty flagging down a vehicle to take him home.

## 'People have a basic fear of snakes — it's biblical!'

## MALE MENOPAUSE IS FOR REAL, SAY DOCS

**MEXICO CITY** — If you're a middle-aged man experiencing irritability, anxiety or depression, you may be suffering from male menopause!

By **BARRY DUTTER**  
*Weekly World News*

At one time, the idea of men going through menopause — which is traditionally a condition associated with females — would have been ludicrous.

But now scientists with the Mexican Health Institute have identified a decline in testosterone in middle-aged men, which is

similar to the decrease in estrogen that women face when they experience menopause.

Researchers are calling this new condition ADAM — androgen deficiency in aging men.

It involves a temporary pause in the production of testosterone. Symptoms include concentration problems, weight

gain, hair loss, sleep disturbances, low sex drive and difficulty maintaining an erection.

If you think you might be undergoing male menopause, see a health care professional to find out if you might require testosterone supplements.

An herbal treatment you may wish to try is Mexican wild yams. Herbalists report it is effective in treating many of the symptoms of this condition.