Credits: director/writer, Wes Craven.
Cast: Susan Lanier, Robert Houston, Virginia Vincent, Russ Grieve, Dee Wallace, Martin Speer, James Whitworth, Cordy Clark.
Summary: Horror film set in contemporary California. The Carters, a typical suburban family, are driving through the desert in their mobile home on their way to west. When their axle breaks, they are stranded miles from help in the middle of an Air Force bombing range. Slowly they realize they are not alone. A savage, almost caveman-like family of cannibals lives among the desert mesas. The savages are led by Jupitor (Whitworth), a mutant abandoned in the desert as a baby and his ‘wife’ Mama (Clark), a prostitute he kidnapped from a distant town. They have three sons and daughter who help defend their territory. To survive, the Carters must become as savage as Jupitor’s tribe. The Vietnam War elements of the film are identified by Tony Williams in his Hearths of darkness. Jupitor’s family shows the tenacity of the Viet Cong fighting a technologically superior enemy and the film exposes the dark reality of the American dream – “a nightmarish violent reaction against any enemies whether they are internal economic losers or demonic Vietnamese who threaten the national interest” (p. 144)

Klauber, Bruce. “The hills have eyes” Film bulletin 46 (Sep/Oct 1977), p. 46.
Williams, Tony. Hearths of darkness : the family in the American horror film