P6540 PONTIAC MOON (USA, 1994)

Credits: director, Peter Medak; writers, Finn Taylor, Jeffrey D. Brown.
Cast: Ted Danson, Mary Steenburgen, Ryan Todd, Eric Schweig, Cathy Moriarty, Max Gail.
Summary: Comedy/adventure/road film set in 1969 in California, Arizona and elsewhere along the road to a rock formation in Idaho called the Spires of the Moon. In the summer of 1969, the whole nation is awaiting the Apollo XI mission to the moon. Science teacher Washington Bellamy (Danson) and his son Ryan (Todd) undertake a fantastic journey of their own. Their goal: to match the mileage from the Earth to the moon in Washington’s 1949 Pontiac Chief. If Washington’s calculations are correct, they will arrive at the Spires of the Moon National Park in Idaho just as the astronauts land on the moon. On their road trip from California thru Arizona and north to Idaho, the pair make discoveries about each other and help liberate agoraphobic wife and mother Katherine (Steenburgen) from the trauma she suffered in a traffic accident seven years earlier. They encounter an assortment of local characters which include Ernest Ironplume (Schweig), a Native American Vietnam veteran, who dispenses sage advice to Washington and Ryan.

Ascher-Walsh, Rebecca (see under Appelo, Tim)
Rainer, Peter. “Movie review: ‘Pontiac moon’: So many miles for symbolic journey” Los Angeles times (Nov 11, 1995), Calendar, p. 2. [Reprinted in Films review annual]

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