Beauty contestant role prompts teen to reach for stars

They all told Bonnie Knaus that they

They fall to the she was fabulous, a natural talent and that she had that special something some girls have and some girls don't — the elusive X-factor.

And now they say she can be a real shining star.

And now they say she can be a real shining star. Bonnie Knaus, a 17-year-old Plymouth Canton High senior who has received a flurry of encouraging words from area talent scouts recently, has just gotten the break of her life. At the end of this month, she'll play a small part in a made-for-television

film that's planned to be on location at Kellogg Park in Plymouth.
It's not quite the role Boanie had in mid—shell play a contestant in a beauty pageant — but it's still no less criting for the young woman who has never had a professional acting job in brilfe.

"T've always wanted to be an actress, ever since I was a little girl," said the Canton Township teem-ager. "But my dad's in advertising and he said 'It's a bad field. Don't go into it. Only one in a million make:

"But I wasn't going to give up. I planned to slill keep trying.

"Now that I've got a part, they (ber

THE MOVIE, to be filmed in Plymouth Sept. 19 and 20, is called "Word of Honor" and stars Karl Malden as a small town journalist who faces a jail sentence for refusing to disclose a

Source.
Bonnie originally was considered for the role of Malden's 15-year-old daughter but lost out in the final cut to another young woman who "looks more like Karl Malden," she said.
Instead, she'll be among 10 runnersup in a beauty pageant scene to be filmed at Kellogg Park Sept. 20., Since Bonnie learned of the casting

interests, learned that she had landed an actual movie role.

That role also meant that she now needs to find a talent agent. And on Thursday, the first day back at Canton High, she spent the day interviewing potential talent agents instead.

By Friday, however, she was back to her school life, telling friends about her ewe opportunity, and accepting their gentle ribbing with abundant enthusiasm.

asm.
"Everyone's been really positive about it," she says.

SURPRISING AS it may seem for a high school student with no profession-al background to land a part in a movie production, Bonnie attributes her find to the father of a former Farmington Hills school chum.

Head of a Southfield advertising firm, she calls him her "big connec-

tion."

He was the first to arrange a screen test for her last summer, and this summer her he introduced her to the casting director at Studio 12, Nancy Kelley, Studio 12 has handled the pre-production work for "Word of Honor," produced by former Detroit Lion Alex Karras.

Bonnie was among some 70 other would-be actresses to converge on Studio 12 this summer for a chance in the

dio 12 this summer for a chance in the TV movie.

"So many of those girls got mad at me when I went for the interview because they had these \$500 portfolios and I had nothing. But I didn't care."

And then she was called back for follow-up interviews.

"I was among six girls who were called back. They were all so beautiful, crowding around, checking out each others hair and smiles. I was so scared."

"I met Nancy Kelley and the film's director and they said I had natural talent. They loved me. They said I had something some girls have and some girls don't—the X-factor."

DESPITE THEIR encouragement that she continue in the field, Bonnie says she'll probably follow her parents advice and attend college next year.

She's considering Michigan State University with a concentration in ei-

Mall

with

arts exhibit and sale

the stender five-foot-one teen.

She says tensions at home have eased up ever since her parents, initially skeptical and cautious about her acting interests, learned that she had landed an actual movie role.

"Everyone at North Farmington High School knows I'm going to be in this movie," she says. This year she's a member of the stu-dent council and still practices her vio-lin, a hobby of eight years. "That and dating is enough to keep me busy."

OCC offers travel class

Oakland Community College will of-fer a travel course featuring "Architec-ture and the Arts Around the World" starting Sept. 1 at the Orchard Ridge Campus.
The course will be instructed by Jo-seph Messana, a Detroit photographer and lecturer.

and lecturer.

and lecturer.

During the eight-week class period, the viewer will be transported by color sides to major cities and countries around the world including Detroit, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, Brazil and the European countries.

An array of museums, monumental sculptures plazis, fountains, gardens, civic centers, auditoriums, sports stadiums, churches, cathedrals and noted

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historical and modern architecture will be presented. A special series will highlight the famous works of Frank Lloyd Wright, Eero Saarinen and Minoru Yamasaki.

Joseph Messana has published more than 300 color spreads since 1984 in the Detroit News, Detroit Free Press, Chicago Tribune, Boston Globe, House Beautiful Magazine, Serizon Magazine, several auto travel magazines and sections in five books.

several auto travel magazines and sec-tions in five books.

He has lectured widely in the U.S.
And taught location photography
workshops for eigth years through the
Grosse Pointe War Memorial, Detroit
Historical Museum and at the Henry
Ford Centennial Library in Dearborn.
Students may register through Sept.
II. Classes will be held from 7-9:30
p.m. on Thrusdays from Sept. 11 to Oct.
30. For additional information, call
Messana at 821-6619.

Stress is topic for BPW club

Farmington Business and Profession Women's (BPW) Club meets at 6:30 pm. Tuesday for dinner in the Buggy Works in Farmington Hills and a program called "What is Stress".

The meeting is open to all business and professional women who live or work in Farmington or Farmington Hills. Reservations will be taken by Barbara Porter, 522-4086.

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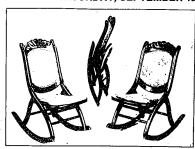
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