



LEFT: Actor Karl Malden gets wired for sound. ABOVE: Coproducer Alex Karras (left), director Mel Damski (with beard), assistant director Jack Cash (cowboy hat) and other members of the film crew ready for the next scene. LEFT: Actor Karl

Lights, action!

Hollywood takes over lakes area for TV movie filming

By JUDITH BERNE

"Quiet, please, roll it."
The work of a assistant director Jack Cash, wearing a coreboy hat, shot out as a scene from "Word of Honor" was filmed over the weekend in an out-of-the-way corner of West Bloomfield.
The crew of 50 — from co-producers Alex Karras, his wife Susan Clark and John Dutton, to the grips, make-up artist and set nurse— transformed the 40-year-old home and surrounding acreage of Erwin and Bernadine Bruner into a believable set for the television movie.

In the film, due to be aired as a CBS movie of the week early next year, a small-town newspaper reprincip along the profits of the search of the search of the profits of the search of

BRUNER IS PROUD that he built the frame house graced by a long front porch and stone chimney, which will be immortalized in a movie.

But the retired cabinet maker admits surprise

when, several weeks ago, he answered the knock of a West Bloomfield policeman with two women in

tow.

One of the women was Evelyn Orbach, hired by
Karras, the former Detroit Lions football playerturned filmmaker, to find suitable locations for
filming his Georgian Bay Productions' "Word of
Honor."

The women stopped the policeman as he made his rounds, telling him what they were after — a lived-in looking, lakes-area cottage. He directed them to the Bruner home, on a bluff overlooking Pleasant Lake.

. "They needed this house — our house," Mrs. Bruner said. "I said 'you've got to be kidding.' They said, 'this is the perfect spot."

The Bruners would not reveal what they were paid for the two days [lming. But while they were readying a scene on the front porch, Mrs. Bruner was directed to enter her home from the backdoor." In my own house, I have to ask whether I can go in," she laughed good naturedly.

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Six huge vans straight out of Hollywood parked on a cleared site below the Bruner home, carrying cameras, props and other equipment, and providing dressing and restroms and power generators — a nearly self-contained operation.

Food was brought in by van during the two noonto-midnight filming days, where the approximately \$40,000 per day production costs were a constant reminder of the pressures of the film industry.

IT WAS STRICTLY business on Saturday's set, where a spokesman said earlier heavy that rains were welcome and contributed to the aura of

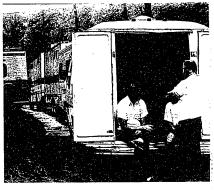
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Maldewen cardigan sweater and running shoes, was one of only a few atera thing part in the West Bloomfield scenes. The majority of the movie with loomfield scenes. The majority of the movie with loomfield scenes. The majority of the movie will be set in the public buildings and park in Piymoth, after being turned down by the Birmingham City Council for fear of stirring up memories of the Oakland County child killings.

West Bloomfield police came into play when when when the work of the Bloomfield Fills Schot Pitch and the West Bloomfield Hills Schot District, valked down from her parent's lakeside home with her small niece. "Me and that little girl came up on a horse yesterday," she said. "It's nice knowing it (the movie) is in the neighborhood.

Although she was interested in watching the movie making, where even the shortest scene was rehearsed and fillmed several times, she acknowledged she hoped to be included as an extra. "They said they might need people to be around them (the actors.) I'm hoping to get into a seene."





ABOVE: Equipment vans contained everything from cameras and props to rest rooms and food. LEFT: A bit actor talks with local residents who ventured out to watch the filming. (Photos by Tom Trueter)





The Bruner home in West Bloomfield stands on a bluff overlooking Pleasant Lake Erwin Bruner built the home 40 years ago.