

And the filming goes on . . .

By TERI BANAS

Nine-year-old Linda Potvin of Plymouth was becoming a bit rest-

less toward the middle of the afternoon. She still hadn't reached Karl Malden for an autograph and to her best

recollection she had sung "The Star-Spangled Banner" "10 times, I counted."

Linda and her mother, Jackie, were among some 500 residents at Kellogg Park Saturday for the day-long filming of "Word of Honor."

(The shooting began at 7:30 a.m. and finished about 3:30 p.m.)

The television production, set to appear sometime in late 1980 or early 1981, had literally transformed Plymouth into a "Hollywood set" as a 75-member production crew filmed a mock festival-beauty pageant in the center of town.

Dutifully sticking out the morning rehearsals (which involved several run-throughs of the national anthem), the Potvins also waited to catch a glimpse of two other family members.

Mrs. Potvin's teen-aged daughters, Lori and Lisa, had appeared in the beauty pageant scene along with other members of the Plymouth Canton High Chieftettes.

INDEED, the Chieftettes, along with the color guard from the Plymouth Pipe and Drum Corps, will be among the most visible local faces seen when the film airs.

"I'm really excited but tired," said Robin Dansby, 17, a Chieftette and beauty contestant. "I had to walk across the stage about five or six times and now my feet really hurt."

Asked if she felt intimidated by the camera's constant presence, she added:

"I just don't think of it as a camera. I just looked at the people downstage and acted as if I was performing at a football game."

"It's going awfully slow," said Leslie Cortier, 14, of the drum corps. "But sure, I'd do it again."

Drum major Collette Brown, 15, had these comments:

"It's really boring but fun. These people aren't very well organized. They just called us on stage and told us to stand there."

Ian Shephard, 13, a West Middle School student, was among those autograph hounds who spent the day tagging down actor Malden or the film's producers, Alex Karras and Susan Clark.

"I walked around the park with Karl Malden and asked him how he liked the town and what he had for breakfast," said Ian. "He told me he loved his meal but he was mad be-

cause Alex Karras' food cost more than his and he paid the bill."

PROVIDING THE music for the performance, was the Plymouth Community Band, led by director Carl Battistilli.

Member Eldon Scott, who plays the tympani, said the group brought "a whole folder of music" to play if needed. But, of course, only one song was required.

"If I got a dollar for each time we played that piece, I could take a trip around the world."

The scene filmed in Plymouth last Friday and Saturday is scheduled to be the opener for the film about a small town newspaper man who faces a moral decision about revealing information he received confidentially during a murder investigation.

In the scene, Malden, who plays the character McNeil, will be seen meeting a source while waiting for his daughter to appear in the beauty pageant.

In one rather quick shot, Malden will be seen rubbing elbows with Plymouth Police Chief Tim Ford.

Also during the beauty pageant scene, a panel of judges on stage at the time will include Plymouth Mayor Mary Childs and stage and commercial actor John Roberts of Plymouth.

Despite an ongoing strike by the



Karl Malden, running through a scene one more time, has become a familiar face around Plymouth.

Screen Actors Guild, the production was allowed to continue because of a previously arranged agreement with Georgian Bay Productions in which actors and technicians will receive any future benefits from a strike settlement.

"The strike really didn't effect many of us here because the big issue in the labor dispute is over shows sold to cable television," said Roberts.



Members of Plymouth's various civic organizations were extras in the audience for a beauty contest sequence in Kellogg Park. Production of "Word of Honor" continued, because of an agreement between Georgian Bay Productions and the striking Screen Actors Guild. Actors and technicians will receive any future benefits from a strike settlement. (Photos by Gary Caskey)

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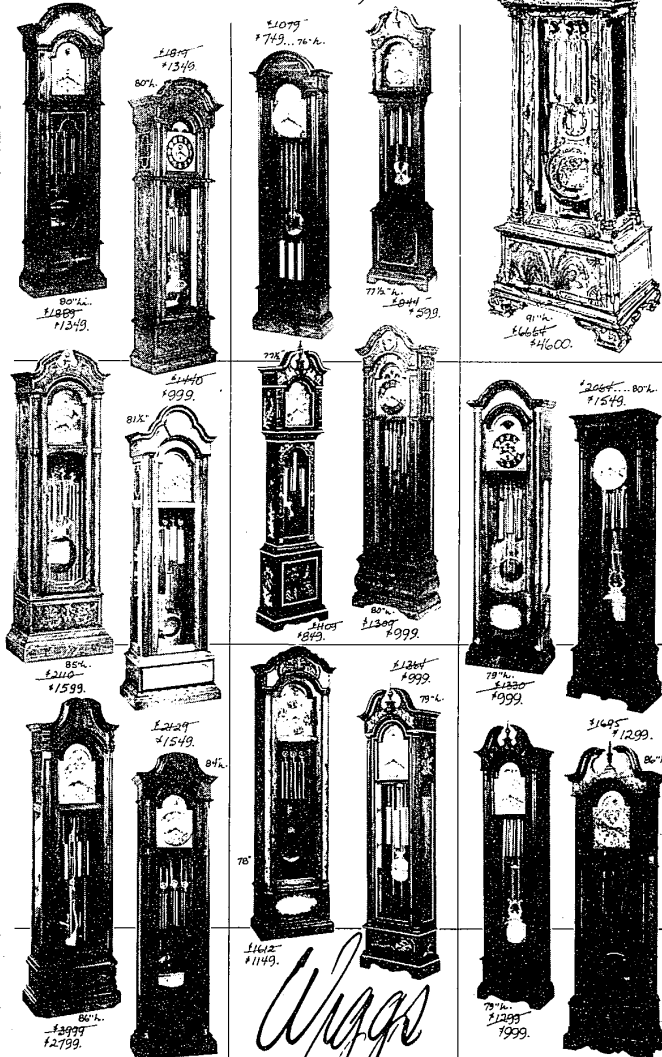
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