

# Film maker focuses on Hitler and Stein

By BARBARA UNDERWOOD

BIRMINGHAM—An area film maker who packs a message in every production is ready to tackle his first feature film.

Shelby Newhouse of Birmingham, producer of several educational films in recent years, is only "short a few thousand dollars" of being able to start his next venture and does not see the shortage as an insurmountable amount.

"All I need is \$10,000 and I will be ready to embark," Newhouse said recently. However, even with the necessary funding, actual filming would be about two years away, he added. The film will be based on a book, "The Spear of Destiny," by Trevor Ravenscroft. Newhouse said he read the book and recognized its possibilities for a "strong documentary or feature film" and immediately embarked on an attempt to get a motion picture option.

He has been in touch with the author in London and with Ravenscroft's literary agent and has "an agreement" to proceed, Newhouse said.

"THE SPEAR OF DESTINY" is based on notes made by the late Dr. Wilhelm Stein, who knew Adolf Hitler when both were in Vienna. Dr. Stein escaped from Germany and later became an advisor to Sir Winston Churchill during World War II. Dr. Stein was a scientist, historian, philosopher and student of the occult, and he believed that Hitler led an inner Nazi occult group which was responsible for the horrors and atrocities of the Nazi period, Newhouse explained.

Newhouse believes that "we should never forget our capacity for evil and therefore should guard against it." "This film would remind us of that and is a very important reason for this kind of film to be made," he added. "It will be filmed on location in Europe where these things occurred."

IN THE MEANTIME, Newhouse is making two films—"Passport to the Past" for the Edison Institute at Greenfield Village and another, as yet untitled, for the Juvenile Network Facility (JNF) of Wayne County.

Purpose of the first film is to instruct teachers on how to prepare classes to visit a museum and "hopefully will be used nationally," Newhouse said.

The second is to fulfill JNF goals to assure the rights of all youth and to reduce juvenile crime.

The production of which Newhouse is most proud is his award-winning film about Black American history titled "Heritage in Black" which was released in 1969.

The film has been used by educators throughout the country and is one of two films used by the U.S. Defense Department in a race relations course.

PRODUCTION OF "Heritage in Black" resulted from his participation in the State Department of Education Curriculum Planning Committee. Newhouse said.

"Textbooks in the late 1950s had nothing on Black American history," he explained. "I wrote the script in 1961, somewhat before the subject be-

came fashionable. It took until 1968 to produce it."

Another Newhouse production is "TV News-Measure of the Medium," which has been distributed by BFA Educational Media, the educational division of CBS.

Newhouse said he was doing the TV film "to show that teachers have got to do something to prepare children for adulthood in this society."

"Seventy per cent of the people get their news by television," he explained. "They rely on television and believe what they see and hear."

"I FEEL WE have got to develop a curriculum that teaches people how to watch television," he continued. "In the absence of that they are terribly misinformed."

The message of the film, Newhouse explained, is that there is no single medium which gives sufficient information on any subject.

"An individual must listen to radio news, watch television, read newspapers, periodicals and books and enter into discussions. Then hopefully he will know enough to formulate a decision," he said.

"It is not by design that any of the media attempt to misinform, but a built-in obstacle which has developed because of the historical development of the media," he added.

Newhouse also has produced a federally funded film on organized crime, "Your Silent Partner," which resulted in a \$1,500,000 lawsuit. The suit eventually was thrown out of court.

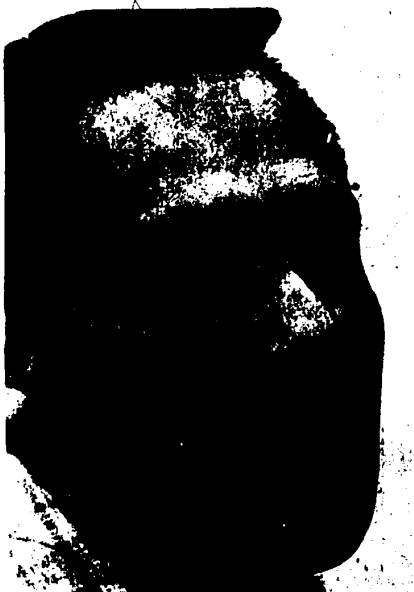
NEWHOUSE HAS been an announcer at WWJ radio for 25 years. In the early 1950s he and an associate, Dr. Arthur Stein, formed Newhouse Productions, Inc. and produced audiovisual educational materials.

The corporation was dissolved when Dr. Stein died. Newhouse made independent productions after that before forming his present one-man firm, Shana Corp. in 1968.

He has produced educational, industrial and government films some of which have been distributed by Encyclopedia Britannica.

An 18-year resident of Birmingham, Newhouse and his wife, Phyllis, have three sons, a daughter and two grandchildren. They met when Newhouse was a music student and his wife an art student at Cass Technical High School in Detroit.

Newhouse's civic activities have included membership in the Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency, 20 years as a board member of the Anti-Defamation League, NARCO, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, Screen Actors Guild and the Birmingham-Bloomfield Human Relations Council.



Shelby Newhouse talks about movie-making plans. (Staff photo by Douglas Bauman).

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