

TV producer trudges road to success

By Louise Okrutsky
staff writer

Somewhere in the back of Ron Teachworth's mind, there's a small college town populated by a boy in love with cars and by a professor losing his job to department politics.

Teachworth's been living with the town, the boy and the professor for about a year now as he and his partners prepare the script for his second serious film. An independent film producer, he's trying to break into a larger, more commercial market without compromising his desire to produce serious movies. He isn't about to start making monster movies to grab attention.

"I couldn't make a horror film. I'd rather drive a truck," he said. "I'm interested in trying to make art." Standing in his small Rochester studio, Teachworth adds a final, practical note to this proclamation. "If you get into the business with horror films, most of the time you stay at that level."

About the only things surrounding his first film "Going Back" that can raise a few goosebumps of fright are its tight budget and a rigorous 5-day shooting schedule that left little room for error, bad weather or illness. Beginner's luck held on all three counts.

Filmed two summers ago in rural Cass City in the Thumb, the film follows two young men fresh out of college as they attempt to recreate a pivotal event in their lives, a trip taken the summer they graduated from high school. Their return visit proves once again that the past can't be recaptured. The girl one of the boys fell in love with has married another. An old man who had become a father figure for the other boy fails to live up to his expectations.

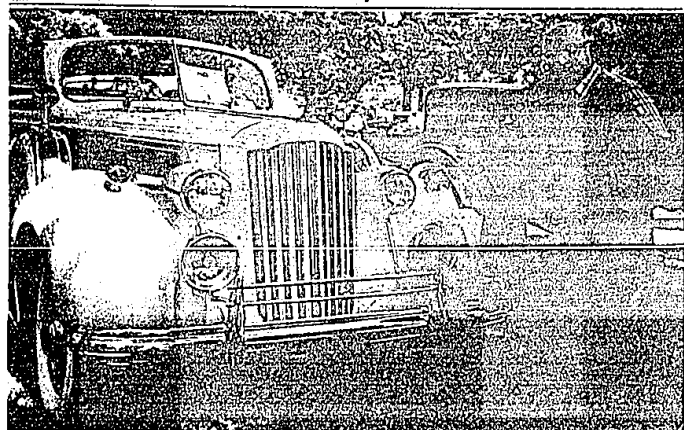
TO SHOOT the film, Teachworth went back to his boyhood home in Cass City where his parents still live. Funding became a family project with wife Jill on board as co-producer. His main cast members were drawn from the ranks of Detroit area actors. They include Bruce Campbell of Southfield, Christopher Howe of Rochester, Perry Mallette of Detroit and Susan W. Yamashita of Rochester.

Actual shooting proved to be an advanced text in film making. "I knew a little of the nuts and bolts but nothing like I do now," he said.

While he's moved ahead artistically, on a practical level he continues to toil on the two-year-old project.

"It's tough in a sense because I'm still dealing with the way I felt two years ago with the film. For the others it's over, but I'm still living with it."

In addition to entering the movie in film festivals around the country, he's attempting to hook up with a distributor and to persuade area theater owners and cable television to show "Going Back."



BUCK DUMMITT/staff photographer

History rides again

A lot of the interest at the antique auto show Sunday at Greenmead, Livonia's historical site, was not in just the snazzy appearance of the cars of yesteryear, but in the stories behind them. William Chorkoy (left) of Farmington had

one of the more interesting tales about the 1933 Packard Super 8 Phaeton he owns. It was one of only eight manufactured, three of which were ordered by the Argentine government, eventually for Juan Peron.

Military exhibit set

The Plymouth Historical Museum is presenting through Aug. 29 an exhibit of military uniforms from 1880 to 1945.

Items from World War I include a helmet from the Red Arrow Division, a knapsack, rifle and trench periscope. Spanish-American War items include a rifle, hat, haversack, watch with a picture of Grant on the front, and rubber pancho.

From the Civil War there is a bayonet and scabbard and a tarred-over canvas which served as a knapsack.

Also on exhibit is a comparison of clothing and household items from 1880 to 1984. Women's underwear, iron, toys and soaps are included.

The Plymouth Historical Museum, 155 South Main Street, Plymouth, is open to the public Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children aged 11 to 17 and 25 cents for children from 5 to 11.

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